

# LOCAL TALK

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### OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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## NEWARK WATER CRISIS LEAKS AGAIN



By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - When something gets spilled, one immediately seeks to limit the spillage's spread and start mopping up.

The City of Newark's officials, since Feb. 6, has been conducting both a spread audit on the extent of lead content among its some 23,000 water service customers who had their lead lines replaced - and in mopping up a leaked conversation.

Newark and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection are making a large-scale audit to see how many of the service lines between the city's water mains and customers residences and businesses were incorrectly replaced.

The wider audit is based on a sample inspection of four new water service lines here between

Jan. 19 and Feb. 1. Newark Water and Sewer Utilities and the DEP, tipped off that a third-party contractor had left "remaining lead components were found on the street side, between the curb and the water main," inspected four properties' lines.

Both Mayor Ras Baraka and Water and Sewer Director Kareem Adeem have said that the sample found remaining lead components between the curb and the water main on three of the four properties. Adeem, in his Feb. 7 public message to Newark water customers said that those properties' lines were promptly replaced.

The wider audit, to be conducted "over the next several weeks," will map out the extent of the unremoved lead content.

(Continued on page 14)

## FORMER PRESIDENT SUES SETON HALL UNIVERSITY



*Alleges retaliation, corruption, misconduct, sexual harassment of his wife*

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Dr. Joseph Nyre, the former president of Seton Hall University, and his wife, Kelli L. Nyre, are suing Seton Hall University.

In court papers, Dr. Nyre alleges retaliation, corruption, misconduct against him by the school and its governing body, the Board of Regents. The lawsuit also alleges sexual harassment of Kelli L. Nyre, Dr. Nyre's wife, by former Board chairman, Kevin H. Marino.

The lawsuit is 64 pages long. As defendants, the lawsuit names Seton Hall University; Henry F. D'Alessandro; Michael J. Lucciola; Anthony Masherelli; James Edward Collins; Edward

Charles Cerny IV; ABC Corporations 1-5 (fictitious names describing presently unidentified business); and John Does 1-5 (fictitious names describing presently unidentified individuals).

In their lawsuit, Plaintiffs J. Nyre and Kelly L. Nyre allege that the defendants violated New Jersey's Conscientious Employee Protection Act, N.J.S.A. 34:19-1 et seq (the CEPA); New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD); Separation and General Release Agreement (the Agreement).

The allegations in the lawsuit by Dr. Joseph Nyre and his wife, Kelli L. Nyre, include Board of Regents Chair Marino attempting to "wrongfully" interfere with hiring procedures because of a conflict of interest; Mr. Marino attempting to

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

**Hello Readers,**

Israeli's airstrikes on Rafah in Palestine killed over 100 on February 12, 2024. Many readers have not liked what Israel has been doing, especially with President Biden not forcing Israel to stop the airstrikes. October 7, 2023 was the worst day for Israel, as in a surprise attack, Hamas killed about 1,200 Israelis and kidnapped about 250 Israelis citizens of other countries.

Everyone knows that the Israelis are united and will not tolerate any attack on them. They retaliated and launched an attack on Palestine, especially in the Gaza strip, killing over 28,000 people. Israel has had to protect their land against Hamas every day since becoming a nation in

1947 (over 75 years ago). However, killing 28,000 persons and forcing the evacuation of millions of people is not humanitarian. The US wants to support them but does not have the power to stop the genocide. Is our president and his administration weak, or is Biden not stopping due to politics?

Republicans had appointed a special counsel, Robert Hur, for an investigation into President Biden and his handling of classified documents. Hur gave his report last week, stating that Biden had indeed hid the classified documents. However, according to Hur, Biden would win the case if charged, because of his age and forgetful nature. Hur also mentioned that the president's memory was at its worst during the interview. The White House said that due to the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel, he was not mentally stable during his interviews on Oct. 8 and Oct. 9. However, my question is do we expect our president to be intelligent with a great memory and

sharp on answering any questions.

Biden is avoiding press conferences and avoiding answers to accountability questions. Biden has given only 54 interviews, out of which the majority of them were with handpicked journalists, which should not count as a real interview. Immediately, after the bombardment of news from special counsel Hur, the Democrats are looking for an alternative to Biden. The alternative cannot be on all of the ballots; however, he/she can be nominated in place of Biden by the superdelegates or the Democratic National Committee at the Democratic Convention.

When there is dementia, the first stage is Alzheimer's. It happens that people forget sometimes and can have a sharp memory at other times. As a patient, it is normal for anyone to have such an issue. However, we should not allow a president with this kind of condition. The question arose from one official that if Biden could not remember details about

his son's death and funeral, then how could he remember more sensitive matters? The president's mental capacity is so suspect that NY republican Rep. Claudia Tenney have written to Attorney General Merrick Garland to invoke the 25th amendment for the removal of President Biden from office.

According to the Miami Herald an "alien-faced" creature with about 200 legs was discovered as a new species in Tanzania. "On a mountain in Tanzania, an 'alien-faced' creature walked along on its countless legs. Suddenly, the ground underneath the animal seemed to give out, and it fell into a trap. Scientists picked up their catch - and discovered a new species...While surveying the Udzungwa Mountains, researchers checked their pitfall traps and found dozens of millipedes that didn't match any known records, the study said."

*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>
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# The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

## Young Americans See Rise in Colon Cancer Rates, Cause Uncertain

Traditionally, colon cancer is seen as a disease that mainly affects older individuals. However, there has been a change in the tide, as more young adults are diagnosed with the form of cancer. According to a report released by the American Cancer Society, in March 2023, the rate

of new colorectal cases in Americans below the age of 55 years has increased from 11 percent to 20 percent of the total cases.

Also, colon cancer is a leading cause of cancer deaths among individuals under 50 years in the United States. This increase seems frightening, and I tell you it is. The reason for this is that the cause is Unknown. Another confusing fact is that although the value rises in young adults, it significantly drops in older adults. So, what's wrong?

Colon cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, is a type of cancer that affects the colon or rectum. This cancer occurs when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably in the lining of the colon or rectum, forming a tumor. It usually begins as small growths called polyps, which can be detected and removed during routine screenings. If left untreated, these polyps can become cancerous over time. The symptoms of colon cancer include changes in bowel habits, blood in the stool, abdominal pain, fatigue and weakness, and unexplained



weight loss.

One major problem young adults face with this form of cancer is late detection. As earlier said, since being traditionally an illness affecting older adults, colon cancer has most times not been considered by health practitioners in young adults, even when the symptoms appear. This reason is why most cases of this form of cancer diagnosed in young adults are often in its advanced state.

This gives reasons why this form of cancer is a leading cause of death in young adults because most times, by the time it is detected, it is already in its advanced stage with little to nothing that can be done. Also, it explains why the values are dropping in older adults, as it is part of a routine checkup for a person in this age bracket, so it is most times caught early and effectively maintained.

Over the years, as the amounts of young adults being diagnosed with colorectal cancer increased, doctors are now very much observant of the symptoms and recommend routine colonoscopies for individuals above the age of 45. This has significantly helped in reducing the number of patients with advanced-stage colorectal cancer. The question remains, "What is causing young adults to have colorectal cancer, and why is the trend increasing?"

The primary cause of this trend remains a mystery, but certain risk factors have come to light, and this has been seen to be related to cancer. It is commonly believed that genetics play a significant role when a person, typically between the ages of 18 and 50, is diagnosed

with cancer.

Although Lynch Syndrome, a prevalent genetic condition, is linked to colon cancer, experts believe that it is not the sole cause of the recent surge in this disease. The other potential causes include diet, sedentary lifestyle, and environmental chemicals.

Diets that consist mainly of processed meat and fat and lack fruits and vegetables have been linked to colorectal cancer. The trend of eating unhealthy junk foods in America has increased significantly over the past decade. These junk foods are also believed to affect the normal gut microbiome, clearing out the good bacteria and making way for the toxic ones that contribute to causing this cancer. Obesity, which results as a result of poor feeding habits and exercise, also increases the chances of developing cancer.

A sedentary lifestyle is another significant risk factor. Over the years, studies have shown that Americans value more TV time than being active. The laid-back lifestyle of constant "Netflix and Chill" without considerable physical activity has been linked to causing colon cancer. Certain chemicals in food, water, and the environment have also been considered as potential causes, as they can disrupt the body's metabolism rate and harm the good bacteria in the gut.

Other potential causes include cigarette smoking and drinking alcohol.

These risk factors have all shown to contribute to incidence of this cancer form. They pose a great potential for this trend to

(Continued on page 14)

## Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



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# SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend was a big one in the sports world.

First up, we have Super Bowl LVIII, or 58, at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada. The matchup to determine the best in the National Football League pitted the defending NFL and AFC champion Kansas City Chiefs against the NFC Champion San Francisco 49ers. Four years ago, the Chiefs beat the 49ers 31-20 for the title.

This year, it was a tense game that came down to the wire. After some tough defense from both teams throughout the contest, the scoring opened up with SF kicker Jake Moody setting a Super Bowl record with a 55 yard field goal to make the score 3-0. Later on, wide receiver Jajuan Jennings threw a TD pass to Christian McCaffrey to give the 49ers a 10-0.

Kansas City would eventually wake up, as they would get in position for a Harrison Butker

to Jennings, but Moody's extra point would be blocked, making it 16-13 instead of 17-13, a costly mistake. Both teams would trade field goals before the end of regulation, heading into overtime at 19-19.

San Francisco won the toss and took the ball. Although they got a field goal to take a 22-19, Mahomes proved why he was elite, and Moody was just a game manager. He made big plays, something Moody could not do, including a 4th down conversion to keep the game alive. Then, with three seconds left, Mahomes connected with former NY Jet Mecole Hardman to win the big game 25-22. Mahomes took MVP honors, going 34-46 for 333 yards, one INT but two TDs, including the game winner.

This marked the Chiefs third title in five games, which legitimately makes them a dynasty. As for the 49ers, they have now lost their last three SB appearances after starting out 5-0.



Photos By Seton Hall Athletics

57 yard line drive FG that broke Moody's brief record, and then another one before halftime to make the score 10-6 at the break. Both teams could have done more damage but were stymied by fumbles.

The third quarter saw a Mahomes interception that led to no damage, but a costly Niners muffed punt that led to KC QB Patrick Mahomes connecting with Marques Valdez-Scantling on a TD, making it 13-10. San Fran would answer with QB Brock Moody tossing a TD pass

In college basketball, the Seton Hall women's team won a key Big East game at Walsh Gym. Freshman Savannah Catalon scored a season high 21 points, leading Seton Hall to an 86-62 win over Xavier. Sophomore Micah Gray had 16 points, including four 3-pointers, while Azana Baines had 12 points, three steals and two blocks, and Kae Satterfield added 10 points and seven rebounds. The Lady Pirates are 14-10 and 6-7 in the Big East conference standings.



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As for the men's team, Seton Hall beat Georgetown at the Prudential Center 76-70. Dre Davis gave the Hall 25 points and 10 rebounds, Kadary Richmond scored 20 points and Orange native Elijah Hutchins-Everett had 9 points and 7 rebounds. Leading Georgetown was East Orange native Supreme Cook with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Next up for sports is the NBA All-Star Weekend. First, the skills competition will feature - Team Pacers: Tyrese Haliburton, Benedict Mathurin, Myles Turner. Team Top Picks: Paolo

Banchero, Magic; Anthony Edwards, Timberwolves; Victor Wembanyama, Spurs. Team All-Stars: Scottie Barnes, Raptors; Tyrese Maxey, 76ers; Trae Young, Hawks.

For the 3-Point Shootout: Malik Beasley, Bucks; Jalen Brunson, Knicks; Tyrese Haliburton, Pacers; Damian Lillard, Bucks (defending champ); Lauri Markkanen, Jazz; Donovan Mitchell, Cavaliers; Karl-Anthony Towns, Timberwolves; Trae Young, Hawks.

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

**UNITED STATES**



**DEFENSE SECRETARY BACK IN HOSPITAL**

The nation’s highest ranking military official is back in the care of health personnel - only this time, his boss and the nation were properly made aware of it.

On Feb. 11, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III was transported by a security detail to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to be seen for symptoms suggesting a bladder issue.

According to a statement from Pentagon Press Secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Austin “is still at the hospital and receiving treatment. At approximately 4:55 pm today, Secretary Austin transferred the functions and duties of the office of the Secretary of Defense to Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks. The Deputy Secretary of Defense has assumed the functions and duties. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the White House, and Congress have been notified. We will provide additional updates on Secretary Austin's condition as soon as possible.”

Additionally, Dr. John Maddox, Trauma Medical Director, and Dr. Gregory Chesnut, Center for Prostate Disease Research of the Murtha Cancer Center Director, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, provided their own statement regarding Austin, stating, “After a series of tests and evaluations, the Secretary

was admitted into the critical care unit at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for supportive care and close monitoring.

“At this time, it is not clear how long Secretary Austin will remain hospitalized. The current bladder issue is not expected to change his anticipated full recovery. His cancer prognosis remains excellent.”

While most people are thrilled that the Defense Secretary does not seem to be in imminent danger, it is a far cry from the last time he was in the news. Austin revealed that he was battling prostate cancer only after a time where he did not disclose that he was undergoing treatment without informing his Deputy, the U.S. Congress or even President Biden, his boss. Such a situation was deemed as a threat to national security, as the person at the top of the chain was out of commission should there have been an emergency.

Also, the Secretary of Defense is in the line of presidential succession should something happen to the President and others in front of the line.

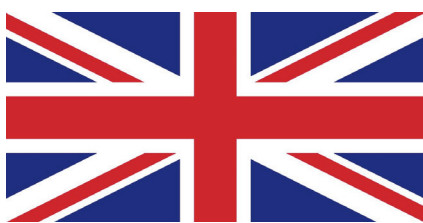
**MASS SHOOTING UPDATE**

*Information recent as of 2-12-2024 at 12 p.m.*

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 52
- Total Dead: 98
- Total Wounded: 155
- Shootings Per Day: 1.21
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of Feb. 12: 43

**UNITED KINGDOM**



**CRACKING DOWN ON NUISANCE PROTESTS**

New laws are set to crack down on dangerous disorder,

following warnings from police chiefs that some protesters are using face coverings to conceal their identities, not only to intimidate the law-abiding majority, but also to avoid criminal convictions.

Whilst police already have powers to ask individuals to remove these at designated protests, where police believe criminality is likely to occur, this new offense will empower officers to arrest individuals who disregard their orders, with those who flout the rules facing a month behind bars and a £1,000 fine.

Flares and other pyrotechnics will also be banned from protests, and protesters will no longer be able to cite the right to protest as a reasonable excuse to get away with disruptive offenses, such as blocking roads.

Flares and other pyrotechnics have been used during recent large scale protests, including being fired at police officers, posing significant risk of injury. The new offense will make the possession of flares, fireworks and any other pyrotechnics at public processions and assemblies for protest illegal. Perpetrators may be forced to pay a £1,000 fine.

The measures, which will be introduced in the Criminal Justice Bill, will also make climbing on war memorials a specific public order offense, carrying a 3 month sentence and a £1,000 fine. This comes after recent incidents where individuals have broken away from large protests and scaled national monuments, demonstrating brazen disrespect to those who have given their lives for this country.

Alongside the new offenses, the ability to use the right to protest as a reasonable or lawful excuse to commit some crimes would also be removed, ensuring that protest is not used as a defense for criminality such as obstructing public highways, locking on, as well as public nuisance.

Home Secretary James Cleverly said: “Recent protests have seen a small minority dedicated to causing damage and intimidating the law-abiding majority.

“The right to protest is paramount in our county, but taking

flares to marches to cause damage and disruption is not protest, it is dangerous. That is why we are giving police the powers to prevent any of this criminality on our streets.”

Speaking to police chiefs at a roundtable on February 6, the Home Secretary thanked the police for the efforts and successes they have made in keeping the public safe during recent protests.

Since October 7, 2023, there have been more than 1,000 protests and vigils, with more than 26,000 police officer shifts between October 7 and December 17 alone, and 600 arrests.

The Home Secretary called on chiefs to continue to use all the powers at their disposal to maintain order as they meet the evolving challenges.

The measures announced February 8 are part of the government’s ongoing crack down on disruptive protest and follow legislation passed last year which criminalizes actions such as ‘locking on’ and given police the ability to stop and search protesters for items such as padlocks and superglue, if they suspect they are setting out to cause chaos.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 also made it easier to tackle public nuisance caused by protesters. The government is working positively with the police to ensure the powers they have to maintain order are effective and that practical and workable solutions are developed in response to any gaps that are identified within the existing legal framework.

During the most recent Just Stop Oil campaign, police figures show that 657 protesters were arrested in 2023 under the government’s Public Order Act 2023, showing that existing powers are effective in managing disruptive protests.

The measures will be introduced as amendments at the report stage of the Criminal Justice Bill in the House of Commons and will apply to England and Wales.

# A Letter to President Biden

OP / ED By K.B.

President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC 20050

Dear President Biden:

Do you not have a conscience when it comes to the Genocide in Gaza?

I have read countless anecdotes of your genuine empathy for human suffering during your decades of public service. Does the slaughter of more than twenty-eight thousand Palestinians in Gaza primarily children and women not stir your conscience? More than fifty thousand injured, hundreds of thousands without access to medical care, thousands buried under the rubble, millions of displaced and starving Palestinians covering from the terror unleashed by the IDF and its patron the United States of America. Does it not awaken a glimmer of mercy or compassion in your hardened soul? Does it not create even a minute breach in your “unwavering” support of Israel?

Do you not have a moral compass when it comes to the Genocide in Gaza?

I recently read a profile (citation below) that described how your father educated you and your siblings about the Holocaust over the dinner table. “My dad taught us about the horror of the Shoah,” Biden explained last month at a Hanukkah celebration, repeating a well-worn tale. “It awakened in me and my brothers and sisters and our children a sense ... that this can happen again.”

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2024/1/30/defies-logic-the-makings-of-joe-bidens-blank-check-to-israel>

Sadly, Mr. President, “It” - another Holocaust of Palestinians is not only happening before our very eyes, YOU, Sir are one of the two key perpetrators of this genocide. As US citizens and taxpayers, we also share the guilt of being complicit in this atrocity. But for your unwavering military, diplomatic, monetary and moral support to Israel, the genocide would cease immediately. Mr. President the culpability lies

squarely on your shoulders and Netanyahu who was emboldened by your unquestioning “embrace” of the horrors visited upon the Palestinians. You have failed to call for a permanent ceasefire.

Do you not have any personal sense of dignity or for the office of POTUS?

Netanyahu publicly and defiantly disparages your suggested solutions and efforts to put an end to the Genocide in Gaza. A human with any sense of self respect and dignity would interpret that as a grave insult especially given the decades of your personal friendship and support demonstrated for the State of Israel. Despite Netanyahu spitting in your face, you publicly refuse to condemn the virulent hate and violence perpetrated by the politicians and military of the State of Israel. Personal dignity aside, Israel’s actions are demeaning to the office of the President of the United States. The United States ensures the very existence of Israel in the region with billions if not trillions in taxpayer funded military and other aid since its founding in 1948.

When pro-Palestine protesters use the chant “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free”, it is deemed genocidal by Zionists. However, when Netanyahu states that “the state of Israel has to control the entire area from the river to the sea” in direct contravention of your proposed two state solution, WHY do you not take umbrage at this willful flouting of your guidance as POTUS?

Have you lost your political acumen, or do you genuinely not care to be re-elected?

I am a lifelong Democrat. Yet, I actively support the #AbandonBiden movement in the 2024 Presidential election and will continue to support it and not cast my vote for you in November 2024 unless you call for a Ceasefire Now! As one of the longest serving politicians in public service, how have you lost sight of the political peril that awaits you in November? Polling suggests that a majority of Americans, especially Democrats support Ceasefire Now.



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**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.

**FEBRUARY 22:** Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads. Starting this month, we invite male caregivers to join our 8 Dimensions of Wellness Workshop series with Dr. Henry Clay.

**FEBRUARY 6:** Nurtured Heart Approach meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays for bilingual parents to help develop long-lasting relationships and focus on positive behavior.

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I am just a layperson. I am certain your staffers in the executive branch and your reelection campaign have apprised you of the risks associated with not standing on the right side of history. Billions across the globe now get information about this unfolding genocide directly on their digital devices. The days of rationing government-controlled messaging through mainstream media to the public about major world events is over.

You have become as reviled a figure as Netanyahu in the eyes of billions across the globe for butchering innocent Palestinian civilians. I urge you to reset your moral and political bearings and use the leverage of being POTUS and a staunch supporter of Israel to negotiate a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I joined the hundreds of thousands of protesters in Washington DC on Nov 4th demanding Ceasefire Now. I marched with them to the gates of the White House to convey our horror and opposition to this unfolding Genocide. Sadly, the killing of innocent civilians has continued

over three more months.

History repeats itself incessantly. It would be tragic if your commendable political legacy is marred by your inability to bring about an immediate cessation of the suffering of innocent Palestinians and the war in Gaza. Let Gaza not be akin to LBJ’s Vietnam.

I trust your inherent goodness and compassion will prevail. I trust the conviction and courage you have so ably demonstrated in championing for the public good will compel you to take affirmative and immediate action to stop the Genocide in Gaza. One does not have to share a faith to have empathy for the dying and the suffering Palestinians. Our shared humanity must make us champions for Peace.

Sincerely,  
K. B.

Cc:  
Dr. Jill Biden

Anthony Blinken,  
Secretary of State

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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** - Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage said that foul play had been ruled out regarding the homeless man whose body was found in the Hotel Divine Riviera here on Jan. 29.

A Riviera employee altered an on-duty Newark police officer about an unresponsive man he had found in one of the hotel rooms at 1:59 p.m. The officer, who was working at 169 Clinton Ave. at the time, called for first responders.

The man was declared dead at the scene at 2:25 p.m. Neither NPD nor the Regional Medical Examiner or the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services have disclosed the man's cause of death as of press time.

That the homeless man was found unresponsive in one of the former hotel's 220 rooms may come as a surprise to some observers. It appears that its latest owners, the KS Group, has reopened the 101-year-old, eight story Clinton Hill building as a temporary shelter.

KS, after buying the building for \$8.5 million last April, sent out its then inhabitants and had boarded up its first floor windows and doors. How the new owners evicted the residents brought an outcry from them and community activists.

The prior owners ended their 17-year run here after the Newark Central Planning Board denied their plans to convert the

220 dwelling units into 99 apartments Sept. 25, 2022. The applicants offered 12 parking spots when their density would have required 99 - but the hotel has been long limited to a maximum 60 spaces.

**IRVINGTON** - State Superior Court Judge Michael J. Ravin sentenced a Bloomfield man Tuesday to a 35-year state prison sentence for his part in a fatal 2022 shooting of a gas station attendant here.

Lamar Sommers, 36, is to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence before being considered for parole or early release. A Superior Court-Newark jury had convicted him of first-degree murder and two second-degree weapons offenses in the death of Jahque Benbow, 23, on May 11, 2022.

The jury found Sommers guilty of driving two other men to within a block of the service station that night. He waited in the car while one of the other men shot Benbow five times and drove them away from the scene.

ECPO Assistant Prosecutor Felicia Garnes noted that station bystanders fled the scene when the shots rang out. Benbow became a father, added Garnes, when his baby was delivered hours later on May 12, 2022 - but will never experience it.

**EAST ORANGE / BLOOMFIELD** - A city man arrested and charged in Bloomfield - twice - for the serial shoplifting of two CVS Pharmacies in the township Jan. 24 and 27.

Bloomfield Police supervisors said that Rhett Ellis, 59, was identified by the loss prevention officer of the CVS at 331 Broad St. in the North Center section, Jan. 24. The LPO agent told responding BPD officers that the suspect had concealed some merchandise and left without paying.

BPD officers apprehended a man, later identified as Ellis, nearby and brought him back to the drugstore for confirmation. He was then taken to Bloomfield Ralph Colasanti Law Enforcement Headquarters for processing and released with a court date.

Police officers may have

asked, "You, Again?" to Ellis after he was picked up in connection with a shoplifting from the CVS at 250 Glenwood Ave. Jan. 27. This drug store, on the site of the Gordo electric factory, is part of a strip mall where Town Centre and Watsessing meet.

That store manager told arriving officers that the man had concealed cosmetics and detergent in a bag and left without paying. Ellis was arrested on site, processed at headquarters and released with a second court date. He is alleged to have stolen \$1,000 worth of goods from both pharmacies.

**ORANGE** - Another link to Our Lady of the Valley High School and St. Venantius was lost with the recent death of Edward C. D'Antonio, 76, Valley High School Class of 1966.

Although D'Antonio was born in Jersey City July 18, 1947, he, parents Rocco and Rose and sisters Amelia and Lucyann soon moved to Orange. The D'Antonios became members of St. Venantius Parish on 275 Central Ave.

Eddie attended St. Venantius School and was promoted to Valley High. His obituary and tributes on Facebook told of his liking to play baseball on Central Field - which was the home baseball diamond and football gridiron for the Valley Knights teams.

It is not clear whether D'Antonio was a Valley High baseball player as of press time. He did graduate to become a USAF Reserve member and to work as a respiratory therapist at Summit's Overlook Hospital. Ed and Dr. Linda D'Antonio soon moved to Berkeley Heights to be closer to Overlook and to raise sons Christian, Justin and Kristopher and daughters Jennifer and Megan.

Ed and Linda last moved to Manahawkin in 1999 - where he had died Feb. 9. Twelve grandchildren also survived him. Paul Ippolito - of Summit, not its original Orange - arranged his Feb. 15 Funeral Mass and entombment at White Cedars Memorial Park.

Both Valley High School and St. Venantius had closed by

1981. Valley High's gymnasium is being temporarily used by Cleveland Street School during the latter's own renovations. St. Venantius School is now Iglesia Mision Cristiana; the rest of the parish replaced by a 2000s apartment complex at Central Avenue and South Center Street.

**WEST ORANGE** - The West Orange Public Schools Board of Education, in a special Jan. 30 meeting here at its headquarters, unanimously appointed Dr. Dia Bryant to the resigned Jennifer Tunnicliffe's seat.

Detroit native Bryant, said WOPL administrators, was among 15 people who sent in their resumes. She had been Education Trust-New York's executive director before resigning to spend more time with her family. Her previous experience includes being a teacher, a school founder and the special assistant to New York City's Public Schools' first deputy chancellor.

Dr. Bryant earned her bachelor's degree in economics from Kalamazoo College, her masters in math education from Brooklyn College and her doctorate in education leadership from the Harvard School of Education.

Bryant succeeds former board president Tunnicliffe, who resigned Jan. 4. The doctor had agreed to serve until Jan. 1, 2025. The Bryant née Tunnicliffe seat will be added to the November Board of Education Election ballot along with the two scheduled seats held by Brian Rock and Eric Stevenson.

Newcomer Maria Vera was inaugurated to her first term at the same meeting.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - The South Essex Fire Department and up to two neighboring departments on mutual aid responded to a pair of village house fires Feb. 5-6. The fires left three firefighters injured and two dogs dead.

The first SEFD unit, Rescue 1, showed up at a Redmond Road house at 11:40 a.m. and its captain found fire and smoke from the residence's left side. SEFD Fire Chief Jose Alvarez said that the captain promptly pulled two more alarms.

*(Continued on page 15)*



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**FORMER PRESIDENT SUES SHU**

*(Continued from page 1)*

“force” Dr. J. Nyre to violate Seton Hall University’s building-naming policies and procedures; Mr. Marino “wrongfully” interfering with an ongoing investigation into embezzlement at Seton Hall University’s Law School; Mr. Marino using inappropriate language against Dr. J. Nyre when he refused to violate the law; Mr. Marino engaging in “a campaign of retaliation against J. Nyre for reporting his complaints to the Board of Regents, culminating in J. Nyre’s constructive discharge.

Kelli L. Nyre, the former president’s wife, has also filed a complaint of sexual harassment against Seton Hall University and Marino.

**How it all began**

According to court papers, “In or around 2017 to 2018 academic year, Defendant SHU actively lobbied for Plaintiff J. Nyre to be appointed as Defendant’s SHU next president. At that time, Plaintiff J. Nyre was serving his seventh (7th) year as president of another university, Iona University, and as such, declined to be interviewed at that time.

“The following year, Plaintiff J. Nyre was serving his eighth (8th) year as president

of another university, when Defendant SHU attempted to recruit Plaintiff J. Nyre again.

“This time, Plaintiff J. Nyre accepted the invitation and, ultimately, was offered the position of Defendant’s SHU’s president in or around early - 2019. On August 1, 2019, Plaintiff J. Nyre officially became Defendant SHU’s twenty-first (21st) president.

“However, and indicative of his loyalty and commitment to assist the university in any way possible, as of July 15, 2019, and continuing until his formal start date, Plaintiff J. Nyre began volunteering his time to assist in the handling of an ongoing investigation related to misconduct of previous clergymen employed by Defendant SHU.

“More specifically, Plaintiff J. Nyre cancelled a family vacation and volunteered his time during the last two (2) weeks of July 2019 to provide assistance in closing out Defendant SHU’s investigation into former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick (Cardinal McCarrick) and others alleged sexual abuse of seminarians and began preparing for required actions and communications resulting from the investigations.

“Additionally, and demonstrating his commitment and loyalty to Defendant SHU and its students, Plaintiff J. Nyre graciously donated a portion of his salary back to Defendant SHU each and every year he served as President.”

According to court papers, Dr. Joseph

Nyre served as President of Seton Hall University from August 1, 2019 to July 2023.

During his time at Seton Hall University, Dr. Nyre was recognized as a successful president by both SHU and annual presidential evaluations. According to court papers, Dr. Nyre successfully led the school through the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, emerging on the other side as a healthier and stronger institution for higher education; developed and executed a new strategic plan informed by all Defendant SHU constituencies, resulting in many of the outcomes listed below; recruited and enrolled the most-qualified freshman class in Defendant SHU’s documented history; increased retention and graduation rates while also reaching new highs for graduate school and career placements post-graduation; organized, planned, and launched the university’s largest and most comprehensive fundraising campaign to fund the best faculty, students, academic programs, and building projects throughout Defendant SHU’s campus to be completed in the next decade; organized, launched and completed a campus master planning process for the next thirty (30) years and immediate funding for campus enhancements; strengthened Defendant SHU’s academic profile by introducing and launching a myriad of new academic programs, centers, academies, and global partnerships; and; significantly

*(Continued on page 12)*



*From  
The  
Pastor's*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**A Test of Faith**

Have you ever had to wait on the Lord for anything? Have you ever had to wait for ten years or more? Have you ever had to wait for "Mr. Right" to come along? Or have you ever had to wait for the birth of a child, because you were barren? Your patience ran out, you went out and adopted, and upon completing the adoption, something happened, you became pregnant?

If you can say yes to the latest questions, let me remind you that for some people who have waited long, things never work out as precisely. They waited and became so frustrated that they constructed their scheme to fulfill their desires. Yes, it might not be about pregnancy or marriage, but, if you are honest with yourself, you can think of a situation in which you lost your patience in waiting and did your own thing, assuming that all will be well and in the end it did not work out right.

What has happened to you, happened to Sarah. I speak of the wife of Abraham. He was called

the father of the faithful. Sarah can be called the mother of the faithful. But as is clear just like Abraham, her faith struggled for a while. When she was 74 years old, God gave Abraham the promise that he was to become the father of a great nation (Genesis 12). The promise was repeated in Genesis 17:16 that "Sarah would be the mother of nations" and conceive and bear a son. But, by then, it was hard for Sarah to believe.

Time had passed. Now, after waiting ten years from the time of the promise, Sarah became so frustrated that she concocted a scheme. She suggested to Abraham that he should take her Egyptian maid, Hagar and have seed with her. The plan was much in keeping with the custom of the time. For according to the culture, even adopted by the Rabbis, after 10 years, if a man had a wife and she was barren, she could give her maid as a surrogate and when the child was born, she could take it and care for it as her own.

Of course, the scheme, did not work out too well, because after Hagar became pregnant, Hagar became so prideful about the house, that resentment developed in Sarah's heart, to the extent that she began to blame Abraham for Hagar's attitude. Abraham left it up to Sarah to solve the problem. And Sarah used the opportunity to abuse

Hagar, so severely, that Hagar ran away. (Cf. Genesis 16:1-6). We are to say more on Hagar and the divine intervention in a follow-up reflection, but for now we return to the fact that 15 more years would pass before Sarah would give birth to Isaac, the promised child.

When Isaac was born Sarah was 99 years old. She named her child Isaac, meaning "laughter," for she was thrilled. (cf Genesis 21:1-7). Of course, that was not the last time that Sarah's faith would be tested, for she had not yet dealt with her resentment. According to what we read in Genesis 21:9-11, "And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. Therefore she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac.' And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son."

Yes, while we might not congratulate Sarah concerning her resentment, we need to see her from a human plane. She had waited long for a son, and to see him being mocked by his older brother was hard. Even mothers who have not waited so long for children, can be exasperated when their children are engaged in "rough play." I have seen them all the time. It demands a

lot of faith and patience to grow children in the most normal of circumstances.

But let us get back to Sarah, for she sets up some of the most crucial questions about faith, for all of us. Here are seven that we might ask ourselves:

1. How do we react when we have to wait upon the Lord, 10, 15, 20, 25 years and so on?
2. How well do we cope with delays?
3. What happens to our faith when we face dire situations in our lives?
4. Do we lose hope in the promises of God when we have an interval between promise and fulfillment?
5. In our "microwave," "social media," culture, are we willing to wait upon God, for anything?
6. Are we willing to allow God's plans to work for us, or are we tempted to create our own "short shrift" plans?
7. Do we get in a panic when things are not working out as we would hope, or do we worry ourselves to death?

Can you identify with the above questions? If you are as I am, I am sure you can cry out with me, "Oh God help me through the difficulties of this life."

**FORMER PRESIDENT SUES SHU**

(Continued from page 11)

strengthened the fiscal health of Defendant SHU to support a vibrant and successful future for decades to come.

**President J. Nyre objects to then-Board of Regents Chair Kevin Marino's actions**

According to court papers, Mr. Marino, in blatant violation of Seton Hall University's policy, attempted to force then - President Nyre to hire Mr. Marino's close friend, Mariellen Dugan, as general counsel for Seton Hall University following the departure of previous counsel.

President Nyre, in accordance with the rules of Seton Hall University, created a search committee to conduct a national search for the vacant position. A national search is the process by which Seton Hall

University fills vacancies in the executive cabinet.

At this point, according to court papers, "instead of conducting the search in accordance with school policies and practices, Mr. Marino wrongfully tried to force Plaintiff J. Nyre to hire Ms. Dugan. Moreover, Mr. Marino also wanted to pay Ms. Dugan a salary which was \$165,000 higher - a more than 50% increase - than the salary approved for the general counsel role following the completion of a salary compensation study just prior to Plaintiff J. Nyre's term as President."

According to court papers, "When Plaintiff J. Nyre objected to Mr. Marino's wrongful efforts to circumvent Defendant SHU (1) hiring policies and procedures, and (2) salary projections for the general counsel role, Mr. Marino became enraged and repeatedly called Plaintiff J. Nyre to berate him for not heeding to Mr. Marino's unlawful demands."

According to court papers, "Not only would Mr. Marino scream at Plaintiff J.

Nyre, but also, he would ominously threaten Plaintiff J. Nyre with unspecified repercussions should Plaintiff J. Nyre continue to insist on following appropriate university policy.

"Ultimately in or around the Spring of 2020, Defendant SHU selected its general counsel who, importantly was not the individual Mr. Marino had been advocating for."

**Mr. Marino tries to pressure then - President Joseph Nyre into accepting underqualified students to the School of Health and Law School. Conflict of interest by Mr. Marino.**

According to court papers, Mr. Marino tried to wrongfully force then - President Joseph Nyre to offer admission to underqualified students.

"Then, in blatant violation of Defendant SHU admission policies, and in a calculated

(Continued on page 13)



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**FORMER PRESIDENT SUES SHU**

*(Continued from page 12)*

effort to deploy deceptive tactics so as to skew admission standards and criteria, Mr. Marino repeatedly pressured Plaintiff J. Nyre to admit students to graduate programs within Defendant SHU’s School of Health and Medical Sciences (the “School of Health”). Similarly, Mr. Marino also pressured the Dean of Defendant SHU’s School of Law (the “Law School”) to admit underqualified students into the Law School.

“In one such instance, Mr. Marino conducted an interview and provided a reference for one particular student (the “applicant”) in connection with their application to the School of Health. The applicant was a close personal friend of a former client of Mr. Marino, Robert Brennan (“Mr. Brennan”) who was, notably, a Board Member prior to his felony conviction.”

There are many questions here. First, why is the Chair of the Board of Regents conducting interviews and providing references for an underqualified student? Surely

the administration of Seton Hall University, represented by the President and the Deans, must be doing the interviews? Second, helping out a close personal friend of a convicted felon seems to be crossing a red line. After all, if push comes to shove, it is the Board of Regents that must make the final decision on who to admit to SHU as a student. Thus, Mr. Marino, by virtue of his being Chair of the Board of Regents at the time, would seemingly a conflict of interest.

“Despite being underqualified for the program within the School of Health - which was one of, if not the most, selective graduate programs within Defendant SHU - Mr. Marino repeatedly attempted to force Plaintiff J. Nyre and other employees of Defendant SHU to admit the applicant.

“After the applicant was not selected for admission to the program, Mr. Marino became furious and repeatedly demanded that Plaintiff J. Nyre use his authority as the President of Defendant SHU to admit the applicant, despite clearly being underqualified for admission.

“After the candidate was ultimately not admitted to the School of Health, Mr. Ma-

rino demanded Plaintiff J. Nyre use his authority as President to fire the Presiding Dean of the School of Health.

“When Plaintiff J. Nyre refused to acquiesce to same, and noted the termination could be viewed as a violation of Defendant SHU’s rules and applicable law prohibiting retaliation, Mr. Marino demanded an investigation into the Dean’s admissions practices.

“Plaintiff J. Nyre, once again, refused and advised Mr. Marino that same, too, would be viewed as retaliatory and not only cause significant concerns from Defendant SHU’s accrediting body, but also, further violate Defendant SHU’s policies, values and stated mission.

“Next, Mr. Marino demanded that Plaintiff J. Nyre turn over confidential student records for all admitted students to the academic program in the School of Health simply so Mr. Marino could personally evaluate the students’ relative qualifications. When Plaintiff J. Nyre rebuffed this egregiously improper and unlawful demand, citing concerns pursuant to the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), Mr. Ma-

*(Continued on page 14)*

**FORMER PRESIDENT SUES SHU**

(Continued from page 13)

riño became enraged and loudly stated that he was “Chairman of the f..king Board” and a “million-dollar donor” whose unlawful demands must be met.

“Then, Mr. Marino demanded that a policy be enacted across all schools, colleges, and programs which would remove any and all discretion from the particular school’s Dean in admissions procedures. Plaintiff J. Nyre noted his concerns that this could jeopardize both specialized program accreditation standards and the multiple faculty handbooks across the schools and colleges. Nonetheless, Plaintiff J. Nyre committed to asking Defendant SHU’s general counsel to review Mr. Marino’s request in that regard, in light of the multiple faculty handbooks and varying accreditation standards across the schools. To that end, Plaintiff J. Nyre immediately contacted the general counsel with same.

“Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was soon learned Mr. Marino had similarly pressured other employees responsible for student admissions not only with this particular applicant, but also, with several other previous applicants for admission to Defendant SHU’s various programs as well.

“To put a finer point on it, Mr. Marino tried to: (1) force Plaintiff J. Nyre to fire the dean of the School of Health within Defendant SHU without cause; (2) pull FERPA-protected confidential student records for his personal inspection; and (3) unilaterally change admissions policies among the entire university to remove any discretion from the deans of the respective schools, all of which Plaintiff J. Nyre reported to the Special Subcommittee of the Committee on Regents.”

The question arises: how can a man such as Mr. Marino be allowed to interfere not just with Seton Hall University policies, regulations and rules, but with state and federal laws?

**NEWARK WATER CRISIS**

(Continued from page 1)

Newark’s Lead Service Replacement Line Program, conducted 2019-22, replaced all lead service lines and fittings throughout the city of over 280,000. The program, funded through a 30-year Essex County Improvement Authority bond issue, has been held up as a national model.

Baraka and DEP Commissioner Shawn M. Latourette said, without naming names, that they believe that a third party contractor had not completely replaced the lead line and fittings. The LSRLP had Montana, Roman Engineering and J. Fletcher Creamer as the primary contractors plus several subcontractors on Newark’s streets and under sidewalks.

“Right now, based on what we think,

Protecting Pirates, a group made of students and alumni that experienced sexual harassment at Seton Hall University, may have the answer. In its Instagram post, dated May 27, 2022, Protecting Pirates wrote, “Seton Hall (University) has a history of dismissing concerns and protecting predators. Why? Reputation is everything.”

According to its Instagram link, Protecting Pirates is dedicated to protecting, empowering, and giving a voice to pirates. Protecting Pirates is “not associated with SHU.”

“Local Talk” covered Protecting Pirates in 2021 - 2023.

According to an article published in nj.com on February 6, 2024, Seton Hall University denied the allegations.

“The claims in this filing are completely without merit, and we intend to vigorously contest them. Beyond this, we will not be commenting on the matter,” SHU said in a statement.

According to the data gathered on university presidents’ pay by Chronicle of Higher Education, Nyre was the highest-paid college president in New Jersey. His compensation, with salary, perks, bonuses and all, was worth \$1.27 million.

One key question remains unanswered: if Mr. Marino has been alleged to do all these bad things, then why is he not being sued?

“Local Talk” tried to reach Mr. Nyre’s lawyer, Armen McOmer of the Red Bank law firm McOmer, McOmer and Luber, P.C. As of press time, there was no comment from Dr. Nyre’s lawyers.

According to nj.com, Marino’s attorney, Christopher Porrino of Lowenstein Sandler, said the former board chairman “categorically denies the false and defamatory allegations” against him in the Nyres’ lawsuit against the university and other board members.

“He will seek full legal redress against the Nyres in the appropriate forum after their frivolous and disgraceful lawsuit has been dismissed,” Porrino told nj.com.

we’ve replaced three lines that were problematic,” said Baraka. “We don’t know until we go out, do the inspection, if there are any other ones we’ve identified.”

“This occurred because somebody didn’t do their job,” said Latourette. “You can be assured that the Mayor and I will find that somebody and hold them fully accountable.”

This development came out sooner than later - thanks to a Municipal Council Chamber microphone that was left on while Mayor Baraka was briefing the council in an executive session Feb. 6.

It is not known as of press time whether someone will be held accountable for the mic mishap.

Newark officials stepped up their announcement by issuing Adeem. Adeem’s message includes assurances that the city has complied with federal lead and copper con-

**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

(Continued from page 4)

increase as they are activities which are part of our daily lives and have become the new normal. This represents a problem that requires immediate control. Healthy diet, reduced alcohol intake, smoking cessation and regular exercise will help improve the quality of life, and significantly bring down the percentage of people diagnosed.

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

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

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tent compliance and that “NJDEP confirmed that Newark’s corrosion control treatment has been optimized to protect residents with plumbing that may contain some lead components.”

Adeem added that “some residents may be contacted by Newark to participate in an inspection to verify full replacement of their lead service line. Unless you’re contacted by Newark to participate in an inspection ... there’s nothing you need to do at this time. This notice’s part of our promise to you and to keep you informed.”

“I can’t emphasize enough that there’s no need to panic,” added Latourette. “The DEP and the City will do their job to ensure that we conduct the audit and make sure that all lead service lines that are to be replaced if full have, in fact, been replaced in full.”

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 10)

All SEFD hands plus units from Irvington, East Orange, Orange and Union soon arrived at the scene. Units from Newark covered both town's stations.

Although all inhabitants got out, two dogs had died at the scene. Three firefighters were injured; two were treated at the scene and a third taken to RWJBarnabas Health Cooperman-Barnabas Hospital for further treatment. The transported firefighter is to return to duty this week.

SEFD Engine 83 responded to a 911 call from a Seton Place house Feb. 6 and its captain found smoke and flames coming from its basement. Mutual aid was called: units from Irvington, Orange and Union came to the scene while units from Newark, East Orange and West Orange covered SEFD stations.

While all residents were evacuated without injury both houses are deemed uninhabitable. The SEFD Fire Marshall is investigating the fires' causes.

**MONTCLAIR** - Township elders hailed Montclair Police Officer Scott McGrath Jan. 31 for rescuing a motorist - in West Orange and while off duty - Oct. 5.

McGrath was driving on West Orange's Eagle Rock Avenue Oct. 5 when he noticed a traffic jam ahead of him. That back up was caused by a stationary car at the head of the line -- and its four-way hazard lights were on.

As McGrath approached the car, its driver, Michelle Moriarty, met him and pointed to his front seat passenger. James Brown was slumped over unconscious.

McGrath immediately applied CPR on Brown and called West Orange 911. He performed CPR for three-to-five minutes until a West Orange Police officer arrived and took over. McGrath assisted until local medics transported Brown to a local hospital.

Brown improved to where he was taken off a respirator Oct. 8. He suffered no signs of brain damage and has complete feeling in his extremities. Medics believe that he had suffered a heart attack.

At-Large Councilman Roger Terry and Police Chief Todd Conforti presented McGrath a proclamation of merit for his heroism.

**BELLEVILLE** - Township elders and officials are examining comments made by residents Jan. 4-Feb. 9 regarding an application of state Green Acres funding for a Belleville Municipal Stadium Complex improvement project. The comments included a public hearing held in the Township Council Chambers Jan. 23.

The township wants to use a combina-

tion of municipal funds and those to be acquired from the Green Acres program to make improvements on the stadium to Belleville High School's east. The upgrades, should Belleville receive the state funding, would include renovating the stadium's grandstand, build new offices for the Belleville Recreation Department and create ADA-accessible restrooms.

The renovations will be made on the 1930's WPA-era concrete grandstand on the east side of the stadium's older football gridiron. The proposed improvements will not affect the more modern gridiron and one-quarter-mile running track between it and BHS itself.

Neglia Engineering and Construction Management Services were contracted to upgrade the "in between" football field and running track in time for the April 18, 2023 recreation start. It was a 2021-23 \$5.2 million project to help repair some three decades of maintenance deficiencies.

The new running track, for example, replaced a cinder track from the 1930s. Conditions were so bad that the Belleville High School track team had no home track 1986-2023.

**NUTLEY** - Traffic, including Transit's No. 74 buses, were detoured around Lambert Square the morning of Feb. 5 while first responders and contracted towers freed a tractor trailer truck that was wedged under a Franklin Avenue railroad bridge.

A Nutley Police Department report said that a northbound truck got wedged beneath the former Erie Newark Branch bridge north of High Street before dawn that Monday. While the bridge suffered a scrape, the Met Express Freightliner's trailer was structurally bent.

The truck was dislodged by lunch time while cargo from the wrecked trailer was transferred to a second Met Express truck from its Saddle Brook headquarters. A contracted heavy-duty tow truck at the scene waited to uncouple and dislodge the trailer.

There are four 12'-4" Low Clearance warning signs posted around the bridge: one in each direction five feet before the bridge, a northbound sign at the corner of East High Street and a fourth facing southbound on the bridge itself.

Nutley had a Franklin Avenue Station a block west on High Street before the Erie ended passenger service in 1966 and was replaced by a medical office building by 1997. Norfolk Southern uses the branch into Clifton's Allwood section about once a week; it used to serve Hoffman-LaRoche here until it moved away in 2013.


**SPORTS WRAP** (Continued from page 5)

Finally, the Dunk contest participants: Jaylen Brown, Celtics; Jaime Jaquez Jr., Heat; Mac McClung, G League (defending champ) Jacob Toppin, Knicks.

Rounding out the weekend is the All-Star Game on Feb. 18, with the East taking on the West.


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