

LOCAL TALK

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

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AMERICANS UP IN THE AIR OVER CHINESE SPY BALLOON

Naval personnel collect the downed Chinese balloon out of the Atlantic.

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Photo By 1st Class Officer Tyler Thompson

THOUSANDS PERISH IN MASSIVE EARTHQUAKES

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The wreckage of a collapsed building in Turkey. Photo By Voice of America

NEWARK JOINS SAYREVILLE IN "FAVORITE DAUGHTER" MOURNING

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Present and former residents from various walks in life here have been remembering and mourning the loss of Eunice K. Dwumfour.

Many may so far only know Dwumfour, 30, as the Sayreville councilwoman who was fatally shot in her car just yards away from her luxury rental apartment at 7:17 p.m. Feb. 1. The search for her killer continues as of press time.

Whoever pumped multiple gunshots into Dwumfour's late model Nissan SUV left behind reverberations that are being felt across the state and country and

across the ocean into Africa.

Dwumfour's loss is being felt in Sayreville, Trenton, Nigeria and Newark. Those here in New Jersey's largest city remember her as a South Ward girl who graduated with the Weequahic High School Class of 2010.

Dwumfour kept her Newark ties even through her major life changes.

She moved herself and her daughter, now 11, to Sayreville in 2018 but kept her Newark church membership. She married Eze Kings Akwue, a Nigerian pastor-University of Abuja student, in Abuja, Nigeria Nov. 24.

Father Prince and Mother Mary Dwumfour still live in a



The late Eunice K. Dwumfour

Weequahic apartment building. Each visit to her parents included stops in the neighborhood to check on her former neighbors, classmates and church members.

Eunice Dwumfour was born March 4, 1992 into a family of five first-generation Ghanaian-Americans. She was among the

WHS Class of 2010 top 10 graduates, and wrote under her year-book photo that she wanted to be remembered "for my weirdness and independence."

Dwumfour first moved onto the Wayne campus of now-

(Continued on page 11)



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Turn
To
**PAGE
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Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Another Natural Disaster. My son and daughter-in-law were travelling and changed over flights at Istanbul - the same time as the earthquakes in Turkey. My wife and I got worried. Not being a journalist, but being a father, trying to find out where their flights were. However, with our luck they were in Northwest Turkey, and the earthquakes was in Southeast of Turkey.

On one hand, I was relieved. But on the other hand, I started worrying about the thousands who died in the earthquakes. I immediately thought about the Tsunami of Indonesia, where about 228,000 people lost their lives. So far, 12,000 lives have been lost in the earthquakes as

of Wednesday afternoon in Turkey and Syria combined.

Earth tectonic plates moves due to heat, sometimes towards each other or sometimes away from each other. That is called tectonic shift. The tectonic plates stay on each other. When they shift, an earthquake occurs. In Turkey, the first earthquake was 7.8 magnitude, but spread over 100 kilometers. A 7.5 earthquake followed soon after, along with over 200 aftershocks. It devastated the area of Turkey and Syria.

We pray for those who lost their lives, and we appeal to everyone to support the survivors. We don't know the absolute right organizations to donate to, so please be careful before donating, so your money goes to the right cause.

Another big news in the past week was the Chinese spy balloon over Montana and the US. We have three nuclear silos in Montana. China is very much interested on finding out and research our nuclear capacity. This is not the first time this has happened, as a few times balloons

have gone over the US airspace. The Pentagon knew about it, but waited to take it down on concerns of civilian injuries. They kept track of the balloon and shot it down over the Atlantic Ocean.

Why didn't they shoot down in the Pacific Ocean waters near Hawaii? They allowed them to spy on us, until a civilian pilot spotted the balloon and informed them and the media. Now it was news, and they woke up and followed the balloon all the way to the other Ocean. The debris is getting search thoroughly to find out why China used it and what they may have found.

We should not be bend down to China when they are taking advantage of good relations with President Biden. There was an attempt by Biden to sooth the trade relationship with China by a planned visit for US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Biden immediately postponed Blinken's visit to China due to the balloon in U.S. airspace,

Senator Rubio said that Biden waiting to tell American Public about Chinese Balloon

was a 'Dereliction of Duty.' Some officials are saying that even in the Trump Presidency they came over Texas and Florida, according to Fox News.

President Biden has a good second state of the union speech. However, he did not go deep into Turkey's earthquake and the world policies outside of Ukraine. Also, he talked about bipartisanship, but that comes only with shaking hands with both sides, and not just pleasing one.

Biden said, "Two years ago our economy was reeling. As I stand here tonight, we have created a record 12 million new jobs - more jobs created in two years than any president has ever created in four years."

Covid has gone on for the past three years and impacted both the Trump and Biden administrations. A lot of jobs that were lost came due to the pandemic.

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
Afternoon Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Rain / Temp. / Score	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Showers
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NJ Health Department Recognizes National Black HIV / AIDS Awareness Day

TRENTON - In recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, February 7, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is reaffirming its commitment to working to improve HIV prevention and care while reducing long-standing health disparities that have disproportionately impacted Black residents.

NJDOH encourages residents to follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stating that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 years should get

tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care, and that those at higher risk should get tested at least once per year.

“The Department’s work to reduce health disparities and improve HIV services for highly-impacted populations is essential to helping to end the HIV epidemic,” said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. “We also continue to work with and support our community partners in this effort.”

Although Black residents comprise 15.3 percent of the state’s population in 2022, this cohort represented nearly half (47.2 percent) of the 37,693 New Jersey residents living with HIV/AIDS as of December 2022. Over the last decade, 46.7 percent of new HIV diagnoses in New Jersey were among Black individuals, compared to 17.7 percent among White individuals.

A disproportionate impact has similarly been seen on the national level, with Black individuals accounting for 13.6 per-

cent of the U.S. population, but 40.4 percent of people with HIV as of July 2021, according to the CDC.

Nationally, progress has been made with reducing HIV diagnoses among most age groups, with HIV diagnoses decreasing 17 percent among Black people overall from 2015 to 2021. In New Jersey, progress has been made with reducing HIV diagnoses among most age groups, with HIV diagnoses decreasing 12.7 percent among Black people overall from 2015 to 2021.

To address disproportionate rates of HIV among Black people and other people of color in New Jersey, NJDOH released “A Strategic Plan to End the HIV Epidemic in New Jersey by 2025” in 2021, which set the following goals:

- Reduce the number of new HIV infections by 75 percent overall
- Promote access to testing so that 100 percent of individuals living with HIV/AIDS know their status
- Promote access/linkage to care so that 90 percent of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are virally suppressed

In January 2022, NJDOH’s Division of HIV, STD, and TB Services implemented a statewide grant program using state funding to align the state’s overarching HIV strategy with national best practices. This program supports the development and implementation of high quality, customer-centered, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed Comprehensive Status Neutral HIV Services for focus populations most affected by the HIV epidemic.

To date, the Department has awarded nearly 40 grants to various local health departments, federally qualified health centers, community-based organizations, hospital systems, and other agencies across the state to support this status neutral approach to HIV prevention and treat-

ment.

The Department further supports Ending the HIV Epidemic by leveraging both State and federal resources and funding services in areas of the state most affected by HIV. Among other steps taken to date, in January 2022, Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation decriminalizing sexual activity by persons infected with HIV or a sexually transmitted infection.

The Department’s PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) program provides biomedical prevention services to individuals who have behaviors that put them at high risk for HIV acquisition. For information on PrEP counseling or HIV testing sites, visit nj.gov/health/hivstdtb/hiv-aids/getting-tested/index.shtml or call 1-800-624-2377.

New Jersey’s seven Harm Reduction Centers also provide harm reduction counseling and supplies to prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases and prevent drug overdoses. In 2022, the centers served 2,600 clients and distributed more than 1.2 million new syringes.

To learn more about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, visit cdc.gov/hiv/library/awareness/nbhaad.html

For more information on the Department of Health’s Division of HIV, STD and TB Services, visit nj.gov/health/hivstdtb.

Company Recalls Sandwiches and Other Products

Fresh Ideation Food Group LLC of Baltimore, MD is recalling products sold from January 24, 2023 through January 30, 2023 because the products have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems.

Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, (Continued on page 15)

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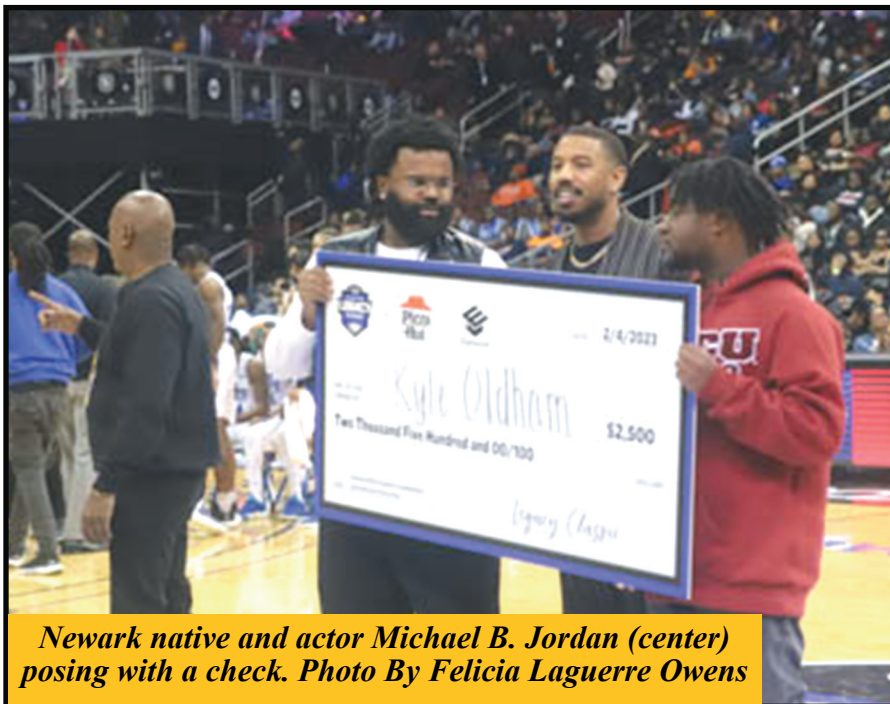


By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2023 INVESCO QQQ Legacy Classic HBCU invitational took place this past weekend on Feb. 4, in which four of the Best HBCU Colleges in the country participated in the showcase. Actor Michael B. Jordan hosted this event in Newark, which was almost a complete sellout at the Prudential Center. A bunch of celebrities were on hand, including HBCU alum Stephen A. Smith and Newark native and boxing champion Shakur Stevenson, who has an upcoming fight on April 8th in Newark.

his 19 points and 3 rebounds. Other highlights during the Legacy Classic included a battle of the bands and some donations for HBCU causes.

In other college basketball action at the Prudential Center, the Seton Hall men's basketball team defeated DePaul 69-64. The pirates was down by 13 points at the start of the game, but stormed back to finish off the Blue Demons on their way to their 7th victory in the last eight games. Five players provided nearly all the scoring, as Tyrese Samuels had 14 points and 7 rebounds, KC Ndefo added 13 points and 6 rebounds,



Newark native and actor Michael B. Jordan (center) posing with a check. Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

In the first game of the day, it was Morgan State defeating Delaware State 75-65. Kamron Hobbs went 9-15 from the field with 24 points and 5 rebounds, and Lewis Djonkam had 18 points and 9 rebounds, leading to MVP honors. Delaware State was led by Martaz Robinson's 16 points and 12 rebounds, while Brandon Stone had 16 points and 6 boards. Morgan State shot 60 percent from the field against their MEAC rival. Overall, Morgan State leads the series 64-45.

In the second game of the Legacy, it was Norfolk State beating Hampton 83-71. Leading Norfolk State was Joe Bryant with 29 points and 5 rebounds. He got support from Dana Tate, who poured in 21 points and 6 rebounds. Hampton was led by Jordan Nesbitt and

Kadary Richmond pitched in 14 points and 6 rebounds, Al-Amir Dawes put in 12 points and 4 rebounds and Tray Jackson chipped in 10 points and 5 rebounds. The Hall is currently 15-9 overall and 8-5 in the Big East Conference. The latest victory will help the Pirates stay alive in their March Madness quest under first year head coach Shaheen Holloway.

The NBA provided some big news, as the Nets traded point guard and West Orange native Kyrie Irving to the Dallas Mavericks, bringing back former Nets guard Spencer Dinwiddie, wingman Dorian Finney-Smith and a package of draft picks. There is no word on if the team will unload star Kevin Durant by the trade deadline.

Finally, this weekend will belong to the National Football



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Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

League, as the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs will clash in Super Bowl 57 at Glendale, Arizona. This game will be the first in SB history with two starting quarterbacks, Jalen Hurts for Philly and Patrick Mahomes for KC. The Chiefs previously won Super Bowl 54 over the San Francisco 49ers 31-20 in early 2020, while the Eagles won SB 52 two years earlier over the New

England Patriots 34-28. The game is being called the "Andy Reid Bowl" as Reid formerly coached the Eagles, and is currently in charge of the Chiefs.

In other news, Tom Brady has decided to retire again. This time, it seems permanent, as he has achieved of goal of playing until he was 45 years old.



**THOUSANDS PERISH
IN MASSIVE
EARTHQUAKES**

UNITED STATES

As a massive swath of debris and fallen humans are being moved to make sense of what has happened, the world is reacting to one of the most devastating events in history.

The full scale of the multiple earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria is still unfolding, UN humanitarians said on Feb. 7, as they stressed the critical need to step up search and rescue efforts for victims and ensure that life-saving aid reaches all those who need it.

According to the Government of Turkey, at least 3,381 people died and more than 20,000 were injured after a 7.8 magnitude quake struck close to the southern city of Gaziantep early on Feb. 6, followed by another 7.5 magnitude earthquake several hours later.

Almost 6,000 buildings have reportedly collapsed in the country, too, said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The UN relief chief and head of OCHA, Martin Griffiths announced that the UN was releasing \$25 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide urgent support across the whole region.

“As the people in the region deal with the devastating consequences of this tragedy, we want to tell them that they are not alone ... The humanitarian community will support them in every step of the way out of this crisis.”

Syria’s needs are massive, the OCHA spokesperson continued earlier in Geneva, as he relayed information from the country’s health authorities which reported over 800 deaths and 1,500 injuries from the earthquakes, in Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Idlib countryside and

Tartus.

After enduring the initial massive earthquakes, traumatized communities in Syria then faced more than 200 aftershocks.

“This of course came at the worst possible time for many, many vulnerable children in those areas who were already in need of humanitarian support,” said James Elder, spokesperson for the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

“They went to bed as normal, they were woken by the screams of their neighbors, by breaking glass and by the terrifying sound of crumbling concrete.”

Aside from the material damage to roads and public infrastructure which has made the work of emergency teams more difficult, Syria’s dire economic situation has also slowed the relief effort.

“Search and rescue efforts are currently hampered by lack of equipment to remove debris,” said Tommaso Della Longa, spokesperson for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). “There is a severe lack of fuel all over Syria and this has hampered operational heavy machinery, transport of personnel and emergency ambulance services.”

According to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), about 90 percent of those Palestinian refugee families in Syria require humanitarian assistance because of the earthquakes.

Some 438,000 Palestinian refugees live in Syria’s 12 refugee camps and northern Syria is home to 62,000 Palestine refugees in Latakia, Neirab, Ein-el Tal and Hama.

Adding his voice to those expressing sympathy for all those affected by the disaster, the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, said that he was deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life and massive destruction.

Compounding efforts to save lives is snowfall in Syria, making a frantic search for survivors even more difficult.

As of 3:30 pm EST, over 12,000 people are dead, and nearly 60,000 are injured.

**AMERICANS UP IN
THE AIR OVER
CHINESE SPY BALLOON**

UNITED STATES

A strange and unusual sight in the skies has drawn questions and fury from American citizens and politicians.

On Feb. 2, a large balloon was spotted over the state of Montana. It was confirmed by high ranking government officials to be a spy balloon from China. In response, high ranking personnel from that country said that it was a research and weather balloon that got off course. However, considering that the balloon wafted over military sites that housed bits of America’s nuclear arsenal, no one bought that story.

As a result, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelled a scheduled trip to Beijing to speak with his Chinese counterparts for the time being. Canada also has beef with China after the balloon traversed its airspace as well. At the moment, there is no word about what Costa Rica may be doing, as another balloon was spotted over its airspace.

According to President Biden, he gave the military the green light to shoot it down on Feb. 1, but nothing happened, despite the balloon being first seen as far back as Jan. 29. Officials for the military decided against shooting down the balloon as it could have posed a hazard to people on the ground, since no one knew if there was a payload on it. On Feb. 4, the balloon was shot down over the Atlantic Ocean. Federal officials took the remnants to a facility in Quantico, Va. for inspection.

As the balloon dominated weekend conversation, questions arose about how often this has occurred beyond this instance. According to reports, four months ago, a balloon was shot down over Hawaii.

Several officials have come out and said that spy balloons did fly over the nation during the Trump Administration. However, there is no explanation as to why this issue about balloons under Trump is coming out now, rather than long ago when it allegedly happened.

The incident was even spoofed on “Saturday Night Live” with Bowen Yang playing a fictionalized version of the balloon. During the State of the Union Address, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green (R-Ga.) brought her own white balloon as a dig at Biden.

STATE OF ... DISARRAY

President Biden delivered the annual State of the Union Address, and got praise from his side of the aisle, and a cleanup on the other aisle.

Biden claimed accomplishments achieved in his past year, including a bipartisan infrastructure plan, providing support for those affected by burn pits, and efforts in cutting the costs of healthcare. However, when he accused some Republicans of trying to eliminate Social Security and Medicare, he was met with vocal boos and disagreement.

After the Republicans voiced that the statement was incorrect, Biden countered, “So folks, as we all apparently agree, Social Security and Medicare is off the books now, right? Alright.” Apparently, the exchange killed any potential plan to reshape both Social Security and Medicare after the entire room applauded at the statement.

Also eliciting disagreement was Biden’s claim that the previous Administration (Trump) added to 25% of the national debt, and that the debt ceiling was raised in spite of that. This comment came at a time when the President and GOP controlled House are in combat over the current debt ceiling.

In his address, Biden also spoke to measures on how his Administration has curbed inflation and promote job creation and low unemployment.

After the speech, former President Trump posted a video response to the SOTU Address.

“Over the past two years under Biden, millions and millions of illegal aliens from 160 different countries have stormed across our southern border,” Trump said in the video. “Drug cartels are now raking in billions of dollars from smuggling poi-

(Continued on page 13)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe
EST...1996
Message For You

Greetings, and hello everyone. Glad to be back with you. Well, it's been a lot since last time.

There is so much I would like to talk about, but I will keep it short and brief. Folks, remember it's never too late to make a difference or a change. I know life even for me can get very complicated and difficult. Keep in mind, we are free people, and captivity is what we don't want. Love your freedom everyone, and as I will say, life is short and not promised. Don't feed into bs, it's not worth the time.

Time will keep moving, whether you move or not, so keep that in mind everyone. Don't take life for granted. There's so much going on in this world. Right now, every time you turn on the news, smh. waking up to madness. We cannot change the world, but you can manage yourself. I'm not perfect, as I state every time, but I realize how life can take its turn in your journey. You have to have self-control.

I still go through my mourning even months after the loss of my love, my partner, my best friend. It's just very upsetting of



what happened to that young black man, Tyre Nichols. My condolences and much more goes out to that family. It is just so disturbing and crushing news to hear. Another black man's life was taken by cops. I could not watch that full video. I was highly disappointed once again. Justice for Tyre. Those cops should feel like crap and they were black too, smdh.

Emmett Till



Some cops aren't doing what they are supposed to do. They are not serving or protecting, they are harassing bullying, killing, and splitting homes. Too many lives have been lost. In and out, it's just ridiculous. We must protect ourselves.

Before I leave everyone, I just want us to never forget where we came from. We lost a lot of black Americans, brothers and sisters. Love yourself. Til next time. peace and love...

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	2-1-2023	Deaths	2-8-2023	Deaths
Belleville	14,007	164	14,045	164
Bloomfield	15,705	175	15,760	176
Caldwell	2,117	19	2,124	20
Cedar Grove	5,009	144	5,020	144
City of Orange	9,947	177	9,947	177
East Orange	21,468	406	21,528	408
Essex Fells	625	2	626	2
Fairfield	2,518	43	2,523	43
Glen Ridge	1,658	20	1,667	20
Irvington	14,578	288	14,620	288
Livingston	8,683	114	8,701	114
Maplewood	6,737	52	6,762	53
Millburn	4,744	18	4,750	18
Montclair	9,187	92	9,229	92
Newark	97,440	1,296	97,726	1,296
North Caldwell	1,857	10	1,861	10
Nutley	8,390	90	8,438	90
Roseland	1,809	27	1,813	27
South Orange	4,523	25	4,528	25
Verona	4,294	25	4,305	25
West Caldwell	3,339	68	3,339	68
West Orange	17,011	282	17,054	282
Total	256,232	3,537	256,978	3,542

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of February 8, 2023)
 NJ: 2,527,598 cases / 32,731 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)
 United States (approx.): 102.703 Million / 1.112 Million deaths
 Worldwide (approx.): 672.208 Million / 6.848 Million deaths

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PODIATRY

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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 - Newark Public Schools Board of Education Member Crystal Williams had the rare and unusual experience of having her motion, regarding Superintendent of Schools Roger Leon's latest contract, met with silence here at their Jan. 31 public meeting.

Williams made a motion to halt Leon's contract from being sent to the New Jersey Department of Education on Feb. 1. The first-year panelist said that the stoppage would allow the board "to reassess his contract" and "give the public the opportunity to voice their concerns."

None of Williams' colleagues, however, never moved to second her motion. The motion, without any support, was killed without leaving "Square One."

Williams' failed motion, barring the unforeseen, means that Leon's five year, \$290,050 annual contract will take effect July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028. The new contract reflects an \$8,625 per year cost of living increase from his \$282,425 2021-22 contract extension.

The Leon contract controversy may be over except for the public's shouting and the board's apparent damage control.

Many members of the public, including parents and education advocates decried the board's "automatic" awarding of the superintendent's new contract on May 2022. That approval was made without the stipulated public hearing or 30-day public comment period.

The board may have hired the outside legal counsel on the matter that they have been seeking since Jan. 26. It is not clear

whether the specialized lawyer will investigate the "automatic renewal" clause or respond to public outcry or both.

IRVINGTON - The township's fire and police department personnel who remember Fr. Theodore W. Osbahr III joined 11 other faith communities within and outside of the "Local Talk" area in mourning his Jan. 18 passing.

Some of "Irvington's Bravest and Finest" may have joined representatives from Newark's St. Ann, Irvington's St. Paul the Apostle, Maplewood's St. Joseph and Bloomfield's Sacred Heart parishes at Osbahr's Jan. 24 Funeral Mass at Caldwell's St. Aloysius Church.

Osbahr, 81, was living at the Msgr. James F. Kelly Residence, next to St. Aloysius, Jan. 18.

Born July 17, 1941 in Rahway, Osbahr came to the Archdiocese of Newark by way of Roselle's St. Joseph Parochial School, Bayonne's Marist High School and South Orange's Seton Hall University. The Immaculate Conception Seminary resident was ordained in Newark March 11, 1967.

Osbahr's first assignment was as teacher in Summit's Oratory Prep, where he was eventually promoted to dean. His last assignment was at Roseland's Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. All of his assignments - which included stints in Union, Hudson, Bergen and Passaic counties - were within the archdiocese.

Brothers Robert and Richard and sister Mary Jones are among his survivors.

EAST ORANGE - A city man, who was arrested in Robbinsville Jan. 26 for allegedly possessing \$25,5000 worth of heroin bricks, remains detained in the Mercer County Correctional Center in nearby Lambertville.

How long Melvin Leonard, 34, will be away from East Orange is a matter of jurisprudence.

Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri said that members of his Narcotics Task Force, Robbinsville Police and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration ended their month-long surveillance when Leonard

pulled up in a Black Nissan Altima onto a New Clayton Way warehouse parking lot at 6:40 p.m. that Thursday.

Although Leonard was "detained without incident," County Detective Sgt. Tom Pagnione's K9 detected "the scent of narcotics in the passenger side door. An executed search warrant found a shoebox in a reusable shopping bag containing "approximately 150 bricks of heroin."

Leonard is being held without bail in MCCC at Onofri's request to State Superior Court-Trenton. He is also being held on multiple narcotics charges.

ORANGE - Members of the Essex County Sheriff's Office said that they have an Orange man under custody on stolen car, weapons possession and fleeing charges since Feb. 2.

Sheriff's officers on patrol on the Orange-East Orange border said they were waiting for a light to change at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and South Harrison Street in the latter city at 11:10 p.m. Feb. 1 when they noticed a car nearby matching the description of one that had been reported as stolen.

The officers watched the suspected car collide with a second, parked vehicle. The striking car's driver got out and, instead of writing and leaving a contact note at the scene, started fleeing north on South Harrison.

The sheriff's patrol, aided by East Orange Police officers, apprehended a man identified as Basir North, 20, of Orange. A search of the suspected car yielded two handguns - one of which had its identification numbers filed off.

Further details of the pursuit and arrest were not immediately available.

North is being held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Center on two counts of possessing a handgun without a permit plus a count each of: Possessing a defaced weapon, Knowingly possessing stolen property (the car), Resisting arrest by fleeing, Resisting arrest by using or threatening force on a law enforcement officer, Aggravated assault of a said officer.

WEST ORANGE - The owners and staff here at The Manor may want to hire a band to play "Auld Lang Syne" when their last customer leaves 111 Prospect Ave. on July 5.

"Auld Lang Syne" was played when Harry Knowles, Jr., Doris Herdman Knowles, their staff and first customers welcomed New Year 1956 at their then Bow and Arrow restaurant on Jan. 1. They have since built it into a noted fine dining and special events venue. Knowles' children and grandchildren, however, announced their institution's closing on Feb. 2.

Those who have scheduled dates for after July 5 are being called to receive their refunds. The Knowles ended regular dining with the March 2020 advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and had reopened for special events only in 2021.

"Operating through the pandemic and then record inflation brought us to a point where the family had to make a hard and abrupt decision," said communication manager Keith Sly. "We were hoping to go for 100 years."

The Knowles, led by Harry Jr., are a three-generation restaurateur family or five if one adds Doris Herdman Knowles' Robin Hood Inn management. They reopened a former Moroccan restaurant as The Bow and Arrow Dec. 31, 1956.

Harry Knowles was half-restaurant owner and half-builder. The World War Two Army Air Force veteran flyer bought the Pleasantdale Chateau, built the Marriott Residence Inn, bought the Robin Hood Inn and revived Essex County's Highlawn Pavilion.

The Manor was the scene of a "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" episode and, at its height, held nine special events Fridays through Sundays. Ronald Reagan, Stevie Wonder and comedian George Burns had visited here. Harry, who died in 2021, and Doris, who died in 2019, had their memorial service here Oct. 18, 2021.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The Dec. 7 fire near Jefferson Village that damaged a
(Continued on page 12)

MOURNING

(Continued from page 1)

William Paterson University in 2011. She persevered to graduate in January 2017 with a bachelor's degree in women's and gender studies with a minor in social justice.

She became a trained Passaic County EMS technician while at WPU. She working as a part-time EMT until Feb. 1.

Dwumfour meanwhile became Director of Churches for Champions Royal Assembly NA, since December 2016. Her membership is with the Abuja-headquartered church's Newark branch at 982 Broad St.

She, on her LinkedIn page, calls herself as "Scrum Major and Business Analyst" for Fire Congress Fellowship on December 2016.

The fellowship is a house of worship in Sayreville's Parlin section, not far from her Camelot at La Mer condominium townhouse. A Scrum Major, according to scrum.org, is a team leader shepherding peers in problem solving.

Her work experience includes being an IT business analyst for Telesis' headquarters, McLean, Va., October 2015-December 2016.

Dwumfour, after moving to the Middlesex County borough of 45,000, soon joined the Sayreville Human Rights Commission. The panel focuses on diversity issues and bias incidents on the Raritan River south shore town.

She was encouraged by veteran Republican candidate Christian Onuoha to run for borough council in 2021. She ran as an advocate for "residents and first resources needed to thrive." and improve Sayreville's economic growth, roads and infrastructure."

A majority of participating Sayreville voters narrowly favored Dwumfour and Onuoha over their Democratic incumbent opponents Nov. 2, 2021. Both were elected to three-year terms through 2024.

The reorganized Borough Council, on Jan. 3 2022 appointed Onuoha as Council President and Dwumfour as Public Safety Committee Chairwoman. Dwumfour was also made Council Liaison to the Human Relations Committee and Board of Health and as member of the Public Works and Recreation committees.

InsiderNJ.com, on Feb. 24, gave Dwumfour an honorable mention in their "African American Power List in Honor of Black History Month."

Dwumfour and Akwue had their marriage ceremony Nov. 24 at the Champions Royal Assembly, Kubwa Abuja Nigeria Church Gallery. Akwue, on Feb. 3, posted photos of their wed-

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ding day and advanced a greeting ahead of what would have been her 31st birthday on his Facebook page.

"March 4 is your birthday," said Akwue. "Happy glorious birthday in addy my love."

Father Prince told the "Asbury Park Press" Feb. 2 that his daughter had "a traditional marriage" simultaneously in East Orange and Abuja Aug. 6. It was not known as of press time whether Akwue will make his first visit to the United States for her Aug. 8 memorial service in Sayreville.

Dwumfour had driven her Nissan SUV into Camelot at La Mer and onto Samuel Circle at 7:17 p.m. Fellow Human Rights Commission panelist Juan-Nelia Rodriguez said he saw her at a nearby store that morning.

La Mer neighbors' peace would be shattered by the sound of gunshots - accounts range from three to 12 - and a crunching bang mo-

ments later. Some, while calling 911, said they had seen the Nissan after it had run about 100 feet into two parked cars: a Nissan Altima and a Mercedes.

Some of the witnesses and callers said they saw a man run out of La Mer, up a wooded hill, vault a 10-foot-high wall and sprinted some 200 yards onto the Garden State Parkway property. Others, confirmed by a condominium video recording, said she was talking with a man standing outside of her car a moment before the gunfire.

Sayreville Police and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, who promptly arrived, declared Dwumfour dead at 7:20 p.m. The crime scene investigation continued overnight and well into Feb. 2.

Detectives found 14 shell casings on the drive. Authorities combed the area for evi-

(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The End Of Death

I do not know your emotions, but I have a haunting feeling that if you are as I am, you might be saying you are sick and tired of the news of death all about us.

More than ever, you are hoping that the end of the curse of death will come sooner than later. So when I read that there are up to 1.12 million deaths in the United States and 6.85 million worldwide due to Covid, I began some serious contemplation. Added to the above, when I see the record of 11,000 deaths from the earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on January 7, 2023, my heart is filled with grief.

I will not record the deaths from the accidents on the highways, the deaths from guns, the deaths from wars around the world, and the deaths from all of the other named and unnamed conditions stalking the world. Suffice it to say that there is not a family today that I know of that is not acquainted with death.

I have gone to enough funerals

in person, on zoom, and other platforms. I have talked to enough friends who came down with Covid because they attended a funeral. While writing this reflection, a friend of mine, whose husband I prayed with yesterday, is battling in a hospital because she contracted Covid at the last funeral she attended. I am also dealing with members of my family who have a loved one to be buried.

It is amazing how even those who do not want to speak of death are forced to confront death. It's incredible the changes that come about in one's life when one experiences a separation by death. I cannot describe all the feelings, for each one feels death differently, but fear, loneliness, emptiness, the need to swallow, and ambivalence are the most common. Some of us do not know what to say and keep silent. But on the other hand, some people have to say something and will give all kinds of foolish rationalizations.

Interestingly, when I attend a funeral and listen to those seeking to comfort the bereaved, I see how they spew out lousy theology. Some individuals are considered great intellectuals and should be astute in their speech, but they continue to repeat what they hear in the common culture that the dead are not dead; their immortal soul is in heaven somewhere, listening to those talking

about them and how they are giving protection to the family.

In addition, the speakers continue the misinformation that their loved ones will be returning in a dream and, at some time, will speak with those alive. Of course, such pronouncements are contrary to the Biblical idea that "the dead does not know anything and have no reward with the living." (see Ecclesiastes 9:5)

In some parts of the world, the idea is pushed that a person has several life cycles, coming at one point as a person, then depending on their Karma, they will come back as dog or lizard or so on. The ideas on death worldwide are so varied that I do not intend to present them all here. I will stick with the Biblical idea that death is the end of this life and that we are to look forward to a resurrection life in which death will be put to death forever.

The Serpent has been putting together a lot of false theories on death since the beginning of time to prove God wrong from the day that God laid before Adam death as the consequence of disobedience. Here is what God said, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16, 17

NKJV)

In bringing his temptation to Eve, the Serpent said, "You will **not** surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4, 5 NKJV)

When Eve got into a dialogue with the Serpent, the Serpent sought to change what God said about death as the consequence of disobedience. As the curse of death came upon Eve and Adam, they knew that what God said was right. The one who sins will die (cf. Ezekiel 18:20).

Although we might fix the language we use about death, speak the best theory of death as we can and take the Greek philosophy of immortalizing the soul and pretend that it is biblical, all the efforts we might make to sanitize death will not resolve the question of death. Death is death. And we'd better face it. We will grieve about it. We might go to a repass to ease the pain, but nothing will stop the horror of death, except God, who will end it (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:26).

The curse of death will be gone forever, and I rejoice. I love how the Bible states the end of death; "There will be no more death." (Revelation 21:4).

As you read this reflection, I trust it can bring you hope and comfort.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

95-year-old house and had sent its 60-year occupant to a local hospital has later resulted in the said person being charged with burglary and aggravated arson.

Maplewood police and the South Essex Fire Department reports state that they had responded to a fire at 60 Maplewood Ave. at 7:05 a.m. that Wednesday.

The MPD detective's and two-town fire department reports said, after the latter quenching the fires, that they had found a 60-year-old woman "with four apparent stab wounds to the chest" inside and brought her out for hospital treatment. The reports indicated that the house's locks were broken and that four fires were set in as many places about the house.

It was later learned that the woman was the home owner, who lost an eight-year fight

for the property with a Dec. 6 eviction order. Essex County Sheriff's Officers changed the locks. Movers for full owner Effect: Lake LLC, of McLean, Va., with State Superior Court permission, hand began boxing possessions later that Tuesday.

The homeowner discovered the changed locks after the previous 25 hours' psychiatric evaluation. MPD, which had acted on a neighbor's wellness check request, had called for an ambulance. She was in a place where she was unable to prevent the eviction order becoming final - the latest in a series of being blindsided by opponents and/or missing opportunities to sell the house short.

The arson suspect / foreclosure victim moved in with her parents in 1960. The Columbia High School graduate tended to her parents until their deaths in 2000. The house eventually went to her after a three-year pro-bate fight with her sister but had amassed

\$12,809 in unpaid Maplewood property and sewer taxes by 2015.

The township awarded 60 Maplewood Ave.'s tax certificate to Effect Lake in an October 2016 sale. Effect outbid others with by paying a \$92,800 premium and charged 18 percent interest on the homeowner-turned-occupant to up to over \$100,000 in arrears. Effect started foreclosure proceedings in 2019; the woman was meanwhile taking chemotherapy in 2021.

The woman was released, on "home detention," to a South Orange friend's custody since Jan. 14. She faces up to 10 years' state imprisonment if she is found guilty and given maximum sentences. Effect Lake still owns 60 Maplewood Ave.

BLOOMFIELD - Temple Ner Tamid's Shabbat services here Feb. 3-4 were held
(Continued on page 14)

MOURNING (Continued from page 11)

dence, witnesses and for video recordings as far out as the nearby Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School.

"When she missed HRC meetings she would call me and asked that she be put on speaker phone so she could participate," said panelist and La Mer neighbor Mahseh Chitnis. "We'll miss her. I can't believe that something like this can happen in my town."

The investigation is being supported by the N.J. State Police. FBI Newark Office Special Agent James E. Dennehey, during a Feb. 2 news conference about the attempted firebombing of Bloomfield's Temple Ner Tamid said that the office is "involved" in the Sayreville investigation.

Investigators, some of who have said that Dwumfour was "targeted," have been otherwise sparing comment on any suspects, or motive or status of their probe.

SPD and the MCPO, since Feb. 3, have called the public for video tape or recordings, including dashboard camera footage, of Samuel Circle, Ernston Road, Gondek Avenue, Point of Woods Drive and a neighboring con-

dominium tract. They are looking for vehicular and pedestrian movements between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Feb. 1.

Dwumfour's killing prompted Sayreville's Human Rights Commission to cancel their Thursday night meeting.

"The fact that she was taken from us by a despicable criminal act makes this incident all the more horrifying," said Sayreville Mayor Victoria Kilpatrick. "As Mayor, I've worked very closely with Eunice. Beyond her dedication to our community, she was a woman of deep faith and worked hard to integrate her strong Christian beliefs into her daily life as a person and a community leader."

"While the investigation of the tragic death of Eunice Dwumfour continues, I ask anyone with information to immediately call law enforcement," said Lt. Governor and fellow WHS alumna Sheila Y. Oliver, of East Orange. "I join in Sayreville in mourning an aspiring public servant who worked to make a positive difference in her community."

"The tragic killing of Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour in a shooting (Feb. 1) is shocking and horrifying," said U.S. Sen. Cory A. Booker (D-Newark). "Her death is

not just a terrible loss to her family, friends and colleagues but to the Sayreville Community and our state."

Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) ordered all U.S. and N.J. flags be lowered to half-staff or half-mast during Feb. 8. During his Feb. 2 monthly WBGO-WNYC-WHYY radio call in show, the Governor said that he had talked with the Middlesex County Commission Director and the county and Sayreville GOP chairpersons among other longstanding political officials.

"(They) don't recall a sitting elected official of the being shot or killed," said Murphy that Thursday night. "It doesn't appear to be related to her position as an elected councilwoman in Sayreville; please, God, it doesn't."

Dwumfour's vigil or memorial service was scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Feb. 8 at Sayreville's Epic Church International.

Anyone who has the above said video recordings and/or other information are to send it to: Sayreville Police Det. Rebecca Morales (732) 727-4444 and/or CIBevidence@sayreville.org. Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office Det. Michelle Coppola (732) 745-3477.

WORLD NEWS (Cont. from page 6)

son to kill our people and our children, savage killers, rapists and violent criminals are being released from jail to continue their crime wave...

"Biden and the radical Democrats have wasted trillions of dollars and caused the worst inflation in half a century. Real wages are down 21 months in a row. Gas prices have soared, and are now going up much higher than even before and the typical American family is paying \$2,200 in increased energy and food costs each year."

During the video, Trump also accused Biden of "weaponizing" the Justice Department to get him.

SYRIA BLAMED FOR GAS ATTACK

MIDDLE EAST

A new report released by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) finds "reasonable grounds" exist to believe the Syrian Government was responsible for a chemical weapons attack that killed 43 civilians in the suburban town of Douma in 2018, the organization's senior official told the Security Council on Feb. 7.

Fernando Arias, Director-

General of the UN-backed OPCW, said the findings are laid out in the third report of an Investigation and Identification Team tasked with ascertaining the perpetrators of specific instances of chemical weapons use in Syria.

According to the report, he said, there is evidence that, on April 7, 2018, at least one Syrian air force helicopter - operating under the control of the Government's "Tiger Forces" - departed Dumayr airbase and dropped two yellow chlorine cylinders, hitting two residential buildings.

Mr. Arias appeared via videolink, alongside Santiago Oñate Laborde, head of the Investigation and Identification Team, whose presence - and the credibility of the team he leads - is the subject of strong objections by several Council members.

Recounting the events that likely took place on April 7 2018, Mr. Arias said the helicopter left the airbase between 19:10 and 19:40 local time, and dropped the chlorine gas cylinders soon after.

Some individuals in the residential buildings sought refuge in the basement, thinking that location would offer better protection from the conventional air strikes that were occurring at the time.

Others were aware of the chemical's presence and, know-

ing it was heavier than air, moved to higher floors of the building to try to find safety.

However, said the Director-General, both the basement - where the gas expanded - and the upper floors, where the cylinder was releasing gas in high concentration, "were lethal places to stay."

Mr. Arias noted that the new report elaborates on the conclusions reached by an OPCW fact-finding mission in 2019, namely that high concentrations of chlorine gas were the source of the tragedy in Douma.

The Investigation and Identification Team took over that work and conducted its own research between January 2021 and December 2022.

Beyond the Douma incident, it has identified the Syrian armed forces as the perpetrators of several other chemical weapons attacks.

"The evidence collected and analyzed not only validated and corroborated (the fact-finding mission's) conclusions, it also refuted all other alleged scenarios," said the Director-General.

Recalling that every report produced by the OPCW follows the highest standards and best practices used by international investigative bodies to reach solid conclusions, Mr. Arias said that the Team's conclusions were

based on analysis of diverse, numerous pieces of evidence.

That includes witness testimony, medical records, chemical and ballistic studies, foreign expertise, computer modelling, satellite imagery and photography, among other sources.

Also briefing the Council was Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, who commended the OPCW for its professional and impartial efforts to uphold the global norm against the use of chemical weapons.

She said the organization's efforts to clarify outstanding issues on Syria's initial and subsequent declarations on its chemical weapons program - first requested in 2013, when the Council mandated its complete elimination - have once again not progressed since her last briefing, in January.

In response to the stalemate, OPCW recently deployed a "reduced" team to conduct "limited in-country activities" in Syria.

"There is an urgent need to not only identify, but to hold accountable, all those who would dare to use chemical weapons in violation of international law," she stressed, describing any such actions as unacceptable and the absence of accountability as a "danger to us all."

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

COWGIRLS & HOODBOYZ



Cow Girl Pam Of Crazy Faith Riders NJ
Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

Howdy, guess what? She wasn't horsing around when mentioning his unique personality and sometimes funky attitude. So I dubbed this short Cowgirls & Hoodboyz because, seemingly, Tobias is just that, a straight-up Hoodboy.

She says that he rolls his

eyes at her often when he doesn't want to be bothered or he just ain't feelin' it, whatever it is, lol. Cowgirl Pam said that Bruh even bumps her to get his point across; now imagine that. I will go into my archives again to see if I was lucky enough to have captured that head tilt and those rolling eyes, trust me...

COWGIRL PAM

Cowgirl: (Especially in the Western US) a woman who herds and tends cattle, performing much of her work on horseback.

Cow Slang; To "cowboy" or "cowgirl up," you have to take a stand. You have to be strong, courageous and willing to make sacrifices. You have to face down danger, stress, and quite possibly surly in-laws with grace.

Pam: Tobias was five years old when I got him, so that means that he's around seventeen years old now. February 1, 2013 is on the bill of sales in black and white, so we've been together for quite some time. Tobias was a rescue animal, so when I got him, he was head shy, meaning he didn't want anybody touching his head. If you were to try to touch or pet him, he would put his head high into the air so you couldn't. I spoke to his owner at the time, and she mentioned his previously being beaten by the original owner. Now you can imagine how it was putting his bit into his mouth. It took a



while to establish trust. When you're working with horses, it's all about pressure and release, so if you put them in a corner, that's pressure, so you'd have to give some relief. Because I'm in his area, I'd respect his space, talk to him and not force the issue. Do things gradually to get the necessary outcome.

Tobias has a heck of a personality, and he has a very strong opinion. Sometimes he will try to challenge stuff if he doesn't feel like doing it. You can tell how he's feeling because his eyes will tell you. Yep, he'll roll his eyes and give you the look. For instance, this weekend, he pushed my cousin. My cousin had just finished taking the saddle off his horse and, when walking through to, put the saddle into the trailer. Tobias wasn't

prepared for his entering that space, so as He walked by or what he was doing, so he pushed him. My cousin says, "excuse me, am I in your way?"

Pushing him means he pushed him with his head. When he does that, you're going to move, or you're going to stumble if you're not prepared for it. You have to know your horse. If something were to happen because of your unawareness or being unprepared, you'd likely be asked, "Why didn't you listen to your horse?" ...

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

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

with more than the usual Friday night and Saturday morning security and volume of worshipers.

Rabbi Marc Katz, temple leaders and families have been receiving an outpouring of support and solidarity in the wake of an attempted Jan. 29 arson by a lone Molotov cocktail hurler.

That igniter and hurler - identified as Nicholas Malindretos, 26, of Clifton - has been held without bail since his Feb. 1 arrest. Malindretos was formally charged with one count of attempted use of fire to damage or destroy a building used in interstate commerce before a U.S.

Federal Judge in Newark Feb. 2.

FBI-Newark office agents had arrested Malindretos in the basement apartment of a friend's building by 4 p.m. that Wednesday. Authorities had identified the black Volkswagen, whose license plate was read at Watchung Avenue and Broad Street before and after the 3:19 a.m. attack, and one parked on a Clifton street as the same vehicle. Another street surveillance camera's recording of a man parking and leaving the VW as the same as the one hurling the firebomb.

An executed search warrant found a black hooded sweatshirt and white gloves in the car. A second search warrant on the apartment found gasoline, wicks

- and a 10-mile radius map marking TNT and other police and governmental buildings as potential targets.

A law enforcement spokesman said that Malindretos has no felony record. He does face an up to 20 year federal prison sentence and a \$250,000 fine.

TNT held an interfaith "Rally Against Hate" late Feb. 2 that drew an overflow audience of 1,000 people. Temple officials had lunch with Bloomfield police officers at the latter's headquarters that same Thursday.

MONTCLAIR - Montclair Fire Department Chief John Hermann has asked the Township Council

- again - that he can use 13 more firefighters.

Hermann, during his part of the Jan. 24 department budget hearings, asked that his squad's budget be increased by 17 percent. The budget increase, for Fiscal Year 2023-24, would allow the chief to hire "13 firefighters, a training officer and an office worker."

The additional 15 people would bring MFD's uniform and civilian roster to 91 - which was its staffing level before March 2020, when the global COVID-19 pandemic struck here.

"We've been consistent in our request for staffing for years," said Hermann to the

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TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

Township Council Budget Committee. The committee is to forward a budget draft for a final public hearing and full council approval before July 1.

Hermann's request, added Montclair CFO Padmaja Rao, would add \$1.7 million to its current \$10.1 million budget. Much of that increase, she said, would go into pension and health benefits.

The chief's proposal was the largest among the department heads' requests during that Tuesday night hearings.

GLEN RIDGE - An overcapacity Glen Ridge Congregational Church sanctuary of mourners came here Jan. 23 to pay last respects to Nathan Everest Latifi.

Several rows of folding chairs were added to the fixed pews. TNT Rabbi Marc Katz and Montclair's First Evangelical Lutheran Church Rev. Margarette Oujj helped GRCC Pastor Jeff Mansfield in the officiating.

It is not known whether the three injured borough teenagers who had survived the Jan. 16 car crash that killed Latifi attended. The 16-year-old Glen Ridge High School soccer player had died after the car they were in struck a light pole and a tree along Bloomfield's Brookdale Park West Circuit Drive.

Members of the GRHS boys soccer team, during the service, formed a line by holding each others' shoulders - as they normally do on the field.

Parents Jon and Tina and sisters Fiona and Mia are among his survivors. A makeshift memorial remains at the crash site.

Memorial donations may be made to the Nathan-LatifiScholarshipFund https://venmo.com/code?user_id=3115568999694336105.

BELLEVILLE - Township elders' pending decision on authorizing Belleville Recreation to charge for at least some of its offerings may bring the free recreational program era to an end in at least "Local Talk Land."

Mayor Michael Melham, Town Manager Anthony Iacono, Recreation Director Tom Agosta and the Township Council began considering a fee schedule for at least some of its youth sports programs at their Jan. 24 council meeting.

Iacono and Agosta, that Tuesday night, presented a survey of neighboring municipal recreation programs. They had found that practically all charge for some of their sports, cultural, facility rental, transportation, day camp and/or pool membership offerings.

Some town recs - including East Or-

ange, Montclair, Nutley, South Orange and West Orange - use a Community Pass system for access. Some others, including Maplewood and South Orange have an assistance plan for the financially challenged - a feature that Agosta, Iacono and Melham want to include.

A fee structure, which may start at a base \$25 per child, would help Belleville Recreation in maintaining equipment used in football and more "expensive" sports. Agosta added that Belleville Recreation would become a stronger feeder for Belleville High School's programs.

Iacono used the council's honoring Elijah Franklin and Anthony Lopez, Jr. earlier that meeting, for their parts in Newark's Brick City Lions 12U football team, to underscore his point. The BC Lions recently won the American Youth National Championship in Orlando, Fla.

"The two young residents we honored tonight," said the town manager, "left their hometown to play for another team."

NUTLEY - The Nutley Free Public Library has begun a countdown towards its Feb. 27 temporary closing for four weeks' construction.

NFPL Director Michelle Albert told "Local Talk" Feb. 6 that the month-long work includes roof and drywall repairs to the 1914 original building and its 1942 and 1990 additions - and replacing the entire structure's HVAC system. The HVAC work is covered by a \$568,230 N.J. Library Construction Bond grant.

Feb. 11, for example, is the last day for patrons to request Bergen County Cooperative Library System interlibrary loan materials for in-person pickup at NFPL. Local Talk's Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Maplewood, Montclair and West Orange libraries are BCCLS members.

Feb. 13-25 is when in-house, NFPL materials can be borrowed. Interlibrary hold requests may also be made with the other 76 participating BCCLS libraries during those 14 days. may be delivered and/or picked up at the BCCLS libraries.

From Feb. 27 until reopening, hold requests may be delivered and/or picked up at the above said libraries. Materials may be returned in the NFPL dropbox at the building's northeast corner or at the other BCCLS libraries. (Dropbox materials will be processed in a timely manner.)

Nutley library card holders are asked to set up a password or PIN number now for 24/7 access to NPL digital collections before Feb. 27. Library staff will be available at the usual "open" hours to answer emailed or phoned-in questions.

Details may be found at nutleypubliclibrary.org, library@nutleynj.org and/or (973) 667-0405 ext. 2604.

HEALTH CORNER

(Continued from page 4)

severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, Listeria infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

Products have been distributed in Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. Recalled Products were sold in retail locations, vending machines, and during travel with transportation providers.

The products include sandwiches, salads, snacks, yogurt, wraps and related products.

All recalled products have a Fresh Creative Cuisine label and/or identifier on the bottom of the label with the Fresh Creative Cuisine name and a fresh through or sell through date ranging from January 31, 2023 through February 6, 2023.

The recall was initiated after the company's environmental samples tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes. No illnesses have been reported to date.

Consumers who have purchased the products are urged to contact the company, Fresh Ideation Food Group LLC, at 855-969-3338, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm EST.

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