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**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

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**INDEX**

Editorial & Weather: 02

Sports Wrap: 05

Five Year Old Killed: 07

Town Watch: 10

The Doctor Is In: 04

World News Flash: 06

New Printing Special: 08

From the Pastor's Heart: 12

## JUSTICE COMING FOR TYRE NICHOLS



Mugshots of the five fired officers who killed Tyre Nichols

PAGE 6

## JUSTICE DEMANDED FOR CARL DORSEY III

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - Those who are seeking justice for the late Carl Dorsey III, who was fatally shot by a plainclothes Newark policeman here Jan. 1, 2021, have been taking their cause to other levels since a state grand jury's Jan. 24 no bill of indictment.

Robert Tarver, Jr., attorney for Dorsey's family, were among those who gathered before the Peter Rodino Federal Building Jan. 30 to call for a U.S. Department of Justice-New Jersey District investigation.

Tarver, flanked by Dorsey's sister Madinah Pearson and People's Organization for Progress chairman Lawrence Hamm, is calling on U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger to make good on upholding civil rights. The federal prosecutor, on March 28, had created a civil rights division in his office.

"We're asking - no, no, no, no - demanding - that they initiate an investigation into this matter," said Tarver, of Toms River. "We're here because the New Jersey Attorney General's Office - after two years of inaction with regard to this family, after two years of hearing nothing from these individuals - decided to bring this matter to a grand jury."

Tarver and Pearson said that those in Acting N.J. Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin's Newark office who were handling the Dorsey case had not informed them of the grand jury until they had first read their no bill decision in a Jan. 26 press release.

"It's almost like my brother's life didn't matter to anyone else but our family," said Pearson. "It was another slap in the face to just go from not knowing anything for two years to finding out that the officer who killed him was not charged at all."

Tarver, Pearson, Hamm and POP members then presented photos and video recordings of what happened at South 11th Street and Woodland Avenue early that New Year's Day. The material was their evidence to support their contention that the grand jury's Jan. 24 no bill was a miscarriage of justice.

The material is similar to what Tarver had presented in an Aug. 30 conference that heralded the family's civil lawsuit against the city and NPD. The first home surveillance camera footage was released by then-AG Gurbir S. Grewal Jan. 21, 2021.

While Tarver, Dorsey's family and supporters called for federal intervention, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka may have launched a city-level probe since his Jan. 27 announcement.

"AG Matthew J. Platkin's investigation has been completed and we're grateful for the community's effort that helped to create an independent process that involves all police-involved shootings," said the mayor. "Now, the City of Newark will conduct our own investigation to ensure that our officers in this incident followed procedures properly and did not violate regulations. We'll move swiftly and decisively to

(Continued on page 5)

## BIDEN & OTHERS CELEBRATE HUDSON TUNNEL PROJECT



PAGE 13

President Biden arrives to praise the new tunnel. Photo via POTUS Twitter.



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16**



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

**Hello Readers,**

What former President Donald Trump and Chris Christie missed on, President Joseph Biden and NJ Governor Murphy picked up. The Hudson River Train Tunnel is happening now. Biden has got approval for \$300 million for the train tunnel project. This will include repairs on the present tunnel which was damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

These monies came from the bipartisan infrastructure law that was approved for \$1.2 trillion. Biden said, "All told, this is one of the biggest and most consequential projects in the country."

It is true that this project was almost done on the paper, announced in 2011 or 2012, by then-governor Christie. Thousands of jobs will be produced by this project. It is a key project and was appreciated when Christie announced it, but political turns postponed it.

The DOJ has searched another one of Biden's homes, this time at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware with the President's cooperation. This comes after the DOJ appointed a special counsel to investigate the case of classified documents.

Tens of thousands showed up for Tyre Nichols' funeral on February 1, 2023. It was heart breaking for all of us. The way that five police officers beat him, and after three days he died from his injuries. Those three days were horrible pain and suffering for Tyre. Adding to the problems, ice weather delayed the funeral

until 1 p.m. local time in Memphis, Tennessee. It is harder to look at the released footage showing the police officers were kicking and beating him. On Feb. 1, they released the records of the five police officer's pasts, and some showed similar bad behavior. We must change the protocol, as this happens majority of the time to young black men.

Six people were killed in a Texas snowstorm on Feb. 1. Texas has not seen snow like this in a while, and the storm cut off electricity to over 200,000 homes. They do not have all season tires on their autos. Most of them do not know how to drive in snowy conditions.

This is from the California Water Boards: "The Water Boards recognize the importance of recycled water as a critical water supply for California. Recycled water is a key resource for

diversifying local supplies and improving the State's long-term water resilience. The Water Boards regulate the production and use of recycled water in a manner that protects public health and the environment."

The recycled and recleaned water can be used for bath, toilet and watering the plants and lawns and some other uses. It is good thought to step up in the 21st century. Singapore has been doing this for years. Recycled wastewater can now meet 40% of Singapore's water demand. Even this recycled water can be used for drinking and cooking. Rather than politics, we should think about betterment of the community.

*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



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

## Chronic Constipation: Treatment and Prevention

Constipation is generally characterized by having less than three bowel movements in one week. We've all had days where our bowel movements are really irregular and trips to the restroom are futile. However, this isn't technically constipation, as the threshold is less than three bowel movements in a week.

If you have ever been constipated, you will most definitely agree that it is extremely unpleasant. Now, imagine being constipated not for days, but for weeks or even months. That's what chronic constipation is. As you can imagine, it is as bad as it sounds. Fortunately, though, there are ways to treat and prevent this type of constipation.

Let's start with the treatment options for the condition. While many patients have subscribed to the tag that there is "a pill for every ill", doctors are far more cautious in administering drugs. In fact, many doctors exhaust all non-drug ways to treat a condition before prescribing pills.

The default treatment strategy is lifestyle modification. If you have this condition, you should revamp your diet. Start to eat more fiber foods, which are foods with little nutritional value but can help stimulate the flow of the bowels. Many fruits and whole grains fall into this category. Another part of diet is water, and this is often overlooked in society today. Water is also key to mitigating the symptoms of



chronic constipation.

Exercise is another important lifestyle modification for treating chronic constipation. And before you ask, this is not just another bait to get you working out. Studies actually show that exercise can improve circulation as well as bowel movement. Get approval from your doctor before you hit the gym, though.

If these lifestyle modifications fail, the next default option is medication use. There are different types of drugs with different mechanisms of action that can help in relieving chronic constipation. I don't want to drag you into the pharmacology of these drugs, but the ultimate aim is usually to stimulate the bowel or soften the bowel to allow easy excretion.

Examples of drugs that doctors administer to patients of chronic constipation include Misoprostol, Probenecid, and Botox. Doctors may also suggest docusate sodium and bisacodyl.

A note of warning regarding medications is the use of painkillers for chronic constipation. I cannot deny the temptation to use painkillers to combat the pain that may accompany chronic constipation. While most people use NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs), like ibuprofen, some individuals resort to using narcotic painkillers for pain relief. These narcotic painkillers include oxycodone and codeine. However, these painkillers can actually cause and worsen chronic constipation. Therefore, ensure you speak to your healthcare provider before getting on painkillers.

While I have singled painkillers, there are several other medication groups that can cause

chronic constipation. This includes some antidepressants, anti-allergy drugs, psychiatric medications, and antacids. The list is far too extensive for me to start listing potential culprits. While these drugs can cause constipation, they will not necessarily cause it. Nonetheless, speak with your doctor the moment you notice signs of constipation after starting any medication.

Aside from the orthodox medications you are used to, there are other agents that can help stimulate bowel movement when taken. The umbrella term for these agents is laxatives. As with medications, there are different mechanisms of action of laxatives. Many of these laxatives may present as supplements, herbs, and the like. Be careful when taking these laxatives as they may present with several adverse events.

If all medications and lifestyle modifications do not work, doctors may consider surgery. No one wants to hear this, but it often is the solution to stubborn chronic constipation. The type of surgery depends, of course, on the cause of chronic constipation. If it happens to be that a segment of the colon is not functioning as it should, it may have to be removed entirely.

Let's move on to the prevention of chronic constipation in the first place. Again, diet comes to the forefront. Ensure your meal is rich in fiber, and generally steer clear of low-fiber diets, like processed foods. You should also ensure you drink a lot of water, as well as be physically active. For children, you may need to be stricter in enforcing their eating and drinking pat-

(Continued on page 15)

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# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

There is only one more game left in the National Football League season. Let's do a quick recap of the conference title winners. First.

First, the Philadelphia Eagles won the NFC Championship game in convincing fashion, drubbing the San Francisco 49ers at home 31-7. San Fran couldn't catch a break, with quarterback Brock Purdy leaving the game early on. He was already the team's third string QB, and after his replacement Josh Johnson also suffered an injury, running back Christian McCaffrey ended up behind center. Eagles QB Jalen Hurts got help from RB Miles Sanders, receiver Devonta Smith and others to help the franchise reach their second Super Bowl in the past five years.

While the NFC title game was a laugher, the AFC Championship was a classic. For the third time in four years, the

Kansas City Chiefs are on their way to the big game after a 23-20 nail biting home win over the Cincinnati Bengals. Despite an injured ankle, Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes had a key run late that forced a personal foul to give kicker Harrison Butker an opportunity for the game winning field goal with just seconds left. KC got over its losses to Bengals QB Joe Burrow, who had owned the Chiefs since last season's AFC title game.

Finally, Tom Brady has announced that he is retiring for good this time. Brady leads the NFL in virtually all passing categories. Also, the Denver Broncos have provided compensation to New Orleans to install former Saints head coach Sean Payton as their own. Meanwhile, San Francisco defensive coordinator Demeco Ryans has been named the Houston Texans new head coach on a six year deal, though the Texans have been prone to discarding black coaches like they're nothing.

## DORSEY

(Continued from page 1)

launch this investigation, which we could not do until the state process had run its course."

Det. Simpkins, added Baraka "is no longer on active duty." He had been placed on administrative leave since Jan. 1, 2021.

The grand jury's Jan. 26 handing down a no bill of indictment and Tarver's Jan. 30 flanked the Jan. 27 release of the Memphis police officers' body camera footage of their Jan. 7 traffic stop and fatal beating of Tyre Nichols. Baraka's statement came several hours before that Friday night video release.

Newark's Jan. 27 and 30 speakers, indeed, drew comparisons between the Dorsey and Nichols incidents.

"Any time an unarmed person is killed, it is a tragedy and painful for the victim's family and his or her entire community," said the mayor. "It's deeply troubling that more black and brown people find themselves in this situation across the country as we've recently seen in Memphis. It's appalling that someone

who is unarmed can be killed in the street and we're working hard to make sure this doesn't happen again in Newark."

"There's been a long straight line between this incident and the incident in Memphis and other ones like it," said Tarver. "It's an unbreakable bond because they all have something in common - the devaluation of Black life in America."

"The police have to understand that there are consequences for what they do," said Hamm. "They have to know that, if they commit an unjust murder, they have to pay the same price that a civilian has to pay."

Baraka's announcement and Tarver's call were in response to a New Jersey Superior Court-Newark grand jury handing down no charges against NPD Det. Rodney Simpkins. Grand juries decide whether there is enough evidence in a case to warrant a trial.

Tarver added that the Dorsey' family's civil rights lawsuit against the city, the Newark Police Division and particular police officers is proceeding. That suit, filed in Superior Court Aug. 30, asserts that officers



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used excessive force against Dorsey Jan. 1, 2021 because of inadequate training.

Hamm, at the Monday press conference, urged the passage of N.J., Assembly Bill A1515. A1515 and companion State Senate Bill S2295 would authorize the creation of civilian police complaint review boards with subpoena powers.

Newark's CCRB, and others across the state, does not have subpoena power. A1515 and S2295, whose sponsors include six "Local Talk" area legislators, have spent a year waiting for their respective state committees' hearings.

What Tarver presented to the public and what the empaneled grand jury had viewed, were several police dashboard and street surveillance recordings at Woodland and South 11th the first minutes into 2021.

Simpkins, according to the NJ AG Jan. 26 press release, was among 12 plainclothes members of NPD's Criminal Intelligence Unit who were on patrol along Avon Avenue when they "heard gunshots in that area" at 12:03 a.m.

Simpkins, an 18-year NPD

officer, was a rear seat passenger in the lead vehicle (one account has it as a minivan) that turned into South 11th and headed north towards Woodland.

Tarver, on Aug. 30, included a lawsuit against Simpkins that stemmed from a 2009 traffic stop. The officer was said to have pulled over a car driven by a football coach with two teenagers abroad and, during that stop, was alleged to have drawn a gun on them and told them, "You have no f----- rights."

"Local Talk" has not immediately learned of that post-2009 suit's outcome nor of any other publicized incidents involving Simpkins.

The Woodland and South 11th intersection is largely residential with a mix of 1980-era townhouses and older wood frame houses both occupied and vacant. It is a block west of Woodlawn Cemetery and a block south of Springfield Avenue and nearby Westside Plaza. Two concrete Jersey barriers had long closed the avenue east of the intersection.

The lead car's occupants had said they had seen "muzzle

(Continued on page 7)



**JUSTICE COMING FOR TYRE NICHOLS**

**UNITED STATES**

While the young man in question has been deceased for several weeks now, the outrage over his cruel death still lingers on.

People from all over the country, and even world, has expressed their sorrow and fury over video that detailed the death of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols at the hands of Memphis police officers. All five officers involved in the beating - Tadarrius Bean, age 24, Demetrius Haley, age 30, Emmitt Martin III, age 30, Desmond Mills Jr., age 32, and Justin Smith, age 28 - have been fired and charged with murder.

The quintet was assigned to the city's SCORPION unit. SCORPION - which was a questionable acronym for "Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace In Our Neighborhoods" - has now been disbanded. Also, other public personnel have been relieved of their duties in connection to Nichols' death.

The dialogue of the officers in the video is too graphic to be printed here, but it was cruel and very disturbing. However, almost immediately after its release, protest sprouted up in cities all over America, including Newark, NJ.

On behalf of the entire Essex County Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner President Wayne L. Johnson issued the following statement on the recent release of video footage documenting the January 7th beating of Tyre Nichols.

"Again. The heart-wrenching video of a grown Black man using his last ounce of strength to call out in desperation to his mother.

"None but the most damaged among us can bear to watch or listen to the videotape of Tyre Nichols' murder. The depravity of those members of the Mem-

phis Police Department's Scorpion Unit is beyond comprehension, beyond the limits of our imagination. And yet, it's happened. Again.

"In the worst combination of conditions, driving while Black continues to be a death sentence in America. It is the result of the debauched corruption of ignorance, the most contorted manifestation of power, the outcome of centuries of American white supremacy, and the brutality so often embedded in law enforcement culture.

"The firing of five officers involved and the suspension of a sixth exemplified best practices for responding to abuse committed by police. But training must intensify to adjust the sensitivity of officers so they employ restraint when required and give constant evidence of their pledge to serve and protect.

"The Essex County Board of County Commissioners expresses its condolences to the family of Tyre Nichols, and particularly to his mother, for whom he called out during the attack. Each of us, no matter our profession or our power must do what we can to uphold the dignity of our fellow humans."

Also giving commentary on the horrific act was Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Tyre Nichols should have made it home to his family. Yet, once again, America mourns the life of a son and father brutally cut short at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve. The footage and images released tonight will forever be seared in our memories, and they open wounds that will never fully heal.

"The persistent issue of police misconduct and use of excessive force in America must end now.

"I join President Biden in his call for accountability and transparency. We must build trust - not fear - within our communities.

"Congress must act with urgency and pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. To truly honor Tyre Nichols' memory, and the memory of so many others before him, we must demand that our justice system lives up to its name."

**MOSQUE BOMBED IN PAKISTAN**

**ASIA**

The UN chief and top officials have strongly condemned the suicide bombing at a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan on Jan. 30, that left at least 59 dead and 150 injured.

News reports stated that a militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred at a crowded mosque. Reports showed that the bombing caused the roof to collapse on top of those inside.

"It is particularly abhorrent that the attack occurred at a place of worship," the Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement issued by his Spokesperson. "Freedom of religion or belief, including the ability to worship in peace and security, is a universal human right."

Extending his condolences to the victims' families and wishes for a prompt recovery to those injured, Mr. Guterres reiterated the solidarity of the United Nations with the Government and people of Pakistan in their efforts to address terrorism and violent extremism.

Also condemning the attack, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Miguel Ángel Moratinos, emphasized in a statement that all forms of violence and acts of terror against civilians and religious sites on account of their religion or belief, are intolerable and unjustifiable and should be unequivocally condemned.

"Houses of worship are sacred places where worshippers should be able to practice and declare their faith safely and freely," he said, also expressing deep concern at the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and all acts of violence directed against members of any religious or other communities.

This includes incidents motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions, beliefs, gender or race.

Calling for mutual respect of all religions and faiths and for

fostering a culture of fraternity and peace, he asked governments and other stakeholders to support the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, which has been developed by the Alliance, at the request of the Secretary-General.

**SYNAGOGUE ATTACK CONDEMNED**

**MIDDLE EAST**

The UN Secretary-General on Jan. 27 strongly condemned a terrorist attack by a Palestinian man outside a synagogue in a Jerusalem neighborhood which has left at least seven Israelis dead, and three others injured.

According to news reports, the incident happened in the Neve Yaakov district in the middle of the evening local time. Israeli police said the attacker, identified as a Palestinian from the Shu'fat refugee camp in occupied East Jerusalem, had been "neutralized" at the scene.

In a statement issued by his Spokesperson, António Guterres extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed, and wished a prompt recovery for those injured.

"It is particularly abhorrent that the attack occurred at a place of worship, and on the very day we commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day," the statement said.

"There is never any excuse for acts of terrorism. They must be clearly condemned and rejected by all."

The incident followed on from a worrying escalation in violence in recent months, and the deaths of nine Palestinians, militants and well as several civilians, at a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin on Jan. 26, following an Israeli raid targeting what they said was an active group of Islamic Jihad militants.

Palestinian militants in Gaza launched rockets into Israel in response, which Israeli forces met with air strikes on the Palestinian enclave.

"The Secretary-General is deeply worried about the current escalation of violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian ter-

# FIVE YEAR OLD DIES IN HIT & RUN

NEWARK - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II and Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Fragé announced Feb. 1 that the Essex County Prosecutor's Crime Scene Investigations Bureau (CSIB) is investigating a vehicle-pedestrian collision that resulted in the death of a 5-year-old girl.

On January 31, at 6:44 p.m., Newark police notified CSIB of a vehicle-pedestrian collision at the intersection of 6th Avenue and North 9th Street. The girl was pronounced dead at 6:30 p.m. Her father and younger sister were taken to University Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation is active and ongoing. No arrests have been made. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor's Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. Calls will be kept confidential.

## DORSEY

(Continued from page 5)

flashes and individuals holding and discharging handguns" on their approach. Simpkins drew out his .9 mm. service gun and immediately exited the vehicle. He had said that he was focused on two men with guns to his north.

It was then when camera footage and/or testimony had Dorsey "run into" or "physically struck" from the side. Simpkins, while falling down, shot Dorsey. There was no weapon found on Dorsey although guns were later found discarded in the area.

A man, who was seen ditching his gun, was arrested and had eventually pleaded guilty to fourth degree pointing of a weapon.

Tarver pointed out video footage that Dorsey was running away from Simpkins after their collision.

NPD officers administered medical aid until local EMS technicians' arrival. Dorsey, 39, of South Orange, was rushed to University - where he died at 1:37 a.m.

Pearson, stepfather Abdul Malik S. Muhammad, three children and an uncle are among Dorsey's survivors.

Newark and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office promptly turned the investigation over to the state AG's office. NJ AJ, in its Jan. 26 release, said that its Office of Public Integrity and

Accountability had conducted the Dorsey case.

OPIA had been applying the Independent Prosecutor Directive of 2019 since July 2021. Its director, Thomas Eicher, found no conflicts of interest in the investigation prior to the grand jury presentation.

Memphis police, fire and sheriff's office top brass, as of 11 a.m., Wednesday, have fired or suspended 10 of their own in a continuing investigation of the circumstances of Tyre Nichols' traffic stop-turned fatal beating.

Seven MPD officers have been fired so far. They include the five who have been charged with second-degree crimes for pulling Nichols out of his car and beat him with their fists, baton and taser.

MPD's SCORPION anti-violent crime unit, which included the five charged officers, has been disbanded.

Two MFD medical technicians have been fired for not properly assessing Nichols' condition. A Shelby County Sheriff's Officer has been suspended without pay.

A celebration of Nichols' life was being held 1 p.m. local time Feb. 1 in Memphis' Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. A memorial service for Nichols, who died from the beating injuries Jan. 10, was held on Jan. 17.

Parents Rodney and RowVaughn Wells and his 4-year-old son are among the package delivery driver and skateboarder's survivors.

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Bloomfield	15,639	175	15,705	175
Caldwell	2,107	19	2,117	19
Cedar Grove	4,996	144	5,009	144
City of Orange	9,947	177	9,947	177
East Orange	21,388	403	21,468	406
Essex Fells	621	2	625	2
Fairfield	2,509	43	2,518	43
Glen Ridge	1,650	20	1,658	20
Irvington	14,513	288	14,578	288
Livingston	8,668	114	8,683	114
Maplewood	6,714	52	6,737	52
Millburn	4,736	18	4,744	18
Montclair	9,156	92	9,187	92
Newark	97,059	1,297	97,440	1,296
North Caldwell	1,851	10	1,857	10
Nutley	8,359	90	8,390	90
Roseland	1,806	27	1,809	27
South Orange	4,508	25	4,523	25
Verona	4,281	25	4,294	25
West Caldwell	3,339	68	3,339	68
West Orange	16,960	281	17,011	282
<b>Total</b>	<b>255,302</b>	<b>3,533</b>	<b>256,232</b>	<b>3,537</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of February 1, 2023)**  
**NJ: 2,518,925 cases / 32,690 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 102.419 Million / 1.109 Million deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 670.928 Million / 6.834 Million deaths**

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# TOWN WATCH

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

**NEWARK** - A Prince Georges County jury in Maryland, on Jan. 27, has convicted one of their own in the Aug. 18, 2017 murder of three girls he was babysitting - including two who were visiting from Newark and Irvington.

Antonio Shareek Williams, 25, was found guilty, after three hours' deliberation, on three counts of first-degree murder of sister Nadiara Janae Withers, 6, and cousins Ajayah Royale DeCree, 6, of Irvington, and Ariana Elizabeth DeCree, 9, of Newark. Ajayah and Ariana were visiting from Essex County that summer.

Williams' mother had Antonio supervise the three girls in their Clinton, Md. home while she left for her overnight nursing shift. She returned to find all three girls' stabbed; Antonio pretended to know nothing.

The Prince Georges County Prosecutor's Office said Williams stabbed the girls for making noise with a kitchen knife he later put away. The jury had listened to three recordings of a confession Williams had made to prosecutors.

Williams faces three life sentences without the possibility of parole in May.

Ajayah and Ariana DeCree and mother Bathsheba Q. Sumpster were buried in Newark's Fairmount Cemetery. The girls' funeral was held Aug. 27, 2017 at New Hope Baptist Church.

Sumpster, 44, had her funeral Oct. 28, 2017 at Newark's New Point Baptist Church. Relatives said she had died Oct. 22 of a broken heart.

**IRVINGTON** - While other municipalities scrambled to replace St. Hubert's for its animal control services, Irvington kept most of its services "in house."

"Local Talk" has learned that Alex Kelly remains as animal control officer under its health department. Kelly has handled Irvington's domestic and feral cases since at least 2006.

Kelly had been coordinating the township's animal sheltering with St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center. St. Hubert's, in Oct. 25, announced that it will be ending its sheltering and control services to Irvington, South Orange, Maplewood and 16 other municipalities statewide.

The Madison-based St. Hubert's, after decades of municipal service, cited dwindling revenue and a specter of bankruptcy to dissolve its 19 contracts on Jan. 1.

Maplewood and South Orange have temporary animal service and sheltering contracts with the Bloomfield Health Department until a permanent provider is found.

It is not clear as of press time, however, where Irvington currently shelters its found animals.

**EAST ORANGE** - Authorities have been assisting between 20 and 25 people who were displaced by a three-alarm fire here in the Elmwood section Jan. 29. City and ECPO fire investigators are meanwhile searching for the fire's cause off the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Shepard avenues.

Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green and Interim Fire Chief Bruce Davis credited an off-duty firefighter who called in the incident at 11 a.m. Sunday. The firefighter noticed the blaze in an alley separating 81 and 83 Shepard Ave. and went inside to evacuate the residents.

The EOFD's member's first call grew to three within minutes. The original exterior fire was brought under control by 50 firefighters - including those who responded on mutual aid from Orange, Irvington, Bloomfield and Montclair.

Damage to 81 and 83 Shepard, going by an "All County News" YouTube clip, appear to be greatest on their top floors. Both three-story wood frame buildings were constructed in 1930 and are separately owned.

The local American Red Cross chapter, said Green and OEM Coordinator R. David Williams, were looking for tempo-

rary housing. The mayor said that city officers will also "work to support the families."

**ORANGE** - City police officers, despite stopping and checking several cars matching an at-large bulletin description, are still looking for the vehicle - and its driver - involved in a Freeway Drive hit-and-run here Jan. 27.

OPD officers, responding to a pedestrian-motor vehicle incident 9:55 p.m. Friday, found an injured and unconscious woman at Freeway Drive West and South Essex Street.

Locally contracted EMS took the 45-year-old woman to Newark's University Hospital. She was admitted in critical but stable condition.

The victim and witnesses told city detectives that the woman was struck by "a light colored van or pickup truck." The vehicle sped away on Essex and other local streets, prompting the OPD traffic checks. One such vehicle was tracked for "several miles" before it was broken off.

The intersection, since the early 1970s, is where Freeway Drive West splits into historic Crane Street and the Interstate 280 West on ramp. While the former Spina's Gulf station remains as a Delta station, two recent apartment buildings have gone up with a third under construction on Crane.

The injury may well become the latest entry on Orange and East Orange public officials' appeal to NJDOT to curb injuries and deaths along Freeway Drive West and East and to make the surroundings more pedestrian friendly.

Orange Mayor Dwayne D. Warren and East Orange Mayor Ted Green were among officials from among both cities joining Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake in calling out Freeway Drive's conditions before the East Orange Public Library Main Branch Jan. 12. Timberlake (D-East Orange) called upon NJDOT to paint crosswalks, increase traffic light timing and make curb cuts, among other safety measures.

**WEST ORANGE** - The West Orange Public Library, after being at 46 Mt. Pleasant Ave. since 1959, has closed to the public on Feb. 1. The staff will be prepar-

ing its holdings for its new quarters at 10 Rooney Circle.

That "moving day" will take until 10 Rooney, a former corporation headquarters, has been fully renovated. The \$6.2 million project is funded by a \$3.1 million N.J. Library Construction Bond Act matching grant. Its neighboring 200 and 400 Prospect St. office buildings, all to the Essex Green shopping plaza's north, are also being repurposed.

WOPL Director David Cubie, after the board of trustees' Jan. 26 agreement to close the 64-year-old building, said that WOPL will anticipate reopening at its more central location in the late spring.

"A recent survey conducted by library staff found that West Orange's 47,000 residents have 37,000 active library cards," said Cubie, "yet 22 percent chose to check out books at neighboring libraries."

WOPL staff will answer cardholders' over-the-phone questions about their accounts and digital services through Feb. 28. Their valid cards, borrowing requests and computer use are to be honored at participating REBEL and BCCLS member libraries.

The 1959 building and 1979 eastern annex will be replaced by a five-story senior citizens apartment building. That new structure's 7,500 square foot ground floor community center is to include "library services." That feature, should it come to fruition, will be WOPL's first satellite since losing its Tory Corner Branch at 250 Main St. in the early 1980s.

Details are found at [www.wopl.org/digital-resources](http://www.wopl.org/digital-resources).

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - There are 44 students who can use their bus passes to board the South Orange-Maplewood School District buses as of press time, thanks to the two-town district's Jan. 31 settlement with their parents.

The district's Board of Education, in a special Tuesday night public hearing, approved the SOMSD-44 parents' settlement in a 5-4 split vote. The settlement's approval ends a parental lawsuit after the previous BOE had ended discretionary school busing last summer for

(Continued on page 12)

**WORLD NEWS FLASH**

(Continued from page 6)

ritory,” said the statement. “This is the moment to exercise utmost restraint.”

Meanwhile, UNAOC High-Representative Moratinos, who is tasked with building bridges between faiths and fighting antisemitism, also issued a statement strongly condemning what he described as an “horrific terrorist attack” on Jewish worshippers, after Sabbath prayers.

“The High-Representative stresses that such a heinous crime is unjustifiable whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed,” the statement added.

**ANOTHER FLAWED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**EUROPE**

If you thought the U.S. was alone in having different standards for different skin colors in the legal system, think again.

Racism in the United Kingdom is “structural, institutional and systemic,” independent UN human rights experts said on Jan. 27, warning that people of African descent in the country continue to encounter discrimination and erosion of their fundamental rights.

“We have serious concerns about impunity and the failure to address racial disparities in the criminal justice system, deaths in police custody, ‘joint enterprise’ convictions, and the dehumanizing nature,” of the so-called ‘stop and search’ policing strategy, the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent said in a statement at the end of an official visit to the UK.

The Human Rights Council-appointed experts said they had gathered evidence of the all-too-real trauma felt by people of African descent who were suffering racial discrimination and injustice: “A woman of African descent we met during our visit lamented, ‘will this ever end?’” they said.

A decade of economic austerity measures in the UK following the global crash of 2007-8, had exacerbated racism, racial discrimination and other intolerance which people of African descent encounter, thereby eroding their rights, the experts observed.

“From the perspective of people of African descent, racism in the UK is structural, institutional and systemic,” the experts said.

The lived experience dealing with State and public institutions, the private sector and society, was that it perpetuates racial hierarchies, the experts con-

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cluded.

“Racialized acts targeting people of African descent have remained steadfast, and the experience is similar across different parts of the UK,” the experts said. “They are victimized and have no assurance of effective redress from authorities or the justice system.”

Welcoming emerging efforts towards reparation for the legacies of the trade and trafficking in enslaved Africans, the Working Group encouraged all stakeholders including the Government, to do more to ensure rehabilitation, restoration, and reconciliation.

“Streamlining accessible, independent and effective complaint mechanisms to address racism, ensuring police accountability, fair trial guarantees for all persons, and redress to all persons affected by the Windrush scandal, are imperative”, said Catherine Namakula, Chair

of the Working Group.

“Austerity to the peril of fundamental rights, is a costly undertaking for the UK,” she said.

The Windrush scandal erupted more than five years ago involving those born in the Caribbean who were brought to the UK as children, being asked by the UK Home Office - despite living in the country for 50 years - to prove their status as citizens, some having never been formally naturalized, or having never applied for a passport.

Dozens were deported or told they would be removed from the UK, despite being legal British subjects in their country of origin, and hundreds suffered hardships, threats and other deprivations of their rights, leading to the resignation of the then Home Secretary, in 2018.



*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Watch Out For  
The Cursed Prophets**

The Coronavirus pandemic and climate change have taught us many lessons, including the fact that there seems to be a significant proliferation of false prophets in the land. Some people are calling them conspiracy theorists, and others are calling them "deceitful forecasters." Some operate under the veil of religion, while others are political extremists.

The reality is that they are conjuring up all kinds of unfounded proclamations and predictions that are profoundly confusing to the masses. And through the internet, it is easier to ply their trade and capture many minds.

I have called them the "cursed" prophets, a concept I took from the prophet Jeremiah, who constantly reminded the people of Israel that those who trust in them are accursed (cf. Jeremiah 17). Throughout the Bible, there is a constant warning that the people of God are to be careful of them. For example, the prophet Ezekiel states they "prophesy out of their own heart." They say, "Peace!" when there is no peace."

They "envision futility." They also "divine lies." (cf. Ezekiel 13). Jesus also warned against them.

I quote from his Sermon on the Mount: Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, by their fruits, you will know them. (Matthew 7:15-20).

If you read through the rest of the Bible, you will notice that false prophets have been a bother in the times of both Testaments. One of their classic confrontations came during the time of prophet Elijah with king Ahab and queen Jezebel on Mount Carmel. Elijah mocked and exposed their counterfeit worship and commanded that they be killed to rid the land of them. Jezebel became so enraged that she threatened the life of Elijah that he ran away and hid in a cave. (1 Kings 19)

The reason for noting this story is that the apostle John gives special attention to it when he writes to his church in the book of Revelation, where he warns concerning "the woman Jezebel who "calls herself a prophetess." (Revelation 2:20)

John also references the Jez-

ebel prophetess that in connection with "the beast" that looks like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon (Revelation 13). She is also referenced in connection with the prostituting woman of Revelation 17.

I cannot do "the deep dive" I'd like today in this brief reflection, but it is of interest to me that for all the warnings from Scripture, how much the world is listening to these cursed (false) prophets.

I have read an informative article that shows how the false prophets are not only gaining currency in America and the West but are growing fastest on the African continent. The article gives three reasons for their growth in Africa.

1. The church is growing exponentially faster than in any other period of history. The biblical paradox of both wheat and weeds growing together is real.
2. Many prophets are taking advantage of the numerous challenges faced by a continent undergoing rapid social transformation.
3. Because people on the continent are naturally religious people, and people do not usually separate the secular from the religious sphere; therefore, social, economic, medical, and cultural spheres are open to multiple interpretations.

While what is said of Africa is on topic, I opine that the pandemic and climate change have

leveled the field so that the false prophets can ply their trade in the secular market. People face pain and are willing to trust anything and anyone giving them "hope." They do not care about whether it is a false hope; they care that they might feel contented.

But let me warn like Jesus and the prophets and apostles, "Watch out for these false prophets." As I have read of them in the Bible, there is a harsh judgment against them. Here are seven points that I have noted:

1. They are not from God.
2. They are self-aggrandizers; they are more interested in fame than justice and love.
3. They do not obey God - They do not follow all of the commandments of God. Instead, they pick and choose what they want to follow.
4. They feed on God's sheep - the vulnerable church folks, the poor, the fatherless and widows, and anyone they can find to destroy for their economic gain.
5. They speak lies - they have no interest in truth.
6. They bring in what the Bible calls "heretical doctrines," unbiblical teachings.
7. They are the agents of Satan.

Enough has been said to encourage us to take time for a more careful analysis of the prophetic voices to which many of us are listening. Let us ensure we take a moment to identify what is true from what is false.

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 10)

this 2022-23 school year.

The past board had approved the 2022-23 budget without a discretionary budget line item. Then-Board President Thair Joshua, at the August meeting said that there was insufficient time to continue that program.

Joshua and two other board members declined re-election. A majority of participating voters replaced them with three new members, who were sworn-in on Jan. 6.

Affected parents appealed to the board to restore the service for Calendar Year 2023. They, including those who took SOMSD to Superior Court, cited the lack of sidewalks and 45-minute walks to local schools for the restoration.

Tuesday night was scheduled in the wake of negative public reaction to their Jan. 23 vote, which rejected the district-parental

pact.

Board President Kaitlin Wittleder and members Nubia DuVall-Wilson, Regina Eckert, Bill Gifford and Elissa Maplespina approved the agreement. The roll call was taken after an hour's closed door deliberations. Panelists Susan Bergin, Quai Telesford, Arun Vadlamani - who said that the settlement "applied only to those who had filed a lawsuit," and Courtney Winkfield dissented.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Police here and in other "Local Talk" towns have increased their patrols and presence at synagogues in the wake of an attempted Jan. 29 firebombing of Temple Ner Tamid. Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura, on Jan. 30, posted a \$10,000 reward on his CrimeStoppers line for information leading to the suspect's arrest.

Temple workers knew something was

wrong when they found a broken glass bottle by its main entrance at about 9:15 Sunday morning. They also found evidence of spilled flammable liquid and a wick.

An on-premise video surveillance camera recording revealed a man walking up the driveway at 3:19 a.m. The man - dressed in black, including a ski mask and an MLB Chicago White Sox hooded sweatshirt - lit the bottle's neck, threw it at the main doors and fled. The device was a homemade Molotov cocktail.

TNT workers called the BPD and cancelled that day's Hebrew school classes. Bloomfield police were joined in the investigation by the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the FBI and the U.S Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

(Continued on page 13)

# PRESIDENT BIDEN, GOVERNOR MURPHY AND MORE CELEBRATE HUDSON TUNNEL PROJECT

**New York, NY** - After years of stops and starts, a long anticipated and sorely needed project is finally becoming a reality.

On Jan. 31, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden came to the tri-state and met with NJ Gov. Phil Murphy and NY Gov. Kathy Hochul to celebrate the bipartisan infrastructure law that was passed not long ago. Of course, the biggest component was funding for what had been dubbed the Gateway Tunnel project, which will replace the current and extremely aged tunnel connecting NJ & NY.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is delivering real results for the American people. Thank you, @POTUS, for providing nearly \$300 million for the Hudson Tunnel Project - creating over 70,000 good-paying jobs and easing commutes between New Jersey and New York," Murphy posted on Twitter.

Among the other dignitaries on hand were New Jersey's U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Bob Menendez, NY counterparts Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, and U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Here now are remarks made by President Biden during his visit:

"This project is critical to transforming the Northeast Corridor, increasing speeds, capacity, reliability, and safety. In addition to getting folks out of cars and onto trains, we're going to help the environment as well, because we're going to - all the studies show - and I've been harping on this since the mid-70s - that every study shows: If you can get from point A to point B on rail as fast or faster than you can in an automobile, you don't take the car. You get in the train.

"And that's how important this project is for up to 200,000 passengers who take Amtrak or New Jersey Transit under the

NJ Gov. Phil Murphy addresses an audience of rail workers, dignitaries, NY Gov. Kathy Hochul, and Transportation Secretary Buttigieg. Photo via Twitter.



Hudson River every single day. And, you know, it matters a lot: the Northeast Corridor from here to Boston, Boston to Washington, all the way down.

"For years, people talked about fixing this tunnel. But thanks to the leadership of Chuck in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're finally getting this done.

"This law is the most significant investment in rail - the most significant investment in rail since we created Amtrak over 50 years ago. And billions - billions are going to projects along the Northeast Corridor, including replacing the existing Hudson Tunnel. That's why it's so important.

"Two thousand two hundred trains - 2,200 trains run along the Northeast Corridor every single day. It's the busiest corridor in

the United States of America and one of the busiest in the world.

"And the problem - a problem anywhere along the line means delays up and down the East Coast for folks trying to get to work, businesses trying to ship goods, travelers trying to get to see their families.

"And, by the way, as a U.S. senator, I commuted, for 36 years, every single solitary day the Senate was in session. I traveled over 1,100,000 miles on Amtrak. And I can tell you where all the delays were. And they weren't all in Wilmington, Delaware.

"So I know it to be a fact. If this line shut down for just one day, it would cost the American economy \$100 million a day, in

*(Continued on page 14)*

## TOWN WATCH

*(Continued from page 12)*

Police here, Newark, Maplewood, South Orange, West Orange and Montclair have increased patrols of synagogues and Chabad centers and/or stationed themselves on their property. Their raised profile may remind some of Nov. 3, after the FBI "received information of a credible bomb threat."

Police presence bolsters the security guards some temples have hired in recent years. Authorities are working with the houses of worship, the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, the American Jewish Committee and the Community Security Service. Montclair Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jonathan

Ponds, citing that "many Montclair families go to Temple New Tamid," said he has added security and made more counselors available on Jan. 30.

"Everything worked as it should; our cameras recorded the incident and our shatter-resistant doors held," said TNT Rabbi Marc Katz Sunday. "No act of hate can stop the power of religious freedom."

**MONTCLAIR** - Mayor Sean Spiller's name has been particularly added to a whistleblower's harassment suit against the municipal government, Township Council and the currently suspended Timothy Stafford as of Jan. 24.

Township CFO Padjama Rao, in her amendment filed in New Jersey Superior Court-Newark Jan. 24, said that Spiller

had approached council members about Rao's job performance in early October. The mayor then talked about amassing a dossier of Rao's actions that can be used for disciplinary action.

Rao's filing is based on the deposition of Councilman-at-Large Peter Yacobellis. Yacobellis told Spiller that create a folder on Rao was "inappropriate," given that Montclair Affirmative Action Officer Bruce Morgan had just completed his internal investigation on Rao, Stafford and the municipal administration.

Morgan, in a leaked copy of his report, had found that Stafford had created "a hostile work environment against Rao." The council had put Stafford on paid leave since Oct. 26 based on his behavior and other administrative workers.

Spiller, said Yacobellis, had

not talked with him or other council members about Morgan's investigation and conclusion when he asked them about making a Rao file.

Rao further accused Spiller of insinuating that the CFO, at a public meeting, was recommending switching the municipality from the Garden State Joint Insurance Fund to the N.J. Intergovernmental Insurance Fund because "she had a claim" against the former.

Rao said she had no claim nor any other conflict of interest against GSJIF. Assistant Township Manager Brian Scantlebury (who is now acting manager) had recommended the switch and a 7.2 percent savings in premiums.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The Glen Ridge Public Library Board of

*(Continued on page 15)*

# ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE LPN CLASS COMPLETES ONE STEP IN A CAREER OF HEALTHCARE

The 11 members of Essex County College's 2022 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) class proudly entered Smith Hall on January 20, 2023 to receive their well-earned LPN pins.

"This class is mighty in spirit, commitment and full of energy. They will need those characters and more in the Nursing profession," said Dr. Gale Gage, Chair of the Division of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Olusegun Adeniyi, who served as LPN Class President, said growing up in Nigeria he frequently watched his mother work as an auxiliary nurse. "I would see people coming in to the doctor's office sick and I would then see them leaving happy. I knew helping people like that was something I wanted to do," the current Newark resident recalled.

Olusegun plans on continuing his education after working as an LPN for a year. He is interested in pediatric and ICU nursing. At the pinning, he received the LPN Leadership Award and was class Salutatorian with a 3.41 grade point average.

Co-Valedictorians, with 3.48 grade point averages, were Natasha Golding and Joseph Odirih.

Onyinye Okafor attributes her decision to pursue nursing as both family and cultural. "I'm Nigerian and it's a Nigerian thing, she said proudly. In addition, she said some of her family members are either doctors or nurses.

Onyinye, of Orange, plans to work and gain experience for awhile before pursuing

Members of Essex County College LPN Class of 2022. Photo Courtesy ECC



her next goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

Bridgette Martin earned her Associate degree in General Science from ECC in 2021. That came after working nine years as a Certified Nursing Assistant as she now moves on as an LPN. "I'm trying not to west any time," the East Orange resident said with a smile.

Bridgette said she took care of her grandmother in Jamaica, which helped spark her

healthcare dream. At the ceremony, she received the Clinical Excellence Award.

Mariama Yanka, who received the Florence Nightingale Award, had the honor of leading the class in the recitation of the Nightingale Pledge. Asha Winters received the Community Service Award.

Next step is preparing for the upcoming National Council Licensure Examination (known as NCLEX).

**TUNNEL** (Continued from page 13)

cost.

"The current Hudson River rail tunnel can be a major choke point - a critical link to New York Penn Station, the busiest train station in all of America.

This tunnel opened for business in 1910, 113 years ago. And the structure is literally deteriorating. The roof is leaking. The floor is sinking. Plus, it was badly damaged by Superstorm Sandy. I was the Vice President then. I came and walked through this tunnel. You ought to see it.

"Today, over 10 years later, there's still remnants of seawater in the tunnel, eating away at the concrete, the steel, and the electrical components within the tunnel.

"In 2020, there were over 12,000 minutes in delay in just one year - 12,000 minutes of delay. The United States of America. What - for God's sake, what are we doing? This is the United States of America. We know better. We're so much brighter than that. And now we're going

to prove it.

"We're going to rebuild the existing tunnel. But we can't do that until we build a brand new, entirely second - an entirely different and separate tunnel. You can't fix the old first one without building the new one. And it's going to run at faster speeds with no interruptions - it'll be running at 100 miles an hour - while the original tunnel is under construction. That'll mean fewer delays, less risk of major shutdowns.

"The new tunnel is going to have two tubes with one track in each tube so that you can keep operating even if one side breaks down. But it's going to be safer, more resilient, more reliable, and the biggest rail line in the United States of America.

"And to get it done, as a first step, we're completing the concrete casing under the Hudson Yards... Hudson Yards sits above where the new tunnel will connect to Penn Station. This is a critical step for everything else we're going to do in the Corridor and rail, period.

"As you may know, work started in Hudson Yards site in 2013 but stalled due to lack of funding. But thanks to the "Bipartisan" Infrastructure Law, we now have the money, and we're finally going to get it done.

"When the project is complete, trains will be in and out of New York more quickly, more safely, and with fewer interruptions.

"This is only one part though of the overall Gateway Program to improve train travel between New York and New Jersey.

"For example, last year, we also broke ground on the Portal North Bridge. And thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're rebuilding two other critical bridges - Saw-Tooth and Dock Bridge, both in North Jersey.

"All told, this is one of the biggest and most consequential projects in the country. But it's going to take time. It's a multi-billion-dollar effort between the states and the federal government. But we finally have the

money, and we're going to get it done. I promise you, we're going to get it done...

"...Although there's much more to do about what we're going to do to modernize the modern rail, let me close with this. The Americans see these projects popping up across the country, and it sends an important message: that we're going to - when we work together, like we did in the bipartisan law, in the CHIPS law, there's nothing we can't do. Nothing...

"...So I've long said it's been a really bad bet to bet against America. And I can honestly say, as I stand here today, and I give you my word as a Biden, I've never been more optimistic about America's prospects in my entire life. We just have to remember who the hell we are. We are the United States of America. There's nothing beyond our capacity. Nothing at all. And it's starting right here.

"God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 13)

Trustees will be hearing the appeal of a group, who wants to have six in circulation books "reconsidered," heard here at the Municipal Building's Borough Council Chamber Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

"Citizens Defending Education," who filed the appeal on behalf of two borough residents, asked for the hearing on Jan. 12. CDE is asking the board to reverse Library Director Tina Marie Doody's Nov. 7 decision to keep the said six titles in GRPL's collection.

Doody said that the library had received "requests for reconsideration" of six titles from eight residents among five addresses in October. The director added that she had sent individual responses on Nov. 7 to each requestor after having found that the said books had met its Library Materials Selection Policy.

The works in question are:

- "All Boys Aren't Blue," by George M. Johnson.
- "Here and Queer," by Rowan Ellis and Jacky Sheridan.
- "It's Not the Stork," by Gregg H. Harris and Michael Emberley.
- "It's Perfectly Normal," by Harris and Emberley.
- "This Book is Gay," by James Dawson.
- "You Know, Sex," by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth.

Members of Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans are also expected Feb. 8. The ad hoc group has a petition signature drive, to keep the books on the shelves, through Feb. 6.

**BELLEVILLE** - The two Newark drivers who were injured in a major intersection accident here on Jan.25, may well have been released from local hospitals by now.

Township police firefighters and local EMS were summoned to Washington Avenue and Mill Street at 10:54 a.m. that Wednesday regarding a collision with the entrapment of a driver. They had arrived to find a box truck on eastbound Mill Street and a white four-door car on Washington Avenue's sidewalk in front of the Dollar Tree.

First responders had to cut apart the car Angel Chico-Nieves, 20, was trapped in. The responsive and conscious Chico-Nieves was taken to Newark's University Hospital for treatment of a non-life-threatening head injury.

John McMillian, 61, was taken to RWJBarnabas Health Clara Maass Medical Center. The box truck driver had complained of chest pain.

McMillian's absences meant that the

paper company truck had to be pulled away by a Nicolette Towing heavy-duty truck.

Traffic, including NJTransit's No. 13 buses, had to be detoured until midafternoon.

**NUTLEY** - Although the Nutley Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 3501 that approved the North Franklin Avenue Redevelopment Plan here Jan. 17, members of the public brought up some "proof in the pudding" questions during that Wednesday night's public hearing.

That resolution keeps four municipal properties centered on 537 Franklin Ave., and four adjacent private properties as a non-condemnable area in need of rehabilitation. It keeps JMF's Nutley Town Center Redevelopers as its redeveloper and allows it and the township's planners to work on a detailed application for the Nutley Planning Board's consideration.

The eight properties include the township's three parking lots and the site of the Ciccolini Brothers appliance store. Nutley, after buying the 1950s-era showroom for \$3.45 million in 2019, had to demolish it after its roof collapsed on June 8, 2021.

The resolution, on one hand, will not change its zoned residential, civic and commercial uses. The township will keep its 120 public parking spaces and will coordinate with the 20 adjacent properties between Vreeland Avenue and High Street/West Plaza. Apartment density, however, will rise from 24 units per acre to 54.

Several Hillside Avenue residents, however, expressed increased traffic concerns with whatever apartment buildings are built. They said that their avenue, which forms the block's western border, is already used as a Franklin Avenue rush hour bypass.

The owner of a car dealership-turned 25-year dance studio was concerned about losing any of his 12 on-site parking spaces. Those spaces are grandfathered in so long he has a dance studio - but added that he may have a more difficult time renting out space there if he loses those spaces.

**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

**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

(Continued from page 4)

terns.

If you follow the right lifestyle practices and are careful with medication use, you should not have to worry about chronic constipation, Nonetheless, do not hesitate to contact your doctor when you notice your constipation is lasting longer than normal.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board-Certified Internist & Board Certified in Pediatrics, 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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