

LOCAL TALK

NEWARK • IRVINGTON • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • WEST ORANGE • SOUTH ORANGE • MAPLEWOOD • BLOOMFIELD • MONTCLAIR & MORE

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 18 * MARCH 9 - MARCH 15, 2023

25¢

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

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

Phone: 973-622-1111 • www.localtalkweekly.com

E-mail - Newspaper: localtalk@aol.com * Printing: localtalkprinting@gmail.com



HONORING THE WOMEN OF GREATER NEWARK CITY OF NEWARK

An audience of women listen to panelists.
Photos By Dhiren Shah



PAGE 13

"CATFISHED" BY FAKE STATE



By Walter Elliott

AN EMOTIONAL FAREWELL TO A BELOVED MOTHER, SISTER, DAUGHTER, AND FRIEND

The family of Newark native and Sayreville councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour spoke at her funeral.
Photos By Thomas Ellis II



PAGE 13

NEWARK - New Jersey's largest city, for six days this winter, had a sister cities agreement with "The United States of ShriKailasa."

Mayor Ras Baraka, in a Municipal Council Chamber ceremony with Council President Luis Quintana and a USK representative present, signed the cultural exchange agreement on Jan. 12.

ShriKailasa was Newark's 16th and latest sister city - until Baraka, on Jan. 18, revoked the agreement.

"As soon as we learned about the circumstances surrounding Kailasa, the City of Newark immediately took action and rescinded the sister-city agreement on Jan. 18," said Mayor Baraka spokeswoman Susan Garafolo to the Indian IANS news outlet March 1. "Based on the deception, the (Jan. 12) ceremony was groundless and void."

News of the brief Newark-USK agreement began circulating in several Asian and Indian news

(Continued on page 11)



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group
THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES

60 Evergreen Place, Suite 400, East Orange, NJ

Offering Same Day
Appointments for
**All Specialties and
DOT Exams**

Turn
To
**PAGE
16**



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The U.S. economy is getting into trouble. Even after raising the federal interest rates, inflation is not going down to 2% or 3%. So at the next federal meeting on March 21 & 22, it seems like the Federal Reserve will impose another rate hike, maybe only .25 percent. Inflation on February 23 was about 6.4%, which is very high. Also, the unemployment rate is not high enough after the previous rate hikes. The rate hike might bring a recession as well. It is a very delicate situation for the Federal Reserve, and I don't think they have a clue how to solve this problem!

The issues with the economy is affected by the open southern borders as well. In Year 2020 (October thru September 2020) under the Trump administration, there were 458,088 people apprehended. In 2021 (October thru September 2021) there were 1,734,686, and in 2022 (October thru September 2022) there were 2,378,944 apprehended. These figures are from previous years October 2021 to January 2023, in four months 874,449 people were apprehended. They do not have figures for the people who already entered the U.S. However, more and more illegal immigrants will arrive here, and we are paying for their food, clothes, living space, some of their own expenses, bus passes and sundry expenses. They will compete with legal employees, as they will accept under the table employment.

Swami Nithyananda is a fugitive who ran away from India. He was charged and arrested in April 2010 in a rape case. How-

ever, he was released on bail in June of the same year. The case has been going on a long time. For not appearing in court, his bail was revoked, and a warrant was issued. His spokesperson said that he is in a spiritual tour. He made a city near Trinidad called Kailasa. He claims Kailasa as a Hindu country which issues their own passports. Swami Nithyananda is also facing charges for making children prisoners. Kailasa is named after the Himalaya Mountain range of Kailash which is in Tibet at 21,778 ft high.

Newark, NJ made a contract with Kailasa as their sister city. Press Secretary Susan Garofalo did not reply to Local Talk's request for information. However, we have not received a press release from the city on the matter. The City seems to have a political agenda in my opinion. "Local Talk" asked if there was any transaction of money in this contract. Again, the City has not answered us yet.

Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson interviewed police officer Tarik Johnson and it came out that the January 6 Committee (intentionally) avoided some footage and instead, concentrated only on trying to get Donald Trump. They constantly say it was an insurrection, but it was not a coup. Yes, it was one of the worst scenes in American history, but it was only a protest that turned into a riot. No insurrection would feature a man walking around with horns smiling and happy to be in the building, nor would it end in a matter of hours - after Trump told them to go home.

President Biden has announced that he would place more tax on wealthy Americans to extend Medicare in his 2024 budget. It is a good move, and if approved, it will extend the program for another 25 years, per Biden.

*Have a wonderful week.
 I'll talk to you next week.*

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

- Publisher & Editor-in-chief : Dhiren Shah
- Editors : Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah
- Journalists / Writers : Kristopher Seals | Walter Elliott | Bro. Thomas Ellis | Dhiren Shah | William Hathaway Jr.
 Dr. Daniel Louis | Ahmed Screven, Esq. | Anuj Shah | Lev Zilbermints | Kinjal Shah | Asha Shah | Akshat Shah, MD | Ivy Mahabir | Kalindi Bhatt | Dr. Robert Kennedy
- Photographers : Dhiren Shah | Kristopher Seals | Thomas Ellis II | D. Adams, Jr.
- Distributors : Larry Wright | Walter Elliott | Fred Simpson
- Newspaper Designer : New Image Art Studio
- Web : www.localtalkweekly.com

Ask for our advertising rates and increase your business and get exposure to tens of thousands of readers every week. email your request to localtalknews@gmail.com or call 973-622-1111.

Subscribe to **LOCAL TALK** weekly newspaper
\$60 for one (1) year

Send your name, address and check or money order to:
**Local Talk Weekly Newspaper • 1576 Springfield Avenue
 Maplewood, NJ 07040 • Tel: 973-622-1111**

To serve you in the best manner, we request that you send your comments, community calendar events, news and other information and queries related to advertisements to the editor on e-mail : localtalknews@gmail.com

LOCAL TALK POLICIES

- We reserve the right to accept or reject any news item, article or advertising, which is not in accordance with Local Talk's Statement of Purpose. We further reserve the right to edit, correct and modify all copy submitted. Letters, articles, and news events are welcomed; but Local Talk will not assume any responsibility for them.
- We regret that the volume of mail and pressure of deadlines precludes sending acknowledgements of receipt; nor can advance notice be given if articles are accepted or rejected for publication.
- Unused materials may be used at a later date (if not date sensitive) and therefore, they cannot be returned.
- The printing of articles or advertising in Local Talk does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement by the editorial staff of Local Talk.
- This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error.
- We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Partly Cloudy / Windy	PM Rain	AM Wintry Mix	Partly Cloudy	Evening Mix likely	Rain continuing	Windy
HI 51	HI 44	HI 45	HI 49	HI 45	HI 43	HI 39
LO 31	LO 35	LO 30	LO 38	LO 35	LO 28	LO 29

TRANSFER YOUR PRESCRIPTION HERE!



358 Main Street
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-266-9900
mikespharmacyllc@gmail.com



353 Main Street
Orange, NJ 07050
973-266-1002
orangerxpharmacy@gmail.com



13 William Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973-500-3660
newarkrxpharmacy@gmail.com



F/DESIGN SOLUTIONS · 862-448-9307

24H Covid-19 Testing
OTC Cards accepted
Blister Pack available

Free Delivery

NJ Lottery

Money Transfer

Western Union & RIA Money Transfer

Bill Payments

UPS Access Point

Fax, Print & Copy

SCAN & SAVE OUR
INFORMATION



WE ACCEPT WALK-INS! APPOINTMENT NOT REQUIRED!

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR HEALTH INSURANCE.





New Jersey Health Department Initiative Targets Overdose Hotspots

TRENTON - In response to growing racial disparities in overdose deaths, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is launching a new overdose hotspot outreach initiative, prioritizing areas of the state with high disparities and high rates of overdose among Black residents.

“While no corner of our state has been spared the devastating impact of the opioid overdose crisis, we know that this crisis is having a disproportionate impact on Black and brown communities right now,” said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. “This administration has championed a harm reduction approach to end-

ing the opioid overdose crisis. Getting these critical tools into hardest hit areas will save lives.”

NJDOH analyzed EMS and law enforcement naloxone incident data to identify specific locations where suspected overdoses most frequently occur. The analysis revealed four key location types: transportation centers, correctional facilities, hotel/motels, and apartment complexes.

The Department identified over 30 locations where there were nine or more suspected overdoses consistently from 2019-2022 and is prioritizing locations for outreach where racial disparities in overdoses are the highest. The counties with the highest rates of overdose deaths among Black residents are Passaic, Camden, Atlantic, Monmouth and Essex counties.

In partnership with local community organizations, NJDOH is distributing naloxone, fentanyl test strip kits, hygiene kits and other material resources for individuals at risk of overdose. Health educators and peers will provide engagement opportunities to people at risk of an overdose to connect them to

harm reduction and treatment resources. In addition, NJDOH is providing hotspot locations (such as train stations, motels) with naloxone education and offering naloxone kits for establishments to store for bystander use in the event of an overdose.

While New Jersey overdose deaths have remained flat during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to rising rates in other states, racial and ethnic disparities in deaths have increased. Black (non-Hispanic) residents currently have the highest rate of overdose deaths among all racial/ethnic groups in New Jersey.

Among Black (non-Hispanic) residents, the rate of overdose deaths rose from 54.6 per 100,000 persons in 2020 to 65.9 per 100,000 persons in 2021. Among Hispanic residents, the rate rose from 24.6 per 100,000 to 25.9 per 100,000. In contrast, the rate of overdose deaths among White (non-Hispanic) residents decreased from 37.7 per 100,000 to 34.9 per 100,000.

The outreach initiative is supported by approximately \$200,000 as part of a four-year \$27.9 million grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the department that supports comprehensive prevention and surveillance strategies to address overdose in New Jersey, including providing resources to communities.

The program will run March through August 2023. Organizations interested in receiving supplies or learning more can contact Outreach Coordinator Mariah Smith at mariah.smith@doh.nj.gov.

This initiative builds on ongoing Murphy Administration efforts to increase the accessibility of life-saving naloxone, including Naloxone365, which will provide free, anonymous, direct-to-consumer access at pharmacies. In July, the state Department of Human Services launched a Naloxone Distribution Program in partnership with NJDOH and the Office of the Attorney General, which allows eligible agencies the opportunity to request direct shipments of naloxone online anytime they need it.

In a related effort, NJDOH is also supporting increased capacity for mail-based naloxone dis-

tribution and statewide fentanyl test strip distribution to community-based outreach groups, local health departments, treatment centers, and other community-based partners that engage people who use drugs.

FDA Proposes New Requirements for Tobacco Product Manufacturing Practices

FDA - On March 8, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is proposing new requirements for tobacco product manufacturers regarding the manufacture, design, packing and storage of their products. These proposed requirements would help protect public health by, among other things, minimizing or preventing contamination and limiting additional risks by ensuring product consistency.

“While no tobacco product is safe, this proposed rule is intended to minimize or prevent additional risks associated with these products,” said Brian King, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products. “Once finalized, it would establish requirements for tobacco product manufacturers that will help protect public health.”

These proposed new requirements would help ensure that the public health is protected and products comply with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. For example, these requirements would help minimize or prevent the manufacture and distribution of tobacco products contaminated with foreign substances - such as metal, glass, and plastics - which have been found in tobacco products. The proposed rule would also help address issues related to inconsistencies between e-liquid product labeling and the actual concentrations in e-liquids; such variability can be misleading to consumers, potentially intensifying addiction and exposure to toxins.

The proposed rule would also establish several requirements related to the identification, tracing and corrective actions for tobacco products that don’t meet specifications or are contaminated, including for tobacco products that have already been distributed. In the event of an issue,

(Continued on page 5)

Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



We Save the Limbs that Others Can't.

DON'T WAIT.

These symptoms may mean serious problems:

Leg or Foot Pain • Gangrene • Non-Healing Wounds
Leg Cramping • Skin Discoloration

Prompt treatment is essential to preserving your long-term health and quality of life.

CALL TODAY: 833.PAD.EXPERT (723.3973)



John Rundback, MD



Endovascular & Amputation Prevention
Affiliated with American Endovascular

americanendovascular.com



Kevin Herman, MD

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052

SPORTS WRAP



Newark Tech fell just short of a big win in Piscataway.
Photos By Felicia Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend saw the New Jersey high school basketball group finals. First, Newark Tech played strong throughout, but lost a tough game to Woodbury 70-62, in a game that was marred by some questionable calls from the officials. Fresh-

son for the Lady Phoenix, who rolled to their second straight North II Group I championship. Destiny Bynum-Johnson had UHS 9 points and 12 rebounds, Paradise Fisher added 13 points and 6 rebounds, and Morgan Marshall did the same. This game was played at the RWJ Barnabas Health Arena.



men Tyshawn Boyd scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and Marc Brown who had 4 steals for the 22-7 Tech team. The game was played at Jersey Mike's Arena in Piscataway.

On the other side, Newark's University High girls succeeded in winning another championship, taking down Shore 57-47. The game was far more competitive than any other this postsea-

In the NFL, the NY Giants caved in and gave QB Daniel Jones a 4-year, \$160 million to remain with the team, while placing the franchise tag on RB Saquon Barkley, which will cost them just over \$10 million for one year. Meanwhile, the NY Jets failed in their quest to get QB Derek Carr, who landed with the New Orleans Saints on a 4-year, \$140 million deal.



STOP SUFFERING
from debilitating fibroid symptoms

WE CAN HELP!

There is a medically safe non-surgical alternative to hysterectomy:

UTERINE FIBROID EMBOLIZATION (UFE)

Reduces the Size and Symptoms of Fibroids
Minimally Invasive Procedure
Fully Equipped Outpatient Center—NO Hospital Stay
Fewer Complications and Quicker Recovery

CALL OUR EXPERTS TODAY!

833.UFE.EXPERT (833.833.3973)

John Rundback, MD  American Fibroid Centers Kevin Herman, MD
Affiliated with American Endovascular
fibroidexpert.com

**Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052**

HEALTH CORNER

(Continued from page 4)

these requirements would require manufacturers to take corrective actions, which may include conducting a recall.

These proposed requirements apply to manufacturers of finished and bulk tobacco products. As laid out in the proposed rule, a finished tobacco product is a tobacco product, including any component or part, sealed in final packaging; for example, a pack of cigarettes or a can of moist snuff. A bulk tobacco product is a tobacco product that isn't sealed in final packaging, but is otherwise suitable for consumer use.

The proposed rule establishes a framework for manufacturers to adhere to, including:

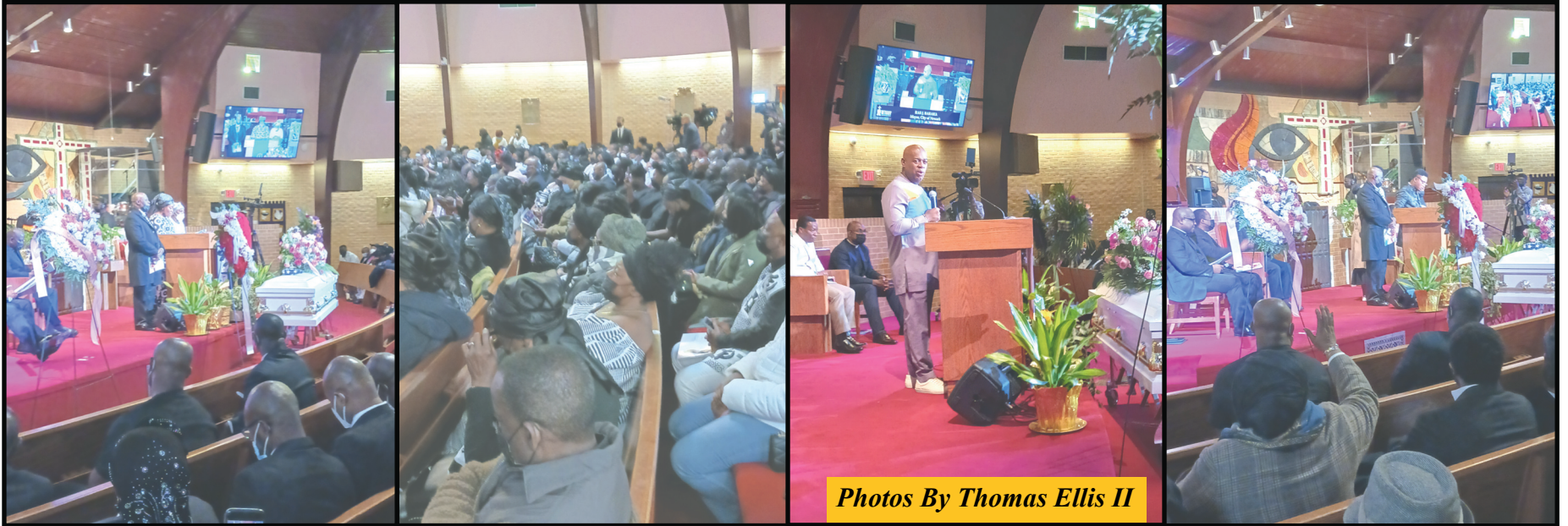
- Establishing tobacco product design and development controls
- Ensuring that finished and bulk tobacco products are manufactured according to established specifications
- Minimizing the manufacture and distribution of tobacco

products that don't meet specifications

- Requiring manufacturers to take appropriate measures to prevent contamination of tobacco products
- Requiring investigation and identification of products that don't meet specifications to institute appropriate corrective actions, such as a recall
- Establishing the ability to trace all components or parts, ingredients, additives and materials, as well as each batch of finished or bulk tobacco product, to aid in investigations of those that don't meet specifications.

The FDA will hold a public oral hearing on April 12 to gather additional comments from stakeholders, including industry, the scientific community, advocacy groups, and the public. The proposed rule also will be available for public comment for 180 days. The agency will review all comments as part of the rule-making process for this foundational rule.

AN EMOTIONAL FAREWELL TO A BELOVED MOTHER, SISTER, DAUGHTER, AND FRIEND



By Thomas Ellis II

On March 4, a funeral was held for slain Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice K. Dwumfour at Bethany Baptist Church. Dwumfour was a native of Newark, who was gunned down while sitting in her car in front of her Sayreville home. She was the first African American woman elected to that city's council.

There were so many family members, friends, dignitaries and clergy on hand, hailing from all over: Ghana, Nigeria, California, New York City, and more. Among those in attendance were former Essex County College President A. Zachary Yamba, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, and Newark councilmembers LaMonica McIver, Pat Council, and Louise Rountree, who presented a proclamation from the city to Dwumfour's family. There were songs, words of encourage-

ment, and hugs by many.

Brother Elijah Dwumfour and other family members read her obituary. Her younger sister spoke about how much she admired her big sister, how much she meant to her life, and how much she would be missed dearly. When she performed the song, "When We Go to Heaven," there was not a dry eye in the building.

When her mother Mary and father Prince Dwumfour came to the podium, emotions were already high. People were sobbing and wiping their eyes. A lot of tears were shed at this funeral.

Her 12-year-old daughter Nicole spoke, and said how much she loved her mother and looked up to her. She told everyone how proud she was to be her child, and how her death left a void in her heart, but she would remember her forever.

Eunice's husband Eze gave a moving

speech, and talked about their wedding, family, and her accomplishments as a mother. He said that he was still in shock over the whole thing.

Mayor Baraka gave some encouraging words to the family, friends, and community.

"Be an upliftment not only to yourself, but an upliftment to the community. You have an angel watching over you now," said Baraka.

When the casket was taken out, there were more tears as it was loaded into the Hearst leaving the church.

It's really sad when we lose someone with a great future to gun violence. Eunice K. Dwumfour was just 30 years old. There was one detail that made the occasion even sadder than usual, as the funeral was held on what would have been her 31st birthday.

NEWARK MAN CHARGED WITH STEALING FEDERAL BENEFITS MEANT FOR MISSING GIRLFRIEND'S DISABLED SON

NEWARK - An Essex County man was charged with embezzling federal benefits meant for the disabled child of his former girlfriend shortly after she went missing, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Asmar Earp, 37, of Newark, is charged by indictment with two counts of wire fraud and two counts of aggravated identity theft. He appeared March 3 before U.S. Magistrate Judge James B. Clark III and was detained.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Earp was in a romantic relationship and shared a house with a woman in Newark.

Through a program administered by the Social Security Administration, the woman received monthly payments on behalf of her disabled minor son, who was not capable of managing these benefits on his own.

On Dec. 24, 2017, the woman went missing and her whereabouts remain unknown. Six days after her disappearance, Earp fraudulently gained control of the victim's benefits by changing the PIN code on the debit card used to access those funds.

In March and April 2018, Earp also fraudulently used the woman's name, date of birth, and Social Security number to receive a replacement debit card

to continue accessing and using the victim's benefits. From December 2017 through February 2020, Earp and others acting at his direction repeatedly and fraudulently took the money intended to help the victim.

Each count of wire fraud is punishable by a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine. Each count of aggravated identity theft is punishable by a sentence of two years in prison, at least one of which must be served consecutive to any other term imposed, and a maximum of \$250,000.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the Social

Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Boston New York Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent-in-Charge Sharon MacDermott, and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II, with the investigation leading to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica R. Ecker of the General Crimes Unit in Newark.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

EST...1996

Message For You

Greetings, Greetings everyone, and back with you. Today, let's empower ourselves, be motivated and continue to strive for the best and do the best you can ... be yourself, do your own thing. Believe in your hard work and it shall come. Follow your dreams on the way. You just never know what might be waiting or in store for your future. Remember we will go through trials in life but overcoming them is the purpose and lesson. Don't forget and don't give up.

Our society, the high cost of living, lack of jobs, times are hard for the majority of us folks. We are just barely making it to survive. Several homes, like the project homes and affordable housing, those buildings are getting knocked down and replaced with properties that we cannot afford, which means we have to move out to where we can afford it.

People have been living in their communities for years and

now are being forced out. Certain areas we are being placed in aren't even safe. but for those of us who can't afford that type of high living, we are relocated to instability.

When it comes to certain jobs, you work, and it still does not pay off. Some jobs just don't cut it enough, or either you work and work, all of it completed, just to find there has been complications with your pay after you completed your part and duty. Now, the money is not adding up. There has been a setback or delay and bills are adding up, and you cannot manage your business due to a financial situation.

Times are hard, and working two or three jobs just to get by is unfair. We as people should not have to work that hard to make ends meet if jobs did what they are supposed to. Finding a good job and good living is the same hard work for me. You have to keep pushing until you are comfortable and settle with your outcome.



P.S. Focus and take time out to gather your priorities. It is important in life. Till next time, peace and love. ...

ADVERTORIAL

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ▶ Stop Bank Levies!
- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ▶ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ▶ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ▶ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
- ▶ Restore Driving Privileges
- ▶ Prevent Auto Repossessions
- ▶ ELIMINATE Credit Card & Medical Debt.



FOR FREE CONSULTATION:

Call

DAVID WITHERSPOON

Attorney-at-Law

10 Hill St. (Suite 20Y) • Newark, NJ 07102

973-342-6653

973-489-9005

LOW RATES: ONE PHONE CALL MAY REDUCE YOUR STRESS!

David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency. A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	3-1-2023	Deaths	3-8-2023	Deaths
Belleville	14,115	164	14,124	164
Bloomfield	15,868	176	15,893	178
Caldwell	2,135	20	2,138	20
Cedar Grove	5,044	145	5,048	145
City of Orange	9,947	178	9,947	179
East Orange	21,676	408	21,699	409
Essex Fells	632	2	635	2
Fairfield	2,566	44	2,574	44
Glen Ridge	1,673	20	1,675	20
Irvington	14,738	288	14,780	288
Livingston	8,741	115	8,748	115
Maplewood	6,808	53	6,819	53
Millburn	4,770	18	4,776	18
Montclair	9,282	93	9,297	93
Newark	98,255	1,300	98,355	1,301
North Caldwell	1,873	10	1,877	10
Nutley	8,500	91	8,514	91
Roseland	1,817	27	1,820	27
South Orange	4,551	25	4,558	25
Verona	4,329	26	4,339	26
West Caldwell	3,339	68	3,339	68
West Orange	17,154	282	17,173	282
Total	258,512	3,553	258,850	3,558

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of March 8, 2023)

NJ: 2,549,264 cases / 32,894 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)
United States (approx.): 103.733 Million / 1.123 Million deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 676.351 Million / 6.879 Million deaths

BE YOURSELF
ACCEPT YOURSELF
VALUE YOURSELF
FORGIVE YOURSELF
BLESS YOURSELF
EXPRESS YOURSELF
TRUST YOURSELF
LOVE YOURSELF

LOCAL TALK

PRE-SPRING SPECIAL

A Perfect, Promotional Signage Solution

\$159 Regular \$279

Boost Your Sales Now

Both Sides....Full Color
Basic Artwork Included
18"x24"



Expires 04-05-23

FREE 1000 BUSINESS CARDS

With
Another Order of
1000 Business Cards ... for you
or your friend or your colleagues

Must mention at time of ordering Expires 04-05-23
Must present at the time of ordering * Cannot Combine with other discounts

\$89

Regular \$129

VINYL BANNER

6'x3' or 5'x4'

Includes BASIC SETUP
FULL COLOR * ONE SIDED
3-5 Bus. Days Delivery

\$89 plus applicable Sales tax Expires 04-05-23
Must present at the time of ordering * Cannot Combine with other discounts

PRINTING

- Business Cards
- Letterheads
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Calendars
- Bookmarks
- Flyers
- Door Hangers
- Greeting Cards
- Labels
- Postcards
- Posters
- Table Tents
- Complete Printing

PRINTING

- NCR forms
(2 parts / 3 parts)
- 2/3 Part Booklets
- TICKETS
(with stub)
(Numbered)
- LARGE FORMAT**
- Acrylic Signs
- Vinyl Banners
- Display with Banner
- X-Frame + Banner
- Aluminum Boards
- Dye Sublimation
- YARD SIGN
- Window Cling

FREE PARKING ♦ HUGE SAVINGS ♦ BETTER SERVICE ♦ Printing SINCE 1985 ♦ Newspaper SINCE 2000
1576 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, MAPLEWOOD, NJ ♦ localtalk@aol.com ♦ localtalkweekly.com
Tels. (973) 622-1111 ♦ (973) 280-7547 ♦ E-mail: localtalkprinting@gmail.com



Heart Center of the Oranges

Welcome to Our New Center for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases

OUR PROVIDERS

CARDIOLOGY

Gitendra Rajiyah, MD
Catalino Delacruz, MD
Bhavna Mohandas, MD
Abbas Shehadeh, MD
Isaac Tawfik, MD
Marlyn Escalona, APN
Lou Alexandre, PA

PULMONARY/SLEEP DISORDERS

Jeffrey Miller, DO

PODIATRY

Jodene Shwer, DPM
Amro El-Nakib, DPM

NEUROLOGY

Ruth Clark-Brown, MD
Borget Cort, APN

GYNECOLOGY

Clifford Toliver, MD

PEDIATRIC & ADULT ENDOCRINOLOGY

Tara Rajiyah, MD

NUTRITION

David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

Eddy Simon, MD
Nancy Cahiwat, MD
Mamatha Mohan, MD
Myriam Sterlin, MD
Aleksander Lekan, MD
Hemlata Bhatia, MD
Narinda Kaur, MD
Normita Narvaez, MD
Ramesh Kania, MD
Nivia Rowe, APN
Roody Dalberis, APN
Sanjaykumar Shah, APN
Mary Elias, APN
Janiece Howell, APN
Jamila Jones, DNP



Treating Both Adults and Children of All Ages



We now treat a variety of endocrine disorders
Including
Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, Thyroid Diseases, Osteoporosis
And Metabolic Bone Disorders

Dr. Tara Rajiyah treats both adults and children
Call 973-395-1550 for an appointment * 77 Main Street, West Orange

Contact us: 973-395-1550 • Orangeheartcenter.net

VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| South Orange: | 60 Vose Avenue | Tel. 973-763-5200 |
| Maplewood: | 2091 Millburn Avenue | Tel. 973-378-2266 |
| Bloomfield: | 135 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite B | Tel. 973-743-2248 |
| Newark: | 202 Stuyvesant Avenue | Tel. 973-374-8807 |
| West Orange: | 77 Main Street | Tel. 973-324-2090 |
| West Orange: | 95 Main Street | Tel. 973-672-3829 |
| West Orange: | 92 Old Northfield Avenue | Tel. 973-736-5552 |

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 - Tributes to Wayne Shorter, 89, from within and beyond the jazz world have been pouring in since the Newark native's March 2 death in a Los Angeles hospital.

For all the praise for Shorter's seven decades of innovative and evolving work, his collaboration with the likes of Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Carlos Santana and the Oscar, 13 Grammys and other awards, none of it would have happened if not for some key turns in the Ironbound youth's life.

Shorter was born Aug. 25, 1933 in a Newark that was a jazz enclave and the birthplace of Savoy Records. Clubs, movie houses and stage theaters were found across the wards and radio serials ruled the airwaves. The improvisation and innovation fueled Wayne and older brother Alan's playtime imagination.

Although parents Joseph and Louise sent the brothers to clarinet classes, Wayne thought his calling was in graphic art. Wayne, then 12, won a contest for his drawing of a football game that got published in a daily newspaper and helped his teacher to recommend his entry into Arts High School.

Wayne took the AHS classes that interest him but otherwise detoured to the Adams Theater on 28 Branford Place for the movies and musical acts. Arts administrators, after catching Shorter out, assigned him to their music theory teacher Achilles d'Amico.

D'Amico not only helped Shorter to graduate with the Class of 1952, he had Wayne switch from the clarinet to the tenor saxophone. Shorter then entered U.S. Army service, where he used his Fort Dix leave

to attend New York City jazz clubs.

Wayne and Alan began playing in Newark with the Curtis and Nat Phillips bands. Jazz enthusiast Amiri Baraka, Sr. recalled that Shorter's eccentric behavior coined the local "Weirder than Wayne" term but also earned "The Newark Flash" name for his performances.

Mayor Ras Baraka and WBGO-FM honored Shorter by renaming part of Park Place "Wayne Shorter Way" April 29, 2022. Shorter was too ill to attend. Three wives, daughters Miyako and Marianna and a grandson are among his survivors. Alan died in 1987 and daughter Isya in 1984.

IRVINGTON - Township elders are working to help its property owners with flood mitigation here and literally downstream.

Irvington's Council, for example, unanimously approved its \$9.35 million share of The Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties' \$52 million flood mitigation project here Feb. 27. The council specifically authorized issuing a \$9.35 million municipal bond issue to cover its Joint Meeting project share.

This project involves installing an effluent discharge pump at the Joint Meeting's wastewater treatment plant in Elizabeth. The pump will discharge treated wastewater further into the Arthur Kill.

The flood mitigation aspect is where the pump will keep the effluent from backing up the Joint Meeting's sewer system into its members' storm drains. The system, from its height at Summit to Elizabeth sea level, otherwise runs on natural gravity.

The project also includes a new sludge dewatering station and connections to a pair of cogeneration motors.

It is presumed that the Joint Meeting has similarly asked its members and customers for paying their shares of the project. East Orange, Maplewood, Newark, South Orange and West Orange are also among its 11 members. Orange, who has a part of its system connected with the Joint Meeting, may have also been asked.

Irvington.net still offers applications to apply for the town-

ship's Tropical Storm Ida Disaster Relief Grant. Ida turned the Elizabeth River into a raging torrent Sept. 1-2, killing a father and his daughter here. Applicants must first file with FEMA.

EAST ORANGE - Funeral services for Fifth Ward resident and retired pastor Lloyd Terrell, here at Faith Temple No. One Original Free Will Baptist Church, where he was a member, Feb. 25. The remains of the 50-year minister here and in Georgia and Iowa was entombed in Elizabeth's Rosemount Memorial Park.

Terrell, 72, the 40-year pastor of Newark's Franklin-St. John's and St. Matthew's United Methodist Churches, died in the presence of his family here Feb. 18.

The man who became the Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell, Sr. was born in Akron, Ohio in 1951 as the seventh of 10 children. He came here in 1984 by way of Akron Public Schools, the U.S. Army, Augusta, Ga.'s Paine College and the Dubuque (Iowa) Theological Seminary.

While at Franklin-St. John's, Pastor Terrell founded Agape Food Pantry, the church's community center and credit union and Prayer Center US. He authored "Pray, Pastor, Pray," "Sending Up My Timber" and "Never Too Busy to Pray."

"Pastor Lloyd" attained a doctorate in ministry from the New York Theological Seminary and - at 66 years old in 2016 - an associate's degree in mortuary science from Eastwick College-Nutley. He and his wife of 47 years, Marguerite, retired in June 2022 and became Faith Temple members.

Sons Lloyd, Jr. and Dr. Ralph Bunche Terrell, Sr., daughters Dr. Alice Marguerite Terrell-Bryant and Zelma M. Crump, brothers Rev. Dr. James Edward Terrell, Robert Terrell and Victor Terrell, sisters Patricia Jenkins, son-in-law Lawrence "Larry" Crump, sister-in-law Hon. Judge Mary Terrell, eight grandchildren and seven godchildren are among his survivors.

ORANGE - The Orange Police Department may have completed its mourning period for retired Sgt. Lawrence "Larry" Vincent Roche on Feb. 25 but his memo-

ries linger on.

Those memories of Roche, 71, who died in Hampton Jan. 24, may include patrolling with future OPD Capt. Don Wactor on the midnight tour, being a training officer for other police men and women, being a Sussex County Sheriff's Office Substance Abuse Evaluator - and rescuing at least two children in a local apartment building fire.

Roche, who was born in Newark Jan. 24, 1951, joined "Orange's Finest" after his Army tour in Vietnam was over. The Clifford J. Scott Class of 1969 graduate was an East Orange resident until he and his 1972 bride Kathryn Layton Roche moved to Newton in 1976.

Sgt. Roche received various awards and citations over the years. Although the circumstance of his rescuing several children from an apartment fire was not immediately available, his actions received a commendation from the New Jersey State Senate.

The Orange PBA Local 89 member attained his associate's degree in criminal justice from Essex County College, his bachelor's in sociology from then-Montclair State College and a master's in education from Seton Hall University.

Sgt. Roche retired from OPD to join the Sussex County Sheriff's Office and to Hampton.

Son Michael, daughters Regina Hannapple and Shannon Lombardo, brothers Kevin and Brian Riche and George and Bruce Layton and seven grandchildren are among his survivors. His Memorial Mass was held Feb. 4 at Newton's St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church.

Memorial donations may be made at Make-A-Wish Foundation, 1702 E. Highland Ave., Suite 400, Phoenix, AZ 85016 and/or RCCA Charities, 89 Sparta Ave., Suite 130, Sparta 07871.

WEST ORANGE - Township administrators, with Mayor Susan McCartney and Councilwomen Michelle Casalino in attendance, said two things about the now-municipal Rock Spring Golf Club.

The first is that the golf club is costing West Orange more than planned.

When West Orange bought the 188-acre, 18-hole course

(Continued on page 14)

NEWARK CATFISHED

(Continued from page 1)

outlets her and abroad before March 1.

The Kailasa website, as of March 8, still has the Newark City Hall ceremony video up - as well as its "Bilateral Relations with the USA" proclamation.

Garafolo was referring to the 27-minute City Hall ceremony which included a Kailasa-provided video of the country and, its leader. The clip included the country's flag, seal and anthem - as also found on its website.

The problem is that ShriKailasa is not practically recognized by any country - and may only exist in the minds of its founder and his followers.

It is not recognized by the United Nations or its members. It is not a member of Sister Cities International.

Sister Cities, founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, involves cities voluntarily establishing cultural and educational relations with others around the world. As of 2017, 500 U.S. cities have made ties with international colleagues.

Newark is a sister city to 15 others in nine countries, from Azerbaijan to Portugal. Montclair is a sister city to four; Manasquan, New Brunswick and Toms River are also member participants.

Nithyananda had visited South Euclid, Ohio in 2008 to dedicate a related Hindu temple and to "establish bilateral relations" with the Cleveland suburb. South Euclid has an SCI agreement with a Serbian city.

Quintana, declaring, "We cannot bring Sister Cities Int'l into an issue where there such controversy," called for stricter City Hall vetting of future cities.

SriKailasa founder Swami Nithyananda and his followers bought a Pacific island off Ecuador's west coast and declared it "USK" on Dec. 3, 2019. Nithyananda, from the Indian state of Kerala, said that the island "nation" is a refuge for those who want to practice "authentic Hinduism."

Ecuadorian officials said no such sale has happened, that they do not recognize USK and are not aiding or abetting Nithyananda. They do not have an extradition treaty with India.

It is not known if Nithyananda, 45, has even set foot on the island. He has been making YouTube clips while in exile since Nov. 20, 2019. Kerala au-

ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

HAS ALL YOU NEED TO SUCCEED!





ESSEX
COUNTY COLLEGE
STUDENTS FIRST

Essex County College offers Outstanding Academic Programs and Workforce Development Training.

We provide a wide range of student support services.

- Free tuition opportunities
- Laptop loaner program
- Internet access

- Student Food Pantry
- Counseling
- Tutoring

...And Even More!



“ Essex County College is Ranked Number 1 Among the Top 10 Schools Offering Associates Degrees in Health Sciences. ”

- College Factual

See if YOU qualify for additional tuition support through the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG).

Register Today!

For more information call us at (973) 877-4477 or visit us online www.essex.edu
303 University Avenue Newark, NJ 07102

thorities said he was charged for a 2010 rape there and had jumped bail.

Kailasa "ambassadors" have meanwhile been pressing for recognition at a recent UN conference in Geneva. They had set a goal, on its Jan. 12, 2020 Facebook page, of having relations with 44 countries.

The delegates have also supposedly asked for protection - of Hindus being oppressed from practicing and of Nithyananda from "persecution."

Indian authorities have also added charges of child abduction and imprisonment in one of Nithyananda's ashrams.

"Local Talk" contacted the City of Newark for comment, but received no reply at press-time. In our inquiry, we asked the following:

- How did Kailasa "officials" contact the city about a relationship?
- Was there any official contract signed with Kailasa, and did any money change hands?
- What will the City do in the future to prevent such fraud?

"Local Talk" Editor-in-Chief Dhiren Shah offered support if the City had any questions about Nithyananda, as he knowledge of the latter's infamy. Again, there was no response.

"Catfishing" is the art of one party deceiving another party by pretending to be someone or something they are not. The term originally was limited to online engagements, but has since been used beyond the scope of the internet in reference to such behavior.



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Cursed Is A Person
Who Trusts In Mortals**

I have been giving much consideration to "the cult of personality" that is developing, more and more, in the American political system (and across the world), and it is amazing how many persons are being duped by it. I am not pointing to any one person here because while it might be most easily seen in the sporting and entertainment industries, it is also pervading the justice and religious systems and dominating the political systems of the day.

Let me paraphrase an article from *Wikipedia* (*The Free Encyclopedia*) that is focused on the upsurge of the cult of personality in the political systems of the world at the moment. It states that a cult of personality, or a cult of the leader, results from an effort to create an idealized and heroic image of a leader by a government, often through unquestioning flattery and praise.

Historically, it has developed through mass media techniques, propaganda, fake news, patriotism, and government-organized

demonstrations and rallies. A cult of personality is similar to the climax of a story, except it is established by modern social engineering techniques, usually by the state or the party in one-party and dominant party states. A cult of personality often accompanies the leader of totalitarian or authoritarian countries. It can also be seen in some monarchies, theocracies, failed democracies, and even liberal democracies. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult_of_personality)

If, at all, you have an eye on what is taking place around the world with the upsurge of leaders like Prime Minister Viktor Orba'n in Hungary, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, who is now engaged in a parliamentary effort to take over the justice system, and what is taking place here in the United States with so many being drawn into the cult of Trumpism. In that case, you must state that the *Wikipedia* article is on target.

As stated, I am not just interested in focusing on the political leaders and systems but on what I noted in the first sentence of my opening paragraph, that it is interesting how many persons are being "duped" or "cursed" by the cult of personality. I see the destruction coming to individual lives and societies where personality cults have ruled. I am joining the biblical prophets to warn, "Do not trust mortals."

Here is how the prophet Jeremiah said it: "Thus says the Lord: Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited." (Jeremiah 17:5-6 NKJV)

"Everyone take heed to his neighbor, **And do not trust any brother**; For every brother will utterly supplant, And every neighbor will walk with slanderers. Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity." (Jeremiah 9:4-5 NKJV, emphasis mine)

The prophet Micah also gives this strong warning:

*Do not trust in a friend;
Do not put your confidence
in a companion;
Guard the doors of your
mouth
From her who lies in
your bosom. (Micah 7:5
NKJV)*

It is not because the prophets were trying to tell their audiences that they should never trust anyone. On the contrary, trust is a necessary quality for any successful relationship. But we must understand that we are open to

deception if our trust is placed totally in any humanity. We are especially to guard ourselves against trusting political leaders seeking to control our minds and wills.

The biblical prophets wanted their audiences to understand that no person is to hand over their mind and will to be controlled by others. They wanted their audiences to understand that God was their final source of wisdom and strength. Only God's kingdom will rule forever. So, all the expectations for help for deliverance from all the promises of politicians are a waste.

The bottom line is that if we expect to be truly blessed, we need to place our total confidence in God and God alone. Here is Prophet Jeremiah again:

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
And whose hope is the Lord.
For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,
Which spreads out its roots by the river,
And will not fear when heat comes;
But its leaf will be green,
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,
Nor will cease from yielding fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8
NKJV).*

Do I need to say more about putting our trust in mortals? I think not.

MEMPHIS PD UNDER REVIEW IN WAKE OF NICHOLS DEATH

The Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) announced March 8 it will be undertaking two important reviews: one related to the Memphis Police Department (MPD) and one that will examine the use of specialized units within law enforcement.

First, the COPS Office, through its Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC), will conduct a review of certain policies and practices of the Memphis Police Department. Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland and Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn J. Davis requested this review, which will cover policies, practices, training, data and processes related to MPD's use of force, de-escalation and specialized units. At the conclusion of the review, the COPS Office will issue a public report outlining its

findings and recommendations.

The COPS Office's CRI-TAC initiative is led and supported by nine leading law enforcement stakeholder associations. CRI-TAC provides a wide array of technical assistance services using a "by the field, for the field" approach. Since its inception in 2017, the program has provided technical assistance for over 800 law enforcement engagements.

Separate from the Memphis review, the COPS Office will produce a guide for police chiefs and mayors across the country to help them assess the appropriateness of the use of specialized units as well as how to ensure necessary management and oversight of such units, including review of policies, tactics, training, supervision, accountability, and transparency.

"In the wake of Tyre Nichols's tragic death, the Justice Department has heard from police chiefs across the country who are assessing the use of specialized units and, where used, appropriate management, oversight and accountability for such units. The COPS Office guide on specialized units will be a critical resource for law enforcement, mayors and community members committed to effective community policing that respects the dignity of community members and keeps people safe," said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta. "The department is also pleased to be able to fulfill Memphis's request for technical assistance on the police department's use of force and de-escalation policies, as well as the use of specialized units."

HONORING THE WOMEN OF GREATER NEWARK

The Greater Newark Women's Assembly, March 4th, and 5th *Thank You!*



Photos by Herb Glenn



As March is recognized Nationally as Women's History Month, the Women of greater Newark took time not to be passive or sit idly by, but were proactive to pursue the need to recognize publicly the Women who have made, and are making a difference in our society.

The Greater Newark Women's Assembly, held March 4th and 5th at Newark Public Main Library and CityPlex12 Newark, was a special experience and exercise in investing in the welfare of our community.

The Assembly's focus was to honor, spotlight and promote the great treasure of gifts, talents and abilities that exist in our society, through the Women of our community, bringing Women together from all experience, faiths and background and letting love have

its perfect work.

The Assembly team wants to thank all who planned, served, and participated, making the Assembly possible. It was truly a community event where everyone brought and shared their best. Special applause goes to our planning team, the library staff and CityPlex 12 for their great support, including We Care, Inc., Newark Arts and Local Talk News, all the presenters, vendors, musicians, catering and most importantly the honorees and guest attendees made it an extraordinary and unique gathering.

Amazing things happen when we come together for the benefit of each other, for purpose and for the betterment of community. The Women of Greater Newark are its greatest asset.

Time must be taken to notice, to pay attention to who we are, what we do, and what we need, individually and collectively. We need each other to fulfil what we are gifted to do and be, to grow our ability and what is in our collective best interest.

Using a metaphor; the enthusiasm, the topic content, and the public interest to attend for the Women's Assembly was like a size 14-16 trying to fit in a size 10-12 dress. We were busting at the seams, which is due to the apparent pregnancy of the As-

sembly. When you bring Women of purpose and destiny together teaming with hope, competency, and desire to achieve, more room must be made to anticipate and accommodate the present ability and new expected growth.

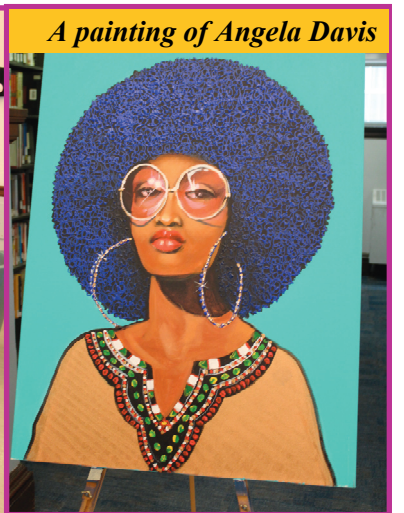
The Greater Newark Women's Assembly planning team thank all who helped and were in attendance, who witness this sincere effort to plant some new seeds, for a greater harvest, nurtured through love, recognition, and honor for the Women of Greater Newark.



Artistry on display



Local businesses displaying their goods.



A painting of Angela Davis



Pastor Munroe sharing her ideas with the audience



Yvonne Garrett Patterson and Kim Gaddy



A young drummer entertaining at the luncheon. Photos By Dhiren Shah

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

WOMAN TO WOMAN



Photos By Andrea Dialect

She Welcome to the open session. Check out this open session by reading the notebook entries of the NOTE TO SELF of Tamika Bevel Muhammad. But before you ya get to peek into this entry of my mental journal... I spoke to my mom the other night, and she was pretty chipper when I called. She says, " I saw you in a vision today."

When my mother says, she saw you in a dream or sleep-wake state. one quickly ops to hold their breath. But thank goodness it wasn't as bad as I thought when she told me she saw me riding on a greyhound bus which is pretty common when I visit the fam.

I had an outside seat, and she said that I had a head wrap on my head in an African print. She told me that something was on my mind. I was in deep thought, and my body was positioned more so in the middle of our seats, and my head was slightly resting on the shoulder of my bus companion, who was a man with graying hair, and that was that, and I'm happy for it.

As pondering my mama's vision, I concluded that my head resting on someone else's shoulder is pretty unheard of when it comes to Andrea Dialect. So that relays growth. Lately, I am beginning to be able to consider the thought of tying my head up, focusing on reality, and sharing my load. Woman, Sista. Girlfriend, what about you?



NOTE TO SELF

Tamika Bevel Muhammad

"Me and My Sister... October 25, 2022, was the day she left last year. Years ago, I left at eighteen in 1995. I moved in with my sister in 2017 for about a year. Things were pretty rocky then. When I moved out, we grew further apart, and I didn't reconnect with my second

heartbeat again until around twenty nineteen when I found out that she was sick. The wedge between us started when I was about seventeen. I'm forty-five now. Two spirits had separated for so long; she was my only sister.

"My sister and I became grandmothers at about the same time. One year shy of her death and we were back together again. Our bond had become stronger, and we began spending time together and truly enjoying each other's company. The joy of watching our grandkids growing together, playing big aunties to the two, and going to church on Sundays praying together. It was heaven. ...

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 10)

from the Montclair Golf Club in 2019 for \$11.2 million. the anticipated debt service was \$700,000 and an annual tax loss of \$585,000. The purchase was made during Mayor Robert Parisi's administration over wholesale housing redevelopment fears and an Essex County offer to buy.

Township Business Administrator/CFO John Gross and Attorney Richard Trank, however, said that the tax losses are now \$640,000 and over \$1 million in debt service.

Second, the department heads at the Feb. 16 special public meeting said that 15 to 18 acres of the course should be used to build housing. The redevelopment's tax revenue will help offset the debt service and tax losses. What exactly will be built there is to be addressed in the next year or two.

Officials under Parisi's administration made two proposals. The first, in 2019, called for 175 residential units, 30 of which to be affordable, would be built on half of the golf course along Northfield Avenue for \$7.5 million. The 2021 proposal entailed building housing for \$2 million along a new road from Northfield and Ridgeway avenues.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD -

Two separate reports of unruly adults on South Orange-Maplewood School District property 16 days apart March 3 and Feb. 14 prompted two of its schools to enter lockdown.

Columbia High School was put into a "modified" lockdown March 3 after a teacher told its main office about a "verbal altercation with a man" on Ritzer Field at 8:06 a.m. The main office then called the Maplewood Police Department.

The MPD police dispatcher meanwhile got a call from the CVS across Valley Street

about "an unruly male who assaulted a patron" before leaving the pharmacy. MPD officers and members of the South Essex Fire Department rescue squad found the man at Valley Street and Jefferson Avenue.

The man was described in the MPD release as "exhibiting signs of clear altered mental status" and carrying "a purple toy water gun protruding from his pocket." SEFD medics evaluated the man and took him to RWJBarnabas Health Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for observation.

MPD took the man under custody upon hospital release on an outstanding Pennsylvania warrant. He remains detained in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility.

The Clinton Elementary School entered a Code Red "total lockdown" 9:06-25 a.m. Feb. 14 after a parent became irate in its main office at 9:03 a.m. Arriving MPD officers and SEFD medics were able to interview the parent and brought that person to a local

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

hospital.

At no time were the Columbia or Clinton student bodies threatened.

BLOOMFIELD - The manager of a Franklin Square shopping plaza store came to police headquarters here Feb. 21 to report \$600 worth of merchandise being stolen earlier that Tuesday.

The manager said three men had walked into the Marshall's Department Store at 8-12 Franklin St. that morning and selected several items displayed on the store floor.

All three, who had been acting as if they were purchasing the items, fled out the door with them instead. The \$600 figure was arrived at after an inventory.

The suspects are described as "African American males" without further description. They will be charged with shoplifting should they be arrested. The incident remains under investigation as of March 1.

This shoplifting happened on the Bloomfield side of Franklin Square. The shopping center is built on the former Bamberger's furniture warehouse site and extends east into Belleville.

MONTCLAIR - What started out as Feb. 21 conflict of interest allegations against a township councilman has resulted in the Feb. 24 resignation of two advisors of the advocacy group the said councilman leads.

Aminah Toler and Cathy Renna, in their Feb. 24 joint statement, said that they had tried to meet with Out Montclair Executive Director and At-Large Councilman Peter Yacobellis in January. They had wanted to ask about any relationship that he may have with the Lackawanna Plaza's owner.

Yacobellis founded Out Montclair to provide community, solidarity and support to Montclair's LGBTQ+ residents. A majority of participating voters had first elected Yacobellis in 2020.

Yacobellis, said Toler and Rennai, canceled their meeting "at the last minute" and has not rescheduled. Their quitting Out Montclair came three days after public speaker David Herron said he had filed formal conflict of interest charges against the councilman with the N.J. Attorney General's Office.

Herron, during the Feb. 24 Township Council hearing of citizens, accused Yacobellis, as OM chief executive, of receiving around \$35,000 from developer David Placek. Placek has a controversial plan to redevelop Lackawanna Plaza's train terminal and closed Pathmark supermarket before the township's council and planning board.

The Montclair resident, that Tuesday night, implored Yacobellis to recuse himself from any communication, let alone deliberation or decision-making, on the Placek Lackawanna Plaza plan.

Yacobellis, after a closed discussion with Acting Township Attorney Paul Burr, that he has "constantly sought council" in how he as councilman and how Out Montclair "color within the lines." He said that his and OM's financial records are in the public realm "and everyone can look at the facts." In Autumn 2021 advisors stepped down from Out Montclair, a two-year-old organization.

OutMontclair advisors quit in wake of Peter Yacobellis' latest Lackawanna Plaza plan alleged conflict of interest.

BELLEVILLE - There are those on both sides of the Township Council dais have been wondering since Feb. 28 whether its municipal government is meting the letter or the spirit of state public meeting law.

First Ward Councilwoman Marie Strumolo-Burke announced at that Tuesday night's meeting that she would note "no" on all resolutions listed on the agenda. She cited that the only full set of said ordinances for public review are not accessible.

Public speakers Michael Sheldon and Carmela Fleischman also brought up the public's inaccessibility of a complete agenda packet before Mayor Michael Melham and the council.

State law requires that a municipal governing body's agenda be published at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting and posted for public display in the municipal building.

Belleville has its agenda and a full set of its proposed ordinances and resolutions on a bulletin board next to the Council Chamber's front doors. The thumbtacked set and board, however, are in a locked glass case.

Sheldon has since published a spreadsheet of advance agenda postings/publications in 25 municipalities: all 25 in Essex County plus Hudson County's Kearny and Bergen County's North Arlington and Lyndhurst. "Local Talk" will focus on its 12 towns.

Sheldon used Belleville's "Never" posting as a baseline. He rated East Orange and Irvington as posting partial full agendas and Newark as "Almost." The other eight "Local Talk" towns publish and post full agendas.

NUTLEY - It seemed as if Patricia Cole, 46, who died Feb. 24 in Chevy Chase, Md.'s Holy Cross Hospital, always wanted to be in journalism.

Cole, who was a gifted digital copy editor in National Public Radio's Washington, D.C. desk, had graduated from Nutley High School in 1995 as Editor-in-Chief of its Maroon and Gray student

newspaper.

NHS English teacher and M&G faculty advisor Ronald Bonadonna brought "Patti" to the paper for her talent and skill. The Washington elementary and Walker Middle schools graduate had also received an award from the Nutley Board of Education after her winning prize article was published in the then-Newark "Star-Ledger" in 1994-95.

Patricia Kathleen Cole, who was born Dec. 31, 1976, was accepted into the Penn State University Honors Program and its "Daily Collegian" paper. The 1999 journalism graduate further learned her profession at "The Orlando Sentinel," "Columbus Dispatch," "Washington Times," The "Star-Ledger" and Law360.com before arriving at NPR in 2017.

It can be said that Cole's copyediting had saved more than one news story and a reporter's career. Her insight and critical eye made sure that each article was right, fair, important and meaningful.

Patti had won a national headline writing contest in 2012 and became a contest judge for ACES: The Society for Editing. Her depression, however, overtook her Feb. 24. An NPR colleague, when cleaning out Cole's computer files, gained access through her password - a variation of Ronald Bonadonna's name.

Cole's Funeral Mass was held at Upper Saddle River's Church of the Presentation March 2. Mother Maureen and brother Michael are among her survivors. Memorial donations may be made to the ASPCA.

If anyone is contemplating suicide or in crisis, call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

www.bellaitaliarestaurantnj.com



Bella Italia Ristorante
Banquet Facilities & Fine Dining

Phone: 973-676-4300 / 973-678-5538 535 Central Avenue
Fax: 973-678-2673 Orange, NJ 07050
Near Rte. 280 and The West Orange Line



NATIONWIDE PEST MANAGEMENT LLC

P.O. Box 4062
East Orange, NJ 07019
(973) 672-8358 • Fax: (973) 672-2560
www.nationwidepestmanagement.com

TERENCE WILSON
SERVICE CONSULTANT
nationwidepest@aol.com

LOCAL TALK PRINTING

- Business Cards
- Color Copies
- Flyers
- T-Shirts
- Color Printing
- Posters
- Newspapers
- Letterheads
- AD Journals
- Envelopes
- Banners
- Tickets
- Signs
- Promotional

DHIREN SHAH
Ambassador for Peace
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
In Printing Business Since 1985
www.localtalkweekly.com

1576 Springfield Ave.
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Email: localtalk@aol.com

Tel. (973) 622-1111
Cell: (973) 280-7547
Fax: (973) 622-1120

Se Habla Español



NOVA DENTAL

KIDS & ADULTS

Family Dentistry • Emergencies • Orthodontics



MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

Including NJ Family Care & Medicare



CHECK OUT OUR FIVE STAR REVIEWS!

SERVING ESSEX COUNTY IN 3 LOCATIONS

NOVA DENTAL
240 Mulberry Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973 - 755 - 3500

NOVA DENTAL
539 Bloomfield Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107
973 - 604 - 1600

NOVA DENTAL
90 Washington Street
East Orange, NJ 07017
973 - 604 - 1900



NovaDentalNJ.com

Call or Book Online 24/7

Root Canal • Extractions • Crown & Bridges
Dentures • Braces • Invisalign • Implants
Kids Dentistry

\$49

**EXAM, CLEANING,
& X-RAYS**

For new patients without insurance

\$299

TEETH WHITENING

\$999

IMPLANT

Discount offered to other procedures