

LOCAL TALK

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

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CONCERNS LOOM OVER NEWARK'S PUBLIC SAFETY PROMOTIONS

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L to R: Deputy Mayor LaKeesha Eure, OVPTR Director Kyleesha Wingfield-Hill, Brick City Peace Collective Director Jessiah Paul

LONG TIME BIG EAST RIVALS FACE OFF

PAGE 5



Photo By Erik Cohen

NEWARK SCHOOL BOARD MISSING TWO MEMBERS



Denial of one potential board member based on ethics leads to questions about a serving member

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The Newark Public Schools Board of Education is currently operating with two vacant places on its panel - and will until at least April 18's scheduled school board election.

A'Dorian Murray-Thomas and Asia J. Norton had resigned from the board last autumn when other professional opportunities had opened up. Their departures respectively leave two years and one year left on their four-year terms.

A majority of registered Essex County District 2 voters

elected Murray-Thomas as its County Commissioner Nov. 7. Murray-Thomas, who won June 6's Democratic Party primary unopposed, subsequently resigned to represent Irvington, Maplewood and Newark's Central and South wards as of Jan. 9.

Murray-Thomas became the youngest elected NPS board member April 24, 2019. She ran then and for her April 19, 2022 re-election while on Mayor Ras Baraka's "Moving Newark Schools Forward" team.

(Continued on page 7)



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Turn To **PAGE 16**



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

New York State Attorney General Letitia James continues to fight against Donald Trump. In her closing statement, she said, "Today, after 11 weeks of trial, we rested our case against Donald Trump and the Trump Organization for years of financial fraud. While the judge already ruled in our favor and found that Donald Trump engaged in years of significant fraud and unjustly enriched himself and his family, this trial revealed the full extent of that fraud - and the defendants' inability to disprove it. We look forward to presenting our closing argument on January 11."

How come Ms. James did not go after the bank officers and executives who approved the valuation of Trump's properties?

If Trump is guilty, then all the bank trustees and executives are guilty as well. Ms. James should declare all the names of all the bank executives and officers who approved the evaluation of Trump's property.

Governor Phil Murphy mentioned changing the liquor license system in New Jersey. Recently, Murphy signed legislation that will reform the program. Yes, the state will receive lots of money, but is it going in the right direction? The Lottery tells people for a gambling addiction, you can contact their phone number for helping you get out of the addiction. However, what makes them addicted? The hope for lots of money is the cause of the addiction.

Right now, no new liquor store can be opened. They can only buy a liquor license and open a store or restaurant. But that makes liquor not easily accessible. By changing the law, more and more liquor shops will open in everyone's neighborhood. The limit right now for liquor licenses is one shop for each 3,000 residents. If they make it easier to

buy liquors, it is harder to watch and make sure the younger generation does not get addicted to alcohol. Politicians must stop creating too much legislation controlled by a few people with money first and people last.

It caught my attention when Kyleesha Wingfield-Hill was promoted to the OVPTR Director's position for Public Safety in Newark. She has an open case for hitting a police officer. She had a case filed in 2018 against Orange Township Clerk Joyce Lanier for not approving her candidacy for city council as a resident and registered voter of the East Ward of the city of Orange Township. Finally, she withdrew her candidacy for the council run in 2018. As I've heard, she is trying to run for council-at-large this year as well. If it is true, it will be interesting to see whether she will be eligible and get approved by Orange City Clerk Joyce Lanier.

When this paper comes out, the New Hampshire GOP primary would have taken place, and it very might decide if Nikki Haley can stay in the contest or no. She is behind Trump big time in the

polls for the Primary in her own state of South Carolina. I think Nikki Haley does not have any chance, but she should continue to stay. There are plenty of cases against Donald Trump, and if one out of plenty bars him from running, then Haley becomes the GOP presidential nominee after Ron DeSantis dropped out.

There are classes arranged by the league of municipalities including the Municipal Management Workshop series. This is a five part series and those who running for any post or wish to be part of the management of any municipality should take these classes.

These Practical Management Workshops are a big step forward in the educational support of municipal officials throughout the State. They will provide small group instruction and hands-on learning to educate those working in key local government positions.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next time.

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 Editors: Kristopher Seals • Anuj Shah
 Journalists / Writers: Kristopher Seals • Walter Elliott • Dhiren Shah • Anuj Shah • Akshat Shah • Asha Shah • Kinjal Shah • Thomas Ellis II • William Hathaway, Jr. • Lev D. Zilbermints • Dr. Robert Kennedy • Dr. Adil Manzoor • Fred Simpson • Andrea Dialect • Ahmed Screven, Esq.
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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
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“Newark In Crisis: Homicide Surge Is Met With Inexperience At The Helm”

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor

In a surprising move, Mayor Ras J. Baraka of Newark, New Jersey, has recently appointed individuals with no police or education in emergency preparedness or public safety training, to key positions in the city's administration. The announcement of LaKeesha Eure as Deputy Mayor of Public Safety, Kyleesha Wingfield-Hill as Director of the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery (OVPTR), and Jessiah Paul as Director of the Brick City Peace Collective (BCPC) has raised concerns about the city's approach to managing public safety and address-

ing the rising homicide rates.

The decision to appoint individuals without a background in law enforcement or emergency management to such critical roles is alarming, especially at a time when Newark is grappling with a surge in homicides. It raises questions about the mayor's judgment and his commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the city's residents.

One cannot underestimate the importance of having leaders with the requisite expertise and experience in public safety at the helm of a city's administration. Law enforcement and emergency management are complex fields that require specific knowledge, skills, and training to effectively address the myriad challenges that arise in ensuring public safety.

Entrusting individuals without this background with the

enormous responsibility of overseeing public safety initiatives is a gamble that Newark, its residents, and its neighboring communities cannot afford to take.

The mayor's claim that these appointees have demonstrated a commitment to the city's vision for peace, justice, safety, and security is preposterously delusional, considering that she Ms. Wingfield-Hill had assault charges filed against her as early as July 18, 2023 inside City Hall Council Chambers. Merely relying on thuggish displays of loyalty to quell the concerns of citizens who engage with City Hall is inadequate for effectively managing the complex array of challenges that impact public safety. It is essential to have leaders who possess a deep understanding of law enforcement practices, emergency response protocols, and the complexities of violence prevention and trauma recovery.

Furthermore, the community seeks clarification on whether the funds allocated for crime prevention are being federally scrutinized, potentially serving as a catalyst for the sudden departure of Ms. Eure.

The potential perils of having a major city like Newark run by individuals without policing or emergency management experience are numerous. Effective public safety leadership requires an understanding of crime trends, the ability to implement evidence-based policing strategies, and the capacity to collaborate with law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders.

Without this expertise, there is a risk of inadequate responses to public safety crises, mismanagement of resources, and ineffective coordination of violence prevention efforts.

It is essential to recognize

the invaluable contributions of social workers and individuals from diverse professional backgrounds in addressing community needs, including violence prevention and trauma recovery. However, it is equally important to acknowledge that public safety leadership demands a specialized skill set that encompasses law enforcement, emergency management, and crime prevention strategies.

While Mayor Baraka's commitment to promoting poetic, compassionate approaches to public safety is nice, we need a hard response to the crime and killings that are regularly taking place. It is crucial to ensure that the individuals entrusted with overseeing these initiatives possess the necessary expertise and qualifications. The safety and well-being of Newark's residents depend on it.

In conclusion, Mayor Baraka's decision to appoint individuals without police or emergency management/public safety training to key leadership positions raises serious concerns about the city's ability to effectively address the rising homicide rates and ensure the safety of its residents. While compassion and vision are essential, they must be coupled with the expertise and experience required to navigate the complexities of public safety.

It is imperative that the mayor reconsider these appointments and prioritize the selection of leaders with the necessary qualifications to tackle the formidable challenges of public safety in Newark. The stakes are too high to take this risk.

Sheila Montague

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SPORTS WRAP



Photo By Erik Cohen

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past week was another busy week of sports. In college basketball action, the Seton Hall men's team has been doing well this season, with a Top 25 ranking thanks to big victories over defending champ Connecticut, Marquette and Providence. Their most recent big win came against St. John's by the final score of 80-65. The Pirates trounced the lifeless Red Storm in the 2nd half, helping to sweep the season series.

Kadary Richmond had another solid game for the Hall with 10 points and 8 rebounds, but Al Amir Dawes led the charge this time with 21 points. Joel Soriano from St. John's was outplayed by backup center and Orange NJ native Elijah Hutchins-Everett, who dominated inside with 14 points and 9 rebounds.

Unfortunately, SHU's win streak came to an end at the Prudential Center, after losing their first ever triple overtime game to a tough #18 Creighton team 97-94, and dropping out of the Top 25. The tough L came despite a triple double by Richmond in front of a sold out crowd Richmond who led his team 21 points 11 rebounds and 11 assists. He was one of three Pirates with 21 points, joining Dre Davis who added 9 rebounds and Al Amir Dawes.

Ryan Kalkbrenner led Creighton with 28 points. As of Tuesday, Seton Hall men's record is 13-6 and 6-2 in the Big East.

Meanwhile, the Seton Hall women's basketball team won a big conference home game on Monday night at Walsh Gym in overtime 74-66 over St. John's. Leading Seton Hall was Azana Baines with 17 points and 13 rebounds and Kae Satterfield with 16 points 3 rebounds. ShaLynn Hagans also scored 10 points while St. John's was led by Bernyah Mayo's 23 points and 3 rebounds and Jillian Archer's 10 points and 8 rebounds.

In more news, Azana Baines was named to the Big East weekly honors for the 5th time this season and Kadary Richmond was honored for scoring his 1,000 point before the Creighton game.

On to the NFL playoffs, where the Detroit Lions advanced to their first NFC title game since 1992, beating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 31-23. Leading the Lions was Jared Goff on 30-43 passing for 287 yards. Baker Mayfield was 26-41 for 347 yards and threw three touchdowns for the Bucs, but fell short after a game ending interception.

The Lions will make the trip to California, where the San Francisco 49ers will be waiting after getting by a tough Green



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Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

Bay Packers squad. The Niners got a TD late in the 4th quarter from Christian McCaffrey to take the lead 24-21. The Pack tried to answer, but QB Jordan Love threw a pick, sealing the final score.

In the AFC, the Baltimore Ravens pulled away from the Texans in the second half 34-10, while the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Buffalo Bills 27-24 after kicker Tyler Bass missed a game tying field goal wide right. The miss gave echoes of Bills

kicker Scott Norwood, who missed a 47 yard field at the end of Super Bowl XXV, giving the New York Giants their second big game win.

Finally, in a 10 year, \$5 billion deal, Netflix has agreed to air WWE's Monday Night Raw program. Meanwhile, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has joined the TKO Group board, which houses both WWE and UFC. In a related matter, Johnson now owns the rights to "The Rock" name.



UNITED STATES



SPORTS ILLUSTRATED IN DIRE STRAITS

By *Walter Elliott*

NEW YORK CITY - "Sports Illustrated," should it survive a post-Jan. 19 mass layoff notice and licensing negotiation, may likely look different from its 70-year-old standard.

The Arena Group Holdings here, which is responsible for operating the magazine and website, announced that most of its staff will be laid off that Friday morning. There are several long-term employees who were given a 90-day layoff notice - but they may well be gone as of April 20.

Arena Group executives gave out the pink slips while many employees were having a NewsGuild union Zoom meeting AGH's board of directors had missed on a \$3.75 million quarterly licensing payment to The Authentic Brands Group Jan. 5 - and Authentic revoked Arena's SI license.

NewsGuild has asked Arena and Authentic to keep on some staff as a skeleton crew so it could publish and post on schedule; its annual swimsuit edition is to go public on or just after Feb. 1.

Authentic and Simplify Innovation are meanwhile negotiating over the latter's wanting a majority ownership of the former. Simplify had been presided

over by founder Manjoy Bhargava - who made his fortune with the 5-Hour Energy caffeine drink (which used to sponsor NASCAR driver Kenny Wallace) - before he resigned in November.

Sports Illustrated, should it survive this turmoil, will look and read differently from what its subscribers - 1.3 million in 2021 in print and 965,000 on the internet - of various sports are used to.

SI was known to provide weekly articles and some investigative reports from sports journalists and mainstream writers coupled with outstanding photography. The former Time-Life/Time-Warner magazine would carry articles by George Plympton and once had poet Robert Frost cover an early 1960s World Series game.

Although the "Big Four" sports - Baseball, Football, Basketball and Ice Hockey - were its wheelhouse, it gave space to auto racing, the Olympic Games, prizefighting, track and field, tennis, soccer, golf, skiing, horse racing, yachting and - during the 1972 Bobby Fischer-Boris Spassky tournament - chess.

Many an amateur athlete had his or her week made if he or she was listed in SI's "Faces in the Crowd" page. Other athletes felt accomplished - or cursed - by making SI's front cover.

SI's first post-May 25, 1972 cover, for example, was of Mark Donohue in his McLaren-Offy en route to his winning the Indianapolis 500. The picture, of Donohue steering through one of Indianapolis' turns, was simply headlined "Winged Victory."

Thrice Formula One champion Sir Jackie Stewart was on SI's cover twice - including his being awarded "SI Sportsperson of the Year" in 1973 over record-breaking football rusher O.J. Simpson.

NASCAR stock car stars Dale Earnhardt, Sr and Jr. were on the cover separate times. Dale, "The Intimidator" Sr. was on one of SI's 13 tribute covers. (SCCA Trans-Am sports car

winner Walter Payton was given a tribute cover more for his NFL football accomplishments.)

Sam Moses, who was SI's auto racing reporter for 18 years, wrote a book entitled "Fast Guys, Rich Guys and Idiots." in 1986. Automotive writer Brock Yates, in the early 1970s, wrote an articles on his illegal "Cannonball Baker Sea to Shining Sea" transcontinental race and on how the Wankel rotary engine's smaller size would replace piston internal combustion engines in racing.

SI ran three annual special sections on the Indianapolis 500 1972-74.

Sports Illustrated' heyday as the go-to read were years and several ownership changes ago. Its current state of affairs may be traced to when Meredith Corp. bought Time, Inc. in 2018. Meredith then sold SI to Authentic Brands - who then licensed the brand to the Arena Group.

Arena Group was into leveraging SI's brand and name. It was allowed to start a Sports Illustrated gambling sports book and a pair of SI resorts in Orlando and Punta Cana.

Whatever happens to SI, it will not be rehiring the likes of "Drew Ortiz," "Sona Tanaka" or four other Artificial Intelligence-generated "authors."

At least two associated executives resigned when Futurism.com revealed, on Nov. 27, that they found the headshots used for "Ortiz," "Tanaka" and the other four on a for-sale photo database. Futurism discovered that their "articles" were AI - and not human - generated.

Arena Group, in a letter, faulted a third party it had contracted is lifestyle-oriented articles for not using human editors to fact check. Arena said it severed its ties to the contractor. NewsGuild said it was "horrified" that a company would resort to using AI.

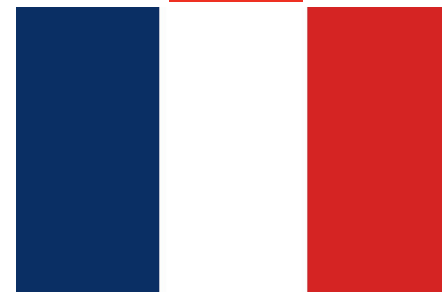
MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 1-23-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 29
- Total Dead: 58
- Total Wounded: 90
- Shootings Per Day: 1.26
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of Jan. 23: 23

FRANCE



FRANCE URGED TO PROTECT CHILDREN

France must take urgent action to protect children from incest and all forms of sexual abuse while also addressing mistreatment suffered by mothers trying to keep them safe, independent experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council said on Jan. 19.

The experts had previously written to the authorities after receiving information about three cases regarding allegations of sexual abuse of several children by their fathers and violations against the mothers who sought to protect them.

In addition, the experts found that, according to the allegations, the children were victims of sexual abuse or at high risk of sexual abuse at the hands of their fathers or alleged perpetrators against whom there was credible and disturbing evidence of incestuous sexual abuse.

Despite the allegations, and in the absence of adequate investigations, the children were placed in the custody of their fathers.

"We are particularly concerned about the way in which the family court has allowed the alleged perpetrator to accuse the mother of parental alienation in

(Continued on page 9)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

One thing that is the same folks, we all have a heart. I tend to use mines correctly. My love for folks is very deep. Do how you want to be treated. It's important to be fair nowadays. There's too much prejudice and wrongful things going on. I can't help the fact that God made me who I am. I did not choose my color it chose me.

I remember I had to take my pet to the emergency room. There were no other places open, but this 24 hour emergency place was far out. I made the reservation on the phone, which went smoothly. I spoke to them very articulately. I went through so much to get that far out from Essex County I didn't know where we were driving but we found the place.

Hello again everyone, proudly back again. First and foremost, it has been cold. I know you all have been feeling that. But let me get straight into it now.

What Is Prejudice?

Prejudice can be conscious or unconscious and involves stereotypes, prejudgments, and beliefs (which are usually negative) about a group of people. These beliefs can be based on: race, sex, gender, religion, culture, disability, sexuality, etc.

Something been on my mind lately and I have to bring this up, but it's unfair how some time people can be so unfair and wrong. Besides this happening to me, plenty others get it as well. We can go to these stores and businesses, spend our money but they deny use of the restroom. I can understand if you're not a customer but what if you are and you're turned away after you spent your money?

From the great experience I had on the phone, they built me up with so much trust. But when I arrived, they didn't expect me to be Black. I even got the cops called on me while my pet was dying. So what I'm trying to say people is no one is better, but it's time for people of color to wake up...

Before I depart everyone, remember, we only have one creator, so let's wake up, do the

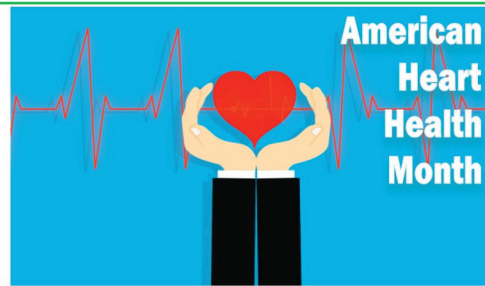
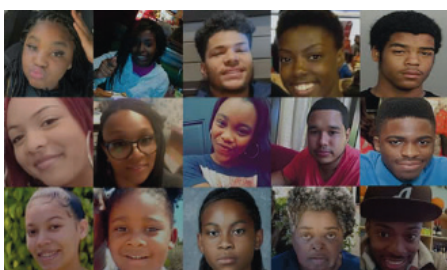
26:4B-1. Public restrooms; availability of units without charge; equality of charges for remaining units

Regardless of your budget people, this is illegal. If this happens to you out there, take action. We work and pay, and to get that kind of treatment is so harsh for a establishment to be like that to people. My worst experience is at Subway, which does it a lot to others. See, there's a law for this matter. We have to get tuned in. If you're not. wake up folks...

See, we are all different people, but I never looked down on anyone or thought I'm better.

right thing and never forget those who are not here. Til next time, peace and love. ...

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FEBRUARY 7: 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.

FEBRUARY 13: 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.

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SCHOOL BOARD

(Continued from page 1)

Norton, who also ran on the "Schools Forward" ticket in 2021, resigned as Board President Sept. 18, 2023. She said that she had been hired to be a clerk for New Jersey State Superior Court-Newark Judge Sheila A. Venable.

State law allows an elected body to appoint an interim panelist for an unexpired term for less than one year within 65 days. An unexpired term of more than one year requires that a special election be held.

The remaining board had unanimously approved Eighth Grade mathematics teacher and Newark for Educational Equity and Diversity Co-Chairman Thomas Luna to fill Norton's board seat Oct. 26. Luna, who finished fifth among seven April 25 candidates, was among the resumes of 10 appointee candi-

dates that the NPS Central Office received and examined.

Luna's scheduled Nov. 21 inauguration, however, was canceled.

Neither the board nor NPS directly said why they prevented Luna from swearing in. There had been a New Jersey Department of Education School Ethics Commission review that flagged Luna's employment as a conflict of interest. The Ethics Commission frowns on any board member being also a school district employee.

Luna has been a teacher since 2012 and a "Grade Level Chairman" since 2016. for the KIPP: Rise Academy - a charter school here.

Charter schools receive 90 percent of tuition of each student who registered with them. That tuition, with 10 percent saved for administrative costs, comes from the sending public

(Continued on page 11)

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WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

order to undermine the allegations of sexual abuse of the children and divert attention from the alleged abuse to which they are subjecting their partners and children,” the experts said.

They urged the French authorities to respect the “precautionary principle” and the “due diligence principle” in child protection, particularly during legal proceedings, to allow for a preventive approach in cases of uncertainty and complexity.

The views of the child also must be sought and respected, and their best interests must be the main consideration before custody decisions are made in favor of one parent.

The experts also highlighted the need to build the capacity of law enforcement and justice officials to effectively monitor and address human rights abuses affecting these children and their mothers.

“Urgent steps must be taken to alleviate the distressing situation in which children and their mothers are being negatively affected by the lack of adequate consideration for their needs,” they added.

The experts said they have been following the workings of France’s Independent Commission on Incest and Sexual Abuse of Children (CIVIISE), whose findings confirm the concerns expressed to the Government.

They urged the authorities to establish an effective child-friendly complaint handling sys-

tem and an investigation mechanism to process victims’ complaints.

“These efforts, including in divorce and custody cases, are essential and should go hand in hand with effective coordination between law enforcement agencies and other service providers, keeping the best interests of the child at the center of all proceedings or decisions affecting or concerning children,” they said.

Recalling that France is a party to UN treaties on children’s rights and eliminating discrimination against women, they urged the country to “implement its obligations under these international human rights instruments.”

MIDDLE EAST

OVER 25,000 CIVILIANS DEAD IN GAZA



“Intense” Israeli bombardment in Gaza continued on Jan. 22 along with rocket fire into Israel by Palestinian armed groups as UN humanitarian groups reported that more than 25,000 have died in the enclave since war began on October 7.

Citing Gaza’s health authorities, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also noted that some 62,681 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli strikes launched in retaliation for Hamas-led massacres in Israel that

(Continued on page 13)



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 - The U.S. Department of Justice, Columbus Long Term Acute Care Hospital/Silver Lake Hospital and the hospital's investors have come to a \$30.6 million settlement over what the former claimed were fraudulent Medicare compensation.

Silver Lake Hospital, said U.S. Attorney Phillip Sellinger that Tuesday, will be repaying Medicare \$18.5 million plus interest over the next five years. Silver Lake's investors will pay \$12 million plus interest at the same time.

Sellinger and his attorneys said that the hospital inflated its service costs of its Medicare outlier care program to get higher reimbursement. The proceeds would be redistributed to its investors.

The investors group accused of violating the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act and the False Claims Act is Columbus Management South LLC, of Paramus, and its principal investor Dr. Richard Lipsky, of Westwood.

Columbus LTACH's parent, Prime Healthcare, of Ontario, Calif., changed the former Cathedral Health Care facility's business name to Silver Lake Hospital Nov. 11, 2021. It has been designated as a long term care hospital since 2010. The Medicare outlier care program

covers patients who have high care costs.

"Medicare serves to ensure that patients get necessary service which can be very expensive," said Sellinger. "Medicare is not there for hospitals and their investors to gain unwarranted financial windfalls. This hospital falsely reported its costs to Medicare for years and reaped millions in unjustified payments."

IRVINGTON - Relatives of resident Ty'Shad Campbell, 27, have been making plans for his Jan. 20 funeral, while the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Task Force detectives have been searching for his killer in Newark, since Jan. 14.

Responding Newark Police Division officers told county detectives that they were called to the scene of a shooting along the 300 block of Grove Street at 4:25 a.m. that Sunday. Newark's three-block stretch of Grove Street separates Irvington's north end from East Orange.

Campbell was found there near 13th Avenue, critically injured by multiple gunshot wounds. He was rushed to Newark's University Hospital, where he died at 4:42 a.m.

Campbell - a father, son and grandson - was an East Orange Campus High School Class of 2015 graduate. The EOCHS Jaguars Varsity Football cornerback and wide receiver had come up from the local Mustangs Pop Warner league.

Newark education activist Lyndon Brown has set up a GoFundMe.com page to help the family with his funeral expenses. His funeral had been scheduled for Jan. 20.

EAST ORANGE - City residents have until Jan. 31 to get first dibs on spaces for daily or monthly parking in The Crossings at Brick Church Station Parking Garage.

The seven-story, 900 space garage, whose ground floor has been open for Brick Church ShopRite customers since November, is to be fully open later

this year. It is the first structure of the city block-sized residential/commercial complex to be open.

The Parking.com-operated structure features a fully contactless entry and exit practically next door to the NJTransit Morris & Essex Brick Church station. There is currently no waiting list to subscribe to monthly or daily rates.

Monthly permit rates are \$99 for up to 12 hours Monday-Friday or \$175 for 27/7 access.

Daily rates are \$3 for up to four hours, \$6 for up to eight hours, \$9 for up to 10 hours and \$13 for up to 24 hours.

Remaining spaces Feb. 1 onwards will be filled on a first-come, first serve basis. Parking permit requests are to go to: <https://parkimng.com/national/lot/brick-church-garage>.

Details may be found at: brickchurch@spplus.com.

ORANGE - Funeral services for Otris McRimmon, who died at home here Jan. 18, are to be announced as of press time.

McRimmon passed away 54 days after her beloved Maxie, A. McRimmon died here on Nov. 26. Maxie and the former Otris Smith were married on Aug. 27 1954. Both were childhood sweethearts here.

Maxie and Otris settled in Orange's South Ward - in a two-family house Maxie had built - to raise Marti and Philip McRimmon and Pamela Mayo. Nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren are also among their survivors. Daughter Maxine predeceased them.

Otris and Maxie McRimmon lived in the same house that also served as the latter's business headquarters, including McRimmon Associates tax preparation and McRimmon Contractors. Maxie was also a longtime City of Orange Construction code official, an Orange Housing Authority and Orange ABC Commissioner and an Orange Board of Education member.

O. McRimmon's arrangements are to be likely handled by Woody's Home for Services

here, as they had had for M. McRimmon. She will be buried alongside him in Rosedale Cemetery.

WEST ORANGE - The township's Board of Education has been sifting through letters of interest through Jan. 17 and been conducting interviews on Jan. 22 in the wake of former Board President Jennifer Tunnicliffe's resignation.

Tunicliffe, without giving a reason, announced her resignation Jan. 13. The two-term board member was re-elected Nov. 8, 2022 with around 40 percent of the vote.

Tunicliffe is leaving from a three-year term which expires on Dec. 31. Whoever the remaining BOE selects as her successor will be at least filling out her term.

The would-be appointee also has the option to run for a full three-year term on the Nov. 5, 2024 General Election ballot -- unless that person specifies that he or she will not run.

The interviews were held prior to WOBOE's Jan. 22 public meeting. A finalist would be proposed at one of their February meetings. The selection was not listed as a Jan. 22 agenda item as posted on Jan. 19.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Ann Bodnar's Jan. 10 two-page open letter on how Columbia High School and related agencies would handle an anticipated June 11-12 student walkout was one of the acting principal's first actions.

Bodnar - who was appointed after Acting Superintendent Dr. Kevin Gilbert put Principal Frank Sanchez on leave Jan. 2 - outlined what the high school, the school district and Maplewood Police would do once the walkout happened. The contingencies included the continuance of scheduled classes, the school library used as a safe space, that walking out students will be marked as being absent and that MPD officers will be present to make sure that the "walkout is

(Continued on page 12)

2024 Congressional and Presidential Primary Dates



2024 PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER
(Data as of 12/15/2023)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/05/2024

STATE	PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE	PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS DATE	STATE	CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATE	CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF DATE (IF NECESSARY)
Iowa		1/15 (Republicans)	Alabama	3/05	4/16
New Hampshire	1/23		Arkansas	3/05	4/02
South Carolina	2/03 (Democrats)		S California	3/05	
Nevada	2/06		North Carolina	3/05	5/14
Nevada		2/08 (Republicans)	S Texas	3/05 ³	5/28
Virgin Islands		2/08 (Republicans)	S Mississippi	3/12	4/02
South Carolina	2/24 (Republicans)		Illinois	3/19	
Michigan	2/27		S Ohio	3/19	
Idaho		3/02 (Republicans)	S Pennsylvania	4/23	
Missouri		3/02 (Republicans)	S Indiana	5/07 ³	
North Dakota		3/04 (Republicans)	S Maryland	5/14	
Alabama	3/05		S Nebraska	5/14 ⁴	
American Samoa		3/05 (Democrats)	S West Virginia	5/14 ³	
Arkansas	3/05		Georgia	5/21	6/18
California	3/05		Idaho	5/21	
Colorado	3/05		Kentucky	5/21	
Iowa		3/05 (Democrats) ¹	Oregon	5/21	
Maine	3/05		Puerto Rico	6/02	
Massachusetts	3/05		D.C.	6/04	
Minnesota	3/05		Iowa	6/04	
North Carolina	3/05		S Montana	6/04	
Oklahoma	3/05		S New Jersey	6/04	
Tennessee	3/05		S New Mexico	6/04	
Texas	3/05		South Dakota	6/04 ³	7/30
Utah	3/05		S Maine	6/11	
Vermont	3/05		S Nevada	6/11	
Virginia	3/05		S North Dakota	6/11	
Georgia	3/12		South Carolina	6/11 ³	6/25
Hawaii		3/12 (Republicans)	Oklahoma	6/18	8/27
Mississippi	3/12		S Virginia	6/18 ³	
N. Mariana Islands	3/12 Democrats (Party-Run Primary)		Colorado	6/25	
Washington	3/12		S New York	6/25	
Puerto Rico	3/17 (Democrats)		S Utah	6/25 ³	
Arizona	3/19		S Tennessee	8/01	
Florida	3/19		Guam	8/03	
Illinois	3/19		Virgin Islands	8/03	
Kansas	3/19		S Arizona	8/06	
Ohio	3/19		Kansas	8/06 ³	
Louisiana	3/23		S Michigan	8/06 ³	
Missouri	3/23 Democrats (Party-Run Primary)		S Missouri	8/06	
Connecticut	4/02		S Washington	8/06	
Delaware	4/02		S Hawaii	8/10	
New York	4/02		S Connecticut	8/13 ³	



2024 PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER
(Data as of 12/15/2023)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/05/2024

STATE	PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE	PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS DATE	STATE	CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATE	CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF DATE
Rhode Island	4/02		S Minnesota	8/13	
Wisconsin	4/02		S Vermont	8/13	
Alaska	4/06 Democrats (Party-Run Primary)		S Wisconsin	8/13	
Hawaii	4/06 Democrats (Party-Run Primary)		Alaska	8/20	
North Dakota	4/06 Democrats (Party-Run Primary)		S Florida	8/20	
Wyoming		4/13 (Democrats)	S Wyoming	8/20 ³	
Pennsylvania	4/23		S Massachusetts	9/03	
Indiana	5/07		S Delaware	9/10	
Maryland	5/14		New Hampshire	9/10	
Nebraska	5/14		S Rhode Island	9/10	
West Virginia	5/14				
Kentucky	5/21				
Oregon	5/21				
Idaho		5/23 (Democrats)			
D.C.	6/04				
Montana	6/04				
New Jersey	6/04				
New Mexico	6/04				
South Dakota	6/04				
Guam		6/08 (Democrats)			
Alaska		Pending (Republicans)			
American Samoa		Pending (Republicans)			
Guam		Pending (Republicans)			
N. Mariana Islands		Pending (Republicans)			
Puerto Rico	Pending (Republicans)				
Virgin Islands		Pending (Democrats)			
Wyoming		Pending (Republicans)			

Notes:

- The Iowa Democratic Party is conducting a mail-in Presidential preference caucus, with preference cards to be returned to the party and postmarked on or before March 5, 2024. The Iowa Democratic Party's January 15, 2024, in-person precinct caucuses are for party business and no expression of presidential preference will be tabulated at the precinct caucuses.
- In Louisiana, a Congressional primary election is not held. The election for candidates seeking Federal office is the General election scheduled for 11/5/2024. If necessary, a Runoff Election will be held on 12/07/2024.
- In Connecticut and Utah, conventions are held by the political parties prior to the primary. In Virginia, political parties may choose to nominate by convention rather than by primary election. In other states, such as Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia and Wyoming, minor parties may hold conventions to nominate candidates.
- Nebraska has 2 U.S. Senate seats on the ballot in 2024. One is for an Unexpired Term.
- The dates listed are tentative and subject to change.

Sources: State Election Offices, Statutes and State Parties

The FEC has jurisdiction over federal campaign finance law and does not have authority over the administration of elections. Questions concerning a state's primary election procedure should be addressed to the state's Election Director.

Compiled by: Public Disclosure and Media Relations Division, Office of Communications
Federal Election Commission, 800/424-9530 (option 2), or 202/694-1120

SCHOOL BOARD

(Continued from page 7)

school district.

Although charter schools may exist within a public school district, they answer directly to NJDoE's Charter School Office in Trenton - and not the "home" school district.

Luna, should he have been sworn into the NPS board, would have to recuse himself from voting on any matters involving teachers and/or charter schools.

It is not clear whether any of the other unsuccessful April 25 candidates had sent applications or were also considered to fill Norton's seat.

Participating registered voters may therefore be facing one more board of education seat to fill April 18 in addition to the usual three. Board Co-Vice Presidents Dawn Haynes and Vereliz Santana's current terms are to expire July 1, 2024.

The board had meanwhile selected second-term colleague Hasani K. Council to succeed Norton as Board President - and whose School Ethics Commission Personal Disclosure Form responses may be under

scrutiny.

A local news website, on Jan. 16, said it had received H. Council's 2020, 21 and 22 PDFs "from the district." The linked forms, said the website, show that H. Council had not disclosed that his father - the Rev. Patrick O. Council - was an NPS employee.

P. Council is perhaps best known as the current South Ward Councilman and the ward's Democratic Committee Chairman. The Union Baptist Church Pastor has been Director of Newark's Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Senior Services since June 29, 2019.

P. Council has his son Hashini as his South Ward Council Chief of Staff - which is not unusual: Lawrence "Larry" Crump was mother and Councilwoman Mildred Crump's Chief of Staff before she resigned for health reasons. L. Crump was subsequently appointed and elected at-large councilman. Board member and former board president Josephine Garcia has been and remains Councilman Carlos Gonzalez's Legislative Aide.

P. Council's Facebook page, however, lists "Newark Public Schools Coordinator of

Athletics" and his LinkedIn page "Coordinator of Scheduling Recreational Activities at NPS" as among his job titles. The news website said that NPS records show that he has been on the district payroll since 2003.

Nancy Deering, acting NPS Communications Director, said to the website that "the conclusions that you have drawn from the documents are incorrect." Deering also underscored that communication to the individuals in question should go through her department and not directly to them.

It should be noted that NPS and the website, with the Newark Teachers Union, are opposing parties in a public records access lawsuit argument hearing before State Superior Court Judge Myra V. Taratino Jan. 23.

The site intends to obtain a copy of the CREED Strategies finding report on "racial hostility" allegations within the Institute for Global Studies magnet high school. That report has been deemed by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Roger Leon as an "internal" document.



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**The Curse We
Bring On Ourselves**

I do not know whether you have ever brought a curse on yourself, but I have seen enough of it. Honest confession would say that I have sometimes brought some curses on myself. I lost my blessing. Yes, bad choices and wrong decisions have led me down a miserable path when things could have been otherwise.

A path of misery can be specially marked because, at points, a person allows themselves to be deceived by someone who could have helped to change things in a positive direction. The helper did not lead in a positive direction. Yes, I think of some children whose parents gave them guns to kill fellow students or shoot some teachers. The parents have indeed taken curses on themselves.

However, let me turn away from the curses connected with guns and note some things like fame and popularity or power that might seem less socially egregious but have had a deleterious effect on the personal lives of our children and families. I here speak of the many things that are done that, in the end, fill the hearts of parents and their children with guilt, grief, regret, and hardship.

Let me use the Biblical example of Father Isaac, and Mother Rebekah found in Genesis 27. Mother Rebekah led her son Jacob into a most intriguing deception because she wanted him to receive the promised blessing Father Isaac intended to give Esau. I pick up the story at the point where Rebekah calls the curse on herself and leads Jacob into lying and cheating, ultimately leading to hatred and bitter conflict between the two brothers. What might have seemed like a moment of pleasure led to a lifetime of bitterness, separation and death.

I paraphrased the story with the hope that intrigue is not lost. It states that when Isaac arranged to give Esau his blessing, Rebekah overheard and intervened. She told Jacob to get a couple of kids so that she could prepare the meal that Isaac requested Esau to make for him before blessing him. By this act, Rebekah would induce Isaac to give the blessing to Jacob. When Jacob protested, thinking he would be found out, Rebekah told him, **"Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."**

So, Jacob obeyed, got *the kids*, and brought *them* to Rebekah, and she fixed the "savory food," which Isaac loved. She then took the choice clothes of Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them on Jacob. Next, Rebekah used the skins of the kids to cover Jacob's hands and the smooth part of his neck. She then gave Jacob the savory food and bread she had prepared, who would take it to Isaac, his father.

The story continues; so, Ja-

cob goes to his father and says, "My father." And Isaac said, "Here I am. Who *are* you, my son?" Jacob told Isaac, "I *am* Esau, your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." But Isaac asked Jacob, "How have you found *it* so quickly, my son? "And Jacob said, "Because the Lord your God brought *it* to me." Then, Isaac told Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you *are* really my son Esau or not." So, Jacob went near to Isaac, his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau." Isaac did not recognize Jacob because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's, so he ate the meal and blessed him.

As soon as Isaac blessed Jacob and Jacob left the presence of Isaac, Esau came in from hunting. He had made savory food, brought it to his father, and said to Isaac, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me." Isaac said to him, "Who *are* you?" And he said, "I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau." Then Isaac trembled exceedingly and said, "Who? Where *is* the one who hunted the game and brought *it* to me? I ate all of *it* before you came, and I have blessed him - *and* indeed, he shall be blessed."

When Esau heard the words of Isaac, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me - me also, O my father!" But he said, "Your brother came with

deceit and has taken away your blessing." And *Esau* said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

So, Isaac tries to bless Esau, but not with the blessing of inheritance heirship that was already given to Jacob. So, Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob." Esau's intent to kill Jacob got around to Rebekah, so she arranged to send Jacob away to his uncle Laban in Padan Aram. And shortly after Jacob left, Rebekah died.

I have short-circuited the story. Please read it. It is like a novel of intrigue that involves tragedy and comedy. Yes, Jacob received the blessing, and Esau some part of a blessing. But in the end, the true loser was Rebekah. She suffered for the curse that she called upon herself. She had to send the son she loved away and lost the love of her other son. Many commentators have argued that Rebekah died of a broken heart not long after Jacob was sent off to Padan Aram. Though respected as one of the great mothers in Israel, the life of Rebekah can teach us a lot about the curses we call upon ourselves and often on our children.

Have you called a curse on yourself? If somehow you have, let me remind you that God can take your curse away.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

conducted safely and lawfully."

Around 100 CHS students walked out after their third period classes Jan. 12 and spent an hour outside at adjacent Ritzer Field. An announcement by an unofficial CHS organization, "Student Voices for Peace," said the walkout was calling for "a permanent ceasefire now," in Gaza, "advocating for Palestini-

an freedom, taking a stance against both Islamophobia and antisemitism and preventing the conflation of anti-Zionism and antisemitism."

The 100 students is an estimate, given that there was a prohibition on any press meeting with the protesters or any photography. There was a group of adults, a few waving Palestinian flags, stationed across Valley Street from the field, although it is not clear whether they were

concerned parents or were formal demonstrators.

"Student Voices for Peace," whose statement did not include any contact numbers or named representatives, said that they "were told by Principal Sanchez that we should 'hold off' on talking about the slaughter of Gazan civilians in our school-affiliated activism spaces." It is not known whether Sanchez's purported "holding off" had contributed to his suspension.

The South Orange-Maplewood School District named Dr. Qawi Telesford as its Board President Arun Vadlamani its First Vice President and Nubia DuVall Wilson as Second VP at their Jan. 3 meeting. The duo then issued a "statement of full support" for Gilbert putting Sanchez on leave.

Two students and a parent appraised Sanchez at the in-person/Zoom hybrid meeting.

(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

left some 1,200 dead and around 250 people taken hostage.

Two Israeli soldiers have also been killed in Gaza since Jan. 19, OCHA said, bringing the total to 193 since the start of the ground operation and 1,203 soldiers injured, according to the Israeli military.

The same period saw 343 Palestinians killed and another 573 people injured, the UN aid coordination office said.

The development came as Israeli and Palestinian foreign ministers prepared to meet their European Union counterparts on Monday in separate private talks in Brussels, after UN Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the ongoing Gaza bloodshed as “heartbreaking and utterly unacceptable.”

Addressing a summit of the Group of 77 countries and China (G77) in the Ugandan capital Kampala, Mr. Guterres described the Middle East as “a tinderbox,” before issuing an appeal to “do all we can to prevent conflict from igniting across the region.”

“Israel’s military operations have spread mass destruction and killed civilians on a scale unprecedented during my time as Secretary-General,” Mr. Guterres said, having earlier reiterated his support for a two-State solution for Israelis and Palestinians.

“The denial of the right to statehood for the Palestinian people would indefinitely prolong a conflict that has become a major threat to global peace and security, exacerbate polarization and embolden extremists everywhere,” he said.

Highlighting the scale of need among Gazans after more than three months of “intense” bombardment, OCHA said that only 15 bakeries were now operational in Gaza - “six in Rafah and nine in Deir al Balah” - and none is open north of Wadi Gaza.

Almost all of these function-

ing bakeries have continued to receive support from the UN World Food Program (WFP) which has provided flour, salt, yeast and sugar.

“Through this initiative, about 250,000 people were able to purchase bread at a subsidized price,” OCHA noted in its latest update on the emergency on Jan. 21.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA, meanwhile, reported on Jan. 22 that telecommunications shutdowns had entered a seventh day.

“Disruption of telecommunication services prevents people accessing lifesaving information, calling first responders and continues to impede humanitarian response,” the UN agency said in a tweet on X, formerly Twitter.

In its latest update, UNRWA reported that 1.7 million people are now confirmed displaced within Gaza. At least 335 of these internally displaced people have been killed while sheltering in the agency’s premises and 1,161 have been injured, in addition to the 151 UNRWA staff killed and 141 installations damaged since October 7.

UNITED KINGDOM

BRITS WARNED OF MEASLES OUTBREAK

Further outbreaks of measles will spread to other towns and cities unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake in areas at greatest risk, the UK Health Security Agency’s (UKHSA) Chief Executive is warning today during a visit to Birmingham, amid a rapid rise in cases in parts of the region since last October.

Professor Dame Jenny Harries is in Birmingham January 19 to see first-hand the extensive clinical, health protection,

epidemiological and community engagement work on-going to contain the spread of the disease and encourage communities to urgently take up the offer of an MMR vaccine.

As of January 18, there have been 216 confirmed cases and 103 probable cases in the West Midlands since October 1, 2023. Around 80% of cases have been seen in Birmingham, with about 10% in Coventry, the majority being in children aged under 10 years.

Following a UKHSA risk assessment published last July, which warned of the potential for such outbreaks, Dame Jenny has expressed concern that unless urgent action is taken we are likely to see the measles virus spreading rapidly in other areas with low MMR vaccine uptake.

While in Birmingham, Dame Jenny will be visiting the Birmingham Heartlands Hospital and meeting with health professionals coordinating the response, including local UKHSA epidemiologists and consultants, NHS leaders and local councils across the West Midlands.

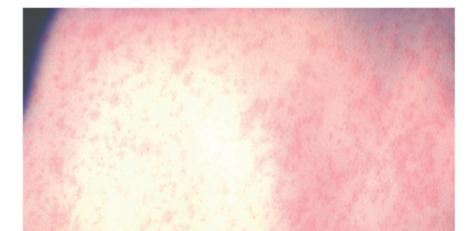
Learning what has worked and not worked in the West Midlands will be key to help other areas prepare. There have been some recent successful interventions focused to support local communities, such as a pop-up vaccination clinic at a school in Coventry, street level community engagement to promote vaccination and training and awareness raising of frontline professionals in schools and healthcare settings. But Dame Jenny is calling on all local areas to make a sustained commitment to turn around the falling MMR uptake rates in communities across the country.

The UKHSA has declared a national incident. This is an internal mechanism within the Agency signaling the growing public health risk and to enable the Agency to focus on limiting further spread of the outbreak including additional work to help protect other areas at greatest risk.

Professor Dame Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of UKHSA, said: “Colleagues across the West Midlands have worked tirelessly to try to control the outbreak, but with vaccine uptake in some communities so low, there is now a very real risk of seeing the virus spread in other towns and cities.

“Children who get measles can be very poorly and some will suffer life changing complications. The best way for parents to protect their children from measles is the MMR vaccine. Two doses of the MMR vaccine give lifelong protection and it’s never too late to catch up.

“Immediate action is needed to boost MMR uptake across communities where vaccine uptake is low. We know from the pandemic that the communities themselves, and those providing services within them, will have the knowledge to best support local families to understand the risks of measles, to learn more about the vaccines that can protect them and to enable innovative vaccine delivery approaches. We need a long-term concerted effort to protect individuals and to prevent large measles outbreaks.”



In December, Dame Jenny welcomed the new NHS England Vaccination Strategy, with its renewed focus on innovative delivery approaches, recognizing that the link between uptake rates and vaccine confidence and accessibility is critical. Responding to the Strategy she highlighted that UKHSA has committed to supporting national vaccination programs, including MMR, as one of the Agency’s top priorities. Working alongside the NHS, UKHSA continues to evaluate uptake coverage and effectiveness of immunization programs in order to inform NHS routine vaccination programs in the future.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

YOU GOT SERVED!

What is the definition of frigid?

Frigid - very cold in. temperature.

How does snow form?

Snow forms when tiny ice crystals in clouds stick together to become snowflakes. If enough crystals stick together, they'll become heavy enough to fall to the ground. Snowflakes that descend through moist air that is slightly warmer than 0 °C will melt around the edges and stick together to produce big flakes.

What does the hawk is out mean?

LET IT SNOW

It's absurd (I reminded the two that offered their help) that all America's geopolitical opponents have to do if needing to know what they're up against. It is to wait out a mini snowstorm during the visit of Old Man Winter and his homeboy, The Hawk. There is no need to travel across seas or enforce an onward march.

Besides the internet, which is a gold mind at best, all they need is to navigate those drones into these hardscapes to peek at the shortage of Snowmen when scaling those pathless houses and finding all those troopers in the barracks snuggled in their beds who dare not haul their own trash. The verdict is when Intel streams into that hardware at the base. Feedback: NO COMP... They got a good laugh out of it. But I wasn't joking!

FRIGID

SO...When I saw him that day on Central Avenue in East Orange, he was a beacon of hope, to say the least. He immediately reminded me of my dad. The late Mr. Brown.

His snow shoveling extended beyond the steps and the sidewalk along the front of his house. At that moment, he was manhandling the snow and ice in that cold rain that blanketed the lot next door, and I could also see his footprints that extended

to the abandoned garage on the other side. The whole strip got served. I immediately made a decree that God bless the man and all inhabitants in his house from infinity to infinity.

God has such a sense of humor because he always finds a way to tell me to hush my mouth when it comes to my generalizations, such as dropping the whole lot of us in that bucket; Usually, when I'm gazing out of these eyes of mine at something that makes my blood boil. I guess he got a bit impatient with my all-inclusive rants about the lack of snowmen in our Hoodscapes. Excluding those who are paid to lift and throw.

Thank the Good Lord for those from my era, I often add, and those that came before, that I have coined a different breed. But then I'd come across A Gen Xer and a Millennial who offered to shovel my bus out of that snow. Once again, God had sent me that little reminder. But you really can't blame me, for it



Photos By Andrea Dialect

because I was furious when I stepped out of the house that Sunday morning a week or two ago, and I'd find no path to step my pretty black boots upon. But there in eye view was that metal shovel.

So with that hat cocked to the side, I'd get to work right then in there as wearing my Sunday, best if you could have seen the bulging eyes of onlookers. It even triggered a couple of horns to be blown. Sadly, I was a tad bit late for church, but duty had called. Yes, of course, I was salty and fussed the entire time, mainly regarding all those men in their beds that resided in that house who were snuggled in bed I suppose alongside the women and children. ...

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

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

Several residents called in to support "The Walkout for Palestine."

UPDATE: The South Orange Public Library will open at its interim location, 298 Walton Ave. on Jan. 25. Construction continues on linking its 1968 building at 45 Scotland Rd. with its original library building next door.

BLOOMFIELD - Township police detectives are looking for two thieves who creatively shoplifted from the Home Depot here Jan. 4. The hardware store loss prevention officer showed responding BPD officers a store video recording of the two thieves' actions that Thursday.

The recording showed the duo taking a \$106.60 toilet out of its cardboard box and filling the box with \$4,450 worth of DeWalt

and Milwaukee batteries and a Combat drill kit. They resealed the box and paid the unsuspecting cashier the \$106.60 that was rung up.

Gamble Named New Mayor

The Township Council appointed Councilman at-Large Ted Gamble, 6-2, in a contentious Jan. 22 vote, over First Ward Councilwoman Jenny Mundell as interim Mayor. Gamble then resigned his council seat, adding onto the June 3 Special Primary Election for mayor. Mundell, overnight Jan. 22-23, announced her June 3 run for mayor.

Monday night's council meeting roll call came down to the Bloomfield Democratic Committee-favored Mundell and Jan. 17 straw poll runner-up Gamble. At-large council members Rick Rockwell and Dr. Wartyna "Tina" Davis, Second Ward Councilman Nick Joanow and Gamble voted for Gamble;

Mundell and Third Ward Councilwoman Sara Cruz voted for Mundell.

Gamble, Jan. 17-22, had been crying foul over Michael Venezia's conduct of the straw poll. Although Venezia had resigned as mayor Jan. 6 to take his elected seat as New Jersey Assemblyman for the "new 34th Legislative District Jan. 9, he remains Bloomfield Democratic Committee Chairman. BDC members that Wednesday gave 41 votes to Mundell over Gamble (16 votes) and social media agency founder/Bloomfield College graduate/Bloomfield Parking Authority member Nicole Williams (2 votes).

Gamble, whose appointed term expires Dec. 31., has not said whether he will run to complete Venezia's remaining unexpired term - which runs out on Dec. 31, 2025. Venezia has meanwhile endorsed Mundell for the June 3 Special Election.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

MONTCLAIR - Township police detectives are investigating a smash-and-grab burglary at a Bloomfield Avenue business here on Jan. 14.

MPD officers responded to an alarm sounding from The Clothing Connect store at 3:55 a.m. Sunday. Officers found 402 Bloomfield Ave.'s store front door's window smashed by three cinder blocks found nearby.

A search of the Wellmont Building store's premises revealed that its cash register was missing. It had also appeared that some sneakers and watches were also taken.

2021 Driveway Hijacker Pleads Guilty

The man who was accused of carjacking a Porsche Cayenne in a residential driveway here and abandoning it on Newark's First Street off Interstate 280 in 2021, pleaded guilty of the hijacking and of a related weapons charge in a federal Newark courtroom Jan. 17.

Andy Cook, 24, of Newark, confessed to pulling a gun on the Porsche's driver 7:26 p.m. Dec. 6, 2021 and ordering her out. Cook also pleaded guilty of conspiring to use the gun in the crime.

Law enforcers, who spotted the Cayenne along I-280 in Orange, apprehended Cook in a building along Newark's Second Street. Cook also had been facing a count of using a firearm in a crime since an October 2022 indictment. He faces up to 15 years in prison for the carjacking, up to 20 years for the conspiracy and up to \$500,000 in fines for both when he is sentenced May 30.

GLEN RIDGE - It looks like the Borough Council, after its Jan. 2 reorganization meeting, will not have to ask for prospective council member resumes.

The council, after watching Deborah Mans be sworn in as mayor that Tuesday, named Councilwoman Ann Marie Morrow as its Council President for the year. There had been a prior concern that Mans and Morrow's promotions would leave a vacancy on the council.

BOE Leaders Named

The Glen Ridge Public Schools Board of Education, as of Jan. 3, is to be led by longtime Board President Elisabeth Ginsberg for 2024.

Jocelyn Gottlieb and David Campbell

were named respective first and second vice presidents that Wednesday. Gottlieb succeeded Tracey St. Auburn, who declined re-election last year.

First-timer Darius K. Dehnad and returnees Duval Graham and Gottlieb were sworn into their new board terms.

BELLEVILLE - Two township residents have thrown their hats into their respective Ward Council and Congressional District race rings Jan. 16.

Current Board of Education Trustee Tracy Juanita Williams launched her run for First Ward Council Jan. 16. Williams, who unsuccessfully sought an at-large council seat in 2022, is running on her Believe in Belleville platform.

Williams, who was first elected as a trustee in 2021, has been Hillside's Prevention Intervention Referral Specialist since 2018. She and her fiancé have been living in the First Ward's Silver Lake section since at least 2019.

Williams is likely to contest the First Ward seat against "A Better Belleville" candidate fielded by campaign manager Mayor Michael Melham. Whoever is elected by a majority of registered First ward residents in May will succeed 20-year Councilwoman Marie Strumolo Burke, who had decided on Dec. 31 to end her incumbency on July 1.

Joseph Belnome, that same Tuesday, announced his pursuit for the Republican nomination to run against incumbent Mikie Sherrill (D-Montclair) for the U.S. House of Representatives 11th Congressional District seat.

"Jersey Joe," a retired bricklayer and township building inspector, had contested for the State Senate 34th Legislative District seat last year against outgoing Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange). The "New 34th" also includes Bloomfield, Glen Ridge and Nutley and Passaic County's Clifton.

Belnome got June 6's primary nomination by write-in votes. Timberlake got the retiring Richard J. Codey's seat 76 - to - 24 percent on Nov. 7 with a 12,802 vote plurality.

NUTLEY - Township authorities and the U.S. Secret Service are asking anyone who used the outside ATM at Capital One's bank branch, 471 Franklin Ave., recently to check with their financial institutions on their balances and any unusual transactions.

Nutley Police and the Secret Service said that an ATM customer there found "a suspicious device" mounted next to the

machine's card reader early Jan. 18 and altered bank branch employees.

Branch security and NPD detectives identified the device as a "skimmer" - a card reader used to gather bank card data for criminal use. The skimmer was turned over to the Secret Service, who has taken over the investigation's lead.


"We may have recovered this device before thieves (could) obtain personal information," said Nutley Police Commissioner Alphonse Petracco that Thursday. "Police notified all financial institutions within the township and checked for skimmers."

"Please check with your institution to ensure your account wasn't compromised," said Nutley Police Chief Thomas Strumolo. "If you find unauthorized charges or withdrawals, please contact your bank and report (it) to (the) police."

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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