

# LOCAL TALK

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## ORANGE YOUTH TEAMS CELEBRATE HBCU DAY



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Photo By William Hathaway, Jr.

## ANSWERS SOUGHT IN DEATH OF YOUNG NEWARK FOOTBALL PLAYER

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - Memories of 12-year-old student-athlete Elijah Moore - and questions surrounding his Feb. 10 death here at West Side Park during a football practice - remain after his last rites were conducted here at the park Feb. 18 and in Summit Feb. 21.

Brown's viewing and funeral service were held Tuesday morning at Summit's Fountain Baptist Church, where he and his family were attending.

A more public memorial, featuring a release of blue and white star balloons, was held Saturday afternoon on the same gridiron where Brown collapsed.

Feb. 10, said family, friends and teammates, was proceeding

like most Fridays for Brown.

Brown had arrived home from his Sixth Grade studies at the nearby KIPP: Rise Academy Charter School that afternoon. While English and Science were his favorite subjects, he also enjoyed singing, dancing and football.

Brown and younger brother Davion suited up for football practice and headed to West Side Park. They were members of the private Essex County Predators youth football league. The Bloomfield-based squad was having a light, no tackle drill.

Mother Raven Brown said she got a phone call from Davion later on - and told her that something had happened to Elijah.

"My son said that Elijah was

## EPA TO NORFOLK SOUTHERN: CLEAN UP YOUR MESS

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standing near him and just fell down," said Raven Brown. "I asked, 'What are they doing?' He said they were fanning him and pouring water on him. I said, 'I'm on my way.'"

Raven Brown called 911, gathered daughters Mekhi, Sanai, Skai and Faith and dashed off to the park. She would learn that other coaches and adults had earlier twice called 911.

They thought that their calls would be going to the Newark Police Fourth Precinct at 247 16th Ave. 911 calls, instead of going to the police station to the park's north, went to a county-wide dispatcher who would call for an ambulance.

The mother and others at the scene said that an ambulance arrived around 35 minutes after

their first call.

Raven Brown meanwhile discovered that the Predators head coach had left the park before Elijah's collapse, delegating drill supervision to an assistant coach.

Mother Brown also learned that no one at the scene knew Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - CPR.

The EMS ambulance that had arrived rushed the unresponsive Elijah Brown to University Hospital - where he was later declared dead.

The response to Brown's collapse here highly contrasted with the Jan. 2 response to NFL player Damar Hamlin at Cincinnati's PayCor Stadium. The second-

(Continued on page 13)



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

**Hello Readers,**

February is Black History Month, and it is quite important. The history of African Americans is important, who struggled in the early days, fought for their rights, joined with the community and shared their time and intelligence with all Americans. African Americans or we are an integral part of the United States of America today. They have learned a lot and have given more. They became an important part of the community. We find African Americans in many fields, including doctors, lawyers, engineers and technical industries.

With the news of Florida not allowing a dedicated course on African American History, I suggested to one of my associates that African American his-

tory should be integrated as a part of American history in the classrooms, so more people will learn African American history. He told me that African American history is specifically highlighted because if not, then it might become like the history of Native Americans - pushed to the side over time.

How many students know Native American history? It is a part of our education in the classroom. However, it does not get any importance. That is the reason that leaders in the African Americans decided to highlight a separate African American history course. I kind of agreed, but not fully. Keeping the history separate from the main history class may affect the importance negatively over time.

Instead, there should be a rule that on exams, at least some percentile of the questions must concentrate on African American history. Harriett Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass and many other great leaders and scientists like: George Washington Carver - a botanist, inventor, and teacher, Lewis Howard Latimer

was an inventor and draftsman, best known for his contributions to the patenting of the light bulb and the telephone, George Robert Carruthers was an inventor, physicist, engineer, and space scientist, Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson is a marine biologist, policy expert, and writer. All have contributed to American history.

Next up is Women's History Month. I congratulate The Greater Newark Women's Assembly on their celebration of Women's History Month on March 4 and March 5 in Newark, NJ. They are uniting women and letting the community know that we all are devoting our time, efforts and intelligence for the development and betterment of our community with women. They are recognizing many local women who devoted their time and efforts for improving the community. Let's all salute those women.

It is good that the U.S. informed Russia about President Biden's visit to Ukraine. He is the first U.S. president to visit a war zone area. It was a gutsy call. That put a lot of pressure on Russia, and forced them to stop

at least for a period of time when Biden was visiting Ukraine. Even Russia did not want to accidentally shoot down his plane and trigger World War 3. However, I do not agree with the U.S. giving another \$500 million dollars to Ukraine, as inflation and the danger of a recession are looming.

The START nuclear arms control treaty was signed in 2010 by President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Due to Biden's visit, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a speech to his nation that he is suspending the last remaining nuclear arms control pact with the U.S. China and India so far are leaning towards Russia. I hope Putin does not act crazy and use nuclear arms against Ukraine.

Turkey and Syria have suffered many aftershocks, and on Feb. 20 more earthquakes shook the region. They are still recovering from the last ones that killed about 46,000 people.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
AM Rain possible	Partly Cloudy / Windy	Cloudy / Snow chance	Mostly Cloudy	PM Rain likely	Showers	Partly Cloudy
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LO 41	LO 22	LO 27	LO 30	LO 38	LO 33	LO 32



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# The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

## What Happened to the “Tripledemic” Threat?

If your ears and eyes were close to the news in the medical world around the start of winter, you would have heard of the “triple-demic” threat. I also wrote about it not too long ago. For those that have forgotten or are hearing it for the first time, let me fill you in.

The tripledemic is a term devised in the medical world used to highlight the danger of having the coronavirus, influenza (the common flu) virus, and the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) peaking around the same period. Considering each of these viruses is pretty formidable on its own, there was a real fear of what may happen if they peak in the population simultaneously.

As you would expect, the prospect of this struck fear into the hearts of many health workers and brought back fears of the winter of 2021 when hospital beds were filled to the brim and people dying in the thousands every week. That’s basically the summary of the tripledemic threat.

Many experts drew up predictions about when the tripledemic era would begin and even the estimated number of lives that could be lost. Healthcare workers were bracing themselves up for another period of “hell” in the hospitals; sorry for using that word, but there’s really no other word to describe



what the early stages of the coronavirus felt like. The next closest word is miserable. The workload was overwhelming, and burnout among healthcare workers was massively on the rise.

I’d be honest with you, the triple viral threat (another name people called the tripledemic) was one that left us medical practitioners all shivering. In fact, there were calls for the government to declare another state of emergency in the country. It was that serious.

However, fast forward a few weeks, and the surge in cases of the three viruses did not materialize. The tripledemic threat gradually began to fade, and now, there’s almost full confidence that the triple viral threat was wildly exaggerated. But why?

Well, to start with, the term “triple-demic” was not what many people thought it was. Hearing it, the minds of several people went to the three viruses occurring together in an individual. This is far from the case. Rather, the triple viral threat was just the three viruses peaking around the same period. The effect was more to be felt by hospitals and medical practitioners than actual individuals. I believe this contributed to the panic among the general public.

Further, while there was a moment when the three viruses were prevalent in the population, cases quickly normalized. The early waves of RSV and the flu peaked before the New Year. Although there was an increase in coronavirus cases, it was nowhere near the levels of the 2021

winter. So, hospitals still have had to take on more workload, but not as much as they imagined or feared. It has been the “regular” amount of busy.

Essentially, the tripledemic was a case where many overestimated the threat of a health concern. That, in itself, is not wrong. Many, including me, will even argue that overestimating a threat is good, as it keeps everyone on their toes. But the timing couldn’t have been worse for a gross overestimation like the tripledemic. The public is getting desensitized to the coronavirus and related news, and the tripledemic being not as severe as advertised can worsen the already high apathy to vaccinations and public health instructions.

For most hospitals, the more concerning issue is the new variant of the coronavirus XBB.1.5. I know you’re probably tired of hearing the old music of new variants, but that’s how we proceed from here. What do I mean? It is now becoming a reality for many experts and health bodies that the coronavirus will be endemic. In other words, we will have to live with the virus. Since vaccinations do a great job of limiting the damage of existing variants, the only way for an uptick in cases to arise is by new variants emerging.

However, while the threat of the tripledemic has faded and the new coronavirus variant is emerging as a more pressing concern, the unpredictable nature of the influenza virus is an issue for many health experts.

(Continued on page 15)

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photos By William Hathaway, Jr.



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This week, the City of Orange hosted a HBCU Day at Lincoln Avenue School as a part of its Elementary Basketball League program. Parents, community leaders, and more attended this event at the school. Teams taking part in the event were 4-7 grade squads from host Lincoln Avenue, Rosa Parks, Heywood Avenue, and Oakwood Avenue. Also attending the event was the Orange High School ROTC and former OHS graduate Kevin Johnson who sang the National Anthem. Among those recognized were the coaches of all the teams and former Orange Recreation Supervisor Keith Pressey, who was honored for his dedication and service to the Orange community.

Last weekend, the 76th Annual Essex County Tournament has concluded in Newark. In the boys' title game on Feb. 18, a strong Seton Hall Prep team kept to its winning ways, beating Arts High 46-32. Seton Hall Prep has a winning record of 20-4 on the season and a 9-3 conference record in the Super Es-

sex Conference. The win gave the school back to back ECT crowns.

Leading the Pirates to the win was Ethan Maynard with 19 points and 6 rebounds; teammate Darrius Phillips had 15 points and 7 rebounds. Leading Arts was Spencer Joyner with 9 points in the game and Anthony Akande with 9 rebounds and 2 steals. Arts High has a record of 17-8 on the season and 9-2 in the Super Conference division.

In the girls' tournament finals, the University High flew high all season as one of the top ranked teams in Essex County. However, the Lady Phoenix fell short in the county tournament final, as Montclair Immaculate won its second ever ECT. MI beat UHS 60-54 in a close game. Immaculate was led by Tyonna Bailey with 26 points and 5 rebounds and Nila Giraud with 18 points and 9 rebounds. Leading University was Paradise Fisher with 12 points and 6 rebounds and a strong effort by Michaela Guest with 10 rebounds. Destiny Bynum-Johnson chipped in 11 points and 8 rebounds. University has



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an overall record of 22-6 on the season.

On the college hardwood, the Seton Hall University women's basketball team scored a big victory on Senior Day at Walsh Gym in South Orange. Before the game, there was a pregame ceremony honoring all seniors in all sports, and it was also National Women's Sports Day. Seniors on the women's basketball team included star Lauren Park Lane, Alexia Allesch, Victoria Keenan, Mya Bembry, Sidney Cooks, and Kailah Harris.

As for the game itself, the Lady Pirates won their 10th Big East Conference game of the season by beating Xavier 72-59. Seton Hall improved to 17-11 overall, with Park Lane putting on 20 points and 10 assists. Azana Baines had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Sidney Cooks added 10 points in the win.

Finally, Ricky Stenhouse, Jr. broke a long winless drought and took home his first Daytona 500, while Team Giannis beat Team LeBron 184-175 in the NBA All-Star Game.





**UNITED STATES**

**EPA TO NORFOLK SOUTHERN: CLEAN UP YOUR MESS**

On Feb. 21, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered Norfolk Southern to conduct all necessary actions associated with the cleanup from the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment. As part of EPA’s legally binding order, Norfolk Southern will be required to:

- Identify and clean up contaminated soil and water resources.
- Reimburse EPA for cleaning services to be offered to residents and businesses to provide an additional layer of reassurance, which will be conducted by EPA staff and contractors.
- Attend and participate in public meetings at EPA’s request and post information online.
- Pay for EPA’s costs for work performed under this order.

As part of the order, EPA will approve a workplan outlining all steps necessary to clean up the environmental damage caused by the derailment. If the company fails to complete any actions as ordered by EPA, the Agency will immediately step in, conduct the necessary work, and then seek to compel Norfolk Southern to pay triple the cost.

“The Norfolk Southern train derailment has upended the lives of East Palestine families, and EPA’s order will ensure the company is held accountable for jeopardizing the health and safety of this community,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “Let me be clear: Norfolk Southern will pay for cleaning up the mess they created and for the trauma they’ve inflicted on this community. I’m deeply grateful to the emergency responders, including EPA personnel,

who’ve been on the ground since day one and ensured there was no loss of life as a result of this disaster.

“As we transition from emergency response, EPA will continue to coordinate closely with our local, state, and federal partners through a whole-of-government approach to support the East Palestine community during the remediation phase. To the people of East Palestine, EPA stands with you now and for as long as it may take.”

To address the concerns of residents regarding potential indoor contamination, EPA will offer cleaning services to area businesses and families. The Agency has extensive experience with similar cleaning programs in other Midwestern communities. Under the terms of the order, Norfolk Southern will reimburse EPA for the costs of these cleaning services. More details about how community members can request this service will be available this week.

EPA’s order marks the transition of the multi-agency response from its “emergency phase” to a longer-term remediation phase. To help implement the order, EPA will establish a “unified command structure” to coordinate the clean-up related efforts of FEMA, HHS, Ohio EPA, Ohio EMA, PA DEP, as well as Norfolk Southern. This approach is frequently used in situations where multiple agencies need to work together. In this case, the response includes federal, state and local agencies across multiple states.

EPA issued this unilateral administrative order pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, which gives EPA the authority to order those responsible for pollution to clean it up. The order takes effect two days after signature, though the cleanup work has already begun and will continue.

**WORLD**

**MORE EARTHQUAKES HIT TURKEY & SYRIA**

Despite reeling from some of the worst tremors in the 21st Century, the shared ordeal of

Turkey (Türkiye) and Syria is unfortunately not over.

On Feb. 20, Turkey and Syria were rocked by a 6.3 magnitude main quake, and then a 5.7 aftershock, with other little quakes following, similar to the 7.8 and 7.5 juggernauts that wrecked the region.

Just from the first quakes only, over 6,000 buildings have reportedly collapsed in Turkey, with that country bearing most of the deaths. Syria has been struck by over 200 aftershocks. Even worse for Syria, the country has been mired in the midst of war for ages.

As the death toll since Feb. 6 has topped 41,000 in Türkiye, UN development experts said that 1.5 million people have been made homeless in the south of the country, where at least 500,000 new homes will need to be built.

According to reports, at least “another 294 people injured and another few buildings collapsed in the region around Hatay and some on the Mediterranean coast,” the UNDP official continued.

In northwest Syria, where up to nine million people have been affected, and at least 6,000 killed, the international humanitarian response has continued. A total of 227 trucks loaded with supplies have crossed from Türkiye since Feb. 9: 195 using the Bab al-Hawa crossing, 22 across Bab al-Salam and 10 across Al Ra’ee.

Speaking to journalists via video link from Gaziantep in southern Türkiye, Dr. Catherine Smallwood, Earthquake Incident manager for the UN World Health Organization (WHO) in Europe, noted that the agency had transported “close to 100 tons across the border from Türkiye” since the disaster, in addition to the supplies that were already pre-positioned within Syria.

**UKRAINE VS. RUSSIA: ONE YEAR LATER**

As the international community prepares to mark one year since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, UN rights investigators on Feb. 21 relayed disturbing testimonies about the high num-

ber of civilians killed to date.

Matilda Bogner, Head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), told journalists in Geneva that the civilian death toll in the southern city of Mariupol - besieged and bombarded by Russian missiles - had been particularly high.

“My colleagues interviewed a former prisoner of war, and he was from Mariupol and he was forced in Mariupol to collect the bodies on the city streets. He told us that Russian soldiers were expected to meet the daily quota of one truck of corpses per day. And that is, as he said, in Mariupol meeting with that quota was not a problem at all.”

According to latest UN human rights office (OHCHR) data, at least 8,000 non-combatants have been confirmed killed - with nearly 13,300 injured - since the Russian invasion on Feb. 24 last year. The true number is likely to be substantially higher, OHCHR staff have repeated on many occasions.

In a statement deploring the human cost of the conflict, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said that every day that violations of international human rights and humanitarian law continue, “it becomes harder and harder to find a way forward through mounting suffering and destruction, towards peace.”

Civilians have been killed “in their homes and while simply trying to meet their essential needs, such as collecting water and buying food”, Mr. Türk said. “These included 67-year-old Olha, who was killed in a missile strike just meters from her flat in Kharkiv as she went to buy milk the day after the war began.”

The UN rights chief described how “Serhii, a man in his 60s, choked back tears as he told human rights monitors how he saw his six-year-old granddaughter lose a leg in an artillery attack, when his house in a village near Kherson took a direct hit on April 2, 2022.”

These stories mask the true extent of the suffering in Ukraine, Mr. Türk continued, listing hardships that include electricity and water shortages,

*(Continued on page 11)*



# WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SQUAD HONORED



**The West Orange High School Football Team, Head Coach Darnell Grant (4th from Right), Mountaineers End Zone Club President Melba Mullins (blue dress) with Essex County District 4 Commissioner Leonard Luciano (Back Row, 3rd from left) Commissioner At-Large Patricia Sebold (Front Row, 5th from Right), Commissioner At-Large Brendan W. Gill (2nd from Right) and Commissioner At-Large Romaine Graham (right). PHOTO BY LLOYD HOLMES**

**ESSEX** - On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, the Essex County Board of County Commissioners honored the West Orange High School Football Team for winning its first state championship in their program history.

Commissioner At-Large Patricia Sebold of Livingston and District 4 Commissioner Leonard Luciano co-sponsored and presented commendations to Head Coach Darnell Grant and the West Orange High School "Mountaineers." Commissioner Sebold congratulated the team for demonstrating that "when hard work, sacrifice, and teamwork are harnessed and guided in the right direction, goals are achieved."

The West Orange High School Football Team achieved the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 Championship in the NJSIAA/Rothman Orthopedics State Sectional by beating #1-seeded Phillipsburg High School 28-76 on November 10, 2022, in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. The team not only distinguished itself on the field, but also maintained a Grade B academic average during the football season, and is known for its players' high character and community involve-

ment.

The West Orange High School Football Team is comprised of the following members: Myles Adams, Quran Ali, Gensley Auguste, Justin Barr, Christopher Barrino, Matthew Barrino Alexander Butterfield, Ricardo Camacho, James Felton, I'yan R. Gainer, Samuel Godinez, Brandon Green Carlos Henriquez, Rayel Hunter, Christian Jean-Gilles, Jake Jeffay, Jarvis Jones, Emmanuel Kales, Saboor Karriem, Justin Laniyan, Mason Malloy, Ryan McFadden, Ryan Morris, Al-Jahmir Newsome, Elijah Pean, Isaiah Pena, Wesley Robles, Kesley Romelien, Myles Snead, Raza Stanley, Amir Stewart, Jay Straker, Jhensen Touze, Johnathan Vincent, Adonis White, Terrell Wilfong, Jehki Williams and Zekai Wimberly.

Sixteen Mountaineers were individually recognized for outstanding performance: New Jersey Football Coaches Association North 2, All State, Super 100: Jarvis Jones and Saboor Karriem; All-State 1st Team: Saboor Karriem; All-State 2nd Team: Gensley Auguste; All Group 1st Team: Saboor Karri-

(Continued on page 12)

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Municipality	2-15-2023	Deaths	2-21-2023	Deaths
Belleville	14,073	164	14,093	164
Bloomfield	15,805	176	15,836	176
Caldwell	2,129	20	2,132	20
Cedar Grove	5,027	145	5,040	145
City of Orange	9,947	177	9,947	178
East Orange	21,572	408	21,628	408
Essex Fells	627	2	629	2
Fairfield	2,531	43	2,541	43
Glen Ridge	1,669	20	1,671	20
Irvington	14,647	288	14,696	288
Livingston	8,714	114	8,727	114
Maplewood	6,774	53	6,792	53
Millburn	4,758	18	4,761	18
Montclair	9,251	92	9,271	92
Newark	97,911	1,297	98,091	1,299
North Caldwell	1,864	10	1,869	10
Nutley	8,455	90	8,485	90
Roseland	1,815	27	1,816	27
South Orange	4,536	25	4,543	25
Verona	4,314	26	4,321	26
West Caldwell	3,339	68	3,339	68
West Orange	17,086	282	17,121	282
<b>Total</b>	<b>257,484</b>	<b>3,545</b>	<b>258,017</b>	<b>3,548</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of February 22, 2023)**

**NJ: 2,540,342 cases / 32,824 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 103.160 Million / 1.118 Million deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 674.252 Million / 6.864 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** - The Essex County Democratic Committee will have to come up with a successor to Rufus Johnson since his Feb. 3 announcement that he is retiring from the County Board of Commissioners.

Johnson (D-Newark), who was first elected to his at-large office in 2008, said he will not campaign with his other eight colleagues this year and will retire when his term expires on Jan. 1, 2024. He had considered retiring in 2020 but ran - and was elected - to one more three-year term.

Johnson, outside of the Hall of Records, worked as a legislative aide. He was an aide to Sen. Ronald L. Rice when he was on the Newark Municipal Council 1998-2006 and in his 27th Legislative District field office here. Rice (D-Newark) retired last year to focus on his health.

Johnson had also been an aide to West Ward Councilman Joseph McCallum. McCallum resigned last year in anticipation of a bribery trial. A New Jersey Superior Court jury found McCallum guilty; he is currently serving his sentence.

The former West Ward Young Democrats president had also served on the local Habitat for Humanity directors board. He had founded and had coached for Newark's Optimist Club Little League and Pop Warner Football team.

The Newark Public Schools product attended Essex County College and Ohio's Wilberforce University. He was also an Our Lady of Good Counsel boys' basketball coach.

The entire slate of commis-

sioners - four at-large and one in each of five wards - are up for voter consideration this year.

**IRVINGTON / MAPLEWOOD** - New Jersey American Water customers may have already noticed changes in its water appearance and higher water bills since at least Feb. 13.

NJAW has notified its customers who are served by its Canal Road Treatment plant in Raritan and Raritan-Millstone Treatment Plant that they will likely experience discolored and a chlorinated taste with its water from Feb. 20 through April 30.

The Camden-headquartered utility said that the "slight taste and smell" is temporary while it makes its annual disinfectant change at the said two plants. The water's interim 11-week condition will last until the disinfectant maintenance has been completed.

Customers are advised that they can reduce the taste by refrigerating a container of the water overnight. It should be noted that Irvington and Maplewood are on the Essex County fringe of the plants' territories. NJAW customers in Middlesex, Morris, Union, Somerset, Hunterdon and Mercer counties would be more likely affected.

All NJAW customers, starting with their Feb. 13 bill, will be handed a Lead Service Line Replacement charge. The state Board of Public Utilities surcharge is to recover \$3.7 million the company has so far spent on its LSLR program. NJAW has to file semiannual reports with the state board on how the surcharge funds are applied.

It is not immediately known whether or when the utility will conduct its LSLR in Irvington or Maplewood.

**EAST ORANGE / ORANGE** - Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange), who has been assemblywoman in the "Old 34th State Legislative District," is seeking to become state senator in the "New 34th LD."

Timberlake, who succeeded Lt. Governor-Elect Sheila Y. Oliver (D-East Orange) in a special 2017 election, has reportedly filed senatorial campaign paper-

work with the state Election Law Enforcement Commission Feb. 21.

The former Essex County then-Freeholder / now-Commissioner had been representing East Orange, Orange, Montclair and Passaic County's Clifton in the "Old 34th" - along with Assemblyman Tom Giblin and State Senator Nia Gill (both D-Montclair).

The 2021-22 state redistricting, however, has returned Glen Ridge, added Bloomfield, Belleville and Nutley and spun off Montclair and Clifton. Former Timberlake colleagues Gill and Giblin are now facing other incumbents in a new 27th LD.

Essex County and State Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones, also of East Orange, will be talking with party officials in the New 34th's six towns about finding Timberlake's General Assembly successor for the 2023 campaign.

All 120 N.J. General Assembly and State Senate seats are up for voters approval this year.

**WEST ORANGE** - The West Orange High School Mountaineers boys fencing team was able to host Jersey City's McNair High School here Feb. 16 thanks in part to a joint law enforcement search for a "generic bomb threat."

Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lauren Schoen and Assistant Superintendent Hayden Moore said that the high school's main office promptly called the West Orange Police Department and the Essex County Sheriff's Office after the threat was perceived earlier that Thursday.

"This threat was shared on a student's social media group chat," said Schoen and Moore in their joint statement. "While WOHS was not mentioned specifically, the threat alluded to an athletic event taking place later that afternoon in the high school."

Arriving WOPD and county sheriff's officers promptly sealed off the Tarnoff Gymnasium from the rest of the high school building. The sheriff's K9 unit searched the gym until "no evidence of a bomb or other threat was found at the high school."

Police and sheriff's detectives are looking for any connection to the Jan. 30 search of school buses, conducted at the West Orange Public Schools parking lot, that are used by the Roosevelt Middle School. They had acted on an Instagram group chat where an individual talked about bombing a late afternoon bus.

No bombs were found on those buses.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, by announcing Feb. 7 that she will not seek re-election this year, will be ending 23 years of public service to the village and the outgoing 27th State Legislature District.

The former South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education member, along with West Orange's John McKeon and Roseland's Richard Codey, have been familiar names on the Democratic primary and General Election ballots since 2007. Jasey won a special election to succeed Assemblyman Mims Hackett after he resigned due to his bribery conviction while as Orange's mayor.

Jasey, in 2010, authored the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program - a bill that had eased the transition of private or religious schools to become charter schools. The former Link Community School and former St. Phillips Academy, both in Newark, had been beneficiaries of her bill.

Jasey, however, becomes the 10th state legislator, and the first in "Local Talk" Land, to retire in advance of the 2023 election campaign.

The 2021-22 state legislative district had redrawn Jasey's South Orange and Maplewood from the "Old 27th LD" into the New 28th District. The village and township are now integral with Irvington, Newark's "southwest" and Vailsburg-West wards plus Union County's Hillside.

Jasey, until Feb. 7, found herself being potentially pitted against established 28th LD Assembly Members Cleopatra Tucker and whoever will succeed Ralph Caputo. Caputo (D-

*(Continued on page 14)*



**WORLD NEWS**

*(Continued from page 6)*

and the fact that nearly 18 million people are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, with 14 million people displaced from their homes.

According to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), men accounted for 61.1 percent of confirmed civilian casualties and women 39.9 percent. At least 487 children were killed and 954 injured.

The rights monitors also found that more than nine in 10 civilian casualties were caused by explosive weapons with “wide area effects,” including artillery shells, cruise and ballistic missiles, and air strikes. Most occurred in populated areas.

The HRMMU team - whose work also includes documenting gross violations of human rights law throughout the past year, such as sexual violence, torture and summary executions - also recorded 632 civilian casualties - 219 killed and 413 injured - caused by mines and explosive remnants of war.

**EUROPE**

**SPAIN GIVING PAID MENSTRUAL LEAVE**

Independent UN experts on Feb. 21 welcomed Spain’s adoption of new comprehensive anti-discrimination and feminist legislation.

Describing the new laws as a “fundamental feminist achievement,” they said the move was part of an ambitious agenda for social progress. The legislation guarantees and facilitates access to sexual and reproductive rights in the country.


The new overarching measures ensure safe and accessible abortions provided by national health agencies. They also eliminate “reflection processes” arbitrarily imposed on women, and ensure access of all - including lesbian, bisexual and unmarried women - to assisted reproduction techniques.


In adopting the package of laws, Spain became the first European country to introduce menstrual leave. The legislation also makes comprehensive sexual education a part of all mandatory years of schooling.

The related sexual and reproductive rights measures were enacted alongside comprehensive legislation addressing violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics. Together, they aim at promoting social inclusion in the health, employment, education, cultur-

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al, and business sectors.

Elements include the provision of equal parenthood rights for lesbian mothers, a ban on genital mutilation for intersex children, and measures to end so-called “conversion therapy” perpetrated against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGTBI) persons.

The regulations were adopted through a thoughtful and participatory parliamentary process that took six years, and which considered UN expert advice, they said.

“The history of feminism is a story of persistence in the face of social injustice,” the experts said.

They cautioned countries to guard against the populist allure that regressive forces may find in exploiting anti-abortion, anti-education and anti-trans discourse. As an example of this, they pointed to attempts to erase the inherent

ties between the struggle against violence and discrimination faced by all women and girls, and gay, bisexual, and trans men, as well as other gender-diverse and intersex persons.

Saluting the role survivors of violence and civil society played throughout the process, they said “every time we observe the adoption of a law, public policy or jurisprudence that promotes equality, we are immediately reminded of the work of human rights defenders, survivors, and activists,” they said.

“They were the ones who provided their stories, compiled the evidence, and carried out the work of advocacy and persuasion so that Spanish authorities could fully embrace the idea that these legislative measures are key elements to ensure that every person can live free and equal in dignity and rights,” they said.





## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### The Curse We Bring On Ourselves

I do not know whether you have ever brought a curse on yourself, but I have seen enough of it. Honest confession would say that I have sometimes brought some curses on myself. I lost my blessing. Yes, bad choices and wrong decisions have led me down a miserable path when things could have been otherwise.

A path of misery can be specially marked because, at points, a person allows themselves to be deceived by someone who could have helped to change things in a positive direction. The helper did not lead in a positive direction. Yes, I think of some children whose parents gave them guns to kill fellow students or shoot some teachers. The parents have indeed taken curses on themselves.

However, let me turn away from the curses connected with guns and note some things like fame and popularity or power that might seem less socially egregious but have had a deleterious effect on the personal lives of our children and families. I here speak of the many things that are done that, in the end, fill the hearts of parents and their children with guilt, grief, regret, and hardship.

Let me use the Biblical example of Father Isaac, and Mother Rebekah found in Genesis 27. Mother Rebekah led her son Jacob into a most intriguing deception because she wanted him to receive the promised blessing Father Isaac intended to give Esau. I pick up the story at the point where Rebekah calls the curse on herself and leads Jacob into lying and cheating, ultimately leading to hatred and bitter conflict between the two brothers. What might have seemed like a moment of pleasure led to a lifetime of bitterness, separation and death.

I paraphrased the story with the hope that intrigue is not lost. It states that when Isaac arranged to give Esau his blessing, Rebekah overheard and intervened. She told Jacob to get a couple of kids so that she could prepare the meal that Isaac requested Esau to make for him before blessing him. By this act, Rebekah would induce Isaac to give the blessing to Jacob. When Jacob protested, thinking he would be found out, Rebekah told him, "**Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.**"

So, Jacob obeyed, got *the kids*, and brought *them* to Rebekah, and she fixed the "savory food," which Isaac loved. She then took the choice clothes of Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them on Jacob. Next, Rebekah used the skins of the kids to cover Jacob's hands and the smooth part of his neck. She then gave Jacob the savory food and bread she had prepared, who would take it to Isaac, his father.

The story continues; so, Jacob, I'yan Gainer, Jehki Williams, Ricardo Camacho and Brandon Green.

After applauding Head Coach Darnell Grant for being named 2022 "Coach of the Year" by the New Jersey Super Football Conference, Commissioner Luciano commended the players' parents as exemplary nurturers and promoters. He singled out Mountaineers End Zone Club President Melba Mullins as a "Booster Mom Extraordinaire"

and Esau goes to his father and says, "My father." And Isaac said, "Here I am. Who *are* you, my son?" Jacob told Isaac, "I *am* Esau, your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." But Isaac asked Jacob, "How have you found *it* so quickly, my son?" And Jacob said, "Because the Lord your God brought *it* to me." Then, Isaac told Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you *are* really my son Esau or not." So, Jacob went near to Isaac, his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau." Isaac did not recognize Jacob because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's, so he ate the meal and blessed him.

As soon as Isaac blessed Jacob and Jacob left the presence of Isaac, Esau came in from hunting. He had made savory food, brought it to his father, and said to Isaac, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me." Isaac said to him, "Who *are* you?" And he said, "I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau." Then Isaac trembled exceedingly and said, "Who? Where *is* the one who hunted the game and brought *it* to me? I ate all *of it* before you came, and I have blessed him - *and* indeed, he shall be blessed."

When Esau heard the words of Isaac, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me - me also, O my father!" But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your

who "has gone above and beyond in her enthusiasm and encouragement for this team."

Commissioners Sebold and Luciano were joined at the podium by the coaches and players presenting them with framed Commendations and replicas for each team member. Coach Grant spoke of his pride in his team, and Captains Jarvis Jones and Saboor Karriem shared comments on behalf of all the Mountaineers before official photos

blessing." And *Esau* said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

So, Isaac tries to bless Esau, but not with the blessing of inheritance heirship that was already given to Jacob. So, Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob." Esau's intent to kill Jacob got around to Rebekah, so she arranged to send Jacob away to his uncle Laban in Padan Aram. And shortly after Jacob left, Rebekah died.

I have short-circuited the story. Please read it. It is like a novel of intrigue that involves tragedy and comedy. Yes, Jacob received the blessing, and Esau some part of a blessing. But in the end, the true loser was Rebekah. She suffered for the curse that she called upon herself. She had to send the son she loved away and lost the love of her other son. Many commentators have argued that Rebekah died of a broken heart not long after Jacob was sent off to Padan Aram. Though respected as one of the great mothers in Israel, the life of Rebekah can teach us a lot about the curses we call upon ourselves and often on our children.

Have you called a curse on yourself? If somehow you have, let me remind you that God can take your curse away.

were taken.

The Essex County Board of County Commissioners was pleased to spotlight these exemplary outcomes of teamwork among teammates, coaches, families, school communities and volunteers who coordinated many layers and moving parts for a successful program. It pledged its support to the athletes throughout the high school years and into their future endeavors.

### WOHS FOOTBALL HONORED

(Continued from page 7)

em; All Group.

2nd Team: Gensley Auguste; All Group 3rd Team: Myles Snead; Super Essex Conference, 1st Team All-Conference: Jarvis Jones, Myles Snead, Saboor Karriem, Jay Straker, Mason Malloy, Amir Stewart, Gensley Auguste, Jhenson Touze, and Terrell Wilfong; 2nd Team All-Conference: Jake Jeffay, Chris



# EAST ORANGE MAN SENTENCED TO 28 YEARS FOR AGGRAVATED MANSLAUGHTER



phens II has announced that Jashon Allen, 34, of East Orange, was sentenced to 28 years in prison following a guilty plea to aggravated manslaughter for killing Daimeir Nelson in October 2020.

On Friday, February 17, 2023, Allen was sentenced by the Honorable Ronald D. Wigler, Judge of the Superior Court.

Late last year, Allen admitted to shooting Nelson, 22, of East Orange, in exchange for the 28-year sentence in New Jersey State Prison. Under the No Early Release Act, Allen must serve 85 percent of his sentence before he

is eligible for parole. The defendant also on November 28, 2022, pled guilty to second degree unlawful possession of a handgun without a permit. He must serve five years of parole supervision after being released from State Prison.

Nelson was fatally shot on Oct. 27, 2020, in the doorway of an apartment on Lincoln Street in East Orange, where he was attending a party, according to Assistant Prosecutor Austin Edwards, who handled the case. The defendant had been kicked out of the apartment where the party was occurring. But when

the apartment door was reopened, Allen shot into the doorway, fatally striking Nelson in the chest.

“This was a senseless act of violence,” said Edwards. “I hope this sentence brings some closure to the Nelson family, although I know they will forever be affected by the actions of the defendant.”

This is Allen’s second conviction for a gun-related offense. In November 2016, he was sentenced to 42 months in State Prison after being convicted of unlawfully possessing a handgun without a permit.

ESSEX - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Ste-

# EAST ORANGE MAN ADMITS SCHEME TO STEAL CHECKS AND DEFRAUD BANKS

ESSEX - An Essex County man was charged for his role in a scheme to steal and alter checks from the mail and fraudulently obtain funds from banks by depositing the stolen and altered checks, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced Feb. 22.

Baba Diakite, 21, of East Orange, is charged by indictment with bank fraud conspiracy, conspiracy to commit mail theft and possess stolen mail, the theft and possession of a U.S. Postal Service (USPS) key, and aggravated identity theft. Diakite was previously charged by criminal complaint in February 2022.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: From January 2020 to March 2022, Diakite and others conspired to steal checks from the mail in Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, and Union counties, which they

then sold to third parties or deposited, sometimes in altered or duplicate form, into the bank accounts of complicit accountholders who had provided access to their bank accounts for the scheme.

They obtained stolen official USPS arrow keys, which Diakite and others used to access mail and steal checks directly from USPS receptacles. Diakite targeted the accounts associated with the checks he stole and created false identifications in the names of the accountholders, which his conspirators used to make fraudulent withdrawals from those accounts.

The count of bank fraud conspiracy is punishable by a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. The count of conspiracy to commit mail theft and possess stolen mail is punishable by a maximum penalty of five years

in prison. The count of theft and possession of stolen USPS keys is punishable by a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. The count of aggravated identity theft is punishable by a statutory mandatory penalty of two years in prison, which must run consecutively to any other term of imprisonment. The bank fraud conspiracy count is also punishable by a fine of up to \$1 million; all other charges are punishable by a maximum potential fine of up to \$250,000 or twice the pecuniary gain or loss, whichever is greatest.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited postal inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Newark, under the direction of Postal Inspector in Charge Christopher A. Nielsen, Philadelphia Division; special agents with the U.S. Postal Service - Office of Inspector General, under the di-

rection of Special Agent in Charge Matthew Modafferi, Northeast Area Field Office; and special agents with the Office of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Andrew McKay, with the investigation leading to the charges. He also thanked the Clifton Police Department, Hillside Police Department, Livingston Police Department, Millburn Police Department, Port Authority NY-NJ Police Department, Roselle Park Police Department, South Plainfield Police Department, Warren Township Police Department, and Watchung Police Department for their assistance.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tazneen Shahabuddin of the Asset Recovery and Money Laundering Unit in Newark.

## ANSWERS (Cont. from page 1)

year Buffalo Bills safety stood up from being tackled by a Cincinnati Bengals player and fell to the ground unconscious.

Medics who approached Hamlin on the field found that he had a cardiac arrest and got his heart beating again while there. Hamlin raised his arm to the stadium crowd while EMS technicians loaded him on their ambulance to nearby Cincinnati University Hospital.

Hamlin would be released, walking out of Buffalo General Medical Center, Jan. 11 to continue his rehabilitation at the Bills training facility.

American Heart Association statistics show that 11 percent of people who have a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital without CPR or immediate treatment survive. The survival rate climbs to 30 percent when CPR is used.

Hamlin and the AHA have meanwhile launched a 3forHeart Challenge social media campaign Feb. 1. The campaign encourages people to learn CPR through a 60 second video clip, share that video with others on social media and donate to the AHA to continue its CPR education and training.

There is a 2015 state law where at least five people in a public high school are to be

trained and certified to apply CPR. Those adults are to be present at an athletic contest or practice.

That law does not apply to private sports leagues. A 2017 requirement amendment extension was vetoed by then-Gov. Chris Christie.

Representatives from RWJBarnabas Health were at Brown's Feb. 18 memorial, giving out CPR education kits. The kits include inflatable head and torso dummies for practice.

Raising Elijah Jordan Brown-Garcia, who was born here Dec. 27, 2010, was also shared by father Devon Stradford and stepfather Rodney Garcia. Grandmoth-

ers Donna Brown and Janet Stradford and grandfathers Jeffrey Latimore, Kevin Boyd and Curtis Scott are also among his mourners.

Brown's cause of death is pending the results of an autopsy conducted by the Regional Medical Examiner.

The Newark Police Department, the Essex County Department of Parks and Recreation, University Hospital and the Predators youth league have referred further questions to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

A GoFundMe.com page was activated Feb. 11-21 to receive contributions towards Brown's funeral expenses.



# The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

## WOOL & BRASS



Photos By Andrea Dialect

*Why Black Men Tend To Be Fashion Kings... For many, style is much deeper than articles of clothing; it's a statement of identity. Black men have a unique relationship with fashion, one that can be traced all the way back to the 17th and 18th centuries. (npr.org)*

*Street style is fashion that is considered to have emerged not from studios, but from the grassroots. Street fashion is generally associated with culture, and is most often seen in major urban centers. - Wikipedia*

### STREET STYLIN'

She simply adores Wool & Brass, aka Black Men, Mocha Men etc. But call them what you like as long as you're putting some respect on that name. She, as in my character whose name I chose not to reveal until her official unveiling, showed up some years ago. I captured her voice on my recorder, and ironically, she showed up laughing hysterically during her debut. After I got over that, I realized the unique way she spoke; besides that, it was what she said.

Thus, the performance piece "Black Man" officially named "blank," which I choose not to reveal, avoiding that spoiler alert, was born. Check me out @mzdialect on Instagram or Andrea Dialect on my FaceBook page. You'll get that sneak peek into the makings of (The Andrea Dialect Experience). Follow the breadcrumbs or seek out one of my privately exclusive shows.

I can't quite remember whether Men were From Mars or Women were From Venus. Still, John Gray was dead on when penning the obvious contrast between the two because we are as different as oil and water, and often, that clash between or the



premature mix is one of the same. No disrespect, Mr. Gray, but I sometimes find those gray areas to be many; some good, some bad, and others pretty indifferent.

Yet, despite our differences, I wouldn't trade the concoction of such a connection for anything in the world. As stated in the monologue, our Wool & Brass Brutha's are royalty, their love is king, and they are poetry in motion. Ain't that the truth? As the mom of three sons, I have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for our differences through our journey. I still have some ways to grow, but we are in a much better place now.

Those Art Forms walk on twos, I tell ya. You'll know, by the way, they reposition their coats on their back or that fitted cap on the ol' dome. How they scale those stairs as exiting the subway or the way they slip, dip or slide into the driver seat of their ride or simply the way the body sways as they exit point B to return to point A.

I absolutely love to people watch, and Wool & Brass is one



of my favorite subjects. Despite all the negative representation that is usually sprinkled around like confetti, you want to talk about great, kind, generous, and respectful men. It is all I've ever encountered since I lifted that camera to shoot my first Mocha Male as a subject. I love exhibiting them the way that they truly are. ....

Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.com) and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to [localtalkandrea@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).



### TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

Nutley) has been redrawn into the New 34th LD.

Irvington's Renee Burgess is expected to run for her first elected LD28 State Senate term since being appointed to succeed Sen. Ronald L. Rice, of Newark, since his retirement last year.

**BLOOMFIELD** - A Newark man has until his Bloomfield Municipal Court appearance to perhaps ask himself whether fighting over a parking space here on Feb. 9 was worth it.

That Thursday's blotter had patrol officers arrive along Berkeley Avenue to find one

man with a stab wound under one of his arms and a man - identified as John Calandrillo, 42, of Newark - standing nearby. They were summoned on the report of "a fight involving a knife."

There were also several witnesses who told police that Calandrillo and the other man had "a verbal altercation" over a parking space. That argument, they said, ended when Calandrillo stabbed the victim with a knife.

The officers' field investigation found a knife on the ground that matched the witnesses and victim's description. They took that weapon and Calandrillo into custody.

Calandrillo was charged with at least simple assault and released later that day.

**MONTCLAIR** - Township Council, in a pair of introductory resolutions approved here Feb. 8, is about to get the hook on embattled and suspended Town Manager Timothy Stafford.

Theater managers used a hooked staff to pull a failing performer off stage. Performers for "Showtime At The Apollo" would get something similar when the Sandman would escort them to the back. "Get the hook" has since meant to get dismissed or fired.

The council passed both resolutions past midnight Feb. 8 5-

0. The first would end the paid administrative leave Stafford has been on since Oct. 26. The other would keep him suspended but with a notice that he can "be subject to removal" in 30 days.

The council first put Stafford on paid leave after CFO Padmaja Rao filed a hostile workplace and whistleblower retaliation lawsuit against Staffords and the township. A second similar employee suit has since been filed and the sworn statements from two other employees have since been publicized.

Rao, in January, added Mayor Sean Spiller's name as a respondent.

Although both resolutions  
(Continued on page 15)



**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 14)

are subject to next month's final vote, the state administrative Faulkner Act has started a countdown clock on moving Stafford from paid leave to unpaid suspension. The act allows Stafford to collect up to three months' salary as severance.

Stafford may leave with up to six months' salary, depending on what negotiations and/or litigation may take place.

**GLEN RIDGE** - What borough police officers found along one of Glen Ridge's streets early Feb. 14 was taken away by a Newark police-contracted flatbed tow truck later that Tuesday.

A car found parked and unoccupied along the 700 block of Bloomfield Avenue at 3 a.m. first got patrolling officers' attention.

There is no overnight curbside parking allowed in Glen Ridge. Bloomfield Avenue is also an Essex County road.

The officers ran a license plate check - and discovered that the vehicle's registered owner, a Newark resident, had been reported as missing.

Newark Police Division officers arrived on scene and called for a tow truck. Newark has taken over the vehicle and the investigation.

Details - including how the car got here, whether anyone saw the driver and/or the missing person's identity - have not been disclosed as of press time.

**BELLEVILLE** - The fate of the former Irvine-Cozzarrelli Funeral Home, of "The Sopranos" fame at 276 Washington Ave., now rests with a final vote from the Township Council since Feb. 9.

Belleville's Planning Board accepted Daugherty Planning & Development's recommendation to designate 274-78 Washington Ave., its 272 Washington Ave. driveway and the 1.5-story house behind it at 163 Valley St as a "non-condemnable area in need of redevelopment."

The township's planners and the Township Council will now wait to see what plans the property owner, Premier Developers, of Englewood Cliffs, will come up for the 1887 funeral home and 1897 house. Premier has been building The Essex - a 158 unit, five-story apartment building on a former used car lot at 102 Washington Ave.

There are residents and neighbors who are concerned that 276 Washington Ave., after decades of care by the Irvine and Cozzarellis, will be replaced by something similar to The Essex. Such a plan would demolish the funeral parlor cele-

brated as the setting for several "Sopranos" scenes.

One concern about Feb. 9's vote is whether Mayor Michael Melham and At-Large Councilman Thomas Graziano had voted their approval Feb. 9 or had abstained. Both have votes on the nine-member planning board.

Some observers believe that Melham should have abstained Feb. 9 like he and De Pena should have Sept. 27.

Melham, Deputy Mayor Naomy DePena and Councilman John Notari had prevailed in a 3-2-2 Sept. 27 council vote that granted Daugherty the AINOR study contract. Graziano and Third Ward Councilman Vincent Cozzarrelli abstained; First Ward Councilwoman and Second Ward Councilman Steve Rovell noted "No."

Melham, DePena and Garziano were honorees of a Feb. 18, 2022 cocktail party thrown by Premier as "A Better Belleville" campaign fundraiser.

**NUTLEY** - Township Fire Department HAZMAT crews and DPW employees have been analyzing what chemical was dumped into a branch of The Third River here - and who did the dumping - since Jan. 26.

Nutley HAZMAT was promptly called to Booth Park, where the tributary converges with The Third River, about "an oily sheen" being seen. The emergency crew deployed absorbent booms to contain and collect the film.

Nutley DPW workers meanwhile checked storm drains that feed the tributary along Stager Street between Ravine Street and as far west as Franklin Avenue.

They were also looking for evidence that would tie the petroleum-based slick to a dumper.

"All of our stormwater catch basins eventually empty into the Third and Passaic rivers," said Mayor Joseph P. Scapelli "Contaminants entering the Passaic River watershed adversely affect fish and other wildlife in and around the rivers. I advise residents not to dump or throw any waste into our catch basins in an effort to avoid polluting our waterways."

The person or persons who dumped or have dumped into waterways are subject to state and local fines plus cleanup costs under the N.J. Pollution Control Act. The fines and restitution covers dumped leaves and trash.

The Third River in Nutley is also called the Yantecaw River. It empties into the Passaic in Clifton, just north of the Nutley border.

**THE DCOTOR IS IN**

(Continued from page 4)

There is no telling if there will be a new wave of the flu virus in spring. This is something flu experts have scratched their heads about for a while. If there is, then hospitals could get even busier.

In summary, the tripledemic did not come as stated, and thankfully so. But health experts need to be more careful in assessing threats for the sake of public compliance. Stay safe.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board-Certified Internist & Board Certified 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 & House call DOctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.*

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