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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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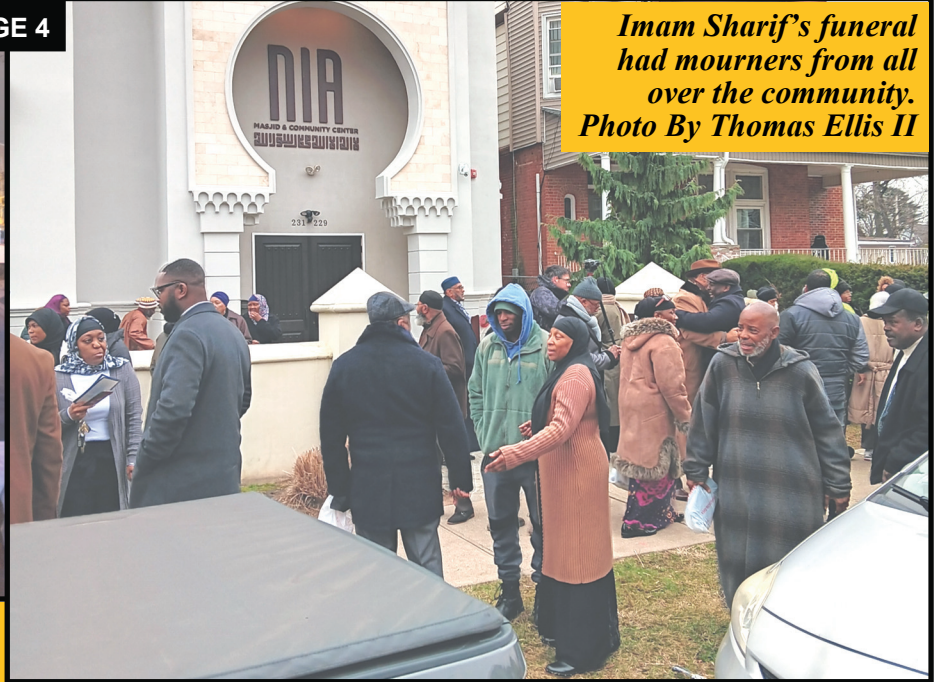
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SLAIN NEWARK IMAM HASSAN SHARIF MOURNED



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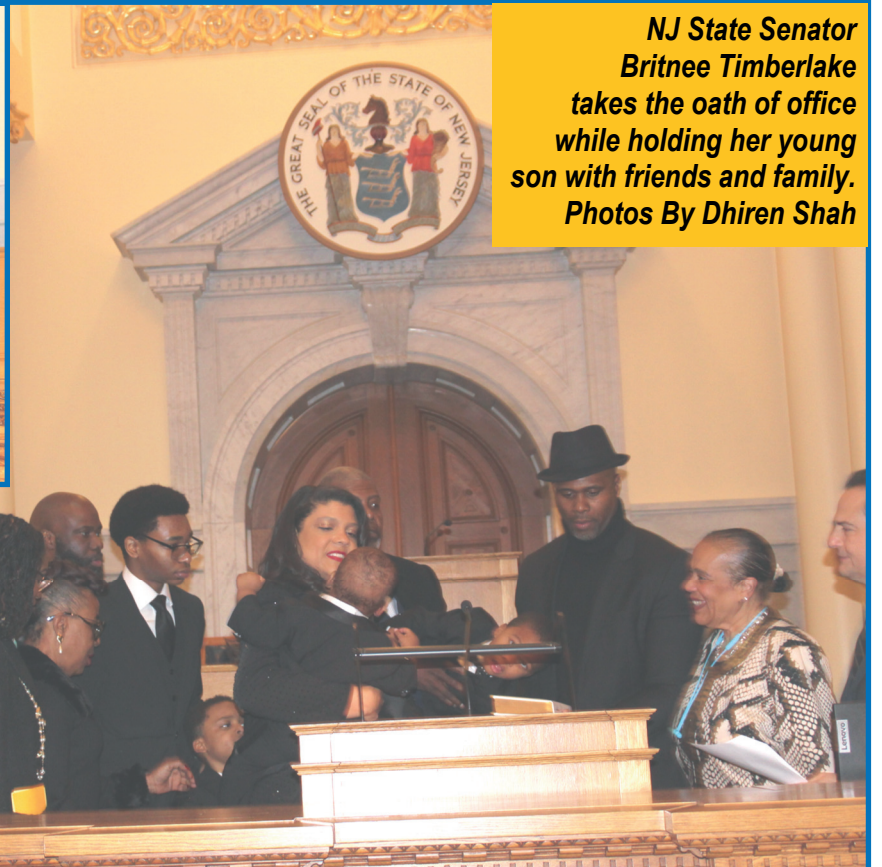
Imam Sharif’s funeral had mourners from all over the community. Photo By Thomas Ellis II

Members of the community convene outside the masjid after Imam Sharif’s death. Photo By Kristopher Seals

BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE SWORN IN AS STATE SENATOR



NJ State Senator Britnee Timberlake takes the oath of office while holding her young son with friends and family. Photos By Dhiren Shah



**COMMUNITY WEALTH
PRESERVATION PROGRAM
MIGHT FINALLY HAPPEN**

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

Hello Readers,

After two years, there was significant snow in some parts of New Jersey. Northwest NJ had between 6" to 12" of snow. However, the snow stopped on early Sunday afternoon, so the majority of the driveways were cleared by Sunday night. Finally, the snow removal businesses has some business from the commercial properties, residential properties and roads to make some money.

Florida GOP Chairman Christian Ziegler has been ousted as chairman in a closed-door meeting. As per the news his wife, Sarasota County school board member Bridget Ziegler, stated that herself, Christian Ziegler and an alleged victim had a three-way sexual encounter according to a warrant affidavit per the news media. We all know that Mr. Ziegler is not guilty un-

til he is proven guilty in a court of law. But I give credit to the Florida GOP that they removed him immediately as chairman. A person who has been legally accused or charged must be removed from their position, so if the person is guilty he/she cannot damage the system and the taxpayers' money.

President Biden once again went to Charleston at Mother Emanuel Church, where a white supremacist gunman killed nine worshippers in 2015. He went to South Carolina, where the momentum has changed, and he won the presidential primary in 2020. However, there were many protests calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The Democrats are divided due to the war between Israel and Gaza.

Also, there was controversy with both parties showing concerned about the hospitalization of US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. Even his deputy stated upon assuming his responsibilities that he was unaware of his hospitalization. The Defense Secretary is in the line of succession of command of the nation after the president. Biden has kept silent so far.

After one year, President Biden has not surpassed Donald

Trump in the polls. So, the Democratic machine has changed its strategy and started trying to block Trump from the ballots with the unusual 14th Amendment law. By the 14th Amendment Section 3, anyone who is engaged in insurrection or rebellion in the court of law can be barred from holding office. This cannot be done throughout the United States, but can be stopped via the states, which has a majority of the democrats and the judges who believe that Trump should be stopped via the insurrection law. Colorado is the first state and Maine joined not long after. It is pending as it was appealed by Trump's lawyers. Many states are waiting for the ruling of the Supreme Court, so they can join Colorado and Maine. Bear in mind, Trump was not charged with insurrection in the Jan. 6 trial, but a bunch of other things.

According to the Guardian, there are sex tapes of Jeffrey Epstein showing the involvement of Prince Andrew, Bill Clinton and Sir Richard Branson. If it is true and if Epstein's attorney Alan Dershowitz brings out some tapes in the court, there will be many popular names that will surface. Everyone is closely watching the

outcome of the case, where Epstein committed suicide in jail, though some believe it may have been murder. According to the Associated Press, "Nearly four years later, the AP has obtained more than 4,000 pages of documents related to Epstein's death from the federal Bureau of Prisons under the Freedom of Information Act."

Alaska Airlines had a horrifying midflight mishap with a blowout from part of the plane that landed in Portland. Fortunately, there was no injury or loss of life on the ground. It was a Boeing 737 Max 9. The fuselage door was found on Jan. 8 and was the size of a refrigerator door. Boeing stopped a number of flights throughout the world. The worst part is that the same Portland airplane was inspected, and three loose bolts were found before they came to Portland. Federal officials from the U.S. and officials from many countries who has Boeing's 737 Max 9s will investigate and inspect them thoroughly for the safety of the passengers and crews.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next time.

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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>
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	AM Rain / Windy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Morning Snow	Mostly Sunny
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SLAIN NEWARK IMAM HASSAN SHARIF MOURNED

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The mourning for Imam Hassan Sharif, who was shot dead outside of his mosque early Jan. 3, continued past his Jan. 6 Janazah prayer service here.

The hunt for Sharif's killer, as of presstime, also continues, fueled in part by a \$25,000 reward for information posted by the Essex County Sheriff's Office Crime Stoppers web page Jan. 4. The Council of American-Islamic Relations has also posted a \$10,000 reward.

Several hundred to over 1,000 mourners came for Sharif's service here at the NIA Masjid and Community Center, at 231 Roseville Ave. "The Roseville Mosque" 's sanctuary, which was selected for the ample space, was filled. Mourners took up its parking lot and took up Roseville Avenue between Park Avenue and William Street, a crowd approaching what it has had for its annual Day of Dignity before moving that to Lincoln Park re-

cently.

Speakers were set up for those outside the sanctuary to hear the prayers and remarks.

As early as 8:30 a.m., Roseville Avenue was closed between Park Avenue and Seventh Avenue, causing NJTransit Route No. 34 buses, among other traffic, to take detours. Mourners found themselves parking some two blocks away that early.

Sharif, 52, had been Masjid Muhammad-Newark's imam for five years after his 2018 election. The Manhattan-born Sharif was a West Side High School graduate who later received a degree in criminal justice. The US Transportation Security Administration was also a member of Newark's Interfaith Alliance.

It had started out in the old Victoria / Congress Theater at 257 South Orange Ave. before the nation of Islam's Muhammad's Mosque No. 25 was established there in 1955.

Mosque No. 25 moved to other city places when the congregation followed W.D. Muhammad's

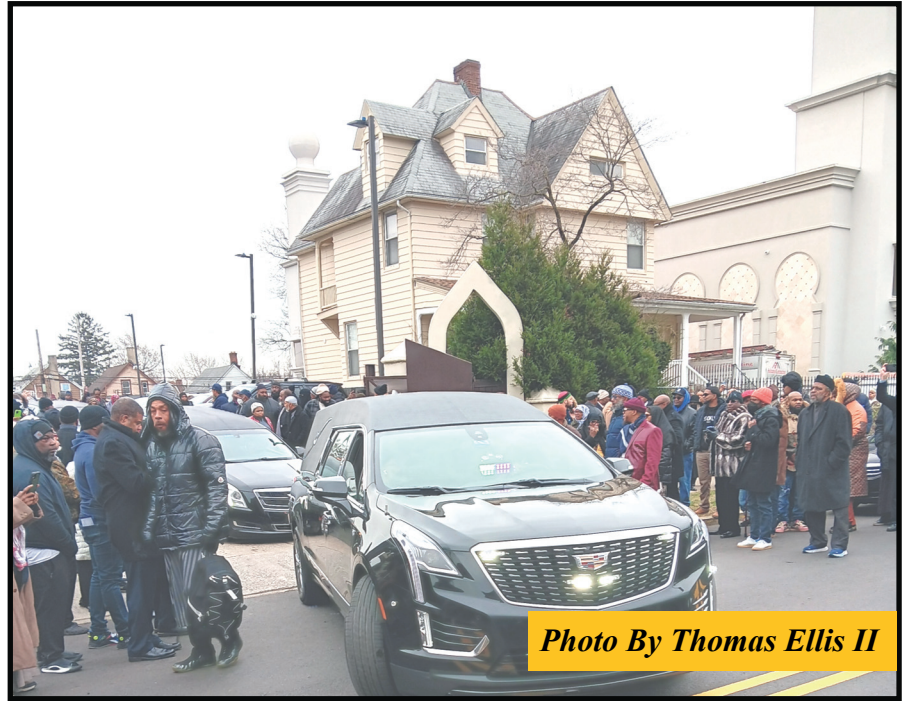


Photo By Thomas Ellis II

Sunni Muslim path in the late 1970s. Muhammad's Mosque-Newark, over time, renovated 253-55 South Orange Ave. A "demolition" project for 257 SOA is listed on its website.

The mosque, besides its five-times daily prayers and on holy days, holds Friday Jummah services, Arabic language lessons, Tai Chi classes, the Clara Muhammad Weekend School, and every other Sunday food distribution. Plans call for expanding Clara Muhammad classes into a full Kindergarten-12th Grade school.

Sharif, while imam, had worked in anti-violence events on an individual and group bases. He lent space to the Muslim League of Voters of NJ and the Newark Safe Surrender program.

Sharif had opened 253-257 South Orange Ave. for 6:15 a.m. Fajr prayers like most any other morning. He did recall encountering and subduing a hostile individual while opening the mosque some six months ago.

He walked back to his car parked in the lot off the northwest corner of South Orange Avenue and Camden Street, which the mosque shares with a church, after 6 a.m.

It was in Sharif's car where they found him with two gunshot wounds to his chest. He was rushed to Newark's University Hospital two blocks away, where he died at 2:21 p.m.

Wife Aisha, five children, three stepchildren and five

grandchildren are among his survivors. Sharif's body was buried at East Hanover's Restland Memorial Cemetery.

Several hundred people converged on the corner of South Orange and Camden that night. The crowd included congregants from several masjids, the Newark Anti-Violence Coalition and Council Members Rev. Dr. Louise Scott-Rountree and Rev. Patrick Council.

"We want justice on this corner because he fought for justice on this corner," said Council. "We want righteousness on this corner because he wanted righteousness on this corner. We want to end oppression on this corner because he wanted to end oppression on this corner. And we want the person who committed this crime to turn himself in right now."

Traffic, including buses on NJTransit's No. 31 bus route, were detoured.

N.J. Attorney General Matthew Platkin and Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage, that afternoon, said that they believe that Sharif's shooting was an individual matter and not linked to Islamophobia or terrorism.

"This murder investigation is in the hands of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and our public safety ecosystem is supporting their efforts in every way possible. We will bring the perpetrator to justice, no matter how long it takes, and we en-

(Continued on page 5)

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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past week there was plenty of excitement in local area sports. The Seton Hall men's basketball team is on a roll at this moment, thanks to a big tournament resume victory over Marquette 78-75. Kadary Richmond and Al-Amir Dawes combined for 44 points and Dre Davis had a key basket to wrap up the victory this past Saturday at the Prudential Center. Davis

Leading SHU was senior Azana Baines with 21 points and 7 rebounds in this game.

In other sports action, the New York Jets won their season finale at the New England Patriots 16-3, in what could be Bill Belichick final game coaching the Pats. In the afternoon, the New York Giants won their finale against the reeling Philadelphia Eagles at MetLife Stadium 27-10. Leading NYG was running back Saquon Barkley, who



who also had 11 points and seven rebounds.

Before this game, the Hall scored a win over Providence Friars on the road and a big victory against the defending National Champion Connecticut Huskies.

The Seton Hall women's basketball team took a tough loss on December 30th against Providence 51-46. Prior to this, the Lady Pirates basketball team beat Georgetown on the road in 57-49. In the last home game against Villanova, the women pirates had a tough loss 50-47.

had two touchdowns in what could be his last game with the team, while QB Tyrod Taylor led the giants with 296 yards passing.

Finally, for the first time since sharing the honor in the 1997 season, the Michigan Wolverines are National Champions of the main college football world. The 15-0 squad finished an undefeated season by pulling away from the 14-1 Washington Huskies in the fourth quarter 34-13 in what could be coach Jim Harbaugh's last game at the helm.



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IMAM MOURNED

(Continued from page 4)

courage him to turn himself in through Newark's Safe Surrender program," Mayor Ras J. Baraka's said in a statement on the murder of Imam Hassan Sharif.

"We don't yet know all the details, but here is what we do know: Imam Hassan Sharif stood with the people of this city, and we will stand with him and his family.

"None of us has to know the details about this shooting to

condemn it. Any act of violence, any killing or harming of any person, is never okay - no matter what precipitates or motivates such a depraved act.

"Today we mourn a fellow Newarker and a member of our city's multi-faith clergy community. I am disgusted that a gun has made its way through our community to kill one of us.

"I mourn the death of Imam Hassan Sharif and know any expression of condolence and comfort for his family and loved ones is inadequate. Our hearts are broken."

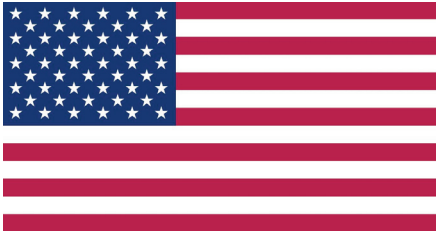
Photo By Kristopher Seals





WORLD NEWS FLASH

UNITED STATES



JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUES TEXAS

The issue of migrants being bused from Texas and other locales is spilling from one side of the Hudson River to the other.

The Justice Department filed suit Jan. 3 against the State of Texas to challenge Senate Bill 4 (SB 4) under the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause and Foreign Commerce Clause. The Constitution assigns the federal government the authority to regulate immigration and manage our international borders.

Pursuant to this authority, Congress has established a comprehensive framework governing the entry of noncitizens into the United States and the removal of noncitizens from the country. Because SB 4 is preempted by federal law and violates the U.S. Constitution, the Justice Department seeks a declaration that SB 4 is invalid and an order preliminarily and permanently enjoining the state from enforcing the law.

"SB 4 is clearly unconstitutional," said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta. "Under the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution and longstanding Supreme Court precedent, states cannot adopt immigration laws that interfere with the framework enacted by Congress. The Justice Department will continue to fulfill its responsibility to uphold the Constitution and enforce federal law."

"Texas cannot disregard the United States Constitution and

settled Supreme Court precedent," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "We have brought this action to ensure that Texas adheres to the framework adopted by Congress and the Constitution for regulation of immigration."

As outlined in the complaint, Texas's law would create two new state crimes that attempt to regulate immigration, with charges ranging from a misdemeanor to a felony. Additionally, SB 4 would give state judges the ability to order removal from the United States. The Supreme Court, in *Arizona v. United States*, has previously confirmed that decisions relating to removal of noncitizens from the United States touch "on foreign relations and must be made with one voice." SB 4 impedes the federal government's ability to enforce entry and removal provisions of federal law and interferes with its conduct of foreign relations.

The suit was filed on behalf of the United States, including the Justice Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of State.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 1-9-2024 at 12 p.m.

2024 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2024>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 9
- Total Dead: 14
- Total Wounded: 35
- Shootings Per Day: 1

U.S. / EUROPE

FBI NEWARK SEEKS INFORMATION ON MISSING AMERICAN IN ITALY

The Newark FBI is asking for the public's help in the investigation of an American man from Marlboro, NJ, who hasn't been since in 2019. FBI agents are assisting the Marlboro Police Department searching for Liam Biran, (dob: 01/26/1987) who

PERSONA SCOMPARSA
LIAM BIRAN
9 Maggio, 2019
NORD ITALIA

DESCRIZIONE
Data e di Nascita Utilizzata: 26 Gennaio 1987
Capelli: Marroni
Altezza: 1,72 cm
Corporatura: Muscolosa
Razza: Bianca
Cicatrici e Segni Particolari: Liam ha un ampio spazio tra i suoi denti inferiori superiori.

NOTE
Prima di partire per il suo viaggio, Liam viveva a Jefferson, Louisiana, e lavorava a New Orleans, Louisiana. Ha anche trascorso del tempo a New York, e ha vissuto con la sua famiglia a Marlboro, New Jersey. Liam ha un blog in cui parla del suo amore per il vino e le regioni vinicole. Il suo amore per i viaggi è ben noto tra i suoi amici e familiari, e ha sempre parlato del suo sogno di diventare un sommelier.

DETTAGLI
Liam Biran ha lasciato gli Stati Uniti l'8 aprile 2019 per visitare la famiglia in Israele, poi per visitare i luoghi vinicoli d'Italia e poi la Francia. Viaggiava da solo. Il 26 maggio 2019 Liam avrebbe dovuto prendere un volo da Parigi, Francia, per tornare negli Stati Uniti, ma non era presente su quel volo. La sua ultima attività conosciuta è stata il 9 maggio 2019, quando una carta di credito che era solito usare, è stata attivata per acquistare un biglietto ferroviario da Torino alla Valle d'Aosta in Italia. Durante i suoi viaggi, Liam ha soggiornato in diversi ostelli, e lì, è diventato amico degli altri viaggiatori della sua età che soggiornano negli stessi ostelli. Gli effetti personali di Liam si trovano in una località remota della Valle d'Aosta, ma dal maggio del 2019 non si è più visto né sentito.

Se avete qualche informazione riguardo a questa persona, vi preghiamo di contattarci il vostro ufficio locale dell'FBI o l'Ambasciata Americana più vicina, oppure il Consolato Americano.
Ufficio locale di Newark, NJ

was last seen hiking in a remote area of Italy.

Investigators say Liam left home on April 8, 2019, to visit his grandparents in Israel, and from there traveled to wine country in Italy, and planned to go to France. Liam was booked on a flight to return to the United States from Paris on May 16, 2019. Liam was not on the flight. The last known activity related to Liam was a purchase made on his credit card for a train ticket to Turin, Italy. During the investigation, Italian police detectives discovered Liam was in the Aosta Valley, and stayed in multiple hostels and became friendly with other travelers.

Before his trip in 2019, Liam spent time living and working in New Orleans, LA, as well as New York City, NY. He wrote an online blog discussing his love of wine and wine country. His family and friends say Liam loves to travel and discussed the goal of becoming a sommelier.

Liam has brown hair, brown eyes, is around 160 pounds, 5'8" tall, with a muscular build. He has a gap between his two front teeth. If anyone has information about Liam or his disappearance, they are asked to contact the FBI Newark at 973-792-3000, or the FBI tips page at tips.fbi.gov.

WORLD

PIRATE TV TAKEN OFF AIRWAVES

A criminal group responsible for the illegal streaming of 72 Korean and international channels and the distribution of nearly 110,000 video files has been

dismantled following joint action between authorities in Korea, Indonesia and INTERPOL.

The illegal service had been running for approximately nine years, capitalizing on the high demand among Korean expatriates for domestic real-time broadcasting content, amounting to more than KRW 16 billion (USD 1.23 million) in estimated losses.

The suspects had subscribed to 40 Korean cable TV service accounts and would re-broadcast their content to Indonesia. They also provided video-on-demand (VOD) services to users who connected to their platform via customized TV boxes, applications, and web browsers.

This successful collaboration came under the INTERPOL Stop Online Piracy Project (I-SOP). Coordination with the Indonesian Directorate General of Intellectual Property (DGIP), the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST), and the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA), led to the arrest of three suspects behind the illegal Internet Protocol television (IPTV) service.

The illegal service was first flagged by the copyright holder to Indonesian officials in May 2023. When a full-scale investigation was opened, INTERPOL facilitated meetings and coordinated joint enforcement actions between Korean and Indonesian officials.

Simultaneous raids were subsequently held in both countries in late October, leading to the arrests.

LIM Seonghwan, Director General of the Copyright Bureau MCST said: "The MCST's Copyright Crime Forensic Investigation Division will continue to expand international cooperation investigations in collaboration with INTERPOL's I-SOP project to address copyright infringement crimes occurring overseas. We also plan to enhance our digital investigative capabilities, including digital forensics."

I-SOP is a five-year project funded by the MCST, which aim at combating crimes involving intellectual property infringement such as trademark counter-

(Continued on page 12)

10 WAYS TO PRIORITIZE YOUR MENTAL HYGIENE

OP-ED By Princess Owens, Family Liaison of Family Support Organization of Essex County

January is National Mental Wellness Awareness Month. During this time, the focus is on cultivating and nurturing mental health and overall well-being. Mental wellness is integral to the holistic functioning of the mind and body, and it significantly impacts our daily experiences.

According to the World Health Organization, mental well-being involves not only how we feel inside, but also how we interact with others in personal and professional settings. We can connect individual well-being to community well-being, showing that individuals can make positive changes in their surroundings.

It is normal to have moments of uncertainty when considering the importance of mental well-being. Our emotions can influence our daily lives and interactions. As time goes by, our responses to emotions and experiences can change. Being emotionally and mentally aware means understanding the need for thinking deeply and having a new perspective. It is important to take care of our mental well-being.

It is necessary to understand our emotions and thoughts to take proactive steps to keep our mental well-being healthy. This action helps us recognize patterns, triggers, and ways to cope. When we prioritize emotional intelligence, it gives us important skills to deal with life's challenges in a calm and determined way. Taking care of your mental well-being is crucial for overall health and happiness. Here are ten effective

ways to prioritize your mental hygiene:

1. Practice Mindfulness: Spend time focusing on the present moment and being aware of your thoughts and feelings without judgment.
2. Establish Healthy Boundaries: Learn to say “no” to things that can overwhelm you and set limits on your time and energy.
3. Get Regular Exercise: Physical activity releases endorphins, which can improve your mood and reduce stress.
4. Prioritize Sleep: Quality sleep is essential for cognitive function and emotional well-being. Aim for 7 to 9 hours of sleep per night.
5. Connect with Others: Building and maintaining strong relationships can provide support and a sense of belonging. We all need community.
6. Seek Professional Help: If you are struggling, do not hesitate to reach out to a therapist or counselor for guidance.
7. Limit Exposure to News and Social Media: Constant exposure to negative news and social media can take a toll on your mental health. Set boundaries for your consumption.
8. Practice Self-Care: Engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation, whether it is reading, listening to music, taking baths, or spending time in nature.
9. Cultivate Gratitude: Reflect on the things you are grateful for, to shift your focus to the positive aspects of your life. Celebrate big and small wins.
10. Embrace A Healthy Diet:



Family Support Organization of Essex County offers events and support groups for caregivers of children with special needs. We invite you to join us throughout the month.

You Don't Have to Take This Journey Alone!

JANUARY 9: Let's Talk — Parent Support Group meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 2nd Tuesdays to help parents and caregivers learn new strategies that effect positive change.

JANUARY 17: New Family Welcome Group meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays is for caregivers to learn their guided journey. We introduce our organization, team, and services.

JANUARY 25: Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.

FEBRUARY 2: Nurtured Heart Approach meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays for English and Spanish-speaking parents to connect and address their concerns, questions, and feelings about raising a child with special needs.

If you have questions, contact us at (973) 395-1441 or visit our website for the details: <https://bit.ly/fsoecevents>

ATTENTION! FSOEC is Hiring Family Partners. Learn More: <https://bit.ly/fsoechiring>



Eating nutrient-rich foods can have a positive impact on your mental well-being. Try to eat multiple servings of leafy greens, fruits, and whole grains daily.

By incorporating these strategies into your daily life, it can help you prioritize mental hygiene and maintain a healthy mindset. It is okay to prioritize your mental well-being, and seeking help is a sign of strength. You can take small steps every day. Doing so can make a significant impact on your overall mental health. It is crucial to recognize that investing time and effort in caring for your mental well-being is not selfish, but rather an essential aspect of leading a balanced and fulfilling life.

By fostering a supportive and compassionate attitude towards yourself, you pave the way for resilience and improved emotion-

al well-being. It can positively influence various aspects of your life, including relationships, work, and personal growth. If you embrace these approaches, it could empower you to navigate through life's challenges with greater ease and grace. You are contributing to long-term happiness and contentment. If you need mental health support, we encourage you to visit the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc. at www.mhanj.org.

The Family Support Organization of Essex County helps parents and caregivers raising youth with behavioral, developmental, emotional, intellectual, mental health, or substance abuse challenges by offering peer support, education, and advocacy. Learn more about us at www.fsoec.org or on social media— Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (X), and LinkedIn.

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COMMUNITY WEALTH PRESERVATION PROGRAM MIGHT FINALLY HAPPEN

By Local Talk Staff

Back in 2022, then-Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange) introduced the Community Wealth Preservation Program bill, which sought to help needy families who could be on the verge of losing their home by giving them the means to keep it.

Now, in her first moments as a newly minted State Senator, Timberlake might finally see Gov. Phil Murphy sign off on it, as reports indicate he is leaning toward doing so in the near future.

Here is how it works: Banks are shrewd, charging an enormous number of penalties and interest for homeowners who missed their payments at least twice. Once this vicious cycle starts, a homeowner does not have a way of getting out of it.

Now for the gist of the bill: It helps homeowners or renters by allowing them to own the home with only 3.5% cash down.

Ms. Timberlake gave a good example. If a homeowner owes \$400,000 (principal, interest and penalties combined) and the bank places it on the sheriff's auction starting at \$200,000, (usually the bank's starting auction is 50% of what the owner owes to the bank) the owner will get that house under the bid process. However, the key is that the homeowner must be approve for the loan with 3.5% down (which is right now 20%) and instead of 30 days, the sheriff must get the balance of the loan, with the help of government programs, within 90 days.

This way, the asset that is the home stays with the community, rather than some out of town developer getting their hands on it.

At a rally a long time back to persuade Murphy to sign off on the measure, Mayor Dwayne Warren of Orange voiced his support, stating, "It is no secret to us that the acquisition of real estate is a major pathway to prosperity for black and brown people worldwide. Homeownership has proven to

be the best way to move into the middle and upper class."

At the end of the aforementioned rally, Timberlake said, "Homeownership is the number one wealth-building tool in the country. Unfortunately, New Jersey has one of the country's highest foreclosure rates and the largest racial wealth gap. Leading New Jersey in foreclosures are urban areas hemorrhaging wealth through the loss of property.

"Since COVID, suburban communities have also seen an increase in foreclosures. This bill provides an opportunity for your neighbor or their children to save their family house from foreclosure, creates a lane for friends who want to buy a foreclosed property to live in and contribute to the community, and for nonprofits to create affordable housing homeownership and rental opportunities. Working families often do not have deep enough pockets to participate in foreclosure."



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 - Essex County Prosecutor's Office detectives have been looking for the shooter and/or driver who killed a teenager and left another young man critically injured here in the South Ward on Jan. 3.

Responding Newark Police Division officers told the ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force that they were responding to a gunfire report from the 100 block of Ridgewood Avenue at 9:57 p.m. that Wednesday.

Witnesses told NPD that a dozen of them were standing streetside when a car came along - and someone opened fire. A 17-year-old boy and a 23-year-old man were hit while the vehicle sped away.

Police officers promptly called an ambulance for the 23-year-old man. He was admitted to Newark's University Hospital in critical condition.

Officers meanwhile found Quran McClean, 17, within a building; he had fled there after being struck. Funeral arrangements for McClean, who was pronounced dead at the scene, have not been publicly announced as of presstime.

IRVINGTON - A township man's past may be a factor in his pending May 8 sentencing in U.S. Federal Court-Camden.

Taurean Gordon, 40, said U.S. Attorney-New Jersey District Philip Sellinger Jan. 5, had

pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Stephanos Bibas to possessing narcotics and weapons "in Essex County" on Feb. 11, 2021. Sellinger said that Gordon had confessed to possessing quantities of cocaine, fentanyl and heroin with the intent to distribute.

Gordon, said the attorney, had also pleaded guilty to a count of possessing a .22 caliber revolver that held five bullets - and possession thereof as a prior convicted felon. Being a felon in possession of a firearm alone has him facing up to a 10-year federal prison sentence. There is up to a \$250,000 maximum fine for the above count plus a count of possession thereof while drug trafficking.

Gordon, on the narcotics charges alone, is facing up to 20 years' federal prison time and \$1 million maximum fine.

Sellinger, in his Jan. 5 announcement, did not say what was Gordon's prior conviction nor the circumstances of the 2021 possession and trafficking incident.

EAST ORANGE - Authorities' search for the Dec. 23 fatal shooting of a city man just across the Newark border continues after his Dec. 30 funeral ceremonies.

A Janazah prayer was held for Kareem Abdul Jarmon Guilford, Jr. Dec. 30 at Newark's Islamic Burial Service. Guilford's burial was made later that Saturday at Union's Hollywood Cemetery.

An anti-gun violence memorial website had the ShopRite employee as a student here at the National Career Institute and as the father of three.

Guilford was found by Newark police fatally wounded at the intersection of Mountainview and Grand Avenues in the Vailsburg section 6:15 p.m. Dec. 23. He was pronounced dead there at 6:34 p.m.

Boston Market "Drive-Thru"

"Local Talk" noticed that the Boston Market restaurant at 471 Central Ave. has been open for

drive-through orders only since the start of the year-end holidays. It is unclear whether no in-person dining is a condition while the franchise owner and its landlord settle a back rent dispute in State Superior Court-Newark.

An eviction notice had been posted on the restaurant's door after briefly reopening. 471 Central, like most of the Boston Markets in New Jersey, were closed by the N.J. Department of Labor Hours and Wage Compliance Office for 53 days until "Boston Chicken" had paid its 317 employees and the state \$2.554 million in back wages and penalties. City code inspectors had meanwhile cited the place for infrastructural violations.

ORANGE - Ashes of former city councilman and longtime Little Italy resident Fred Riviello were laid to rest at East Hanover's Gate of Heaven Mausoleum Dec. 27. "Uncle Fred," 73, had died in West Orange Dec. 20.

Fred James Riviello, Jr., was born on Dec. 9, 1950 to parents Fred Riviello, Sr. and Fidela DeVizio-Riviello. He was a career case worker for the Essex County Welfare Board in Newark before retiring.

Uncle Fred had long called Little Italy's Jackson Street in Orange's West Ward home. He was a member of the Orange Civic League and the local Sons of Italy chapter prior to his election as West Ward Councilman.

Riviello was listed on his obituary and the Jan. 2 City Council proclamation as a member of "the Bloomfield Elks." He may have joined the Orange Elks before it had merged with the then Newark-Bloomfield Elks Lodge. The Bloomfield-based club has since been renamed "The Greater Essex Elks."

Riviello is survived in part by "loving godchildren, cousins and dear friends." Memorial donations may be made to the NJ Foundation for the Blind, 230 Diamond Spring Rd., Suite 100, Denville, NJ 07834.

WEST ORANGE - About 200 people converged on the Municipal Building front lawn - in lieu of a scheduled, then canceled Jan. 5 Palestinian flag raising - that same Friday night.

The 200, as witnessed by newly-installed Council President Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford and Councilwoman Asmeret Ghebremichael held what the organizers called a celebration of Palestinian culture. They erected a Palestinian flag away from the municipal flagpole and brought ethnic food and music for feasting and dancing.

Mayor Susan McCartney had scheduled an official flag raising for Jan. 5 but canceled it Jan. 2 "in the best overall interest of the community." Rutherford was among council members who subsequently criticized the cancellation.

McCartney had held an Israeli flag raising here Oct. 7 in the wake of Hamas' attack on Southern Israel. The conservative Israeli government then launched an aerial bombardment and ground sweep of Gaza, resulting in what a Hamas-medical officer said was at least 22,000 killed Gazans as of press time.

Many township residents - about six percent Palestinian and nine percent Israeli or Jewish by 2020 US Census data - have been grappling with the invasions. A march and rally in support of Palestine, organized by several West Orange High School students, was eventually held at nearby Verona Park Nov. 22.

Rutherford thanks members of the township's police and public works for assisting Jan. 5's organizers. He also thanked Jewish residents who dissuaded individuals from holding a counter-protest.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Columbia High School science teacher Amy Biasucci intends to bring a lobster, found in a boys room toilet Dec. 21, back to class here around Jan. 15 to turn its tragedy into a teachable moment.

(Continued on page 14)

THE EAST ORANGE CITY COUNCIL 2024 SCHEDULED MEETING DATES

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Public Notice is hereby given that the East Orange City Council has established the following 2024 Meeting Dates.

Formal action may take place at these Meetings and Executive Sessions may be held at Committee Meetings or at Regular Meetings. The Meetings will be held in City Council Chambers located at 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, New Jersey.

Monday, January 1, 2024 Annual Reorganization Meeting

**Committee Discussion
& Agenda Meetings**
5:30 PM

Monday, January 8th
Monday, January 22nd

Tuesday, February 13th
Tuesday, February 20th

Monday, March 11th
Monday, March 25th

Monday, April 8th
Monday, April 22nd

Monday, May 13th
Monday, May 20th

Monday, June 10th
Monday, June 24th

*Monday, July 8th

*Monday, August 12th

Monday, September 9th
Monday, September 23rd

Tuesday, October 15th
Monday, October 21st

Tuesday, November 12th
Monday, November 25th

Monday, December 9th
Monday, December 16th

**Regular Official
Meetings**
6:00PM

Monday, January 8th
Monday, January 22nd

Tuesday, February 13th
Tuesday, February 20th

Monday, March 11th
Monday, March 25th

Monday, April 8th
Monday, April 22nd

Monday, May 13th
Monday, May 20th

Monday, June 10th
Monday, June 24th

*Monday, July 8th

*Monday, August 12th

Monday, September 9th
Monday, September 23rd

Tuesday, October 15th
Monday, October 21st

Tuesday, November 12th
Monday, November 25th

Monday, December 9th
Monday, December 16th

***= Denotes Summer Schedule**

**City Council Reorganization Meeting
Tuesday, January 1, 2025
@ Noon**



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Stop Passing Judgment
On One Another**

Have you ever been assigned an impossible task or asked to do something outside your strength? If you think about it, such an assignment or request is presented in the statement, "Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 13:5)

It is of interest because there seems to be no rational person in this world who does not make a judgment on others. In one way or another, we all evaluate and assess others. And we assign grades to them just like teachers do when they set exams for their students. Of course, some teachers go beyond their professional evaluations to assign grades based on students' social status, appearance, and gossip that they might have heard. I do not want to isolate teachers because most of us do not behave like the kind of unprofessional teachers I describe, who make prejudicial judgments, and who assign grades that are used to place people in hell.

Yes, the kind of judgment I speak of in the immediate above focuses on condemning someone, levying punishment on them, drawing negative conclusions, or forming negative opinions about them. Such judgment might be based on ignorance and superficial knowledge about

people. The one who judges negatively often does not care so long as the one being judged is belittled and destroyed. Such judgment is dangerous and will receive the due response from God.

Such kind of judging prompted the apostle Paul to tell the Roman church members to "stop passing judgment on one another." He meant that using false judgment to hurt one another is a challenge to any concord and peace. Jesus advised us in the same manner when he said:

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged; with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is a plank in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. (Matthew 7:1-5 NIV)

The command of Jesus, not to judge, is clear. I emphasize the first statement in the command thus:

*Do not avenge
Do not condemn
Do not levy unwarranted punishment
Do not pass false sentence*

*on anyone
Do not come to false and harsh conclusions about anyone*

Why should humans be careful about the kind of judgment we often render? Because often enough, we project on others who we indeed are. We hate something in ourselves and attribute it to others. This we are warned is dangerous, because only God can judge accurately. Only God knows the heart and character of a person. As humans, we "look at the external," but "God looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Only God can read the mind and motives; we read actions. Only God knows the true person of individuals; we focus on reputation. God's judgment is grace-based. Our judgment is performance-based.

In effect, we are often tempted to play God, but we must resist the temptation and admit our lack of wisdom that corresponds to that of the divine.

Let me ask, what does it take to hold back on our penchant for negatively judging others? Let me offer the following twelve suggestions for your consideration:

1. Be humble: We need to understand our propensity to judge falsely
2. Respect for others: If we esteem others, we will refrain from ascribing false judgments upon them
3. Learn to be cautious: Be careful of jumping to the conclusion
4. Understand that if we judge falsely, we will be judged in like manner by God

5. Consider our weaknesses: Reflect on the fact that we are often guilty of some things we judge in others.
6. Being careful of hypocrisy - Take a moment to remind yourself that a critic (*kritis*) draws conclusions on the character or actions of others without complete information.
7. We need to tend to our own situations first before we judge others.
8. We must remember that, ultimately, judgment will be done in God's time.
9. When we judge people, we often do not leave room for alternative possibilities about them.
10. Understand that how we judge may provide clues to how we deal with our fear-based insecurities.
11. Mother Teresa said, "If you judge people, you don't have time to love them."
12. We need to pray for hearts of compassion as we approach those who enter our spheres of life.

Yes, because we have allowed pride, anger, jealousy, and many other sins to cloud our judgment, we cause or allow all kinds of misdeeds against others. We need to pray like David in Psalm 51:1, 2 (NKJV):

*Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your loving-kindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.*

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

feiting and copyright piracy.

Digital piracy is a global threat, affecting creative industries such as film, TV, music and publishing, as well as the economy at large. Illegal downloads and distribution of such content results in substantial financial losses for the industries concerned which in turn affects tax revenue and jobs. Of particular concern is these crimes are often linked to other illegal activities, such as terrorist financing, mon-

ey laundering and human trafficking.

SOUTH AMERICA

**WANTED FUGITIVE
FINALLY NABBED**

Diego Nicolás Marset Alba, a reputed drug kingpin and brother to the leader of the "Primer Cartel Uruguayo" cartel, was arrested in Brazil on Dec. 26 as part of a regional police operation involving INTERPOL National Central Bureaus (NCBs) in Brasilia, La Paz, Asuncion

and Montevideo.

Uruguayan national Marset, 22, had been avoiding arrest for many years by using multiple false identities from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. He is thought to be a central figure in the trafficking of drugs from South America to Europe and is also linked to several high-profile killings.

Marset was the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice requested by Paraguay, which serves as a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and arrest a suspect for extradition.

Married to a Bolivian woman, Marset became the focus of this strategic regional operation when INTERPOL shared intelligence that his wife was nearing childbirth in Foz de Iguacu, Brazil.

Foreseeing Marset's potential visit to Brazil for the birth, officers from Brazil's Federal Police monitored the wife's residence and arrested the fugitive when he arrived at her home.

Valdecy Urquiza, Brazil's Director of International Cooperation and INTERPOL Vice Pres-

(Continued on page 13)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 12)

ident for the Americas, said: "It was the crucial leads provided by countries in the region to the global police community which permitted Brazil's capture of Diego Marset. It is by working together this way to ensure dangerous fugitives are behind bars that police contribute to global security.

"This arrest not only makes the world a safer place but also demonstrates South America's determination and commitment to dismantling global criminal networks for global security."

For NCB Asuncion, this arrest is part of "Operation A Ultranza PY", one of Paraguay's most extensive operations against organized crime and money laundering and involving more than 100 raids, 30 arrest warrants, and the seizure of assets worth over USD 100 million.

Paraguay's Minister of Interior Enrique Riera Escudero said: "We commend INTERPOL for making sure critical policing tools are strategically positioned for effective regional cooperation across the globe: the INTERPOL community has been key to disrupting South American transnational organized crime groups which damage the region's communities and economy with their dangerous activities.

"The arrest of Diego Marset stands as a warning for those who think they can continue to threaten our regional stability and security: this is just the beginning."



The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is reminding all those eligible that it's not too late to book their flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Cases are expected to continue to rise

over the next few weeks following increased travel and socializing that occurred over the festive period.

Those at greater risk of serious illness from flu and COVID-19 should get vaccinated to reduce their chances of needing medical care or hospitalization, reducing pressure on health services. Children who take up the flu vaccine also help to reduce spread to vulnerable friends and family, ensuring communities across the UK make the healthiest start to 2024.

For pregnant women, uptake for influenza and COVID-19 vaccines has decreased when compared to the same time last season. Vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and those with long-term health conditions, are particularly urged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

As it can take several days to boost your immunity after the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, now is the time to get vaccinated to start the new year in good health. Temperatures are forecast to drop later in January, with more mixing indoors increasing the possibility of further rises in flu and COVID-19.

Eligible groups can book their vaccine by contacting their local GP surgery or pharmacy to make an appointment. Vaccinations against COVID-19 are being offered until 31 January, while flu vaccinations are available until March 31.

Dr. Mary Ramsay, Director of Immunization at UKHSA, said: "Flu and COVID-19 levels are on the rise, so get your vaccine now to make sure that you are winter strong. Pregnant women, their unborn babies and those in clinical risk groups are at higher risk of complications and severe illness from flu. Taking up both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines provides the best protection for both pregnant women and their baby. Vaccinated women have a lower risk of stillbirth, prematurity and needing intensive care.

"If you are the parent of a child aged 2 or 3 don't forget that they are also eligible for the flu vaccine and this can be booked via your GP - the nasal

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

Hello there. everyone. Gladly and proud to be back with you all. I just had some things going on but I'm surely not going to forget about you all. I hope all have been well since my last departure.

Be more careful people. I can say these drivers out here lately need to slow down, racing down pedestrian streets. I ride motorcycles and don't drive cars, but I can say you won't catch me ridin in this type of weather. Still, I still have courtesy and kindness. I mean it's been quite a wild sight lately.



Please slow down, enough dead animals are in the street by a hit and run, as I've said before. If a person can do a hit and run

on an animal, imagine what the results would be if they were human. If you know anyone that drives wild, talk to them, don't ignore it. Please remember Michele said a little more courtesy.

We have to survive out here, but people should pay more attention to what we digest and take into our bodies as well. I have heard so much. I mean all different kinds of things about foods when it comes to some fast food spots or etc. I'm very hesitant to do it. With everything going on in this world today, food is one way that can affect you the most because everyone has to eat to survive. It's bad enough we have so many artificial things out here, and food is one, smh. But we have to care for our health. If you have a little extra time in your day. go and work out, exercise, motivate the body and mind. M.L.



Before I close out everyone, I'm not going hold you all up, but as I always say now look, it's another year. We should be proud we made it despite everything. We are to be blessed. No one's perfect; I'm not perfect, just another person trying to make the best out of life. So let's do what we can this year to make it better. Stay blessed everyone and thankful, because there are others out there in the world that may have a different experience. Until next time, peace and love ...

ADVERTORIAL

spray vaccine will help prevent hospitalizations, reduce the spread of flu in the community and avoid you having to juggle a sick child with work and other commitments.

"It's not too late to get your vaccines - eligible people can still speak to their GP, or alternatively a local pharmacist about getting their vaccination.

"If you are showing symptoms of a respiratory illness like

flu or COVID-19, you can help reduce the spread of these infections by washing your hands regularly and covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, regularly cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and avoiding mixing with others where possible, particularly those who are more vulnerable."

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

POTTY MOUTHS AND PROPHETS

Prophet - a person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God.

Potty mouth - a tendency to use bad language.

Wordsmith - a person who works with words especially; a skillful writer

A Challenge - as in to dare, to invite (someone) to take part in a competition, to perform a feat or etc. To suggest strongly that someone should do something (especially when you think that they might be unwilling to do it or if you think you couldn't.)



This is arguably conceited but I don't mind...

The convo was saturated with calming old school music which I love. Eventually we'd stumble into the classic Hip-hop artists vs. present day Rappers. I was a bit lost I'll admit, and I'd struggled to keep up, although at that point I didn't know if I wanted to. But, despite the occasional familiarity of a few favs here and there due to my being the eldest of the bunch, there was an appreciation in being their senior convo with a bunch of youngins half my age.

Surprisingly to most I find myself in these types of circles oftentimes, seemingly despite the forever grey peeking out from beneath that hat. Perhaps they think that I'm own of their peers because you'd be surprised at the invites. So on the strength of such skill honing, I could nod

my head and chime in those yeah, yeses and yups to the likes of Wu-Tang, A Tribe Called Quest, Busta Rhymes, DMX, Tupac, LL Cool J, Queen Latifah and Lil' Kim, which were some of my favs and a few that I dropped in support of those who held the floor.

But soon, I'd get a bit bored with the redundancy of it all and when I could bare it no more as they dabbled into those eyebrow raising genres when it comes to this Sista. That made me feel trapped and assaulted by those lyrics recited by those Brothas who liked it Hard to the Core. I did the most logical thing as grabbing that proverbial life boat...

WORD PLAY

I presented my people with this challenge. I know of a few wordsmiths that I would love for



Photos By Andrea Dialect



the majority of you line ups to battle on the worlds stage I proclaimed. You want to talk about word play. I'm going to give you the realest Hard Core Word Smiths that have the skillset and ability to knock the wind out of ya. But you must have an open mind and don't get all caught up in the subject matter. One of my all-time favs is Cindy Trimm; next there's Myles Monroe and John Eckhardt and lastly this one goes under another guise and I'm not certain of the name but she's known as Spiritual Warfare on the Tube. ...

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)

A South Orange-Maplewood School District spokesman said that CHS custodians found the crustacean in the toilet early that Thursday. They and then-CHS Principal Frank Sanchez rushed the lobster to Biasucci's Advanced Placement Biology and Environmental Science classroom for a rescue attempt.

Biasucci promptly put the lobster in a water tank with added salt - but it was already too late. The sea creature died in her, Sanchez, the custodians and students' presence. The supermarket-sized body has since been preserved in the teacher's home freezer.

"We had a gilled, saltwater organism that, while it was in the toilet bowl, was in water that caused its cells to misshapen," said the 25-year CHS teacher. "That was mean, not funny. If we have more respect for living beings in general, we might actually

save ourselves."

"I want to thank Ms. Biasucci for the valuable lessons she has taught us - respecting life and everyone in our community of schools," said SOMSD Acting Superintendent Dr. Kevin F. Gilbert. "It's my hope that anyone who engages in in act like this will remember these lessons and decide to do something to make our community better."

Sanchez, in one of his last statements, said, "thanks to Ms. Biasucci for reminding us that there's no such thing as a victimless prank, even if the victim's not a person." Gilbert, who has not elaborated as of press time, had put him on administrative leave Jan. 2. and promoted Assistant Superintendent - Curriculum and Instruction Ann Bodnar as acting super. The fatal lobster prank is not seen as contributing to Sanchez's suspension.

BLOOMFIELD / GLEN RIDGE - Last rites for five-term Bloomfield councilman

and 36-year Glen Ridge resident Joseph Gregory Wojak IV were a Dec. 26 visitation at the O'Boyle Funeral Home and a Dec. 27 Funeral Mass at St. Valentine's Church and burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery - all in Bloomfield.

Wojak, 86, an accountant by profession, died at his Bloomfield home Dec. 21. He and his late wife Barbara had also had summer homes in Pt. Pleasant and Cape Canaveral, Fla. Born Sept. 11, 1937 in Old Forge, Pa., Wojak first came here to attain an accounting BA from Upsala College. His five-decade career included being Howard Savings Bank CFO, owned and operated JGW Associates and taught accounting at Seton Hall University and Caldwell College.

Wojak and the former Barbara E. Rykowski married in August 1961 and became a founding family of St. Valentine's Parish.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

Joseph became a president and trustee of the Glen Ridge Country Club while Barbara was on the club's traveling tennis team. (B. Wojak was also substitute teacher for Bloomfield High and South Junior High schools.)

The husband was Bloomfield Zoning Board Chairman and the wife Essex County Republican Party Organization Chairwoman when they were approached about the former being appointed onto the Township Council to fill an unexpired term around 1964. He accepted the at-large position and was elected four times, mostly during the Mayor Walter G. Davis Administration.

J. Wojak, post council, and B. Wojak moved to a Stonehouse Road house in Glen Ridge in 1986. The move allowed children Marc and Jacquelyn to graduate from Glen Ridge High School, although the property crossed the borough-township border. (The state allowed "West Bloomfield" to become independent Glen Ridge in 1895.)

J. Wojak and several other Stonehouse residents, however, sued the Borough and its BOE in 2018. They said that they were not told of Glen Ridge moving its school age residents to Bloomfield Public Schools without due process or prior notification.

Partner Diane Horowitz, son David Horowitz, daughter Dr. Deborah Horowitz and 10 grandchildren are also among Wojak's survivors. His beloved Barbara died April 20, 2013; he and she had the same last rites. J. Wojak presented "The Life & Times of Mayor Walter Davis" at a 2015 Bloomfield Historical Society/W MBA-TV meeting.

MONTCLAIR - Bergen County authorities said that a Montclair couple had a fatal exchange between them in Ramsey New Year's Eve, leading them to who they said was the shooting suspect back here.

Ramsey police told Bergen County Prosecutor's Office detectives that they were responding to a shooting call from 101 Williams St. 7:25 p.m. that Sunday. They found Crystal M. Peterson, 41, of Montclair, dead from a gunshot to her head outside of the Konica-Minolta Building.

The subsequent BCPO investigation followed a trail to the apartment where Peterson and Luis A. Suarez, 41, had been living in Montclair. A search found a .9 mm handgun in Suarez's car. Suarez had meanwhile surrendered at Montclair Police Headquarters.

A funeral service for Peterson was held

at Parsippany's Liquid Church, where she was a member, Jan. 9. Born June 19, 1982 in Newark, the licensed cosmetologist and mother of three taught her profession at Essex County's Donald M. Payne, Sr. School of Technology.

Children Knya Peterson and Luis and Leilani Suarez, mother Bianca Villalta Cardenas and siblings Joe Moran, Hayder, Nancy, William and David Carnago are among her survivors. Memorial donations may be made to Access Family Services, asfnj.org, to support victims of domestic violence.

Suarez has been spending the new year in Hackensack's Bergen County Jail. The chef is being held on first-degree murder and second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

BELLEVILLE - An end of an era will take place July 1 when Marie Strumolo-Burke, after 20 years, will turn her First Ward Township Council seat over to her successor at its July 1 reorganization meeting.

Burke, in a Dec. 31 open letter, said that "Silver Lake needs a new voice on the Council that can represent today's First Ward. I will not be running for reelection next May."

A majority of registered First Ward voters have helped Burke repel challengers fielded by Mayor Michael Melham's "A Better Belleville" ticket.

The now-outgoing councilwoman added that she "would be thrilled to endorse and support Tracey Juanita Williams if she chooses to run. She is nothing short of a brilliant, motivated young professional who wants the very best for all who call Belleville home."

Williams is a current Belleville Board of Education Trustee, having been elected in 2021. The five-year Hillside Prevention Intervention Referral Specialist's trustee term is to expire on Dec. 31 should she pursue running for Silver Lake-First Ward council office this May.

NUTLEY - A township man who has been out awaiting a 2019 Lodi vehicular homicide trial, has been back in Bergen County custody since Dec. 19 on child sexual abuse charges.

Bergen County Prosecutor Mark Musella said, on Dec. 20, that Donald Kumar Davis, 33, was arrested in Paramus the day before. He has since been held in the Bergen County Jail on two second-degree counts each of aggravated sexual contact and endangering the welfare of a child.

Musell said that Washington Township police approached his Special Vic-

tims Unit Dec. 13 about the sexual abuse of a juvenile. A subsequent investigation had tied Davis to two incidents of a child in Washington and a third, of another child, in Wyckoff.

Davis had been accused of the June 29, 2019 vehicular homicide of an elderly couple along Lodi's Harrison Avenue. He is accused of slamming his 2015 Dodge Charger against the 2005 Toyota Corolla of Muhamet and Bukurie Oparaku, which was leaving its driveway.


Former Albanian police chief Muhamet, 68, and Walmart manager Bukurie, 64, were pronounced dead at Hackensack University Medical Center.


The Presswire news service meanwhile released Davis' Dec. 20 launching of "Kumar Davis Fitness," as a freelance training coach.

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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