

LOCAL TALK

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

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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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WINTER MAKES A COMEBACK

Maplecrest Park in Maplewood is left deserted due to the storm. Photo By Kristopher Seals



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The National Weather Service may have received nods from "Local Talk" residents when it proclaimed that New York City's snow drought had ended after 701 days at 7 a.m. Jan. 16.

NWS made the proclamation after measuring more than an inch of snow at its observatory in Central Park. They said that the last measurable snowfall went back to Feb. 13, 2022.

“Local Talk” territory, some 12 miles west of Central Park, has also had a little more than a coating after over a year. The current Jan. 15-19 cold snap brought snow flurries on Jan. 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday - that started to stick to the ground after 5 p.m. sunset.

There was at least an inch of snow in most of “Local Talk's” urban areas by sunrise Jan. 16 and up to two inches more in the higher elevations of the Orange and Watchung Mountains from Maplewood into Upper Montclair.

Some of the snow became freezing rain by 11:30 a.m., creating

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO PRESENTS BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2024

NEWARK - On Friday, January 12th, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented a balanced and responsible 2024 budget of \$858.7 million that includes a 1.75 percent property increase and addresses the challenges due to the ongoing national economic conditions and rising costs due to inflation. DiVincenzo has limited tax increases to an average of just 0.85 percent over the last five years and layoffs have been avoided since 2004. The County Executive has presented the County Budget before the State’s statutory deadline of January 15th for 21 consecutive years.

“Our 2024 budget that we are presenting today increases Essex County property taxes by

just 1.75 percent, which is significantly lower than the state cap of 2.0 percent. This recognizes the financial hardships our residents have faced through the Coronavirus pandemic as well as rising costs we all are experiencing because of inflation,” DiVincenzo said. “Developing our annual budget is a serious matter and creates the financial plan that the county will follow for the upcoming year. Presenting it by January 15th enables us to identify the complex challenges facing government and address them early. It also gives our municipal partners and constituents a clear snapshot of what to expect from the county,” he added.

The County Executive pointed out that his administration



Photo By Glen Frieson

monitors the budget throughout the year and started preparing the 2024 budget in July 2023. Getting an early start enabled Department and Division Directors, Constitutional Officers and

County agencies to identify and address issues, investigate ways to reduce expenses and generate new revenue, and have a plan in

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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The Iowa Caucus saw Trump win by a landslide. DeSantis came in a distant second and Haley came in a little less than DeSantis. Trump 51%, Ron DeSantis 21.2% and Nikki Haley 19.1% out of about 91% votes already counted.

DeSantis went to all 99 counties in the state to campaign but did not win even a single county. Vivek Ramaswamy has suspended his campaign after getting only 3% in Iowa. GOP candidates have spent a ton of money to win Iowa. In all, they spent about \$125 million, which is about \$1,125 per vote cast.

According to the polls, Trump is leading in the New

Hampshire GOP primary. He is ahead of Nikki Haley by about 13% points (43% - 30%) and some results state that Nikki Haley is within single digits in New Hampshire. Ron DeSantis is only at 5% according to the polls.

The office of New Jersey Governor has a two-term limit, so he cannot run in the 2025 gubernatorial election. Many candidates have shown interest already. US representative Mikie Sherril, Linden Mayor Derek Armstead, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Montclair Mayor Sean Spiller, Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop, and U.S. representative Josh Gottheimer. However, in my opinion, the best candidate would be Cory Booker. He can improve the quality of life for the state of New Jersey. He is able to handle political problems and employees of the state as well. If Cory Booker announces his candidacy, I will endorse him without fail.

Iran has launched missile strikes in Syria and Iraq. Accord-

ing to Iran, they stated that they want to demolish the Israeli supported terrorist groups and its Israel's spy base.

I have heard that some of the counties or townships are not placing the homicides in the right category. So from now onward, we will try our best to watch the category posted for the homicides and crime statistics in the Local Talk area.

Finally, some more snow is on our way. Some people are happy, and some do not like snow at all. However, snow is very important for us. It balances the earth's climate system. Snow covers the earth, which can give us water as well as sustaining the earth's temperature. The water fills the lakes and rivers. Also, snow protects the roots and shrubs. Children can enjoy sledding and winter games. The best part of it is that the nature of it soothes our eyes and hearts. So, we should live the way nature is built and enjoy it. We enjoy

snowmen and Christmas, and whenever there is a white Christmas, we feel so happy.

Municipal elections are right ahead of us. In the Local Talk area as per my knowledge, the municipal elections are for Belleville Council, Irvington Council, Montclair Mayor and Council, Newark School Board, Nutley Commissioners, Orange Mayor and Council. You the voters have to decide who you want to lead. If you feel that the present administration has done something good for the benefit of the people, you should elect them, but if you feel they have not done enough and played too much politics and supported their friends and family, then you should change the administration, vote and give a chance to a newcomer.

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>
Flurries possible	Snow Showers	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain
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LO 27	LO 16	LO 17	LO 18	LO 30	LO 35	LO 38

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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Fatty Liver - The Condition of the Elderly - Is Getting Common in Children: Why?

It is not uncommon to have conditions that affect adults and children alike; consider the common cold, conjunctivitis, RSV, ear infections, and the like. In the same way, some conditions are predominant in just one of these groups, that is, conditions that

affect mainly adults and conditions that affect mainly children. Among the conditions that are typically associated with adults are hypertension, gallstones, and, of course, fatty liver disease.

However, over the years, many of the conditions that are generally associated with adults have become increasingly common in children. Our focus for this article is fatty liver disease.

Let me begin with a story. A woman with an 8-year-old daughter noticed that her kid was sick and took her to the hospital. On getting there, the doctors told the woman that her daughter had fatty liver disease. At this point, the woman was not surprised; she was confused, simply because that is a condition you will expect from older adults. And not just older adults but those who neglected their health and drank a lot. So, how come her 8-year-old jewel has this condition, she wondered?

She knew that her daughter had put on weight over the last



year, quite all right, but she still did not show any signs of poor health. Something must be wrong somewhere. Maybe a mistake in diagnosis?

Well, unfortunately, there was no mistake in the diagnosis. Her daughter truly had the condition, and while it came as a surprise to her, it wasn't to the doctors managing the child. Over the last two decades, these conditions have become more frequent among children. There have been plenty of studies on identifying these conditions in kids, which have been fruitful. Nowadays, doctors can accurately tell which kids have the condition and its severity. But one question science has not been able to answer definitively is why. Why are 8-year-olds having fatty liver disease?

I have gone through a fair share of publications and studies, and I have been able to pool reasonable information to answer this question - or, should I say, attempt to answer the question - but before that, let me brush over the condition.

Fatty liver disease is a condition in which excess fat accumulates in liver cells. While some fat in the liver is normal, if it exceeds 5-10%, the condition is known as fatty liver disease. There are many different predisposing factors, but the condition has been grouped into two main classes, which are alcoholic fatty liver disease (AFLD) and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

As you would imagine, the major difference between these classes is the predominant cause

of the liver condition. In recent years, there have been discussions to bin the name alcoholic and non-alcoholic in light of the several different potential causes of these conditions. For the sake of this article, though, I will refer to the old names.

Among children, NAFLD is the typical fatty liver disease observed. Considering fatty liver disease is a result of a buildup of fat, it is (or was) not common to have children with the condition. But doctors note that recently, they treat kids with as much as 40% of fat in their liver cells. That's just insane.

The exact reason children are getting this condition is unknown. However, it is widely attributed to the change in diet since the turn of the century. The shift from truly healthy eating to ultra-processed junk foods has been massive, and scientists believe this has affected the body in many ways. For one, it has increased the toxin load on the liver and altered how it processes food. This has led to the accumulation of fat in the liver.

Another line of thought is that these junk foods affect the normal gut microbiome, which contains a lot of "good bacteria" that help to digest food. A disruption in gut health means poorer food metabolism, which puts more strain on the liver, the chief metabolizing organ. A less common but equally valid explanation is genetics.

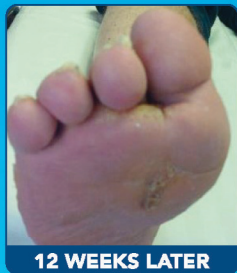
Regardless of the cause, it is beyond dispute that urgent action is needed. Scientists believe a healthy diet consisting of fruits

(Continued on page 5)

Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past Monday, the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. basketball showcase at Orange High School featured local Essex County teams.

In the first game of the day, it was the Bloomfield Bengals beating Weequahic in boys' basketball 59-50. Leading Bloomfield was Sean Perrotta with 17 points to pace Bloomfield Bengals along with Davieon McClain and Talan Bacote, who finished with nine points. Bloomfield is now 4-7 on the season. Weequahic was led by Ty Barlow with 19 points.

In the second game of the day, it was the East Orange Jaguars girls team squeezed Orange 56-27. Arianna McKinnon led the Jags with 15 points and Kela Mathurin had 12 points. EO broke their losing streak to improve to 2-7 as of Monday.

The next day saw the Newark Tech boys defeat the West Caldwell boys 77-61. Both teams played a fierce game, trading baskets early on, but at the end Newark Tech pulled

away. Leading Newark Tech was Jalen Baker with a game high of 22 points while Malcolm Bragg snagged 15 rebounds.

In the last game of the night, it was another battle of the Oranges, with the East Orange boys beating Orange 66-44 in front of a sold out crowd at Jessie Miles Gym. Those who braved the cold weather saw East Orange's James Robinson net 16 points and Carlyle Adams notch a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Orange High was led by Gregory Burton's 16 points and Tyshaun Boyd's 13 points and 6 rebounds. East Orange dominated Orange on the glass, outrebounding them 42-31.

The NFL Playoffs are underway. While it was no surprise that Houston, Kansas City, Detroit, and Buffalo advance, it was shocking to see Dallas lose at home to Green Bay, and the defending NFC Champion Philadelphia Eagles lose to Tampa Bay. As a result, the NFC East is completely out of the picture now.

ly 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.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2757471/>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/interactive/2023/nonalcoholic-fatty-liver-disease-kids/>
- <https://childliverdisease.org/liver-information/childhood-liver-conditions/non-alcoholic-fatty-liver-disease/>

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

and vegetables, as well as physical activity can reduce the occurrence and progression of fatty liver disease to more dangerous conditions like cirrhosis.

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 current-



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BUDGET PROPOSAL

(Continued from page 1)

place by the statutory January 15th deadline. "This rigorous planning and constant vigilance have helped us to respond proactively when we are faced with challenges brought on by the national economy, unexpected events or new laws," DiVincenzo said.

Commissioner President Carlos Pomares described the presented budget as "responsible" and "sound." "We all have a very challenging job, but the budget is the most important. It is the backbone to everything we do and is the reason why Essex County has been so successful," added Pomares, who was joined by Vice President Tyshammie Cooper and Commissioners Brendan Gill, Len Luciano, Wayne Richardson and Patricia Sebold.

This constant attention to detail in preparing the budget has enabled Essex County to do

the following:

- The 2024 budget includes a 1.75 percent property tax increase. The State cap allows governmental operating budgets to increase property taxes up to 2.0 percent annually.
- Over the last five years, property tax increases have been limited to an average of 0.85 percent and, over the last 10 years, Essex County has held the average increase in property taxes to about 1.08 percent, which is significantly below the state cap of 2.0 percent.
- Over the last 21 years, Essex County has held the average increase in property taxes to about 2.04 percent, which is the fourth lowest percentage rate of increase of all New Jersey counties behind Hunterdon, Monmouth and Burlington counties.
- Starting in 2007, DiVincenzo

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UNITED STATES



TIMES SQUARE MACHETE MAN PLEADS GUILTY

Trevor Bickford, 20, of Wells, Maine, pleaded guilty Jan. 11 to multiple counts of attempting to kill officers and employees of the U.S. government and persons assisting them based on his jihadist attack using a machete-style knife against three New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers in Times Square on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2022.

According to court documents, in December 2022, Bickford, a U.S. citizen and resident of Maine, traveled from Maine to New York City to, in his own words, wage jihad and kill as many of his targets as possible. After considering his options, researching his target location, and settling on his plan of attack, he packed a large machete-like blade and went to one of the most densely populated areas in the United States at one of the most densely populated times possible: Times Square on New Year's Eve.

Bickford then chose to ambush three NYPD officers, declared "Allahu Akbar," an Arabic phrase meaning "God is great" that other radical Islamic extremists have similarly proclaimed while carrying out terrorist attacks, and attacked them

with his blade, seriously injuring all three officers. One of the officers managed to shoot Bickford in the shoulder, halting his violent rampage. Bickford later declared that he carried out his attack to wage jihad and admitted that his goal was to kill as many military-aged men who worked for the U.S. government as he could before himself becoming a martyr.

Bickford spent months consuming materials espousing radical Islamic ideology - including materials promoting the Taliban and reflecting the teachings of Sheikh Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, a prominent radical Islamic cleric who was a spiritual mentor of al Qaeda - and contemplating ways to wage jihad. As he immersed himself deeper into this propaganda, Bickford devoted himself to violent Islamic extremism and pursuit of the jihad that he would eventually unleash in the heart of New York City.

In the months leading up to his attack, Bickford focused on traveling overseas to support the Taliban in Afghanistan or elsewhere. He planned to ally himself with the Taliban to fight against governments that, in his view, oppress Muslims, and to wage jihad against officials of governments that he believes are anti-Muslim, including the U.S. Government. Ultimately, Bickford decided that he would not travel overseas and instead turned his attention to an attack in the United States.



After months of radicalization, this decision resulted in Bickford perpetrating his attack in Times Square on New Year's Eve just over a year ago. Near the scene of the attack, law enforcement recovered a book from Bickford's backpack with the following passage highlighted: "Fight in the Name of Allah and in the Cause of Allah. Fight against those who do not believe

in Allah. Wage a holy war."

Bickford pleaded guilty to three counts of attempted murder of officers and employees of the U.S. government and persons assisting them, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; and three counts of assault of officers and employees of the U.S. government and persons assisting them, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. The charges carry an aggregate potential sentence of 120 years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

The FBI's New York Joint Terrorism Task Force is investigating the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matthew J.C. Hellman, Sarah L. Kushner, and Kaylan E. Lasky for the Southern District of New York and Trial Attorney D. Andrew Sigler of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section are prosecuting the case.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 1-16-2024 at 12 p.m.

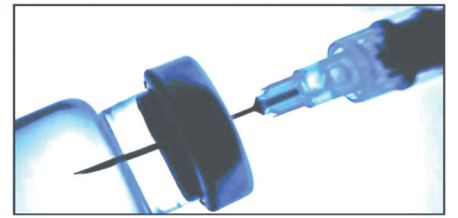
2024 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2024>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 16
- Total Dead: 25
- Total Wounded: 57
- Shootings Per Day: 1

EUROPE

1.4 MILLION LIVES SPARED BY VACCINE

COVID-19 vaccines saved at least 1.4 million lives in Europe - "irrefutable" proof of the power of these inoculations, the regional head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Jan. 16.



Delivering his first message of the new year, Dr. Hans Kluge stressed that without vaccines, the death toll on the continent "could have been around four million, possibly even higher."

More than 2.5 million COVID-19 deaths, and 277 million confirmed cases, were reported in the vast WHO European Region, which comprises 53 countries stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Analysis of 34 countries showed that most people whose lives were saved by vaccines, 90 percent, were over 60.

The vaccines reduced deaths by 57 percent in the period between their rollout in December 2020 through March 2023, with the first booster doses alone saving an estimated 700,000 lives.

"Today, there are 1.4 million people in our region - most of them elderly - who are around to enjoy life with their loved ones because they took the vital decision to be vaccinated against COVID-19," said Dr. Kluge, speaking from Copenhagen.

"This is the power of vaccines. The evidence is irrefutable," he added.

COVID-19 rates in Europe remain elevated but are decreasing. WHO recommends that people at highest risk of the disease should continue to be re-vaccinated six to 12 months after their most recent dose.

This category includes older persons, frontline health workers, pregnant women, and people who are immunocompromised or have significant chronic medical conditions.

Meanwhile, WHO is currently seeing widespread circulation of respiratory viruses like influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and measles in the European region.

RSV rates peaked before the

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Photo By Kristopher Seals

WINTER

(Continued from page 1)

icy surfaces. That was part of a trend that the NWS and NOAA had predicted would come up from Southern New Jersey that would last until sunset Jan. 16.

The sound of snow truck plows and scraping shovels returned for the first time in 1.5 winters.

A score of public, charter and private schools - including some districts who would not normally call a snow day - either closed for that Tuesday, switched to remote learning, canceled preschool and/or after school activities or delayed opening for up to two hours.

The varying range of closures and delayed openings reflect administrators' consideration of teachers and other staff having to travel in the ice and snow ahead of students. Private contracted school bus companies also have to be called in case of postponed openings.

The days of a single complete roster of school closings and delays from a media outlet are long gone. The following is a list gathered from several news sources and/or individual school websites or Facebook pages. This serves as a sample of Jan. 16 responses.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION OR DELAYS

Closed Schools:

IRVINGTON Burch Charter School of Excellence

EAST ORANGE St. Joseph's School. (Remote Learning Only.)

MONTCLAIR Montclair Public Schools.

Montclair Fusion Academy.

Delays:

NEWARK

Newark Public Schools - 10 a.m. Delayed Opening.

Roseville Community Charter School - 2 Hour Delayed Opening.

St Phillips Academy - 10 a.m. Delayed Opening

KIPP Newark and Camden - 2 Hour Delay.

IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 10 a.m. Delayed Opening.

EAST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2 Hour Delayed Opening

East Orange Community Charter School - 2 Hour Delayed Opening.

Pride Academy Charter School - 10 a.m. Opening.

ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOLS OF TECHNOLOGY (Newark and W. Caldwell) - 90 min. Delayed Opening to 10 a.m.

ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 10 a.m. Delayed Opening.



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.

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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.

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WEST ORANGE

West Orange Public Schools - 90 min. Delayed Opening.

Golda Ochs Academy - 2 Hour Delayed Opening.

SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT - 2 Hour Delayed Opening.

BLOOMFIELD - 2 Hour Delay

GLEN RIDGE - 2 Hour Delay.

BELLEVILLE - 90 Min. Delay.

NUTLEY - 90 Min. Delay up to 10 a.m., Preschool, after school cancelled. Athletic games and practice cancelled.

The above is just for Jan. 15-16 - which, as of this writing - is the latest of a string of wintery weather landing on the "Local Talk" area.

There was a rainstorm Jan. 9 that came with 35+ mph wind gusts, causing Gov. Phil Murphy

to call a weather state of emergency. Nutley Public Schools' Jan. 16 closings, in fact, was a copy from their Jan. 6 announcement.

There was a string of five weekends of rain in the late fall into the Holidays, causing a general saturation of the ground. The soaked up earth caused runoff to go into rivers and streams, flooding low lying areas by the Passaic and Raritan Rivers.

There are still some homeowners who are still pumping out basements as of deadline. They need not be just along the Passaic or the Raritan: "Local Talk's" smaller streams - like the Peckman River in Montclair and Nutley, Toney's Brook from Montclair, Wigwam Brook from the Oranges, Irvington's Lightning Brook and the East Branch of the Rahway River have overflowed their banks Jan. 9-10 to cause flooding of houses and/or roads.

It appears that the "Local Talk" area is in a rain/snow cycle every three to five days into late January.

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- Table Tents
- Complete Printing

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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 - An interesting thing happened on the Jan. 10 Municipal Council Meeting Agenda while Newark's elders unanimously approved granting registered 17- and 16- year-olds the Newark Public Schools board member and budget elections vote. The measure would add up to an estimated 7,200 people on the restricted registration rolls.

The council, that Wednesday afternoon, passed Bill 23-1158, introduced at their Dec. 20 meeting, allowing 16 and 17 year olds to register to vote on the third Tuesday in April. Newark becomes the first New Jersey municipality to allow that conditional suffrage effective in 2026.

Those who were not present or watching TV-78 live Jan. 10, would have to watch a video recording of that meeting to know who spoke in favor of conditionally lowering the voting age.

There were 25 registered people to speak in Jan. 10's public hearing of citizens - including NJ Institute for Social Justice President Ryan Haygood and daughter Charity Haygood. R. Haygood was also among the 23 pre-registered public speakers for the Dec. 20 meeting.

People's Organization for Progress President Lawrence "Larry" Hamm, NAACP-Newark Branch President Deborah Smith Gregory, High school junior Breanna Campbell, Micauri Vargas, Esq. of Vote16NJ

and Kaleena Berryman, late of Rutgers-Newark Abbott Leadership Institute, also pre-registered to publicly speak Jan. 10.

It is presumed, going by the Dec. 20 and Jan. 10 meeting agendas alone, that the mentioned speakers advocated for the 16- and 17- year old school board vote. Those two agendas, unlike earlier ones, did not publish the speakers' topic. Going by the printed material alone, one does not know how many public speakers were actual 16 and/or 17-year-old NPS students.

The Municipal Council passed the measure after holding a second reading, a public hearing and holding a public hearing of public citizens that Wednesday afternoon after 12:30 p.m. Its introduction was held Dec. 20 - a Wednesday night.

The question becomes whether the Jan. 10 hearing and presumptive passage could have been postponed to the next Wednesday night - Jan. 24. Holding the second reading and hearing then would allow the affected 16 and 17 year olds to speak without having to obtain an excuse from their school or risk an unauthorized absence.

IRVINGTON - Some of those who looked at Newark Police Division's Jan. 12 release of 14 fugitives arrested on outstanding warrants may have done a double take and said "You, Again?" to a township resident's name and mugshot on the list.

Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage listed Camarrie P. Sherwood, 22, as having been arrested in Irvington as part of NPD's Crime Reduction Initiative.

Sherwood was arrested for criminal mischief, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and unlawful weapons possession. Frage did not elaborate on what and how Sherwood got NPD's attention.

Sherwood was also among 19 who were arrested in a similar sweep Aug. 15. She was arrested on the 100 block of 21st Street on counts of aggravated assault by shooting, weapons possession and conspiracy. Details of that arrest and that case's disposition

were not immediately available.

Irvington Rite-Aid Closed

"Local Talk" has learned that Rite Aid corporation had thoroughly closed its pharmacy here at 35 Mill Rd. as of Nov. 7. The former Mill Run at Union Apartments' anchor store has had its signage removed. The last "Local Talk" Rite-Aid is now 104 12th Ave. in Newark.

EAST ORANGE - State-funded renovations for the East Orange Public Library have closed its main branch here at 21 South Arlington Ave. for most public services Jan. 16- 27.

While a Tech Q&A session will still take place Jan. 17, for example, the Jan. 16-17 crafts sessions and the Junior Lego Club's Jan. 17 and 20 meetings have been canceled. What public services will be available 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Jan. 16-27. Virtual services via eLibraryNJ, Kanopy and Hoopla will be available 24/7.

Some patrons have noticed access to the second floor and some other areas, where renovations were being done, since last fall. The work was thanks to a \$500,000 award given to EOPL by the New Jersey State Library in 2022. It, and the Newark, West Orange, South Orange, Maplewood, Belleville and Nutley public libraries were awarded statewide shares of \$20.714 million that were raised by a 2017-19 N.J. Library Construction Bond Issue.

The current EOPL-Main Branch opened in 1973 to replace the 1903-built Carnegie-funded library two blocks to its east. The latter library building was repurposed as the East Orange Municipal Court.

Carnegie's EOPL generosity included funds to build the Franklin Branch (later Jersey Explorer Children's Museum) in 1909 and the Elmwood Branch in 1912. The Ampere Branch, not covered by the steel magnate's foundation, was modified from a fire station in 1931. All three branches were closed by 2020.

ORANGE - 410 Main St.,

after eight decades' banking, will lose its last tenant, PNC Bank, after Feb. 15.

PNC has listed Feb. 15 as its last earliest day to use the ATMs off Lincoln Avenue or on the southeast corner of Main Street and Scotland Road. It has already ended night deposit services here and has ended Saturday retail banking hours since the COVID-19 pandemic's abatement. Safe deposit box holders have until Feb. 9 to vacate or have their contents removed to its branch here at 35 Main St.

Months-old mail has accumulated inside the entrance for the building's long-gone second and third floor office tenants.

The Mid-20th Century office building had opened in 1961 as a National Newark & Essex Bank branch until that banker became Midlantic by 1979. It became a PNC branch in the 2000s.

Both PNC signs are redirecting customers to their "MLK & Greenwood Branch," at 35 Main St. Customers were earlier redirected to here from their Brick Church Shopping Plaza, East Orange branch while it was replaced with 35 Main St. here in 2022. (The 1974-era Midlantic Brick Church branch at Dr. MLK, Jr. Boulevard and S. Harrison Street made way for the under construction The Crossings at Brick Church project.)

What will become of 410 Main here after Feb. 15 remains an open question. There were pre-pandemic suggestions of replacing it and its 20-space parking lot with a parking garage for the Orange Recreational, Educational and Cultural Center across Main Street.

The building remains owned by ARC Panjoh54 LLC/National Tax Search, 130 S. Jefferson St., Chicago. Customers may want to check with PNC to see if their neighborhood branch is being "consolidated."

WEST ORANGE - Funeral arrangements are being made for a township rapper whose voice was silenced by a crash on the Kansas Turnpike part of I-70 Jan. 10.

Damian Osborne, 24, said
(Continued on page 12)



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WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

new year and are now declining, Dr. Kluge reported, and influenza rates are rapidly rising, with a likely surge expected over the coming weeks.

There has been a nearly 60 percent increase in reported hospitalizations for the flu over the past two weeks and a 21 percent increase in ICU admissions, compared to the previous two weeks.

Flu cases increased four-fold between November and December, with 38 countries reporting the start of the seasonal influenza epidemic. Those most affected by severe disease are people aged 65 and older and the very young.

“We are concerned about

reports of localized pressures on hospitals and overcrowding in emergency rooms, due to a confluence of circulating respiratory viruses,” he said.

Dr. Kluge stressed that although COVID-19 infections rates are broadly decreasing across Europe, the situation can rapidly change in the face of the new variant of interest, JN.1, now the most common variant reported globally.

“Though there’s no current evidence to suggest the JN.1 variant is more severe, the unpredictable nature of this virus shows how vital it is that countries continue to monitor for any new variants,” he said.

As many countries have reduced or stopped reporting COVID-19 data to WHO, Dr. Kluge underscored the need for

continued surveillance as the disease “is here to stay.”

“We know how to keep ourselves and others safe, whether from COVID-19 or other respiratory infections,” he said, referring to measures such as staying home if sick and wearing masks in settings such as hospitals or crowded places.

Noting that “health is slipping from the political agenda”, Dr. Kluge voiced deep concern over the failure to address the “ticking time-bomb facing our health and care workforce.”

WORLD

CHOLERA CASES SPIKE

The world enters 2024 with soaring cases of cholera globally, with over 667,000 cases and

more than 4,000 deaths last year, UN agencies have reported.

Eastern and southern African nations are among the worst affected, accounting for about 75 percent of the fatalities and a third of the cases, as of Jan. 15, according to UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

With the regions also suffering from lack of adequate clean water and sanitation, and poor case management, children are particularly vulnerable as the outbreaks spread rapidly.

“The cholera outbreak in the region is a significant concern to the health and well-being of children,” Etleva Kadilli, UNICEF Director for eastern and southern Africa, said on Jan. 15.

“Investments in strengthening systems to address the root

(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Jesus Breaks The Curse

Brigid Kemmerer is a New York Times bestselling author of dark and alluring Young Adult novels. She has written a series on Breaking the Curse that includes, *A Heart So Fierce and Broken, A Curse So Dark and Lonely, and A Vow So Bold and Deadly*. From the reviews I have read, much of what is included in them speaks about the paranormal or bizarre.

Without any intent to rebuke her, my reflection on the series reminds me of some words of Jesus: "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." The incident about which Jesus makes His comment is reported in three Gospels (Matthew 12:22-30, Luke 11:14-23; Mark 3:20-27), but I quote Mark's version:

Then Jesus went home, and once again, a crowd gathered, so He and His disciples could not even eat. When His family heard about this, they went out to take custody of Him, saying, "He is out of His mind." And the scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "By the prince of the demons He drives out demons." So, Jesus called them together and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If

a kingdom is divided against itself, it cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, it cannot stand. And if Satan is divided and rises against himself, he cannot stand; his end has come. Indeed, no one can enter a strong man's house to steal his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.

I declare that Jesus was making clear that he had absolute authority over the forces of demons, not by any satanic power but by his divine power. Earlier, Mark reports that after Jesus appointed the twelve disciples, "He gave them the power to drive out demons." (Mark 3:15)

The point is that Jesus Christ has all the authority to drive out any demon or break the power of any curse, and he is willing to share his power with all he chooses. Amid the pronouncements of the first curses after the fall of humanity, the announcement was made as recorded in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

This is the promise that has been recited in various ways to the antediluvians, such as Enoch and Noah, and then to the patriarchs and matriarchs, including Abraham and Sarah, to the prophets, the sages, and the people of God in ancient Biblical times, and found its fulfillment in the birth and death of Christ. This is the promise that is celebrated in our Christmas stories today.

The apostle Paul references the power of the promise when

he takes note of what is written in Deuteronomy 5:22-23 to say, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13-14 NKJV)

Yes, we have been suffering general curses. I need not detail mine here. You should know yours, as I know mine. My Bible tells me that "all have sinned and become short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) That means nobody is left out.

The only real solution for our cursed situation is to trust Jesus Christ. Through his life and death, He has broken the power of sin. He has taken the punishment for our sins. He has broken the curses associated with the law of God. He became accursed us. That is, he took upon himself every curse, including generational curses.

Does this mean we go about being free of all curses, including generational ones? It should and would be nice. But in case you did not notice, there is a part we need to play in the removal of the curses. And it is simply accepting Christ, birth, death, and resurrection, by faith. We can claim every victory over all enemies through Jesus Christ. It is required for us to triumph over sin and its curses by faith.

The breaking of the curses is possible for every person in the world, but not everyone will exercise faith because they trust every other form of intervention except that of Jesus. We might find exciting material for novel reading about the Breaking the

Curse Series and other literature of the kind. But still, they do not remove any curses, at least not the type that has impacted "the third and fourth generation."

Maybe I should caution you that even when you accept Jesus, Satan will challenge your position and test how much you believe in the power of Jesus. If you are fooling around, you will open yourself so that what happened to the seven sons of the priest Sceva will more than likely happen to you. The book of Acts reports it thus, "Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit dwelt leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." (Acts 19:14-16 NKJV).

Be watchful. Be vigilant. Learn to effectively break the curse by putting yourself into the hands of Jesus. As is stated in the lyrics of Richard Mullan's hymn:

*He can turn the tides
And calm the angry sea.
He alone decides
Who writes a symphony.
He lights ev'ry star
That makes our darkness bright.
He keeps watch all through
Each long and lonely night.
He still finds the time
To hear a child's first prayer.
Saint or sinner call
And always find Him there.*

*Refrain:
Though it makes him sad
To see the way we live,
He'll always say, "I forgive."*

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

the Kansas Highway Patrol's crash log, was driving west on the highway when "for an unknown reason," his 2004 Buick Century went off the road's left hand side at Milepost 208.6. The marker is in Leavenworth County, about 20 miles west of Kansas City, Kan.

Osborne's car struck a roadside sign pillar one mile west of the Lawrenceville Service Area.

First responders said Osborne had died at the scene. KHP said he was not wearing a seat belt at the time.

Osborne, said his producer and engineer Augy Jan. 11, was driving to Los Angeles. They had released a 2 min, 37 sec. video, "Remember" last year, whose "TheyKnowDame" scenes were shot in Newark's Ironbound, Jersey City and Lower Manhattan.

Augy is producing a posthumous album with its proceeds

going to Osborne's family.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood School District had filed a bias complaint against the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association over a player disqualification during a Jan. 4 basketball game here.

SOMSD is asking for an investigation of an NJSIAA referee during the Columbia High School Lady Cougars' hosting

the Caldwell Chiefs. Acting Superintendent Dr. Kevin F. Gilbert has sent a copy of the complaint to the N.J. Division of Civil Rights.

The referee, according to the complaint, had disqualified a CHS player from the first quarter over her wearing beads in her hair SOMSD Athletic Director Richard Porfido went over to the referee that same quarter and reminded the official that the National Federation of State
(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

causes of cholera and other public health emergencies, particularly on enhancing access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene, social behavior change and quality of case management, are imperative.”

She also highlighted the compounding impacts of climate change, as well as the multifaceted consequences for children.

“Learning loss is a major concern. It is imperative that the response not only be swift but also considers the long-term well-being of these young children. As the new school year is starting in many countries in the region, it is crucial for measures to be put in place in schools to protect children against infections,” she said.

Meanwhile, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported that preliminary data from Member States indicate that the number of cholera cases reported in 2023, as of Dec. 15, surpassed that of 2022.

“Nearly a year has passed since WHO classified the global resurgence of cholera as a grade 3 emergency, the highest internal level for a health emergency requiring a comprehensive response,” the agency said in a report issued last week.

WHO is currently reviewing its response to cholera globally to identify key lessons and make evidence-based adjustments where needed to better coordinate activities in the coming months.

“Based on the large number of outbreaks and their geographic expansion, alongside the shortage of vaccines and other resources, WHO continues to assess the risk at global level as very high,” the agency added.

It also noted that the figures must be “interpreted with caution” given varying surveillance systems and capacity across countries, meaning that 2023 data are not directly comparable to reports from previous years.

The outbreaks were the deadliest in Malawi, in southern Africa, and Haiti, in the Caribbean.

1,771 people lost their lives to the disease in Malawi, while 1,156 succumbed in Haiti, as of 15 December 2023.

Elsewhere in Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is reporting close to 1,000 cases each week, while Zimbabwe and Mozambique are experiencing a rise in cases and spread of outbreaks. Burundi and Zambia also continue to report active outbreaks, according to the report.

UKRAINE



CIVILIAN DEATHS CLIMB IN UKRAINE

Recent weeks have seen a steep increase in civilian casualties in Ukraine following an intensification of Russian attacks, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in the country, HRMMU, said in a new report issued on Jan. 16.

Hundreds of people across the country were killed or wounded in drone and missile strikes in the 10-day period between Dec. 29 and Jan. 8 alone.

“Civilian casualties had been steadily decreasing in 2023 but the wave of attacks in late December and early January violently interrupted that trend,” said Danielle Bell, head of the monitoring mission.

HRMMU verified that at least 592 civilians were killed or injured last month, a 26.5 per cent increase over November, representing “an alarming reversal of a downward trend” observed earlier in 2023.

However, the actual increase is likely higher as some casualty reports are yet to be verified.

The high number of civilian casualties in December continued into the first days of January, and HRMMU is verifying

BUDGET PROPOSAL

(Continued from page 5)

implemented a “debt diet” initiative to stabilize the County’s debt service by refinancing existing debt without extending its maturity date and limiting the amount of new debt to a maximum of \$20 million annually. In 2024, the debt service payment is \$102.2 million, which will be reduced to just \$59.2 million in 2029.

- DiVincenzo has downsized the County workforce by not filling open positions unless they are essential to public safety and public health operations. This includes positions such as nurses at the Hospital Center or Corrections Officers at the Correctional Facility. Under DiVincenzo’s leadership, over the last 21 years, Essex County’s workforce has been reduced from a high of more than 4,000 employees in 2003 to 3,564 in the 2024 budget proposal.
- Over the years, Essex County has built a strong fund balance by realizing savings in previous years’ budgets. The fund balance projected for 2024 is about \$90.2 million. This reserve helps the County respond to emergencies, displays fiscal stability to bond rating agencies and has

helped improve the County’s cash flow and avoid taking out Tax Anticipation Notes. (When DiVincenzo took office in 2003, the previous administration left a budget deficit of \$64 million.)

- \$36 million in fund balance is being used as revenue in the 2024 budget.
- Under DiVincenzo’s direction, the county continually looks for new opportunities for recurring revenue, which includes shared service agreements with other governments and government agencies and new fees. The 2024 budget is projected to have about \$116.69 million of new, recurring revenue, which lessens the County’s reliance on raising property taxes.

The DiVincenzo administration has worked hard since 2003 to eliminate the structural budget deficit and ensure that Essex does not spend more than the revenue it collects. Austere budgeting, downsizing the workforce, eliminating unnecessary contracts and conservative spending practices have strengthened Essex County’s financial position and restored the County’s fiscal health.

The 2024 budget proposal has been forwarded to the Essex County Board of County Commissioners for review.

reports of 86 killed and 416 injured.

The recent wave of attacks started on Dec. 29 with missiles and drones that pounded cities and towns across Ukraine.

The most extensive attacks and the highest numbers of civilian casualties happened on that day and on Jan. 2 but fatalities have continued.

HRMMU cited examples such as the Jan. 6 missile attack on the small town of Pokrovsk and nearby Rivne village, located near the frontline in the east.

Two families - six adults and five children - were buried in

rubble after their homes were struck. Some of the bodies are still missing despite days of rescue and recovery efforts.

In a separate attack two days later in Novomoskovsk, also in the east, the blast wave from a Russian missile strike injured 31 civilians, including eight passengers on a minibus which was destroyed during the morning commute.

Next month marks two years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which has left 40 percent of the population, 14.6 million people, in need of humanitarian assistance.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

THAT'S WHATS UP!

PICS SPEAKS

Hey, you, this week's topic sent me to the archives. I decided to coin this one... Do you know me?, Who Dat? Hey You!, I Know You! And etc.

But I chose to kick it off with "That's What's Up! I meet some of the most amazing people when I'm out there in those Hoodscapes - which is basically what a photojournalist and urban historian is supposed to do. Most of the images I capture are utilized for my coaching practice, content, or practice as I do here in this Local Talk Entertainment section. I do not consider myself a photographer, which often people have a hard time with.

Folks are really into the pictures. I have kinda been dragging my feet with this soon-to-be -ongoing "Pics Speak Louder" idea. For me, it's more about the mission, which has always been about the script. But it's about the pics for most, so I'll give the people what they want. I was kicking and screaming about it, but I came to realize that it truly isn't anyone else job to show us the light that we deserve. When so, they can paint that narrative in any way they like.

So, I'm taking up the challenge. But I need all of your help. We must help us, help us. You can do that by sharing the articles, going on social media, and supporting those folk who have so graciously "Lended Their Images To Change!" We, too, must do our part.

Also, if you know anyone who would be a great candidate for content, email me here at Local Talk or check me out at Andrea Dialect on Facebook, my Grinders Row Facebook Group page, or the L.I.T Models page. On Instagram my handle is mzdialect. Like, follow, share, and support our effort.

This is our job. Doing our part is what that power we are always chatting about is all about.

Read more about The Observation Booth at www.localtalkweekly.com. and type Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

HOODSCAPES

Photos By Andrea Dialect



TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

High School Associations had allowed athletes to wear hair adornment since 2022.

NFSHSA revised their rule after the state had passed The Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair - or CROWN - Act in 2019. The CROWN Act makes the regulation affecting how a person wears his or her own hair a basis for discrimination.

The CROWN Act was passed after a Buena Regional High School wrestler was forced to cut off his dreadlocks or face a referee's disqualification from a match Dec. 19, 2018. Assemblywomen Shanique Speight (D-Newark), then-Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange) and then-State Sen. Nia Gill (D-Montclair) were among S-3945's primary sponsors.

The referee lifted the player's disqualifi-

cation. The Chiefs went on to beat the Cougars 46-37. The Lady Cougars held a 2-5 win-loss regular season record as of Jan. 6.

A group calling themselves Students Voice for Peace conducted an hour-long walkout after Columbia High School's Third Period onto Ritzer Field Jan. 12. The unofficial group, who left no contact addresses, said it was a protest of what the Hamas health Office said were over 23,000 deaths of Gazans in the wake of Hamas' killing about 1,200 people in southern Israel Oct. 7 Details, when available, will follow in the next edition.

BLOOMFIELD / GLEN RIDGE - A car collision by the Bloomfield/Glen Ridge border left two people injured and a gas station pump felled here Jan. 3.

Township Police. Fire and EMS responded to a car accident report from 717 Bloomfield Ave. just after 2 p.m. that Wednesday.

They arrived to find a late model four door car having stopped several feet short of the Jonas Automotive Center/Enrite office storefront. They found Enrite's eastern gas station pump on the ground.

A preliminary accident investigation determined that the car was heading west towards Glen Ridge when it had collided with another vehicle. The driver lost control and knocked down the pump.

Two people were seen being treated by Bloomfield EMS before being taken to a local hospital for evaluation. Enrite's western pump, as of Jan. 13, remains operational but the eastern pump site has been covered by a wooden board.

Enrite/Jonas was the Glenfield Service Station for decades. It goes back to Walsh's Esso in 1941.

MONTCLAIR - When the late Dr. An-
(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

thony P. Caggiano was asked about his greatest career accomplishment, the 33-year obstetrician and gynecologist would say, "assisting 7,000 women bring new life into the world."

Caggiano, 84, a Montclair practicing physician and OB-GYN instructor, died in Woodland Park Dec. 12. His Funeral Mass and entombment were respectively held here at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery Dec. 16. Arrangements were made here by Caggiano Memorial Home for Funerals.

Caggiano first came to the Montclair area to attain his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University but left to attend the Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in Newark City Hospital - Martland Hospital Unit before taking a Vietnam-era tour of duty with the USAF.

Dr. Caggiano, after two years' caring for wives and relatives of Altus (Okla.) Air Force Base pilots and airmen, returned to the Montclair area for good. He was an attending physician at Glen Ridge's Mountainside, Belleville's Clara Maass, Newark's Columbus and Livingston's St. Barnabas hospitals.

Over time, Dr. Caggiano became Mountainside's Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Clinical Assistant Professor of OB-GYN at Newark's New Jersey Medical School, and president of the Associated Physicians of Montclair, the Essex County Medical Society and the Medical Society of New Jersey.

Once he put away his physician's shingle, Caggiano became a Clinical Associated OB-GYN Professor at UMDNJ-NJMS and as an American Board of OB-GYN Examiner. The avid golfer was proud of his three holes-in-one at the Glen Ridge Country Club and dedicated some of his time and service to Paterson Catholic Charities' Straight and narrow program.

Sons Anthony III, Marc Anthony and Erik Francis; daughters Tracy Lyn, Dawn Pier and Danielle Maria; sister Ann Marie, nine grandchildren, longtime companion Rachel D' Amore and her family are among his survivors. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Hospital.

BELLEVILLE - The Belleville Public Schools issued a re-registration announcement to district parents Jan. 5 - three days after its new Board of Education Trustees were sworn in and reorganized.

What BPS is asking for are documents akin to what the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission requires of new and/or renewing

licensed drivers. They need to present one "primary document" and "at least three secondary documents" that will add up to at least eight qualifying points.

What will count as a primary document will be a deed or a mortgage statement, a continuing certificate of occupancy or a written lease agreement. The three secondary documents are to come from "two 2-Point Documents and no more than two 1-Point Documents."

Two-point documents are to come from: voter registration, licenses, permits, court orders, financial account information, property tax bills, government documents, contracts of sale and/or utility bills. One-point documents include: delivery receipts, canceled checks, benefits statements, state agency agreements, insurance claims, medical claims, counselor or social worker assessments, employment and/or unemployment documents.

The presentation of documents and re-registration is part of the public school district's check on school enrollment -- that students and their parents or legal guardians are who they say they are. Those who fail re-registration may be asked to pay out-of-district tuition. This periodic process doubles as a check on illegal apartments or similar dwellings.

New members Lissa Missaggia and Benda Pacheo (the latter by Mayor/A Better Belleville Campaign Manager Michael Melham) were sworn in as new BOE Trustees Jan. 2. Gabrielle Bennett-Meany and Nicole Coviello-Daddis were respectively named Board President and Vice President.

NUTLEY - A township family has established a GoFundMe.com page to help pay for their son's medical expenses and mortgage while Belleville authorities are looking for the driver who struck him at one of their intersections on Dec. 9.

Belleville Police and the family of John Demmer III said that the latter was riding his motorcycle when he and a late model Subaru Forester collided at Washington Avenue and Little Street 1:40 a.m. Dec. 9. He was then run over by a second vehicle.

The Forester - believed to be a 2023-2019 model with a black trim and orange striping "sport package" - continued without stopping. The video camera did not pick up the vehicle's license plate. The Subaru in question may have some passenger side door damage from the motorcycle's impact.

Demmer was rushed to a local hospital ICU and has had two surgeries as of Jan. 13. The son of Nutley Historian John Demmer II has since been transferred to a local rehabilitation facility on Dec. 19.

Father and Nutley Historian John Demmer II said, on Jan. 14, that the GoFundMe page has raised over \$8,000. Although the medical insurance company has renewed his son's \$3,000 deductible, the father said that the page intends to cover equipment not covered by insurance and his mortgage.

Anyone with information regarding the collision and/or the Subaru in question are to contact BPD Capt. Frank Pignartaro at (973) 450-3426.


New BOE President, VP Named

Salvatore Ferraro - after being sworn into his second Board of Education term with Salvatore Balsamo and Lisa Danchak-Martin - was named its latest Board President here Jan. 8. Member Joe Battaglia was named Vice President for the year.

BANKRUPTCY

**CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY**

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