

# 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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## LOCAL TALK ANNOUNCEMENT

### FROM 2023 ONWARD 20% NET PROFIT GOES TO THE HARDWORKING STAFF OF LOCAL TALK

For business we all go behind money, but most of us forget that the hard work of our employees makes us successful. I, Dhiren Shah, have decided to reward them for their benefit in me and my mission to uplift the community.

Due to certain legal roadblocks, I cannot make them traditional partners. That said, my commitment is this: Every year, 20% NET PROFIT of Local Talk Weekly and Local Talk Printing will be rewarded to them as a bonus, starting from January 1, 2023.

By doing this, I hope to set an example for other business owners going forward - especially those who employ minorities in the community. Because without our employees, what do we really have?

## LOCAL TOWNS CELEBRATE THEIR PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER

By Walter Elliott

**WEST ORANGE** - The history-making peaceful transition of political power is being conducted and celebrated here and among 12 other elected municipal and board of education panels across 10 "Local Talk" towns Jan. 1-9.

Councilwoman Susan McCartney became this township's first woman mayor after taking her oath of office here at the Grand Wilshire Hotel just past 3 p.m. Jan. 2. The outgoing council president succeeds three-term mayor Robert D. Parisi.

McCartney's swearing in followed the inauguration of first-time council members Asmeret Ghebremicael and Susan Scarpa at the Municipal Building Council Chamber 11:30 a.m. Monday. Ghebremicael

and Scarpa respectively succeeded McCartney and Councilwoman Cindy Matute-Brown.

McCartney and the fully seated five Township Council members then passed a series of housekeeping resolutions. These measures range from which members will be liaisons to other governmental agencies and passing a temporary budget to designating an official publication and setting a meeting calendar.

Some of the audience here will be gathering at the West Orange High School Auditorium Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. for the swearing-in of two members who were elected in the Nov. 8 General Election and the appointment or reappointment of a board president and vice president.

West Orange, Maplewood,



Susan McCartney being sworn in as West Orange's first female mayor. Photos By Joseph Fagan

Bloomfield and Glen Ridge happen to have both their municipal and school board officers sworn in this week. Their mayoral and/or council election cycles coincided with their annual board of election elections last year.

Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin - who may or may

not swear in officials or attend particular municipal inaugurations - usually tell the gatherings that they were witnessing "the peaceful transfer of political power here and in some 20,000 other governmental bodies across the country."

(Continued on page 7)



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Turn To PAGE 16





*Editorial*  
**Dhiren Shah**  
 Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Happy New Year. I wish everyone a happy, healthy, prosperous new year. Every year, many of us start the new year with some resolutions and we do keep them for a short period of time. But as usual, most of us forget and the determination evaporates. Some might have decided to do exercise every day, some might have given up their favorite food, some might have decided not to scold their children. I wish everyone can hang on to their determination and decisions. But it does not

happen sometimes in life. So, let's move on.

The elections are over, and Republicans won a thin majority of the House. The term of previous House Speaker Nancy Pelosi expired at the end of 2022. Now, the majority GOP must elect a new Speaker of the House. California Congressman Kevin McCarthy started gathering support to become Speaker before the election. He worked hard, but still does not have enough support. To qualify to be elected Speaker, a candidate needs 218 votes.

In the first five rounds of voting, all 212 Democrats voted for Hakim Jefferies, who is supported by former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Out of 534 congresspersons, McCarthy received even less votes than Jefferies

(203, 203, 202, 201, 201) In the fourth and fifth rounds, one person acted as present but did not cast a vote. So now, only 217 votes are there.

Newly elected Florida congressman Matt Gaetz (elected with the support of Donald Trump) has led the House Freedom Caucus. He and 19 other republicans went against McCarthy and put their support behind Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, who is actually supporting McCarthy and does not want the job. So, they are casting their votes behind Rep. Donalds, but he too doesn't want it. What a disaster!

For McCarthy to win, he needs 16 people to change their minds. Jefferies only needs 11 Republicans to either swing or not cast a vote, which is highly unlikely. Donalds has received as

high as 20 votes in the voting as of press time. They are not budgeting, and nothing can happen in the chamber until a Speaker is elected. They need to do something soon, so the business of the country can proceed.

Recently, Former Orange Councilman Donald Page passed away. I will pray for his soul, and offer my sincere condolences to Page's family and friends.

In broad daylight, a shooting happened near an elementary school on 8th Street in the West Ward of Newark. About 12 rounds of gunfire wildly filled the area. It was near a Jehovah's witness establishment and happened Jan. 3.

*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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# The Doctor Is In



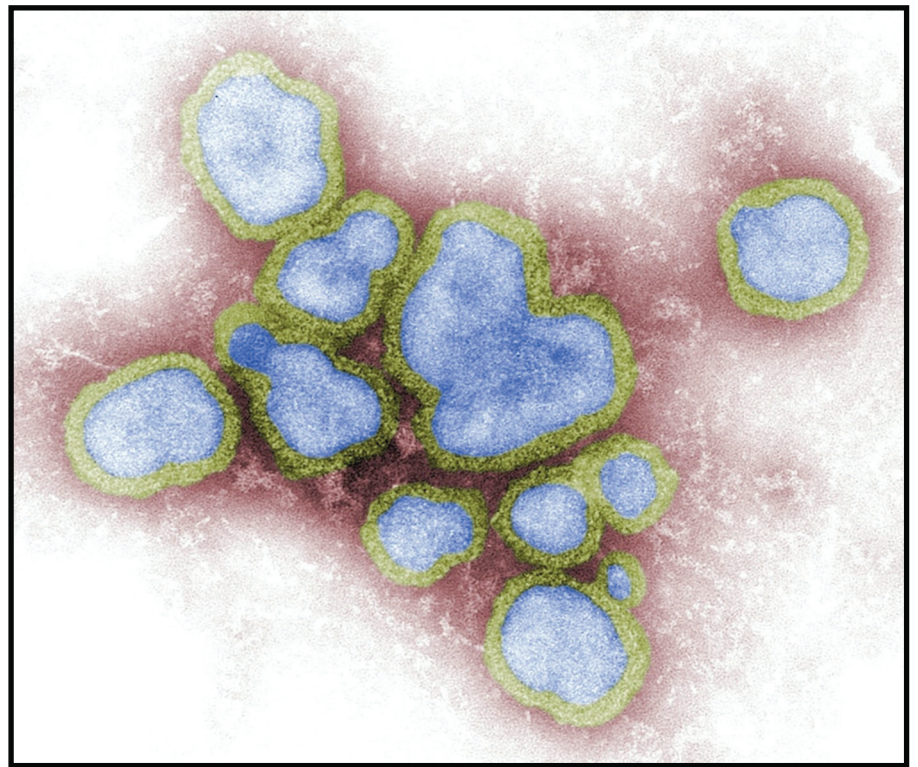
It's winter season in the United States, and for doctors and other medical practitioners, that always means an increased workload managing viral conditions like influenza (the common flu) and the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Over the last two years, an even stronger viral force entered the fray - and of course, I'm talking of the coronavirus.

These three viruses are pretty formidable on their own, but

when they all peak at the same period, that's a whole new ball game. And that's exactly what doctors are wary of this season. In this context, triple threat does not mean a person gets all three viruses at the same time, but rather that the population is recording surging levels of the three viruses simultaneously. As you would expect, the implications are not pretty.

For one, when the three viruses surge at the same time, the workload on hospitals increases. This translates to more hospital beds being filled up and people having to wait longer in emergency rooms. That can be harmful and, dare I say, deadly. Not only are the people who have any of the three viral infections affected, but people with other health challenges are affected. And don't let me get started on the toll it takes on doctors and other medical practitioners.

Since the coronavirus pandemic, health workers have had to work longer hours and attend to more patients. Considering the



increasing burnout levels among doctors in the United States, the situation can quickly degenerate into a major concern in the health industry.

Now, one question I know is on the mind of many is why the viruses are peaking together, considering the numerous steps and guidelines Americans have followed in the fight against the coronavirus. Well, it's complicated. For starters, people have relaxed on the coronavirus management guidelines over the last few months. What's more, experts have noticed that the vaccination rate for the flu has been lower than in previous years, even among high-risk individuals.

That's disappointing but not entirely surprising, as some individuals may believe vaccination against the coronavirus can protect against the flu. That's far from being true, by the way. Some medical practitioners have referred to it as booster fatigue, which results from people having to take multiple vaccine shots in a relatively short period.

I must mention that the impact of the triple threat on children is even more concerning than on adults. This, again, is quite complicated. Health authorities have tried their best to convince parents to vaccinate their kids against the coronavirus over the last year. To a large de-

gree, the efforts of these authorities have paid off. However, there's an unlikely disadvantage of getting the coronavirus vaccine and other mitigation steps taken against the coronavirus - the emergence of an immunity gap or debt in young children.

Essentially, because of the intense efforts of doctors and other health bodies to protect children against the coronavirus, their immune system is not as strong as they should be. It is common knowledge that children still have a developing immune system. Interestingly, exposure to infections and foreign invaders is actually beneficial for their immune system at a young age, as it teaches the body how to respond to future infections. However, in a case where the immune system has been so shielded from foreign invaders by the coronavirus mitigation steps, an immunity debt develops.

The situation in children's hospitals has been concerning for months now, with some pediatricians even calling for a declaration of a state of emergency. While the government has refrained from taking that step, it has acknowledged the state of these hospitals and has promised to help anyhow it can.

How can we beat the triple threat? First and foremost, get

(Continued on page 13)

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# SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The annual Newark Public Schools Holiday Tournament showcased many of the top teams in Essex County. In the end, the Lady Phoenix of University High School took the crown on the girls side. Leading UHS was Morgan Marshall with 18 points as University beat Central 64-46 in the title game. Destiny Bynum-Johnson added 10 points and 5 steals for University, who dominated all throughout, leading 32-12 at halftime. The Phoenix are 4-2 on the season.

On the boys side of the bracket, East Side stunned Arts with a 48-37 upset victory. Junior point guard Amir Abdullah scored a game high 16 points and got 6 rebounds for East Side. The win gave ESHS their first Holiday tourney title since 2019. Leading Arts High was Spencer Joyner with 15 points and Savod Goodwin with 13 rebounds.

ed 17 points and 6 rebounds. On New Years' Eve, the Pirates beat Butler 79-45.

On the men's basketball side, Seton Hall dominated St. John's team this past Saturday at the Prudential Center in Newark on New Year's Eve 88-66. Kadarly Richmond had 19 points and 9 rebounds, while Al-Amir Dawes had 22 points and 9 rebounds, and Tyrese Samuels chipped in 16 points and 9 rebounds. SHU shot 54 percent as a team, and took care of the ball with just 12 turnovers. Leading St. John's was Joel Soriano with 23 points and 11 rebounds.

In NFL news, the NY Giants are officially in the playoffs and locked in as the NFC #6 seed after a 38-10 win over the Colts. However, the NY Jets were eliminated with their 23-6 loss to the Seahawks.

Finally, the sports world is giving its prayers to Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin, who is in critical condition at a Cincinnati hospital after collapsing



Photos By Felicia Owens

In college basketball, the Seton Hall women's continued their winning ways, now sitting at 11-4 overall thanks to two big wins. First, in a 72-62 win over Georgetown on Dec. 28, Lauren Park Lane led The Hall with 23 points and 8 assists, along with Sidney Cooks who also collect-

ed 17 points and 6 rebounds. On New Years' Eve, the Pirates beat Butler 79-45.



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**UNITED STATES**

Unless there is a miracle past deadline, by the time you read this, the United States of America will still be stuck in neutral.

That is because by the laws of the nation, business in the House of Representatives cannot be conducted unless there is a Speaker of the House. The holdup involves everything, from getting laws passed to appointing committees to simply swearing in members, which includes the much maligned George Santos (R-New York).

The issue in question surrounds one-time House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) who, thanks to the Republicans claiming a majority in the 2022 Midterms, feels he should be Speaker again. However, after six rounds of voting as of 4 p.m. Jan. 4, he was unable to secure the 218 votes needed to clinch the job.

While former President Trump has endorsed McCarthy for the post, at least 20 Republicans have spoken out against the former Speaker, either demanding concessions to his power or just flat out not liking the guy. In order to be Speaker, McCarthy cannot have more than four defectors.

Meanwhile, President Biden has come out and said that the impasse makes America look bad on the world stage.

The impasse is the first time in over 100 years that a Speaker vote dragged out past one round of voting.

**POPE BENEDICT XVI  
(1927-2022)**

**WORLD**

The UN chief paid tribute to Pope Emeritus Benedict on Dec. 31, who has died, aged 95, after standing down as head of the Catholic Church nearly a decade ago, due to ill health.

Secretary-General António Guterres said he had learned of his passing, “with great sadness,” describing him as a “humble man of prayer and study.”

“Principled in his faith, tireless in his pursuit of peace, and determined in his defense of human rights, he was a spiritual guide to millions across the world and one of the leading academic theologians of our time.”

Ascending to the papacy following his election in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, became the first pope to step down in six centuries. The Vatican announced that the celebrated German theologian’s funeral will take place in St. Peter’s Square.

His successor, Pope Francis, told a New Year’s Eve service in the Vatican that Benedict would be fondly remembered “with emotion, we remember his person, so noble, so kind. And we feel in our hearts so much gratitude.”

In his statement, Mr. Guterres recalled the former pontiff’s 2008 visit to UN Headquarters, and his appeal for “building international relations in a way that allows every person and every people to feel they can make a difference.”

The UN chief said his “powerful calls for solidarity with marginalized people everywhere and his urgent appeals to close the widening gap between rich and poor are more relevant than ever.”

The Secretary-General offered his deepest condolences to all Catholics “and others around the world who were inspired by his life of prayer and tenacious commitment to non-violence and

peace.”

According to news reports, Benedict’s body will be laid in St. Peter’s Basilica on Monday, allowing the Catholic faithful the opportunity to file past and pay their respects.

Benedict was ordained in 1951 and became archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977. Four years later he took on the powerful job of enforcer in the Vatican, defending church orthodoxy, as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

When he resigned in 2013, citing his ailing health, he said that he had done so freely “for the good of the church,” and retired to live out his days in a monastery that lay within the ground of the Vatican.

Benedict’s end occurred during a spate of several notable deaths, including soccer (football) legend Pele at the age of 82 and news icon Barbara Walters at the age of 93.

**CHINA COVID-19 SURGE  
DRAWS CONCERN**

**ASIA**

After the U.S. made travel restrictions on those entering from a superpower nation, the UN has its own concerns.

As COVID-19 infections surge in China, coronavirus experts gathered at the UN health agency on Tuesday, to discuss next steps.

In Geneva, a spokesperson for the WHO confirmed during a scheduled press briefing that Chinese scientists had been invited to participate in a meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 (TAG).

The 30-strong expert group was formed in June 2020 to advise the UN health agency and Member States on coronavirus mutations and variants. The group’s last meeting was in October.

In an earlier statement, WHO said that Chinese scientists had been invited to present detailed data on viral sequencing to the expert meeting at WHO head-

quarters in Geneva.

The development follows a “high-level” encounter last Friday between the WHO and Chinese health officials, who were asked to share further information about China’s COVID-19 strategy.

“High-level officials from China’s National Health Commission and the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration briefed WHO on China’s evolving strategy and actions in the areas of epidemiology, monitoring of variants, vaccination, clinical care, communication and R&D,” WHO explained.

The UN agency in particular called on Chinese authorities to strengthen viral sequencing, clinical management and impact assessment of its COVID surge.

“WHO again asked for regular sharing of specific and real-time data on the epidemiological situation,” it noted, “including more genetic sequencing data, data on disease impact including hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths - and data on vaccinations delivered and vaccination status, especially in vulnerable people and those over 60 years old.”

In addition to offering the UN health agency’s support in these areas, the WHO statement reiterated the importance of vaccination and boosters “to protect against severe disease and death for people at higher risk.”

The organization also offered to help counter vaccine hesitancy in China, where there has been a reported move away from the longstanding “zero COVID” policy.

**A NEW YEAR’S  
ONSLAUGHT**

**UKRAINE**

The New Year holiday period witnessed a fresh surge of deadly attacks by Russian forces in Ukraine, Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq told journalists on Jan. 3.

*(Continued on page 11)*





Members of Mayor McCartney's family. Photo By Joseph Fagan

**TRANSITION OF POWER**

*(Continued from page 1)*

That history-making tradition may have taken a broader view in light of recent events on the local and national levels.

Four of Trenton's seven council members, for example, were sworn-in along with the mayor and selected a temporary board president 5:30 p.m. Jan. 3. The winners of the three Jan. 24 second runoff elections, barring further difficulties, will be inaugurated and seated afterward.

Three of the at-large council races encountered further voting machine and plurality problems after their Dec. 12 runoff.

Katie Hobbs was sworn in as Arizona's Governor Jan. 2, six days after her opponent, Kari Lake, had filed an appeal for a new election in Maricopa County.

Lake is asserting that the

printing of Vote By Mail Ballots in Arizona's largest county was intentional. Lake's first court appeals in December were either dismissed or ruled as lacking evidence.

Then there were the 69 dismissed voting irregularity cases filed by the President Donald J. Trump Administration and the attempt to install alternate electors in several states, leading up to the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Back in WEST ORANGE, the council voted 4-1 to name Williams as this year's council president.

Colleagues Ghenremicael, Scarpa and Michelle Casalin supported her selection, Dr. H William "Bill" Rutherford was the sole dissenter.

Sitting WEST ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION President Jennifer Tunnicliffe

*(Continued on page 9)*



Members of the City Council. Photo By Joseph Fagan

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	12-21-2022	Deaths	1-4-2023	Deaths
Belleville	13,583	159	13,730	161
Bloomfield	15,190	170	15,399	173
Caldwell	2,058	18	2,083	18
Cedar Grove	4,863	142	4,949	144
City of Orange	9,947	176	9,947	176
East Orange	20,797	399	21,076	401
Essex Fells	614	2	617	2
Fairfield	2,458	41	2,482	42
Glen Ridge	1,611	20	1,630	20
Irvington	14,135	287	14,311	287
Livingston	8,468	112	8,573	113
Maplewood	6,571	49	6,638	49
Millburn	4,634	18	4,687	18
Montclair	8,949	92	9,036	92
Newark	94,758	1,284	95,667	1,290
North Caldwell	1,818	10	1,838	10
Nutley	8,145	90	8,249	90
Roseland	1,762	27	1,772	27
South Orange	4,406	24	4,456	25
Verona	4,164	25	4,231	25
West Caldwell	3,339	67	3,339	68
West Orange	16,530	274	16,672	279
<b>Total</b>	<b>248,952</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>251,719</b>	<b>3,510</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of January 4, 2022)**

**NJ: 2,472,562 cases / 32,439 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 101.03 Million / 1.095 Million deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 662.081 Million / 6.697 Million deaths**



# LOCAL TALK

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**TRANSITION OF POWER**

*(Continued from page 7)*

and first-time board member Robert Ivker are to be sworn into their new terms past press time Jan. 5 at 5:30 p.m. Ivker is succeeding outgoing Board Vice President Gary Rothstein.

Tunncliffe, Ivker and colleagues Melinda Huerta, Brian Rock and Eric Steveson will then decide who will be their board president and vice president.

EAST ORANGE is modifying its Jan. 1 annual reorganization meeting in the City Hall Council Chamber by moving it to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 9. City elders are otherwise holding their annual meeting regardless of its election cycle. (There were no mayor or council elections here last year.)

All 10 council members will decide whether to retain Second Ward Councilman Christopher Awe as its Council Chairman or rotate it to one of their other nine colleagues.

The ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION more than welcomed back Shawneque Johnson, Tyrone Jon Tarver and Sueanne Gravesande during its annual reorganization meeting here at the Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium 6 p.m. Jan. 3.

A majority of participating city voters had returned Gravesande and Johnson and, after a two-year absence, Tarver. Tarver, who was a board president, succeeded Guadalupe Cabido.

Eight of the nine -member panel then voted to retain Johnson as board president and name Gravesande as vice president for Calendar Year 2023. Tarver abstained from both votes.

The four incumbent SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION members are to welcome their three newcomers - Nubia Wilson, William R. Gifford III and Regina Eckert - after their scheduled Jan 5, 7 p.m. inauguration here at the district's Administration Building Auditorium.

Incumbent Board President Thair Joshua and board member Erin Siders passed on their re-election opportunities. Longtime member Johanna Wright withdrew her campaign in October.

Who will succeed Johnson as board president and/or respective First and Second vice presidents Susan Bergin and Kaitlin Wittleder, however, will not be known until later that Thursday.

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MAPLEWOOD's municipal leaders are a blend of the familiar and the new once they were sworn in here after 7:30 p.m. Jan. 1.

Dean Dafis' outgoing peers, on Dec. 20, announced that they had decided to keep him as Mayor for the second straight year. Maplewood's Township Committee, like Nutley's Board of Commissioners, tend to select a mayor and deputy mayor from among themselves in advance of their scheduled reorganization.

The incoming Township Committeewoman, Deborah

Engel, however, took the Deputy Mayor's seat next to Dafis minutes after her inauguration.

Engel, who ran unopposed last year, knew she was going to succeed former mayor and outgoing committeeman Frank McGehee. What she learned on Dec. 20, however, was that the committee had named her deputy mayor.

Outgoing Deputy Mayor Victor DeLuca, who had also been a longtime mayor, returns to his committee seat. De Luca had asked his colleagues to table Committeewoman Nancy Adams' proposal to extend fu-

ture mayor and deputy mayor terms to two years. Maplewood's elders are to talk with Township Attorney Roger Desiderio on the proposed amendment.

Changes in BLOOMFIELD's local leadership were more likely found at its Board of Education Administration Building than its township hall.

Incumbent school board president Jill Fischman, Board Member Benjamin Morse and newcomer Phyllis Gerber were sworn in shortly after 6:30

*(Continued on page 13)*



# 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 former Newark police lieutenant, who was convicted Oct. 3 for killing his ex-wife and wounding her boyfriend in Jefferson Township July 14, 2019, began his likely life sentence in a New Jersey state prison on Dec. 19.

State Superior Court-Morrisstown Judge Michael Gaus sentenced John Formisano to an overall 79 year prison term that Monday. Gaus' sentence included 50 years for the first-degree murder of Christie Solaro-Formisano, 37, and 15 years for the first-degree attempted murder of Timothy Simonson, 52.

The Morris County jury, after a two-week trial, also found Formisano guilty of third-degree hindering apprehension or prosecution and two counts each of second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, official misconduct and endangering the welfare of a child.

Formisano, who was off-duty but in uniform, went to the house where he and his ex-wife had once shared at 11:31 p.m. July 14, 2019. He used his service revolver to kill Solaro-Formisano on the front porch steps and, inside the house, shoot Simonson. The shootings happened while he and his ex-wife's two children were inside.

Formisano was arrested near his mother's house in Livingston July 15. The revolver was found in his car and was arrested. The lieutenant, who has remained in custody ever since, had supposedly made a videotaped confession - a recording that the judge had allowed in the trial.

Gaus' sentencing of 65 years alone means that Formisano, 57, will have to serve 55 years and three months before he would be first considered for parole. He

would be 112 years old before the parole board will consider him.

Gaus consolidated the other seven charges into a concurrent sentence and factored Formisano's three years, five months post-arrest jail time. Simonson, on Dec. 30, 2020, filed a suit against Formisano and the Newark Police Division. Formisano, on Dec. 19, told Gaus that he "would be back before you in two years."

**IRVINGTON** - The Florence Avenue School community finished the 2022 half of this school year remembering one of their teachers, William Niskoch, 46, since his Oct. 3 death.

Although the school removed its mourning bunting on Dec. 23, Niskoch's restaurant, Delenio, of Jersey City, remains closed. The 18-year science and social studies teacher here and in other Irvington public elementary schools, bought the Hamilton Square neighborhood eatery in 2019. The Chatham resident had been in the restaurant as late as September.

William John Niskoch, Jr. came here from his native Edison Township via Jersey City and Union. Born March 3, 1976, "Billy" graduated from Edison's Bishop Ahr High School in 1984, got his bachelor's degree from Kean University and his master's from New Jersey City University.

"Mr. N" is survived by wife Jessica, parents Bill and Laura Niskoch, mother-in-law Alexis Garfield and brother Chris, among others.

A visitation was held Oct. 6 at Chatham's William A. Bradley and Sons Funeral Home, followed by a private cremation. Memorial donations may be made to Jersey City's See Spot Rescued.

**EAST ORANGE** - *A little history lesson as a sidebar to an article from not so long ago...*

New Jersey Transit Morris & Essex Line riders would have enjoyed over a century of taking a train from an East Orange Central Station had municipal elders had taken up the then-Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad's offer in 1906.

The Historical Society of East Orange had recently posted a March 8, 1906 newspaper clip-

ping about the Lackawanna's offer on its Facebook page. The railroad would have replaced the East Orange and Brick Church stations with a consolidated station between Burnet and Clinton streets. The article added that the DL&W "has already bought the property with this object in view."

The proposed central station was an early part of its grade separation project deal before the East Orange Council Aldermen. The Lackawanna came to them, like it had before other municipal officials from Newark to Montclair and Morristown, with a 10 percent "municipal contribution" appeal. East Orange would have paid \$80,000 towards the \$800,000 project for the 3.6 miles between Orange and Newark's Roseville Junction stations.

East Orange Aldermen, however, wanted a fixed dollar figure, not a percentage. They also wanted the right of way depressed - like with Newark's Roseville and Bloomfield's Watsessing cuts. The railroad wanted to elevate its tracks.

An Essex County judge settled the dispute in a 1921 ruling: The Lackawanna would pay for the city's share while East Orange accepted track elevation. The \$4 million project was completed for a Dec. 18, 1922 public opening. The now-two-story Brick Church and East Orange stations remain in their places.

**ORANGE** - The City Council opened their Jan. 3 conference meeting here at City Hall with a moment of silence for one of their late colleagues - Donald E. Page.

Councilman-at-Large Wheldon M. "Monty" Montague III announced Page's passing Dec. 31 on several Facebook pages. Page, 81, said Montague had died Dec. 28. Page had reportedly been ill for some time.

Page, a North Ward resident, often ran independently of the Essex County Democratic Committee slate. He, for example, challenged incumbent Rickard J. Codey in the 2001 state senate primary.

Page lost to former city policeman Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. in a five-way 2008 mayoral election.

Funeral arrangements had not been posted as of 11 a.m.

Jan. 4.

**WEST ORANGE** - Township Historian Joseph Fagan, in light of what happened to NFL football player Damar Hamlin in Cincinnati's Paycor Stadium Jan. 2, can be said as being on call 24/7.

Fagan, like many ABC-TV "Monday Night Football" home viewers here and elsewhere, saw the Buffalo Bills safety got up from tackling an opposing Bengals player in the first quarter and fell back on the ground unconscious. Medics quickly diagnosed his being in cardiac arrest and restarted his heart on the field.

Hamlin, as of press time, is in critical but stable condition in a University of Cincinnati Medical Center ICU. The NFL, within 30 minutes, indefinitely postponed the Bengals-Bills game.

"I think, like most fans, I didn't immediately realize the seriousness of the situation," said Fagan Jan. 3. "As the situation unfolded and answers weren't forthcoming, I immediately thought of Albert Wibiralske and how he died."

Albert Wibiralske, 17, would have been a three-letter West Orange High School basketball, baseball and football player had he graduated with the Class of 1910. He was a senior running back for WOHS while playing a tragic game against New York City's Trinity Chapel team on East Orange's Ashland Field Nov. 19, 1909. (Ashland Field, which became Paul Robeson Stadium, was WOHS's home gridiron that day.)

West Orange was leading Trinity 17-0 in the second half, aided in part by the latter's quarterback suffering a broken left arm, when Wibiralske was running with the ball towards the latter's 30-yard line. An opposing player tackled him, causing Wibiralske's head to double up onto his chest.

Teammates ended the game and brought the unconscious Wibiralske three blocks to a doctor - who then put him on an ambulance to Orange Memorial Hospital. He died of a broken neck while in surgery there.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - The volunteer South Orange Rescue Squad, since Dec. 25, is asking  
(Continued on page 13)



# NEW YORK SUBWAY SHOOTER FRANK JAMES PLEADS GUILTY

## *Defendant Attempted to Kill Dozens of Commuters During Rush Hour in Brooklyn*

Frank James, 63, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty Jan. 3 to 10 counts of committing a terrorist attack or other violence against a mass transportation vehicle - one count for each gunshot victim - and one count of discharging a firearm in furtherance of his attack. The charges relate to the defendant's April 12, 2022, mass shooting on the New York City subway in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

According to court documents, during rush hour on the morning of April 12, 2022, James used a Glock 17 pistol he legally purchased in Ohio to conduct a mass shooting on an N subway train in Brooklyn, New York. As part of his attack, James - disguised in an orange reflective jacket and yellow hard hat to look like a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) employee - set off a smoke-emitting device in a subway car before opening fire on his captive victims.

The smoke-emitting device caused panicked passengers to scramble to one end of the subway car, allowing James to more easily shoot at his victims. In total, 10 victims were struck by the defendant's bullets. Even more passengers suffered from smoke inhalation and other mental and physical injuries due to the defendant's attack.

"As described in court filings, the defendant set off a smoke bomb in a New York City subway car and then fired a handgun more than 30 times, striking ten innocent passengers," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "Today's guilty plea demonstrates that the Justice Department will work relentlessly to hold accountable those who engage in mass violence and terrorize our communities."

"On the morning of April 12, 2022, Frank James cold-bloodedly shot innocent New Yorkers traveling on the subway in Brooklyn and brought terror to our great city.

James's crimes of violence have been met with swift justice," said U.S. Attorney Breon Peace for the Eastern District of New York. "James's admission of guilt to all eleven counts of the superseding indictment acknowledges the terror and pain he caused. This guilty plea is an important step towards holding James fully accountable and helping the victims of the defendant's violence and our great city heal."

"Frank James, as he admitted today, deliberately planned and carried out an attack of terror on everyday New Yorkers. The FBI's JTTF and our law enforcement partners remain ever vigilant in our efforts to protect our city, and we will ensure those willing to commit acts of terror face the consequences of their actions," said Assistant Director in Charge Michael J. Driscoll of the FBI New York Field Office.

"Today's guilty plea is a distinct admission of the terror Mr. James inflicted on New Yorkers last April in Brooklyn, and he is being held accountable for his reprehensible actions that morning," said Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell of New York City Police Department (NYPD). "Our nation's largest transit system is the lifeblood of New York City. And its subway riders expect and deserve the brisk, coordinated, and meticulous work exhibited by everyone involved in bringing this terrible incident to a successful close. For their unwavering dedication to all the people we serve, I thank and commend the NYPD patrol officers who arrested Mr. James on the run, as well as each of the detectives and agents assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force who methodically shrunk his world until he had nowhere else to turn. Lastly, I also want to thank the public for their vigilance and their help in taking this violent criminal off of our streets."

The investigation reflects that the attack

was the culmination of substantial planning. Beginning as early as 2017, James began purchasing items he could use in an attack, including smoke grenades, ammunition, weapons, and his disguise. In the months leading up to his attack, James conducted web searches for "MTA," "New York," "transit," "stops on the N train," and "311 kings highway brooklyn ny," which is near where James parked his rented U-Haul van before entering the subway. The defendant also recorded and posted videos online foreshadowing his plans, including stating that "if you hear the name Frank James on the news, if something happens to a Frank James that's sixty-something years old, chances are that's me."

Following James's attack, law enforcement officers searched James's apartment and storage unit and uncovered a stockpile of weapons, including, among other items, 9mm ammunition; a threaded 9mm pistol barrel, which allows for a silencer or suppresser to be attached; .223 caliber ammunition, which is used with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle; a taser; a high-capacity rifle magazine; and a blue smoke cannister.

James faces up to life in prison on each of the 11 counts. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

The FBI's New York Joint Terrorism Task Force, which principally consists of agents from the FBI and detectives from the NYPD are investigating the case. MTA provided valuable assistance.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ian C. Richardson, Sara K. Winik, and Ellen H. Sise for the Eastern District of New York are prosecuting the case, with valuable assistance provided by Paralegal Specialist Magdalena St. Surin and Trial Attorney David Cora of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section.

### **WORLD NEWS FLASH**

*(Continued from page 6)*

Citing UN humanitarian colleagues, he informed the media at the regular daily press briefing that intensified violence in different regions of the war-torn country caused "multiple civilian casualties," which included children and journalists.

"Ukrainian authorities reported more than 50 civilian casualties on December 31st alone," said Mr. Haq.

The latest attacks on the capital Kyiv, damaged a hotel, resi-

dential homes, and several education facilities, including a university.

And on Dec. 31, during hostilities in the Kherson region, two children were injured - one of them a 13-year-old boy who was evacuated to the children's hospital in Kherson, which itself was shelled in the early hours of New Year's Day, said Mr. Haq, citing the regional governor.

Moreover, intensive fighting also continues in eastern Donetsk and the Luhansk region, with civilian casualties and infrastructure damage reported "on

both sides of the front line."

"Despite continued attacks we, along with our humanitarian partners, continue to deliver support to the people in need in the most impacted communities," said the UN Deputy Spokesperson.

He went on to outline some of the life-saving assistance being delivered by the Organization as the fighting continues.

"On Dec. 28, an inter-agency convoy delivered food, water, blankets, emergency shelter kits and other supplies from the International Organization for Mi-

gration (IOM), the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), UNICEF (UN Children's Fund) and the World Food Program (WFP) to the front-line towns of Lyman and Sviatohirsk in Donetsk oblast."

Both communities have been exposed to heavy fighting, which has destroyed houses, demolished critical infrastructure, and decimated access to basic services.

"The people who still live in these areas are mostly the elderly and people with limited mobility."





## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### The Curse On The Serpent

The serpent is a fascinating creature whose story is told in mythology, literature, science, and religions worldwide. Interestingly, for most people, the serpent is a cursed creature. However, the serpent's story is much more complicated, with negative and positive aspects. So while on the one hand, it is seen as a symbol of curse, evil, darkness, poison, and destruction, on the other hand, it is seen as a symbol of health and healing and is used as a medical symbol worldwide. It is also used as a symbol of power (placed on the clothing of warriors), fertility, creativity, and rebirth, and even as the bronze image (Numbers 21:9), representing Christ.

It is fascinating how over the lapse of nearly one thousand years following the wilderness experience, the Israelites invested the "brazen serpent" with a mysterious sanctity that led to their idolatry. In his effort to deliver the people from their infatuation and impress them with the idea of its worthlessness, King Hezekiah called the bronze serpent, in contempt, "Nehushtan," a brazen thing, a mere piece of brass (2 Kings 18:4). In effect, the bronze serpent, intended to be a symbol of Christ and a call to faith, became a curse to the people of Israel.

A comment from what is to be seen from the reflection on the serpent is that what was created as one of the most beautiful of creatures and a positive symbol of faith and representation of salvation became the greatest symbol of the curse that has been in the world. The first place where the serpent appears in the Bible as a curse is in Genesis, where it acted as an agent of Satan. We read in Genesis 3:1-15:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"<sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.<sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."<sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."<sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

*"Cursed are you above all livestock*

*and all wild animals!*

*You will crawl on your belly*

*and you will eat dust*

*all the days of your life.*

<sup>15</sup> *And I will put enmity*

*between you and the woman,*

*and between your offspring and hers;*

*he will crush your head,*

*and you will strike his heel."* (NKJV)

The story, as it reads, is not only fascinating but tragic. Yes, it is fascinating because of its uniqueness as a talking animal, its attractive power, and its defiance of simple interpretation. But more than its fascination is its devastating impact because, as described in Greek tragedies, it tells of "the swift reversals of fortune."

Just reflect on the perfectly pristine life in the Garden of Eden that Adam and Eve were enjoying when the serpent came to Eve with **The Big Question**, "Did God really say," "You must not eat from any tree in the garden?" And **The Big Lie**, "You will not certainly die." After dialoguing with the serpent and accepting the lie, Eve took the fruit from the tree God had forbidden, she ate and gave it to her husband, and he ate. The rest of the story about Adam and Eve and the serpent is that of the Fall tragedy. That is what Bible-believing people describe as the transition of the first man and woman from innocent obedience to God to rebellion. The brokenness, guilt, shame, blame, despair, destruction, and death that came with the Fall does not fit an easy description. It is regularly spoken of as the mystery of evil.

Part of the response of the Creator to the whole event of the Fall was the pronouncement of the curse on the serpent. He cursed the serpent above "all livestock and all wild animals." He told it that it would "crawl upon its belly" and "eat dust all the days of its life." That means

it would be subjected to total humiliation and punished to the point of non-existence. Furthermore, the "Seed of the woman" would "crush" its head. The crushing met its fulfillment when Christ, the Seed of the woman, was uplifted on the "cursed" cross. As the apostle John states, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of man be lifted up." (John 3:14 KJV). Here we can say that God knows how to turn a curse into a blessing.

Among the great promises of God is the fact that those who put their trust in God are to hear the words, "You will tread on the lion and cobra; you will trample the young lion and serpent." (Psalm 91:3 KJV). "They will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be made well." (Mark 16:18 KJV). "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19 NIV).

In his identification of the first rebel, John names the serpent as the equivalent of Satan, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelation 12:9, cf, vv 13, 15, 17 KJV).

And in the final destruction of evil, John states that "He (the Eternal Judge and Executioner) laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished." (Revelation 20:2-3 NKJV).

As you reflect on all that has been said, you must agree that one of the greatest divine judgments is to be caught up under the serpent's curse.



**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

(Continued from page 4)

vaccinated against the coronavirus and the flu. Fortunately, about 70% of Americans are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. It is also imperative to get booster doses to improve the body's defense against the coronavirus strains. The flu vaccine is another vaccine adults in the United States should get to protect against the flu. RSV does not have a vaccine yet, but good hygiene, proper ventilation, testing, and masking can significant-

ly help in its control.

It is extremely unlikely that the country will return to the coronavirus mandates, like masking, social distancing, and vaccinations, but they are all steps that can prevent and retard the spread of these viruses in the country. If you are a high-risk individual, you should not neglect these steps. Stay safe.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board-Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency*

*Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.*

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**TRANSITION OF POWER**

(Continued from page 9)

p.m. Jan. 3. Gerber succeeds Daniel Anderson, who declined re-election.

Fischman was retained as president. Kasey Dudley succeeded Shane Berger as vice president.

Mayor Michael Venezia and his three incumbent at-large council running mates were set to be re-inaugurated Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Venezia himself will be sworn into his third term. Dr. Wartyna "Tina" Davis, Ted Gamble and Rich Rockwell's re-inaugurations were to follow.

In GLEN RIDGE, former mayor Peter Hughes and Richard Law were sworn into their new BOROUGH COUNCIL terms at

the Council Chamber 6:30 p.m. Jan. 3.

Law's five peers then named him this year's board president. He succeeds 2022 President Deborah Mans.

BOARD OF EDUCATION President Elisabeth Ginsburg, fellow incumbent member Dr. Heather Yaros-Ramos and newcomer Tricia Akinwande are to be sworn-in at the Glen Ridge High School Auditorium 7 p.m. Jan. 4.

Akinwande is to succeed outgoing member and First Vice President Michael de Leeuw. The board is to also thank and send off Erica Spayd, who was appointed in Yaros-Ramos' three-month absence.

They will pick from among themselves a successor to De Leeuw as vice president and

whether to keep or succeed Ginsburg as their president.

MONTCLAIR BOARD OF EDUCATION incumbent Mfreke "Monk" Inyang and newcomer Yvonne W. Bourknight are to be sworn in during an historic Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m. inauguration here.

Inyang and Bourknight are being sworn into their first full three-year terms in the second step of a three-year MBOE process of switching from a mayor-appointed to a voter-elected school board panel.

That same panel will then decide whether to retain Latifah Jannah and Priscilla Church and respective president and vice president - or select their successors.

BELLEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES were

to welcome first-timer Michael Louis Darro and incumbents Luis Antonio Muniz, Jr. and Gabrielle V. Bennett-Meany Jan. 3, 6 p.m. here at the Belleville High School Auditorium.

The reconstituted board then voted to retain Muniz and Bennett-Meany as respective president and vice president.

NUTLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION incumbents Charles W. Kucinski and Theresa "Terri" Quirk plus newcomer Tom D'Elia were sworn in Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Nutley High School Auditorium.

The new panel then voted Salvatore Ferraro to succeed Kucinski as their board president. Salvatore Balsamo was selected as vice president.

*William Hathaway, Jr. contributed to this report.*

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 10)

for the public's help in their time of need.

SORS Chief Victor Rothstein said that an attic water main had burst on Christmas Day and forced its way through drywall and ceiling insulation onto its headquarters' three ambulances.

The on-shift staff drove their ambulances away from 65 Sloan St. to safety. They and their shift commander's car remain outside, still taking community and mutual aid calls.

Water and debris, however, damaged the 2015-built headquarters' lighting, heating system, electrical outlets and garage

doors. The mechanical, supply and laundry rooms are off-limits. A contractor was seen Jan. 3 putting the damaged insulation into a 15 cubic yard Dumpster on the property.

The volunteer squad coordinates with the paid South Essex Fire Department and takes mutual aid calls from Maplewood, Newark, Irvington and Orange, among neighboring burgs. The squad, who is awaiting its insurance carrier's damage estimate, does not get a cent from village property taxes.

Donation details may be found at [southorangeresquesquad.org](http://southorangeresquesquad.org).

**MAPLEWOOD** - A township man, accused of trying to carjack a federal DEA agent at a Man-

hattan traffic light Dec 9. is back home, nursing his facial injuries, since Dec. 14.

Do not ask Zachary Bell, 32, however, to go outside of New Jersey or New York State nor offer him alcoholic drinks, legal drugs or narcotics. Those are among the conditions, including regular drug tests, a New York County judge had set before granting him his release on \$30,000 bail.

The DEA agent, who just got off his shift, and his government-issued Jeep were stopped at a traffic light at Manhattan's Ninth Avenue and West 14th Street just after Midnight Dec. 9. The agent said that a man, later identified as Bell, had approached his driver's side door and pulled on its handle, scream-

ing, "Get out of the car!"

The agent said that the suspect then reached towards his waist as if he had a gun there. He put on his police lights, pulled out his own gun and struck Bell in the face. He called police after wrestling Bell to the ground and handcuffed him. Bell, who was found with a gravity knife on him, would be taken to a local hospital for facial surgery.

Bell faces charges of assaulting a federal officer and attempted carjacking. The Hudson Yards employee was never convicted of a crime.

Bell's federal defense attorney, Ariel Werner, of New York City, said that what happened between his client and the agent "was a misunderstanding with  
(Continued on page 14)



# The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

## ONCE THE CLOCK STRIKES 12



Photos By Andrea Dialect

Well, hello there, Cinderella and/or Cinderella. Put your shoes back on and do it fast, and you'd best get to that pumpkin for that head start if need be. By the way, ladies, you may want to ditch the stilettos and cop a pair of sneaks because rumor has it



that we're running out of time. It is said that 2023 has been seen a'comin, and its speed racing up this way with everything we folks will be dabbling into this year in tow; logically, that good, that bad, and indifferent. So, to save time this week, mum will be the word, and you'll need to PICTURE THAT instead!

I believe we should picture the New Year en route so we can think about how we will react to what and how it shows up. Use the verbal illustration above to kick it off if you'd like. But more importantly, I want you to picture how ya gonna show up for 2023. Will you have a ball, or will it be that sword in your flesh that shortens days speeding up the takeout? Are ya showing up for 2023 or skipping out because your heads hangin' low till it can't go no mo, or will that nose be up in the sky cause you flyin' high? Logically every move we make daily contributes to that thang we call livin' or dyin'. As the Good Book says, choose this day. So, which one is it gonna be? That is the question. The utilization of visuals can be quite



helpful. So I went to the archives. My Muse's "Professional and Features" imagery illustrates visuals for choice.

As you mull it over in your head, I'll give you a heads-up look at the accompanying photos. Ready? In 2023 will you be smelling those flowers or kicking rocks? Driving yourself to drink or living by faith, not by whatcha lookin' at? Living a life of adventure, or will ya be positioned smug as a bug on ya mission to nowhere. Fighting the good fight in your warrior gear, or will ya be stepping into the garb of a pauper as being aided by self-pity? When the time comes, if we inquire, our minds



will let us know. Oh, by the way, for extra credit, find the picture prompt that usually accompanies one of my favorite (Andrea Dialect Said That) quotes. Ya listening? A mask is a mask, no matter how clever you think you are. Can you find it? I think that one fits here nicely. Enough said; Seek and find, you'll get the pic.

Happy New Years, Everyone. Health, happiness, and prosperity to you and yours always. I know which of the photos I'll be working towards this coming year. What about you?

Bring it 2023; we're ready for ya!

**TO BE CONTINUED! ...**



### WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

very severe consequences."

**BLOOMFIELD** - Township Councilman Rich Rockwell could have put on an accountant's eyeshade when he started talking about "The Toll of the Garden State Parkway on Bloomfield" presentation for the Historical Society of Bloomfield.

"There were 200 homes demolished to make way for the Parkway with another 52 to 66 moved," said Rockwell to the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green sanctuary audience Oct. 25. "There was a building boom in Bloomfield in the 1950s, so there was a net gain of 160 houses."

Those lost housing units, by the councilman's calculations, generated \$3 million in

tax ratables - of which Bloomfield received \$187,975 in property taxes - in 1952. Rockwell calculated those respective figures to \$3 billion and \$2 million in 2022 dollars.

Rockwell's presentation came on the approach to the 70th anniversary of the GSP's construction through Bloomfield, Nutley, East Orange, Newark's Vailsburg section and Irvington. The New Jersey Highway Authority and its contractors acquired property, demolished houses, rechanneled streams and cut or altered streets 1953-54.

The GSP as early as the late 1940s was designed to bring Northern New Jersey motorists to Jersey Shore attractions. It went through urban or "Metropolitan" centers so that a third of Garden State residents were within three miles of the Parkway.

"While officials in East Orange and Irvington opposed the Parkway's right of way, there was no organized opposition in Bloomfield," said Rockwell. "East Orange would

lose its Oraton Parkway. Bloomfield had some open space, would relieve traffic on Broad Street and would remove row houses along Lake Street and Franklin Avenue."

The GSP's right of way was originally 150 wide and would use the Morris Canal Bed from Montgomery Street north into Clifton. The Parkway mostly ran parallel to the canal's east after engineers said they needed a 250 to 300 foot wide right of way. A recording of Rockwell's presentation can be found in hsob.org's video archives.

**MONTCLAIR** - Jimmy Kreie, Immaculate Conception High School's head girls basketball coach, may have written a letter of apology to his James Caldwell High School counterpart and team - and maybe have read Matthew 7:12 - before resuming his duties here Dec. 27.

Kreie had been suspended for  
*(Continued on page 15)*



**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 14)

"unsportsmanlike conduct" by MIC Athletic Director Jim Risoli immediately after their season-opening game here against Caldwell Dec. 15. The Lions blew out the Indians 104-30.

The problem with that game, however, was after MIC had scored 59 points over Caldwell's 18 by halftime. NJSIAA and Super Essex Conference rules, since 2020, call for a shot clock to start running in the second half once one team has an at least 30-point lead on the other as a mercy rule. That clock never ran on Dec. 15 - which was the responsibility of the home team, MIC.

Other SEC coaches, once they had learned of the lopsided score, called for the clock to be used in future games. Risoli said that Kreie "was told to slow the pace of the game but that went unheeded."

Kreie returned to the Lady Lions' hosting the Immaculate Heart Academy squad Dec. 27 in the Hoopfest Holiday Invitational. MIC beat IH, 58-46. The Lions would win the invitational Dec. 29 over Union City, 55-34.

MIC continued its 4-0 SEC and 7-0 overall unbeaten string into Jan. 3's visit to West Orange. The Lions were headed in scoring in only two of 24 quarters in six games played since Dec. 15. Their average margin of victory in those six games have been 23.9 points.

Matthew 7:12 is also known as The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The late Robert S. Hayes, Jr., whose five decades of volunteerism put him most anywhere in Glen Ridge, remains here after a fashion.

Hayes' remains were placed in the Glen Ridge Congregation Church's Garden of Memory Dec. 16. Hayes, 89, had died in West Orange Nov. 27.

The Boston native had been active in the community since moving here in 1960. He was a GRCC, Glen Ridge Rotary, Freeman Gardens and the (1992-3) Glen Ridge Public Library Expansion Committee member. He was best known as the longtime captain and EMT of the Glen Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Squad 1988 - c. 2015.

Hayes was an insurance broker for Equitable in Manhattan. The 1955-57 Army veteran earned an economics degree from Dartmouth and an MBA from New York University.

He and wife Joan raised son David and daughters Susan and Sharon here. Six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren are also among his survivors.

Memorial donations may be made to the GRVAS, 3 Herman St., and/ or GRCC, 195 Ridgewood Ave.

**BELLEVILLE** - State School Monitor Thomas Egan's Dec. 30's overruling of the Belleville Board of Education Trustees' Dec. 19 denial of selling a .0795-acre remnant of the old School 1 site may well result in transferring that 3,463.02 square foot lot to the township and its purported redeveloper.

The trustees, in a 4-3 split vote Dec. 19, rejected township officials' appeal to amend the School 1 deed to include that extra lot. Township Attorney Steve Martino and an attorney for the redeveloper made a presentation to them Nov. 15, stating that a mistake on the Jan. 24, 2011 re-measuring of the property had left out that .0795-acre sliver.

A past school board sold the School 1 property to the township in early 2011 for \$1. The township demolished the elementary school building and sold (most of) the lot for \$550,000 to a redeveloper in 2012.

The 190 Cortland St. site has since been rezoned for mixed commercial-residential use. One proposal calls for a Quick Check to be built along with apartments along the Academy Street side.

The NJDOE assigned Egan to Belleville Public Schools, along with a \$4.2 million loan to keep the district solvent. Egan, who was also recently assigned to the Ridgely Park Public Schools, makes direct or livestreamed monthly public reports to the BOT and Superintendent Richard Tomko.

Egan stays until BPS finishes making \$420,000 annual repayments to NJDOE. The district has \$840,000 to go before retiring the loan and Egan. The BOT could speed that end by drawing that \$840,000 from the district's \$9.7 million general fund.

**NUTLEY** - A group of seven parents, who call themselves "Loud Mouths," are considering their next move in light of the New Jersey Department of Education Board of Ethics Commissioners' Dec. 20 dismissal of their complaint against Nutley Board of Education President Charles W. Kucinski.

The seven parents, who began appearing at the Sept. 20 Nutley Board of Education meeting wearing "Loud Mouth" t-shirts, had filed their complaint against Kucinski Sept. 21. They cited the long time NBOE member's handling of the Aug. 23 meeting's public speaker segment for ethics board correction.

Kucinski, in the Loud Mouths' eyes, had disregarded the board's long standing public speakers' limits. NBOE meeting rules call for a three minutes per person speaking limit within a 20-minute maximum segment. Kucinski, as board presi-

dent, is known to cut short speakers who become lengthy, repetitive and/or abusive.

The board president, said his accusers, had allowed many Aug. 23 public speakers to talk beyond their three minutes' time for almost two hours. Several had returned to the public floor microphone a second time. Kucinski had commented to an audience member that the police may escort him or her out of the building.

New Jersey's COVID-related mask wearing mandate was at the heart of most Aug. 23 speakers remarks. That debate prompted Board Member Kenneth Reilly to introduce a resolution to have a committee draft a mask mandate-opposing letter to Gov. Phil Murphy and put that letter up to a final Sept. 20 vote.

The "Loud Mouth 7" were among those in the Sept. 20 audience who witnessed the board rescind that letter's transmission to Murphy (D-Rumson) on a split vote. Reilly, Frank DeMaio and Erica Zarro were absent; member Teri Quirk, who supported Reilly's resolution, was the sole "no" voter.

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