

# LOCAL TALK

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25¢

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

### OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## AMAZON PROVIDES \$40,000 SCHOLARSHIPS TO EAST ORANGE STEM ACADEMY SENIORS

## RUTGERS & UNIONS REACH TENTATIVE DEAL

Photo Courtesy Dr. Vincent Stallings



By Walter Elliott

Amazon announced the 2023 Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship recipients. This year, Amazon awarded 400 scholarships, providing a total of \$16 million in paid tuition for students to attend the U.S. college or university of their choice. Through Amazon Future Engineer, their global philanthropic education initiative, each student will receive \$40,000 over four years to pursue a degree in computer science or engineering and a paid internship after their freshman year to gain practical work experience with mentorship from Amazon leaders.

Scholarship recipients applied for the opportunity and were selected based on academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, community involvement, work experience, future goals, and financial need.

This year's cohort, which includes high school seniors from nearly 40 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, is the most diverse yet with representation from groups that are currently underrepresented in jobs related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). More

(Continued on page 15)

NEWARK - Members of three teacher unions here and on Rutgers University's New Brunswick and Camden campuses - after a year of negotiations and an unprecedented five-day strike - may be getting their new contracts during their students' May 15-18 commencement week.

Rank and file members of American Association of University Professors-AFT, Rutgers Faculty Union and AAUP-Biomedical and Health Sciences of New Jersey have been voting on the new collective bargaining agreement since May 1 and through Noon May 8. Their voting follows scheduled May 2-4 "town meetings" about the tentative agreement.

The tentative CBAs - should a majority of 9,000 professors, adjunct professors, graduate and post-graduate students, counselors, librarians and medical and public teachers approve - will then go to the Rutgers Board of Governors for their nod.

RU Governors' next scheduled meeting is set for Noon June 22 at Rutgers New Brunswick's Winant's Hall. The Governors, however, may want to end the 12-month saga by scheduling an

(Continued on page 11)



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*Editorial*

Dhiren Shah

*Hello Readers,*

First Republic Bank has been closed by the FDIC and with about \$50 billion in loan money (financing), from the FDIC, JP Morgan Chase will take over the bank. However, Chase will not assume the debt of First Republic, but accepts all the deposits. This is a good deal for Chase Bank, and its stock price went up a little over 2%.

This is a win-win situation for all, as the depositors do not have to worry and can take out all the money now if they wish to. The FDIC is playing with our money, helping the money people, and not the real people who need help. However, my suggestion is

that once any large institution like a bank or hospital goes under, all the trustees of the board of that institution should not be allowed to work as an executive or to be a board member of that industry for the rest of their lifetime.

A \$1.5 trillion-dollar debt increase proposal by the Republicans will not be accepted by the Democrats. The Republicans have cut down many loopholes for the President and its administration to flow money to their buddies and supporters. It is a fact that the majority of the money goes to the supporters, family and friends of the administration by how they find out about government programs and work with them as the laws allow. As we all know that very little money goes to the people who really need it.

Nikki Haley said that Senator Diane Feinstein (89 years old) should immediately resign. The same demand has been made by some Democratic congressional members. Haley said about Feinstein, "She's in significant mental and physical decline." Also,

Haley talked about term limits. I agree with Haley for a term limit for all congressional candidates and senatorial candidates. Also, there should be a competency test for any elected official above age 75. I will say even further, there should be a competency test for any elected official above age 67 and 2 months, the retirement age. It is a matter of protecting our country and all of the citizens.

President Biden has sent 1500 troops to replace administrative workers and release border patrol officers to protect against illegal entry to our country. It is too little too late. First, an open border, then no deportation of illegal immigrants, then Texas' governor sent illegal immigrants to Sanctuary cities. Biden and his diehard supporters are favoring illegals to enter the country due to humanitarian reasons. Their heart is good, but when I asked one of Biden's diehard fans, "Can you allow a homeless person to stay for one week in your house?" Answer, "No. Why should I?" I said in the same way, the United States is our

home, and we should not allow anyone illegally. There is a way of entering legally. It does take years, but that is the only way anyone should be allowed in my opinion.

President Biden has refused to acknowledge Hunter Biden's four year old daughter as his grandchild. Hunter Biden has been served a mandatory subpoena to appear in an Arkansas court. He is trying to give the little girl a different name than Biden. Hunter may have to pay a large sum of money for child support. Most of the reporters are trying to ignore this report and do not want to name Lunden Roberts, mother of the girl, or even publish the whole affair despite it being worthwhile news. Maybe Hunter is problematic for Biden family, but Joseph Biden loves him so much, which is good for any father, that he is trying to ignore all his problems. However, he should teach honesty as well, if the reports are true.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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- 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.
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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
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# The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

## Thousands of Viruses Identified in Babies' Diapers:

### What Does This Imply?

A study involving 647 Danish one-year-olds has presented us with perhaps the most information about the gut microbiome of children. And, the findings of the study are pretty, well, interesting. The study showed about 10,000 new viruses in infant feces, which is a lot. Seriously, for context, consider that there are only about 1,000 bacterial species in the average child. Let's consider this study and its implications in more detail.

From the study, scientists observed 10,000 viral species from 248 viral families. Interestingly, 93.5% of these viruses have not been identified before. In other words, only 16 of the 248 viral families were previously known.

Of the 10,000 viral species identified, about 90% of them were bac-

teriophages. This is a good sign, as bacteriophages are viruses that only attack and infect bacterial cells, leading to them being called "bacteria eaters."

The fact that a vast majority of the viral species in children are bacteriophages suggests that these viruses may actually be useful to the body in a way. This makes sense when you think about it too, as the immune system of babies is far too underdeveloped to effectively cope with all the bacterial threats that come its way. However, with the number of bacteriophages residing in the gut, the infant gets much-needed aid when it comes to balancing out the bacteria in the gut.

I should mention that bacteria in the gut is not a bad thing - at all. In fact, the absence of some bacteria in the gut can lead to several serious health conditions. These bacteria are called "good bacteria" and they help to ensure that harmful bacteria don't invade and colonize the gut. Still, a balance is needed to ensure there is no overload of these bacteria in the gut. Bacteriophages may help maintain this balance.

The remaining 10% of viruses in the guts of children attach themselves to human cells instead of bacteria, though. Now, this is where scientists start to worry. The study implies that at any point in time, the average child is infected with ten to twenty of these viruses. However, viruses do cause sickness. So, does that mean they are also good? Well, not exactly.

Scientists believe these viruses may be risk factors for diseases we don't even know yet. Or, in simpler terms, these viruses may be responsible for some diseases to come. That's not encouraging, to say the least. But that's just speculation, and because there is so much we don't know about these viruses, it is not surprising there are so many speculations.

With that out of the way, another question we need to ask ourselves is why there are so many viruses in babies' guts in the first place. The hypothesis proposed to explain this is that, at the tender age of one, the immune system has not learned how to separate the "wheat from the chaff." This means the immune system is not as adept as it should be in separating useful and harmful microorganisms. So, it may just allow the growth of so

many microorganisms.

Authors of the study also believe the viruses may also be useful to protect against chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes later on in life. Furthermore, it is possible that the environment also plays a part in the high viral species load in the guts of babies. It is no secret that children often encounter microorganisms through various activities, like putting their hands in their mouths, eating their dirty toys, or straight-up eating sand.

Well, now that we know just how many viruses are in the guts of children, I believe the next step is finding what these viruses truly do in the body. Of course, that is much easier said than done, but that can seriously be the game-changer if some of these diseases we have not identified yet become an epidemic.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board-Certified Internist & Board Certified Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless.*

*He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ & House call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.*

### References

- <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/10-000-new-viruses-identified-in-babies-dirty-diapers-scientists/ar-AA1ahTG7>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/23/babies-gut-diaper-study/>

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# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

In something a little different, let's first talk hockey. The New Jersey Devils had a good year this season, and recently took their rival New York Rangers in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The highly anticipated matchup was epic, and reminded everyone of the legendary series from 1994.

For the renewed rivalry, Game 1 saw the Rangers come to the Prudential Center and scoop up a 5-1 win. Leading NY was Chris Kreider, who scored two goals. The Rangers then took a strong-

hold on the series by winning Game 2 by the same 5-1 score.

Despite heading to MSG down 2-0, NJ rallied and took Game 3 in overtime 2-1 thanks to a Dougie Hamilton in the extra period. The Devils then took back home ice advantage after winning Game 4 by the score of 3-1. Jonas Siegenthaler, Jack Hughes and Vincent Trocheck all lit the lamp in that one.

In Game 5, the Devils made sure to win at The Rock, shutting out the Rangers 4-0. However, like NJ, the team from NY finally figured out how to defend their home ice, winning 5-2.



Photos by James Dombrowski



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This set up a Game 7 winner take all matchup in New Jersey. The winner would also be the remaining local team, as the New York Islanders lost in six games to the Carolina Hurricanes.

Devils rookie goalie Akira Schmid rose to the occasion, and stopped all 31 shots he faced in a 4-0 win, giving the Devils the series 4-3. His Rangers counterpart Igor Shesterkin stopped 23 shots, but he needed to stop 27 at least. Michael McLeod, Tomas Taar, Haula Erik, and Jesper Bratt tallied the goals before a sellout Prudential Center crowd. Perhaps the win will help NJ exorcise the demons of 1994 and the call of "Matteau! Matteau!" when the Rangers won to make and win the Stanley Cup Finals.

As for other playoff action, there will be a new Stanley Cup champion, as the defending Cup holder Colorado Avalanche were eliminated by the "new kid on the

block" Seattle Kraken 4-3 in a seven game series. Another seven game thriller saw the President Cup curse continue, as the Boston Bruins, who had a record breaking 135 point season, lose in seven games to the Florida Panthers.

In other news, the second round of the NBA Playoffs is underway. The matchups are Celtics vs. Sixers, Knicks vs. Heat, Nuggets vs. Suns, and Warriors vs. Lakers, after Stephen Curry scored a Game 7 record 50 points to lead Golden State past Sacramento in a 120-100 to advance to the next round.

Finally, the NFL Draft emanated from Union Station in Kansas City and saw the Carolina Panthers take Alabama QB Bryce Young with the 1st overall pick. The Houston Texans took Ohio State QB CJ Stroud with the 2nd overall pick, and then traded up to #3 and took 'Bama LB Will Anderson, Jr. Other

(Continued on page 13)

# BLACK LEADERS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE FAILING THE PEOPLE

OP / ED By Sheila Montague

An indisputable fact is for at least the last twenty years, urban cities have been led by black leadership and these communities suffer from more poverty, homelessness, low employment rates, poisonous water, failing education systems, and crime than any other time in history. Without question, these leaders have used their power to elevate themselves financially, while suppressing the black people

who put them into office and failed to stand up and fight for the people and the progress of these communities.

These leaders swiftly indoctrinate themselves into the larger political establishment and no longer concern themselves with the issues of the people, because they become "safe" from it and rewarded with personal financial gain to ignore the failure of any necessary legislative action and/or policies to change the dire circumstance of the black people in these

communities.

Now here we are. Black people, black leadership, black history, black voters rights, and black lives are being nationally attacked in an attempt to phase us out for the promotion of white supremacy throughout the country. And while the current leadership has failed to legitimately fight against this strategic plan, they refuse to prepare any predecessors and/or younger leadership who are ready to fight.

An example of how relentless the movement to wipe the black race from this country and return America to the days of pre-reconstruction and destroy and silence our voices, we recently watched as two young black legislators were expelled, by vote, from Tennessee's legislature. Expelled by an all white legislature, known for racist behaviors, and the birthplace of the most violent sect of the Ku Klux Klan.

Meanwhile, black democrat leaders are using and/or allowing the same gerrymandering playbook they accuse republicans of using to manipulate boundaries to weaken the power of the black vote. Right here in our hometown (districts 27 and 29) are being redistricted in a clear bid to push out representatives Nia Gill and Donald Payne.

Not being facetious at all, but as black democratic representatives, can we really trust calling on these same leaders when we are in need of representation? Not when it has been proven time and time again that their representation is not based on the progress of the people they represent, but the progress of the establishment who continues to fail the people.

I personally have gone through the most treacherous attacks throughout my journey to uplift the community and give a voice to the voiceless and have never been able to call on any to assist. Why? Because true and authentic leadership who are legitimately trying to help the people, puts their position and power at risk. Remember, in this country folks have been brutally assassinated for trying to uplift and help black people. Even white Presidents like Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy.

The message was and is resoundingly loud and clear: Black people are not valued, considered the enemy

needing to be destroyed and our mere existence hated. It is the impetus for the negative backlash received by any black advocate, celebrity or athlete who stands up or speaks out or takes a knee in the fight for equality in this country. People have watched it all unfold appear apathetic. Some make the conscious decision to have no part in the fight because after all, what's in it for them or how will their participation affect their individual bottom line.

The result is obvious when you look at the depreciating condition of our communities. Have we recognized how downtown Newark looks now compared to just ten years ago! As opposed to having leaders with true solutions and policies to cure crime, failing education systems, low employment opportunities and equitable housing, we are forced to accept men in leadership who are consumed with the blaming of single moms for the crime or filing complaints against women activists, for simply suggesting accountability for those elected to act on our behalf, as opposed to going on rap tours.

Also making the list of irresponsible behaviors are taking the employment from many black people who don't share 100% of their political philosophies. Moreover, placing "yes people" in key positions, when they don't possess the competency to be there, while talking to good folk who are engaged like they are beneath them.

Where is the motivation to support constituents engaged in this process? Who is going to vote for this? Opportunists will yes these leaders to death, in order to promote their own agenda for personal gain.

Sometimes you'll be given just what you ask for, as a test to see what you are going to do.

This was not a successful experiment. In fact, it was an epic fail primarily due to the lack of real power black leaders possess. They hold these seats as an object of symbolism and this is done via the Democratic party and Republicans are not putting real black people in seats at all. And no, Hershel Walker does not and should not count!

With most of Newark's third graders not on academic grade level, *(Continued on page 15)*

## ESSEX COUNTY'S RECYCLING DAY

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Chemistry sets	Fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts	Car batteries
Propane tanks (barbecue type)		Fire extinguishers (home)
Pool chemicals		Driveway sealer
		Aerosol spray paints

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Latex paint	Commercial or Industrial Waste	Household batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V)
Unlabeled or Unidentified Materials	Empty Containers	Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Asbestos	Explosives, Munitions, Ordnance or Reactive Materials	
Regulated Medical Waste or Infectious Waste		



"There are some materials that should be removed from our regular waste stream because of their hazardous nature. This collection day provides our residents a place to properly and safely dispose of contaminants, protecting our precious environment for future generations. I encourage residents of all of our communities to come out and participate."  
— Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, The Essex County Board of Commissioners and the Essex County Utilities Authority



**UNITED STATES**

**ANOTHER BANK BITES THE DUST**

**WASHINGTON (FDIC)** - First Republic Bank, San Francisco, California, was closed May 1 by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, which appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver.

To protect depositors, the FDIC is entering into a purchase and assumption agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Columbus, Ohio, to assume all of the deposits and substantially all of the assets of First Republic Bank.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association submitted a bid for all of First Republic Bank's deposits. As part of the transaction, First Republic Bank's 84 offices in eight states will reopen as branches of JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, during normal business hours. All depositors of First Republic Bank will become depositors of JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, and will have full access to all of their deposits.

Deposits will continue to be insured by the FDIC, and customers do not need to change their banking relationship in order to retain their deposit insurance coverage up to applicable limits. Customers of First Republic Bank should continue to use their existing branch until they receive notice from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, that it has completed systems changes to allow other JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, branches to process their accounts as well.

As of April 13, 2023, First Republic Bank had approximately \$229.1 billion in total assets and \$103.9 billion in total deposits. In addition to assuming all of the deposits, JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, agreed to pur-

chase substantially all of First Republic Bank's assets.

The FDIC and JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, are also entering into a loss-share transaction on single family, residential and commercial loans it purchased of the former First Republic Bank. The FDIC as receiver and JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, will share in the losses and potential recoveries on the loans covered by the loss-share agreement. The loss-share transaction is projected to maximize recoveries on the assets by keeping them in the private sector. The transaction is also expected to minimize disruptions for loan customers. In addition, JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, will assume all Qualified Financial Contracts.

The resolution of First Republic Bank involved a highly competitive bidding process and resulted in a transaction consistent with the least-cost requirements of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund will be about \$13 billion. This is an estimate and the final cost will be determined when the FDIC terminates the receivership.

**MASS SHOOTING UPDATE**

*Information recent as of 5-3-2023 at 12 p.m.*

2023 Reported Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2023>)

- Total Shootings: 229 (including Atlanta)
- Total Dead: 338
- Total Wounded: 852
- Shootings Per Day: 1.86
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of May 3: 123

**Latest High Profile Incident**

Location: Cleveland, TX.  
Time: Around 11 p.m. local time, April 28.

Deceased: At least 5. (Sonia Argentina Guzman, 25; Diana Velazquez Alvarado, 21; Julisa Molina Rivera, 31;

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Jose Jonathan Casarez, 18; and Daniel Enrique Laso, 8 or 9)

Injured: Three children were covered in blood, but uninjured in the chaos.

Shooter(s): Francisco Oropesa, 38.

Weapon(s): AR-15 style rifle.

Motive: Allegedly drunk, suspect was enraged after being asked not to fire off rounds in his yard, which would wake a sleeping baby.

Status: Captured in Cut and Shoot, TX. A judge has issued an arrest warrant and already assigned a \$5 million bond when or if he is apprehended. Oropesa is likely to be charged with murder.

Notes: Oropesa is reportedly an illegal immigrant who had been previously deported four times. Also arrested was Oropesa's wife Divimara Nava. Authorities reportedly arrested other suspects, but

have not revealed them as of press time.

**EUROPE**

**CONCERN LOOMS OVER NEW UK LAW**

A new UK law affecting people's rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, is "incompatible" with the country's international obligations, the UN rights chief said on April 27.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, called the Public Order Bill "deeply troubling legislation," after it completed its passage through parliament on April 26.

"It is especially worrying that the law expands the powers of the  
*(Continued on page 13)*

# LOCAL TALK

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<b>Postcards</b>	<b>Posters</b>
<b>Table Tents</b>	<b>Complete Printing</b>

### PRINTING

**NCR forms**  
**(2 parts / 3 parts)**  
**2/3 Part Booklets**

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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.

**IRVINGTON** - Fugees founding member Pras Michel may be less inclined to visit his boyhood neighborhood here lately since his April 26 conviction in a Washington, D.C. courtroom.

Michel, 50, has most likely met with his attorney, Daniel Kenner, since a federal jury, after a 23 day trial, found him guilty on all 10 counts put forward by U.S. Department of Justice prosecutors. Kenner, on April 26, said that he was going to file for a mistrial.

The 10 counts against Prakazrel Samuel Michel included making false statements to the Federal Elections Commission and to banks, being an unregistered lobbyist for a foreign government, witness tampering, money laundering and conspiracy thereof.

Michel, since 2018, was accused of receiving some of the \$4.5 billion from Malaysian financier Jho Taek Low - who was convicted of stealing from one of that country's funds. Michel donated some of the ill-gotten proceeds to several Presidential campaigns in his name.

Michel, on the People's Republic of China's behalf, was also accused of trying to persuade FBI agents in 2017 to return billionaire Guo Wengui to Mainland China. Wengui fled to the U.S. in 2014 after the Chinese government had charged him on fraud, sexual assault and related crimes.

Michel is facing up to a 22-year federal prison sentence barring a successful mistrial filing or appeal from Kenner. No sentencing date has been set as of press time. The judge may take into account Michel's on-stand April 18 testimony where he said he

had brought information to the FBI.

Michel had said that he was raised in Irvington by a strict Haitian-American family in the 1980s-90s. He met Lauryn Hill and Wyclef Jean to form The Fugees while they attended nearby Columbia High School. The group went on to record Grammy Award-winning albums in the 1990s.

**NEWARK** - Somerset County prosecutors and the family of Eunice Dwumfour are hoping that a just-found cell phone's contents will provide a lead in the Newark native and Sayreville councilwoman's three-month-long murder investigation.

Former state assemblyman-turned-Dwumfour family lawyer John Wisniewski said, on April 28, that he had learned that Somerset County Prosecutor's Office detectives had recovered a second cell phone, a laptop computer and a tablet from the family's storage warehouse unit.

County detectives had scoured the cell phone that was with Dwumfour when she was shot point blank in her SUV about 100 feet away from her Parlin section townhouse Feb. 1. Dwumfour, 30, a Weequahic High School Class of 2010 graduate, mother of an 11-year-old daughter and Sayreville's first African American councilwoman, was instantly killed.

Camelot at La Mer development cameras had captured a masked male shooting into Dwumfour's driver side window and fleeing over a fence onto Garden State Parkway property.

No one knew about a second Dwumfour cell phone until Borough Business Administrator Glen Skarzynski had recently asked Wisniewski about it. Skarzynski said that Sayreville's mayor and council members are among key officials who receive a government-issued cell phone.

Wisniewski believes that the second cell phone was in Dwumfour's townhouse Feb. 1 and was packed away with the rest of her belongings into the storage unit.

**EAST ORANGE** - A Newark man is now serving his sentence for an Oct. 28, 2020 triple shooting in the former city that left an East Orange woman dead.

Alfuquan Williams, 28, has agreed on May 1 to serve at least 85 percent of an 18 year state prison sentence before he is eligible for parole.

It will be 2038 before he is considered. Williams' plea bargain was made Monday in New Jersey Superior Court-Newark.

Essex County Prosecutor's Office attorneys had tied Williams to the shooting of Precious Adams, 23, of East Orange and two other people around Newark's 381 South 6th St. Oct. 28, 2020.

Newark Police Division officers, who had responded to 911 calls made to them from Newark's West Side at 7:15 p.m. that Wednesday, found Adams and two others suffering from gunshot wounds. The callers said that a "heated verbal argument" had ended with "multiple gunshots."

Although the two wounded people were taken to local hospitals for recovery, Adams died "a short time later" from her head wounds.

Adams' death notice or obituary was never publicly posted.

**ORANGE** - There are those who may look at Orange Public School's April 18 update on law enforcement's April 12 arrival at Orange High School and Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation and be reminded of how a Polaroid Land Camera photograph develops.

OPS Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II's "update to the update" may have provided greater resolution and clarity over time.

Fitzhugh said that he had received a call at 4:40 p.m. April 12 "that there was a potential threat of a potential shooting to occur at the volleyball game being held at the (OHS) gymnasium." He then put OHS and, by its proximity, OPA into immediate lockdown and called the Orange Police Department. Members from the Essex County Sheriff's Office and ECPO, including their K9 and bomb units, had also arrived.

Law enforcers, wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying rifles, then "safely escorted students and staff from both buildings" and "investigators walked through both buildings to ensure continued safety protocols." The walk through was also due to "also a bomb threat as well."

Fitzhugh added that "there was also a medical concern not related to the reported threats and subsequent investigation." OHS Principal Jason Belton had called for an ambulance when a teacher had collapsed.

The student-supplied and News12 New Jersey-aired cell phone video of students holding up their hands before officers in an orange room was in an OHS locker room. There was no gunfire in or on the OHS-OPA property.

**WEST ORANGE** - The West Orange Scholarship Fund, said West Orange High School Principal Oscar Guerrero April 28, has dedicated a perpetual scholarship in the late Brad Mitchell's name.

The Brad Mitchell Memorial Scholarship honors the late 18-year West Orange Public Schools science teacher, who had died April 23. Mitchell, who had spent the bulk of his 18 years as a WOHS honors biology teacher, had also taught in the Solomon Schechter/Golda Och Academy 2000-04.

News of Mitchell's death that Sunday rippled through the high school the next day. Guerrero made counselors available for students and staff on April 25.

Circumstances of Mitchell's death and a full obituary have not been posted as of press time.

The Mitchell Memorial Scholarship fund is open to graduating WOHS seniors who intend to study science in college or university. Donations may be made to the West Orange Scholarship Fund, c/o Jim Quinn, 23 Witte Place, 07052 or woboe.org/scholarshipfund.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - South Orange Chief of Police Ernesto Morillo, on April 28, said that his detectives have been getting county and state help in investigating the alleged March 28 shaking of an autistic Prekindergarten student by a South Orange-Maplewood School District teacher.

Morillo said that officials from the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey Department of Child Protection Permanency have joined the investigation since March 28. The trilateral investigation is following due process in gathering evidence that "might support criminal charges if appropriate."

Morillo's Friday announcement and discussion came between several public speakers' inquiries at April 27's SOMSD Board of Education meeting and the "Justice for Daylan" April 29 rally inside the South Orange train  
(Continued on page 12)



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## RUTGERS & UNIONS REACH DEAL

*(Continued from page 1)*

earlier special ratification meeting here or in New Brunswick or Camden.

The union members had been running on contracts that had expired on June 30, 2022. They were paid on the expired but honored CBA while respective union and administration attorneys bargained for a new pact.

The talks dragged on until the three unions went on strike April 12-17. It was the first time the said members stopped work and walked on picket lines in Rutgers' 253-year history.

Gov. Phil Murphy had meanwhile "invited" both sides to the State House on April 10. Both sides worked with state-supplied mediators until a framework agreement was reached at 1 a.m. April 15. The framework, which allowed union members to put aside their picket signs and return to work, led to April 28's tentative CBA.

The tentative agreement both sides are or will be voting on will give pay increases and more job

security to part-time or adjunct teachers and graduate/post-graduate students.

Part time and adjunct instructors will get a \$10,000 pay increase on their \$30,000 annual salary over the contract's four years. This will be done in percentages over the contract's four years. Adjuncts and part-time instructors may now apply for teaching classes by the school year instead of by the semester.

Postdoctoral students will get a 27.9 percent increase over four years, boosting their minimum annual pay to \$63,968 by June 30, 2026.

Graduate students whose work was interrupted by the 2020-21 COVID pandemic will get at least \$25,000 for a fifth year of funding. That minimum, however, may vary by the Rutgers college or department.

Biomedical faculty - doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and researchers - will get parental leave.

The CBA includes clauses addressing equity issues among the Newark, Camden and New Brunswick campuses.

Gov. Murphy (D-Rumson), while congratulating the parties in reaching a CBA, did not say whether the salary increases will be reflected in the to-be-ratified state budget. State Legislators have until June 30 to being a balanced 2023-24 state budget for Murphy to sign.

The four-year pact retroactively takes effect from July 1, 2022.

The Rutgers community here or elsewhere, however, is not completely free of the picket sign's shadow.

Members of the University of Rutgers Administrators-AFT Local 1766 were scheduled to hold "No Staff No Rutgers" rallies and picket lines 2-3 p.m. May 3 before the Paul Robeson Campus Center here and in New Brunswick.

The URA local, like colleagues in the three other unions, had been working without a CBA. They have expressed their negotiating frustration to Gov. Murphy's office staff and, as of May 3, demonstrated their dissatisfaction.

URA-AFT Local 1799, however, have not authorized a strike.



## From The Pastor's

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### Honoring Others Above Ourselves

It is hard for me to appreciate the level of disrespect occurring worldwide. Yet, I know that some individuals frame the attitudes on display in the halls of the American Congress, in classrooms, and on the streets of the nation as the fulfillment of the biblical prophecy that says, "But know this, that in the last days, perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." (2 Timothy 3:1-4 NKJV)

I am sure such a prophecy is not intended to lead us to complacency or make us think that we should not be courteous and give honor to those around us.

Whenever I hear members of the US Congress "threatening" witnesses

or using words like "liars" to departmental leaders or other persons invited to answer questions in investigations or oversight hearings, it grieves my spirit. I know someone might want to tell me that the attitudes of disrespect, discourtesy, incivility, contemptuousness, impoliteness, and coarseness that are issued in the insults and profanities on display are part of the gimmickry of contemporary politics. Yes, it might be part of the game, but it is clear that if what is on display is normalized, then we can be sure that we are on a sloop that will soon lead to the bottom of a pit where all of us will be in the most disgusting mess we have ever envisioned.

If I am talking politically or philosophically, let me be practical by reminding us that God does not desire us to live like wild animals attacking and tearing the flesh of each other but that we should live in civility and respect one another. When writing to the Christian community in Rome, the apostle Paul reminded them to "honor to one another." (Romans 12:10lp). "Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, **honor to whom honor is owed.**" (Romans 13:7 ESV).

Interestingly, Paul was giving such instructions to the Christians in Rome then. If he were around today, he would have given the same instruction with greater emphasis be-

cause of the many Christians caught up in the culture of disrespect practiced in Congress and other places across the land. While we might argue that those doing such things are not a majority of Christians, they are loud enough and prominent enough to give a negative face to all Christians.

Many people say that the brand they are bringing to Christians allows many in the secular world to think that Christianity is not something one should be associated with. Instead of uplifting others and honoring them as the Bible admonishes, these Christians, prompted by their instincts, are tearing them down.

The instructions concerning honoring others are not just good for Christians. As I have said, it is practical for the survival of the community in which we must live. Even if it is not considered suitable for politics, we must acknowledge and appreciate that our society will only last if we can respect and honor one another.

Our belief in individualism might make us think we can bruise and hurt one another without consequence. But that is like "going up fools hill." We are responsible for each other and responsible to each other and God, and we cannot disrespect one another without consequence. Disrespect has consequences. Therefore, whatever we give, we will receive, and worst of all, our children will pay.

I want to pause to ask how we can give preferences to one another. How can we strive to be a blessing to

those around us? How can we let them know that we care and that they are important to our existence? Here are seven suggestions:

1. Learn to love. You cannot honor others if you do not know love.
2. Watch your prejudices. One of the most significant stumbling blocks to honoring others is our prejudices.
3. Learn humility. Honoring others demands humility.
4. Learn forgiveness. If we harp on the wrongs done to us we will never learn respect for others.
5. Learn patience. When we are always in a rush and have no patience, we cannot honor those who are about us.
6. Cast aside fear. Fear is a huge tool that the devil has in his toolbox. It drives a wedge between people and does not allow us to know each other.
7. Learn to listen: It is noted how much we are being taught to shout down each other these days instead of listening to each other. This is why we cannot understand each other.

Yes, we have many lessons to learn in honoring one another, but if we do not learn and practice them, we will all be destroyed. And it is not to be just a matter of mutual survival it is what God requires of us.

### TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

station. The said protesters want more than transparency in the multiagency probe.

JFD organizers and the Wilkins family want the unidentified Montrose Early Childhood Center teacher fired; SOMSD administrators had put that teacher on administrative leave since March 29. The protestors want to know why it took the Montrose principal "two days" to inform mother Devena Wilkins about what happened to her son. The family also wants SOMSD to pay for the son's out-of-district schooling.

Wilkins said that her non-verbal son came home March 28 with bruises on his ankles and arms. She took her son to RWJBarnabas Health

Cooperman Barnabas hospital, where their pediatrician confirmed the injuries. Witnesses said that the teacher, reacting to the child's biting, held him upside down by his ankles for 15 seconds before an aide intervened at 2:30 p.m. that Tuesday.

Morillo said that Devena called SOPD March 29 and the department called ECPO March 30. The chief confirmed that Montrose Principal Bonita Samuels did not call SOPD until March 30 but did "immediately notify" the DCP&P.

"The principal was apparently trying to determine herself what had occurred," said the chief, "and whether it met the criteria of automatic reporting to law enforcement."

**BLOOMFIELD** - A former township family has recently filed a civil suit against the Bloomfield Police Depart-

ment in State Superior Court-Newark over what they said was being the victim of a "wrong address" raid.

The family of three, in their March filing, said that BPD officers entered their dwelling without warning by breaking their duplex apartment front door down at 7 a.m. March 29, 2021. Members were told by officers at gunpoint to stay seated in the living room and to keep their hands up while they searched for a suspect.

When it became apparent minutes later that what BPD thought was a murder-suicide in progress was not happening, nor a suspect found, officers rechecked the information given them. When law enforcers realized that they were given the wrong address, one of the officers explained the mistake to the husband, wife and their child and apologized.

Red Bank attorney Loryn Law-

son, Esq., representing the family, said that Bloomfield police dispatchers received a telephone call from a male who said that he had shot his mother and was going to shoot himself. Lawson said she has evidence that the message was a prank "swatting" call from out of state.

Police are allowed to conduct a warrantless search when there is a matter of life or death. Lawson said, however, that the responding Bloomfield officers had spent a longer time than necessary to look for the "murder-suicide" suspect.

"Had they asked the landlord's son, who lived downstairs, if he had heard shooting," said Lawson to a reporter April 23, "they would've known right off the bat this is a situation to be going in."

The suit asserts that Bloomfield  
(Continued on page 14)

# Autism Matters in Orange New Jersey

OP-ED By India William of All About The Spectrum

My name is India Williams and I am a resident of Orange NJ for the last 25 years. I am also the founder of **All About The Spectrum**, a nonprofit organization for families living with autism. The reason I started this organization is because I have a son with autism. I realized there was not an organization in my town, to offer resources nor support for my son. I independently found the necessary resources to help our family. In the past, parents from Orange had to go to East Orange, Newark, South Orange, West Orange, and Union for support, so I started our organization.

We host various events and activities for families. On April 15, 2023, we had our 2nd Autism Acceptance Walk. I am partnering with different organizations to put together webinars on topics, such as, *How To Cope When Your Child is Diagnosed*; *How To Advocate For Your Child*; *Early Intervention*; and *The IEP Process*. In 3 to 5 years, we are look forward to having a sensory event location to host birthday parties for children with autism; and to hosting parent support groups.

Our main goals are to educate, support, and come together as a community. The education of our community is really what I'm focusing on because there are no resources in Orange. Our parents are missing out. Support is important because sometime others frown upon parents of kids diagnosed with autism. It can be a source of exhaustion and frustration. It is crucial that we as the community of Orange collaborate to achieve inclusion that gives our children the same opportunities as other children. Planned events for the autistic community is necessary, to create safe and supported settings.

We invite families to connect with our organization for help without judgment. More information about you *All About The Spectrum* is available at [www.allaboutthespectrum.com](http://www.allaboutthespectrum.com), or email us at [allaboutthespectrum1@gmail.com](mailto:allaboutthespectrum1@gmail.com).

**This is All About The Spectrum. Educate, Support, and Come Together.**

NOTE: The Family Support Organization of Essex County bought this article to you, to shine the light on autism advocacy happening in Orange NJ. [www.fsoec.org](http://www.fsoec.org)

## WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 7)

police to stop and search individuals, including without suspicion; defines some of the new criminal offences in a vague and overly broad manner; and imposes unnecessary and disproportionate criminal sanctions on people organizing or taking part in peaceful protests," Mr. Türk said.

He appealed to the UK Government to reverse the legislation, which has yet to receive Royal Assent, "as soon as feasible." The Government insists that the fundamental right to protest is still protected under the legislation, but it brings in new penalties for so-called "guerrilla tactics."

The bill was introduced to crack down on disruptive protests by activists such as the Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion groups, which have used tactics such as blocking roadways and chaining themselves to railings, including those



Family Support Organization of Essex County PRESENTS...

## Children's Mental Health Awareness Day



**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023**

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day features a panel discussion including family members impacted by mental health and suicide; and professionals who provide support to youth and families. Together, potential solutions for care and suicide prevention could be available for attendees. This day seeks to increase understanding about the importance of children's emotional and mental health challenges. Learn more and register by *Monday, May 8* at:

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## SPORTS WRAP (Continued from page 5)

notable 1st Round selections saw the Colts take Florida QB Anthony Richardson at #4, the Eagles continuing their binge on Georgia players by taking DT Jalen Carter at #9 and LB Nolan Smith at #30. The 1st Round had only 31 picks because the Dolphins forfeited theirs.

The first pick of the second round saw the Steelers take cornerback Joey Porter, Jr, the son of former Steeler LB Joey Porter. Other notable draft picks included the Titans taking highly touted Kentucky QB Will Levis, Detroit taking Tennessee QB Hendon Hooker with pick #68, the Rams getting Georgia QB Stetson Bennett IV with pick #128, the Chargers taking TCU QB Max Duggan with pick #239,

and the Rams taking Toledo DE Desjuan Johnson with the 259th and final pick of the 2023 Draft.

As for the Jets, Gang Green took Iowa State DE Will McDonald IV with the 15th overall pick, after swapping 1st Round picks with the Packers in the Aaron Rodgers trade. They also took C Joe Tippmann, T Carter Warren, RB Israel Abanikanda, LB Zaire Barnes, CB Jarrick Bernard-Converse, and TE Zack Kuntz in later rounds.

Meanwhile, the Giants made Maryland CB Deonte Banks their first pick at #25. They then selected C John Michael Schmitz, WR Jalin Hyatt, RB Eric Gray, CB Tre Hawkins III, NT Jordon Riley, and S Gervarius Owens in later rounds.

around the UK Parliament in central London.

The UN rights chief stressed that the law's apparent targeting of "those protesting about human rights and environmental issues" was particularly concerning.

"As the world faces the triple planetary crises of climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution, governments should be protecting and facilitating peaceful protests on such existential topics, not hindering and blocking them," Mr. Türk said.

Mr. Türk insisted that the law was "wholly unnecessary", given the UK police's existing powers to act against violent demonstrations.

He also criticized the criminalization of protests linked to the new legislation.

The Public Order Act introduces "Serious Disruption Prevention Orders" which, according to the UN rights chief's office, have the potential to significantly limit the freedoms of protesters, by allowing courts to ban individuals from being in certain places at certain times, being with particular people, or even to limit the way they use the internet.

On the basis of the new law, individuals could be electronically monitored to ensure compliance, even if they have never been convicted of any criminal offense.

## The Observation Booth



**WATCH BIG BRUH**



**WATCH & PRAY!**

*Photos By Andrea Dialect*

"Big Brother Is Watching" has become sort of a catchphrase. It's sprinkled around so much lately that if it's heard being thrown directly at me or I'm eavesdropping as it's being

tossed at someone else. This stark reality is not the least bit shocking because now you know, and I know that if, for some odd reason, you don't (Bruh/Sis), somebody's gonna tell ya.

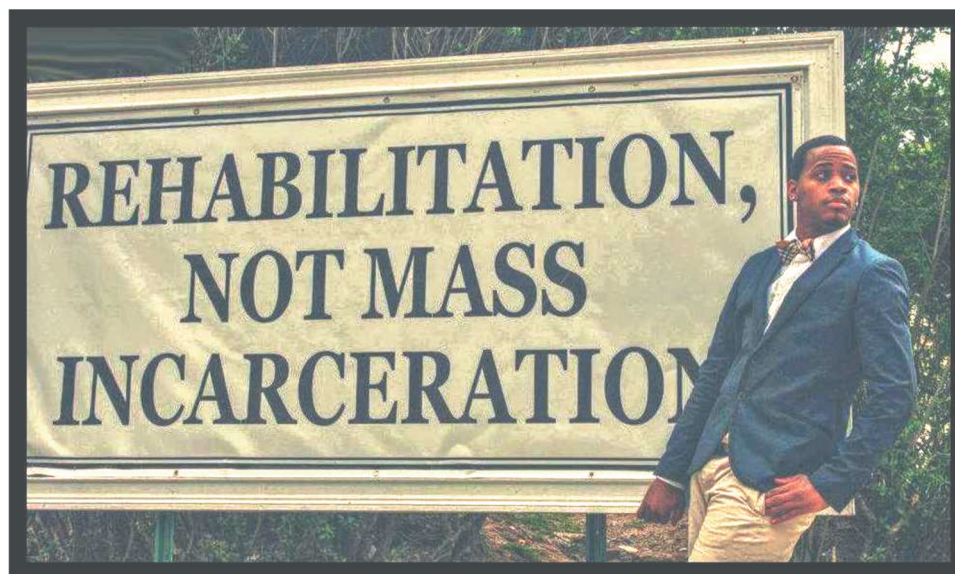
The reach of this PBA extends far beyond public knowledge, and it has become the rule of the game. But oddly enough, the one thing that I DO NOT hear, or quite sparingly, is WATCH BIG BRUH, which is the ol switcheroo that comes across as being pretty logical if you were to ask me.

Also, surprisingly I haven't come across many that dare even to be bold enough to jump out of that sandbox where all those necks extend and those behinds that are exposed when we play as ostrich. Avoidance has become our policy in most matters, and that's what really, really matters.

Call me crazy, but I thought that our government worked for the people, not vice versa, if we don't get out of the past, which admittedly is saturated with the blood, sweat, and strength of our people whose tears were utilized as fuel, that are clearly not a display of streams of weakness - abandon our private world of distorted hues uniting with humanity (There are two ethnicities, good and evil-copyright Andrea Dialect) to halt the global collaborative efforts of the elites.

They are now appearing to be joining forces although, in many respects have always been in cahoots and apparently are revving up those theatrical plays on We the People to be made to order. (The bible is fulfilling itself.) Future generations will once again be penning history, her story, or the story of our demise.

First, how you live will well decide if you'll be jumping out that pot into the frying pan, for God's sake,



that's a whole other story. But, if death is your survival tactic which I have personally found several in many convos, that are banking on that proverbial pill pop or whatever to safely usher them to the other side. When they say death is their foul-proof strategy, this is my rebuttal, and I quote, (This is my intellectual property, but use it at leisure if you must. Just credit a Sista.) "Even in death, one must have those ducks in a row unless someone comes and adds a twist to your happy ending!" On that note, please take a peek back into history and see the level of crazy and psychopathic behavior that was executed on our people as well as those of other descent.

In a nutshell, when those cameras are scanning the scene or those new so-called charming little robots in whatever form it commands to conjure up while peering out at us is, on the hunt. We must firmly place our eyes into the scope of that lens to let Bruh know that we are watching them too. Let's play the nosey neighbor that doesn't sleep and cop a pair of those fancy-

schmancy binoculars and start really watching those residing in the Big House and those House Floors.

In the extended online version of this article you will find a list of a few of the Bills that have made the cut. Most of them here are pretty okay. But your job is to do the research, which must be ongoing, by the way, and find those that have been passed and/or are being presented, and many are not so cute, which makes for an ugly picture for all of us.

United, we must stand. I am gripping our flag as we speak. Be informed, America, all ethnicities be advised, "Let's get it!" as them youngins say. But I'll rest my case for now! Andrea Dialect Said That!

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

### **TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 12)

police had violated their own policies and practices - including conducting "an extensive" search. The family is asking for unspecified damages and attorney's fees, should a jury rule in the family's favor.

Bloomfield police, as a standard procedure, refrained from commenting on the litigation.

**MONTCLAIR** - The entire Township Council present - after eight months paid suspension, two filed lawsuits and three unfulfilled public hearing dates - fired suspended Town Manager Timothy F. Stafford in a special April 28 meeting.

All five council members present, led by Councilman Peter Yacobellis, dismissed Stafford in pub-

lic that Friday morning. Montclair's elders then granted Stafford a state Faulkner Act 90 days worth of severance pay and elevated Deputy Town Manager Brian Scantlebury to Acting Manager.

The 40-minute meeting, which had also aired on Montclair TV34 and was livestreamed, ended a train of events that started when CFO Padmaja Rao filed a hostile workplace and whistleblower lawsuit against Stafford and the township Oct. 17. The council put Stafford, who had been manager here since 2014, on paid administrative leave Oct. 25.

Former Deputy Clerk Juliet Lee later filed suit, complaining that Stafford's harassment and bullying had forced her to retire early. The Township Council had introduced a measure Feb. 28 to take Stafford off paid leave and to "show cause" for his im-

pending firing.

The special meeting was anti-climatic; Stafford, in the 11th hour, waived his right to publicly testify and did not show. The session almost did not happen since Mayor Sean Spillar and Deputy Mayor Councilman William "Bill" Hurlock were absent. Councilman Robert "Bob" Russo said he found another instructor to teach his government class in a nearby college Friday.

Acting Township Attorney Paul Burr said that Spillar was away on a family emergency. Hurlock told Burr that, because he was not part of the Feb. 28 removal introduction and vote, he had decided to recuse himself Friday.

Burr added that he was anticipating a tort claim  
(Continued on page 15)

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 14)

from Stafford's lawyer. Stafford, who was Fair Lawn's town manager for a year before his Montclair hiring. He had also been vice president for legal and community affairs for the Trump Organization.

**GLEN RIDGE** - Dr. Franklyn P. Gerard, 95, who had an active medical, political and public service practice here 1957-97, has died in Singer Island, Fla., April 8.

Dr. Gerard, who was Borough Councilman 1983-86, also was Glen Ridge High School team physician 1972-82, Glen Ridge Athletic Association President and a Glen Ridge Country Club trustee. He and wife Catherine "Cay" Spina-Gerard raised Franklyn, Jr., Dr. William, Robert, Maribeth, Cathy and Joanne here.

The inaugural College/University of Medicine & Dentistry of NJ - Now University Hospital and Rutgers School of Medicine - was also on the boards of Clara Maass Hospital and Cathedral Health Care. Practicing from Belleville and Verona, Dr. Gerard had been on the medical staff of Mountainside, Clara Maass, St. Barnabas, Passaic's St. Mary's and Rahway Hospital plus the former East Orange General and Orange Memorial hospitals.

Dr. Gerard and Dr. Adrian M. Sabety co-founded The Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgical Group of Essex County, in East Orange, in 1963. The state's first professional medical corporation became The Cardiovascular Care Group of Clifton, Morristown, Westfield, Shrewsbury and Rockaway.

Franklyn Patrick Gerard, who was born in Newark Aug. 7, 1927, came here by way of New York City, Korea and Italy. The Regis High School Class of 1945 graduate and Harvard Medical School student enlisted with the Marines at the Korean Conflict's onset.

The USMC battalion surgeon, who was honorably discharged in 1955, was on a heritage trip in

Italy when he met Cay. Dr. Gerard completed his residency at Brooklyn's Kings County Hospital and fellowship at Boston's Lahey Clinic. He left the clinic in 1959 with a certification in General and Thoracic Surgery.

Gerard, who has lately summered in Sea Girt and Singer Island, is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and sister Joann Larkin. Knighted to the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II, Gerard's Funeral Mass was held at Spring Lake's St. Catherine Church April 15. Memorial donations may be made to [doctorswithoutborders.org](http://doctorswithoutborders.org).

**BELLEVILLE** - Property owners will be seeing a 2.025 percent on their 2023-24 school tax, starting with their July 1 quarterly tax bill, as the result of the Belleville Board of Education Trustees' April 24 budget approval.

The 2.025 percent increase to pay for the township's share of the now-\$100,328,873 budget, according to Belleville Public Schools' pre-vote presentation, comes out to an \$81 annual increase per \$100 on a house with an average assessed value of \$278,700.

Also, the 2.025 percent increase will help pay for the 2023-24 \$47,278,975 tax levy. Both BPS Superintendent Richard Tomko and Business Administrator Matthew Paladino said that the new \$100,328,873 budget includes a \$10,432,684 increase in state aid, up to \$54,384,062. (Increased state revenue and a change in the state aid allocation formula means that Trenton is sending either an unchanged aid level in East Orange and increases here and in the other nine Local Talk public school districts.)

The outgoing 2022-23 budget, by comparison, was \$94,850,699. Its tax levy was \$44,429,078 - an increase of 2.455 percent on 2021-22, or a \$97 increase per \$100 on an average assessed house of \$277,600. State aid back then was \$43,951,378.

The "new" \$100 million budget, first presented to the school board and public on April 21, was a revision of the Tomko Administration's initially introduced budget. That introduced plan included

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

(Continued from page 1)

Reinoso, global director of Philanthropic Education Initiatives at Amazon.

“With students from historically underrepresented and underserved communities representing only 18% of CS bachelor’s degrees, we believe that connecting students to computer science education and opportunities helps create a more equitable and inclusive future, across all industries and sectors, for generations to come.”

Dr. Vincent Stallings, the principal of East Orange STEM Academy stated, “The Amazon Scholarship program has provided a great opportunity for our students to continue to dream big and remain focus on their goals. As a school community we’re very proud of student recipients and humbled by this opportunity.”

an initial \$256, or a.6414 percent, increase on a home with a \$278,700 average assessed value.

Getting the \$256 increase to \$81, said Tomko and Paladino, came from making \$1.95 million in budget cuts in six categories. The reductions include reducing \$500,000 in bond payments to Belleville Township for building rentals and forgoing \$425,000 to expand an athletic facility.

Tomko and Paladino's 42-page slide presentation noted the shared service agreement with the Township government to expand Belleville Middle School and build an adjacent joint-use parking garage.

**BLACK LEADERS** (Continued from page 6)

we can begin to see where some truth can lie in the projections of the black household being at 0 net worth by 2030.

And with so many depopulation efforts in full effect, folks are just happy at this point, to simply wake up another day. No one is excited by anything the Democrats have going on and black America is waking up to their failure to represent those of us who continue to put them into office.

They have turned their back on Black America and we must wake up to that bitter truth.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Comtec Institute of East Orange, New Jersey is applying to become a candidate for accreditation or for initial or reaffirmation of accreditation with the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education. In addition, it states that persons wishing to make comments should either write to the Executive Director of the Commission, Council on Occupational Education, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, Georgia 30350, or submit their comments through the Council's website ([www.council.org](http://www.council.org)).

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