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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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GOVERNOR MURPHY REVEALS BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR

TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy delivered his seventh annual budget address on Tuesday, outlining spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025) that build on the Administration’s commitment to ensuring that New Jersey remains the best place to raise a family. The budget proposes investments targeted at expanding affordability, continuing fiscal responsibility, creating economic opportunities, and ensuring every New Jerseyan has a fair shot at a better future.

The Governor’s proposed budget increases direct property tax relief to record levels, provides the highest level of school funding in history - fully funding the school aid formula for the first time - delivers a fourth consecutive full pension payment, and proposes significant investments into the health, safety and economic well-being of New Jersey’s residents.

“Simply put: this budget will ensure that New Jersey retains its proud reputation as the

best place, anywhere, to raise a family. It will make life more affordable for more of our neighbors by delivering record-high tax relief, lowering the costs of necessities like health care and housing, and creating new opportunities in the industries of tomorrow,” said Governor Murphy. “Just as importantly, with this budget, we are maintaining fiscal responsibility while also remaining true to our values - from fully funding our public education system to proposing a new, dedicated funding stream to support NJ TRANSIT. Together, we are building a New Jersey that is stronger and fairer than ever before.”

“This budget continues the Governor’s commitment to making New Jersey an affordable place to work, raise a family and retire,” said New Jersey State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio. “We look forward to

(Continued on page 5)



FORMER PRESIDENT SUES SETON HALL UNIVERSITY - PART 2

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

In Part I, published February 15, “Local Talk” described the nature of ex-President Joseph Nyre and his wife’s, Kelli L. Nyre, lawsuit. Citing court papers, “Local Talk” showed how Seton Hall University (SHU) treated its president and his wife. In this, the second part of a series, “Local Talk” continues to expose unusual dealings at SHU.

According to court papers, “During Plaintiff J. Nyre’s tenure, chief financial officer, Donna McMonagle (Ms. McMonagle), uncovered financial irregularities at Defendant SHU’s Law School that required an independent investigation.

In connection with these allegations, Defendant SHY commenced an independent investigation to the alleged embezzlement, which was governed by the Audit Committee of the Board of Regents.

Mr. Marino, then-general counsel Kimberly Capadona (“Ms. Capadona”), Mr. Lyons and Plaintiff J. Nyre interviewed and

Former SHU President Joseph Nyre



recommended attorney Anthony Dougherty, Esq. (“Mr. Dougherty”), of the law firm Archer & Greiner P.C., a firm which regular-

ly conducted legal work for Defendant SHU, to oversee the investigation. Notably, Mr. Dougherty had successfully completed a similar investigation and closed out the resulting legal matters at another university prior to Plaintiff J. Nyre’s arrival at said university.”

Court papers state, “Throughout the course of the investigation, Plaintiff J. Nyre learned that, as early as 2019, Mr. Marino, was regularly communicating with the Dean of the Law school, Kathleen Boozang (“Dean Boozang”) regarding topics which Defendant SHU’s bylaws and policies expressly prohibit between Regents and deans of the various schools”.

The question is, why did the other members of the Board of Regents not do anything about this? Presumably, being a Regent means knowledge of the school’s policies, regulations, do’s and don’ts. Were the other Regents in agreement with Mr. Marino?

(Continued on page 7)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

2024 has brought different political changes. Donald Trump, a leading GOP candidate for the 2024 presidential election, has been hit with numerous lawsuits and criminal charges. I talked to a few democrats, and even they believe that the charges were a political vendetta. President Biden and former president Trump are the main candidates for the Democratic party and the Republican party respectively. On January 1, they were tied or had a very minimal difference in the polls. However, as of February 27th, Trump has gained momentum while Biden has lost

some. Trump is leading by 2.1 percent over Biden.

In 2024 there will be watchdogs (representatives) to make sure that no one, I said no one, will vote illegally. I am wondering why not a single leader in the Democratic party challenged some of the proposed plans of Biden and tried to challenge his leadership. In the GOP primary, Nikky Haley is the only candidate left to challenge Trump.

Also, I heard that some of the county clerks and county election officials are letting their close buddies use their authority to let someone other than the authorized personnel stamp on absentee or early voting ballots. If it is true, I appeal to all the county clerks and election officials not to let influential persons take advantage of the system, so that there will be a clean election for all the candidates. Also, I appeal

to the voters to watch all the candidates, understand within the lines, and make your own judgment to select the right candidate who you think can help the community.

A good leader can take you a long way, make your life easier, does not raise taxes and does not help their families and friends, but thinks about working together to improve quality of life for the community. Political leaders can show that they are working for you and usually they are good orators, but they are helping their family and friends in the background. They are articulate to bring your imagination to a better future, but when you come to know, it will be too late to elect a new leader, and now you're waiting another decade for improving your life and your community.

A U.S. airman took his own life in front of the Israel Embassy

at Washington DC. He must be a firm believer in stopping the Gaza homicides. Does giving his life for the purpose solve the problem? I don't think so. The media will talk about it for a few days and the politicians will do whatever they have planned to do. Has any politician announced that they would stop the war in both places? I don't think so. They want more money for Ukraine and Israel, which might get benefits for some politicians and profits for the war equipment suppliers.

Our forefathers made the constitution in a way that no one can be so powerful that they can be a dictator. However, the politicians know the loopholes and make one sided rules in majority of the cities, counties, states and even the U.S. as a whole.

*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>
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Rain	More Rain	AM Rain
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

PCOS and Cognitive Decline: Uncovering an Unlikely Link

On their own, PCOS and cognitive decline are both pretty serious conditions, demanding a lot of attention from researchers in their respective fields. However, new evidence has come to light that PCOS may increase the risk of developing cognitive decline. I will break it down below.

PCOS, an acronym for poly-

cystic ovary syndrome, is a common endocrine disorder, typically characterized by irregular periods, polycystic ovaries, and signs of excess androgen levels. Despite being the most common endocrine disorder that affects women of reproductive ages, PCOS is still significantly underdiagnosed today. According to the WHO, up to 70% of women of reproductive age have this condition, with a meager 8 to 13% being actually diagnosed.

Fortunately, information campaigns on PCOS are increasing and more people are becoming sensitized to the condition. However, it is still very difficult to diagnose the condition without seeking the opinion of an expert, making it difficult for many women to overlook it. Let me explain.

The symptoms of PCOS include irregular periods, heavy periods, excess body hairs (hirsutism), weight gain, thinning hairs, loss of scalp hair, oily skin, darkening of the skin, and acne. If you are a woman, chances are that you have experienced one or more of these symptoms at least once before. So, does that mean you have PCOS? The answer is -



not necessarily, and that's what makes PCOS difficult to diagnose.

A lot of the symptoms of PCOS are common with many other conditions, plus these symptoms may not necessarily present serious health risks. When you consider both these factors, it makes sense why many women have PCOS without ever knowing it or visiting a healthcare provider for proper care and advice. And that can be dangerous. Here's why.

Scientists have found that PCOS can lead to infertility; in fact, PCOS is one of the leading causes of infertility in women. Also, there's a higher risk of developing metabolic syndrome, which is associated with obesity and further elevates the risk of conditions like diabetes, stroke, and cardiovascular disorders.

Another consequence of obesity is the risk of sleep apnea. Then, conditions like depression, anxiety, and mood disorder have also been linked to PCOS. All of these complications are established and can greatly worsen the quality of life of the woman. But that's not all - and this is where we jump to the crux of the article.

A new study has examined the relationship between women with PCOS and cognitive decline. This study spanned 30 years and included 1,163 geographically diverse women, with 907 of this population finishing the study. At year 30, women with PCOS performed worse on cognitive performance tests and had lower white matter integrity at midlife.

At face value, this looks pretty bad, but the lead author of the research ensured to clarify that this data is far from conclusive.

And that's absolutely right. Not to mention that there are glaring limitations in the study, particularly the fact that what was taken to be a PCOS diagnosis was based on the participants' recollection of their experiences and their androgen levels. You need much more than that to arrive at an actual PCOS diagnosis. What's more, the study did not prove that PCOS causes cognitive decline or vice versa, which the lead author suggested, as well.

Nonetheless, it would be unwise to neglect the findings of the research for many reasons. For starters, there are already different mental conditions that have been shown to be associated with PCOS, especially depression and anxiety. It is not far-fetched to imagine that there's a way PCOS affects the brain that may result in its accelerated aging and eventual cognitive decline.

Furthermore, cognitive decline is a complex condition. For as many studies that have been carried out on the subject, there is just so much we don't know yet. Therefore, studies that show any sort of link between cognitive decline and another condition demand some sort of attention.

Therefore, while there is no conclusive evidence yet that PCOS can actually cause cognitive decline, it would be stupid to neglect the evidence on ground. This, of course, leads us to the next logical question - what can women with PCOS do with this information? Well, this is quite simple.

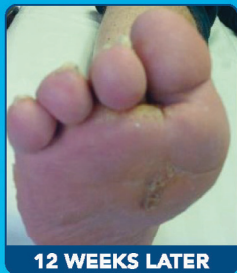
If you suspect you have PCOS, you should see a healthcare provider as fast as you

(Continued on page 7)

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New York Red Bulls soccer (football) will start the new season with a new look. RBNY, as they are known, hosted Media Day at Red Bull Arena this past week in Harrison, New Jersey with their new head coach Sandro Schwarz.

At the event, Schwarz said, "I'm looking forward to having a winning season. We find prin-

both teams finished tied 0-0 at Geodis Park. Montclair native Roald Mitchell made his first appearance by coming in the game as a substitute in the 77th minute late in the game.

The Red Bulls extended their road MLS regular season unbeaten streak to five matches dating back to September 16th, 2023. New York has posted a 5-2-1 record in their past season openers.



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens

ciples and are preparing game by game. We're ready to have a good season."

Other players that took part in Media Day included New York Red Bulls star John Tolkin. who said, "We are going to take it day by day and each game. We have a long season and are building the culture of this team."

After Media Day, the Red Bulls took off for their first regular season game on the road against Nashville SC, where



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BUDGET (Continued from page 1)

working with the Legislature in the months ahead to finalize a budget that builds on these priorities."

The \$55.9 billion spending plan includes a proposed surplus of \$6.1 billion, while redirecting nearly 74 percent of the total budget back out into our communities in the form of grants-in-aid for property tax relief, social services, and higher education, as well as State aid to schools, community colleges, municipalities, and counties.

Increasing Affordability

Governor Murphy's proposed budget includes more than \$3.5 billion in direct property tax relief. The budget proposal once again funds the successful ANCHOR Property Tax Relief Program, which provided \$2.2 billion to more than 1.9 million residents in the most recent filing season. This will be the third season of the ANCHOR program, which has provided more than \$4 billion in direct tax relief in the past two years.

Continuing the focus on providing relief for working and middle-class families, this budget maintains recent expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the Child Tax Credit, which was doubled last year to enable families with young children to receive up to \$1,000 per child.

The Governor's proposal also maintains a strong commitment to making life more affordable for seniors, with \$82.5 million to maintain expanded eligibility for the popular Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold programs to further cut costs for life-enhancing - and life-saving - prescription drugs.

As the Governor looks to make New Jersey more affordable and provide avenues for residents to work, raise a family and retire here, the proposed budget provides new funding for the RetireReady NJ program (formerly known as the Secure Choice Savings Program). The program is expected to launch in 2024 and

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UNITED STATES



“PROUD BOY” PLEADS GUILTY

A Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty to a felony charge related to his actions during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the 2020 presidential election.

Brian Healion, 33, of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty Feb. 22 in the District of Columbia to a felony offense of civil disorder. U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Kelly scheduled sentencing for June 13, 2024.

According to court documents, Healion, a Philadelphia Proud Boys chapter member, traveled to Washington, D.C., to protest Congress's certification of the Electoral College vote for the 2020 presidential election. Healion was a member of the Ministry of Self Defense or MOSD, a hand-selected subgroup within the Proud Boys created by former Proud Boys Chairman Henry “Enrique” Tarrío as a “national rally planning” chapter.

In the days leading up to Jan. 6, 2021, court documents say that Healion knew Congress was meeting at the Capitol on January 6th to certify the votes of the 2020 Presidential Election. Healion posted a message in a chat with other members of the MOSD that said, “What time is the whole political/presidential situation happening that day? With pence and the electoral

votes? And are we planning for either an unlikely joyous moment of pence (sic) growing b-lls?”

On the morning of Jan. 6, 2021, Healion met with approximately 100 other members of the Proud Boys at the Washington Monument and proceeded to follow Proud Boys leadership - including Ethan Nordean and Philadelphia Proud Boys President Zachary Rehl - on a march toward the Capitol building. A few minutes later, as the group marched past U.S. Capitol Police officers at approximately 11:28 a.m., members of the group taunted them, yelling “Treason,” and warning the officers, “Don’t make us go against you.”

The group, including Healion, continued to march around the perimeter of the Capitol grounds before arriving at the Peace Circle at the edge of the restricted perimeter of Capitol grounds. By the time he arrived at the U.S. Capitol, Healion had concealed his face using a black gaiter. Proud Boys leadership then led the crowd, including Healion, in a chant and a surge toward the police line.

The crowd, including Healion, crossed over and trampled bike rack barriers in their advance toward the Capitol building. Once on Capitol grounds, Healion assisted other rioters with crossing back and forth over the police line and witnessed other rioters engage with officers by attempting to pull bike rack barricades away from the police. Healion then moved to the front of the crowd opposite the line of officers and reached out to try and grab a bike. Court documents say that he attempted to grab the bike rack to interfere with the officers' efforts to maintain a police line. Less than one minute later, Healion succeeded when he again reached out toward the bike rack, grabbed it, and yanked it away from a Metropolitan Police Department Officer.

Healion then followed other Proud Boys members to the Upper West Terrace of the building and eventually into the building at approximately 2:53 p.m. through the Senate Wing Door. Once inside, Healion and others entered the office of a U.S. Senator and posed for pictures. After spending approximately 20 minutes inside the building,

Healion and other members of the Proud Boys exited via a broken window.

On Dec. 10, 2021, FBI officials arrested Healion, in Upper Darby.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section prosecuted this case. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania provided valuable assistance.

The FBI's Philadelphia and Washington Field Offices investigated this case. The U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department provided valuable assistance.

In the 37 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,313 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 469 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 2-27-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 77
- Total Dead: 133
- Total Wounded: 249
- Shootings Per Day: 1.33
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of Feb. 27: 58

WORLD



INVASION OF UKRAINE ENTERS ANOTHER YEAR

The UN Secretary-General addressed the Security Council on Friday, underscoring the fundamental need to honor the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as the full-scale invasion by Russia of the country

marks its second anniversary.

“Two years on and a decade since Russia’s attempted illegal annexation of Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the war in Ukraine remains an open wound at the heart of Europe,” António Guterres said.

“It is high time for peace - a just peace, based on the UN Charter, international law and General Assembly resolutions,” he stressed.

Addressing Security Council members, with several Ministers and ambassadors in attendance, the Secretary-General reminded them of the United Nations principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.

He stated that as per the UN Charter, international disputes shall be settled by peaceful means, and that all States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other State.

Mr. Guterres pointed to the suffering of civilians on both sides of the war.

In Ukraine, at least 10,500 civilians have died and many more have been injured; schools, hospitals and other vital civilian infrastructure have been destroyed, and several hundred towns and villages are cut off from electricity during a brutal winter.

Several million people have been driven from their homes, and countless families, especially on the frontlines, depend on humanitarian assistance.

“Many Ukrainians are experiencing the living nightmare of losing their children. All children that have been deported must be reunited with their families,” Mr. Guterres said.

“The war is also hurting the people of Russia. Thousands of young Russians are dying on the frontlines. Civilians hit by strikes on Russian cities are also suffering,” he added.

The Secretary-General also voiced deep concern over the danger of the conflict escalating and expanding “is very real.”

“Around the world, the war is deepening geopolitical divides. Fanning regional instability. Shrinking the space available to address other urgent global issues,” he said.

Concluding his address, Mr.

(Continued on page 12)

FORMER PRESIDENT

SUES SHU - PART II

(Continued from page 1)

Why was Mr. Marino not sued by ex-President J. Nyre?

According to a February 7, 2024 article in the New York Times, R. Armen McOmber, one of the lawyers for the Nyres, said that they did not sue Mr. Marino because their issue is with the university and how they acted, not with the core of the problem.”

Mr. McOmber told the New York Times, “If the University had acted appropriately, there would not have been a problem. The university has a responsibility to protect employees, investigate and remediate wrongdoing and make sure its policies are followed.”

Mr. McOmber told the New York Times that Joseph Nyre and Kelli L. Nyre were trying to restore their “sterling reputation.”

“At its core, this is about a very principled man and woman who really tried their absolute best to stand up to a university and to a system. My client[s] will do what he has to do to restore what was before he was involved with this university, a sterling reputation”, Mr. McOmber told the New York Times.

If Mr. Marino’s actions specifically targeted the Nyres, then under the law, Mr. Marino should have been sued. The Board of Regents did not make ominous phone calls at all hours of the day to Mr. Nyre. According to court documents, Mr. Marino did. Similarly, it was Mr. Marino who allegedly sexually harassed Kelli L. Nyre on at least two occasions, court papers state.

Mr. Marino’s Conflict of Interest Actions.

According to court papers, the investigation revealed that Mr. Marino had communications with Dean Boozang regarding a range of issues, including the following: (1) raising Dean Boozang’s compensation; (2) allocation of university resources for the funding for new Law School faculty lines; (3) the admission of underqualified students to the Law School who

were the children of Mr. Marino’s friends; and (4) confidential information related to faculty compensation which was discussed in Board meetings to which Dean Boozang was neither attending nor a member.”

From the court papers quoted above, this is clearly a conflict of interest for Mr. Marino. The Regents are not supposed to be involved in the day-to-day affairs of Seton Hall University. Court papers say as much.

In his statement to the Setonian, published in the February 16 online issue, Marino denied having a conflict of interest. He called Dean Boozang a "scapegoat" that was used by President Nyre.

“Dr. Nyre’s lawsuit, in which I am not a defendant, is rife with false and defamatory statements. I recruited Dr. Nyre to serve as Seton Hall’s President in 2018 and he recruited me to serve as Chairman of the Board of Regents. He and I then worked effectively together for several years before I objected to his gross mishandling of the investigation of an embezzlement scandal at Seton Hall Law School.

“He hired a friend of his to conduct that investigation - a lawyer fired by the Iona University Board of Trustees - and together they made former Law School Dean Boozang a scapegoat of that scandal although she had nothing whatsoever to do with it. When I lodged my objection, Dr. Nyre vowed to have me removed as Chair and proceeded to make a host of false allegations about me to a group of six Regents, centered around the entirely bogus claim that I had a conflict of interest based on my professional relationship with the Dean.”

According to court papers, “Defendant SHU’s own bylaws and policies, as well as the Standards for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, expressly prohibit direct contact between Regents and the Deans regarding day-to-day decision-making, admissions decisions and financial and considerations. Moreover, Defendant SHU’s bylaws provide that disclosure of confidential information from Board meetings may implicate Defendant SHU’s policy related to conflicts of in-

(Continued on page 13)



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MARCH 7: Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. every 2 weeks on Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads. We invite fathers and surrogate fathers to join our 8 Dimensions of Wellness Workshop series with Dr. Henry Clay.

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THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Cont. from page 4)

can and try to get a proper diagnosis. For positive diagnoses, you should immediately adopt lifestyle changes that can help combat PCOS. Also, you can talk to your healthcare provider about the proper steps to take to protect your brain health and maintain its integrity as you age.

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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- <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/31/health/pcos-cognitive-function-study-wellness/index.html#:~:text=Polycystic%20ovary%20syndrome%2C%20known%20as,cognitive%20dysfunction%20later%20in%20life.>

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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 - The Newark Police Division, on Feb. 20, posted security camera photos of five men wanted for the Feb. 15 armed robbery of an 18th Avenue restaurant. They did not leave until they searched one victim's pockets, stuck up a second and pistol whipped a third.

The five masked men, said Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage, entered Carlos Kitchen, 978 18th Ave., at 3:15 p.m. that Thursday. Each one was holding a handgun.

One of the fivesome put his gun to a victim's head and forced him onto the floor. A second suspect then rifled through the victim's pockets. A second victim was also held at gunpoint in the lobby.

A man first identified as an employee was struck in the head with a handgun by one of the suspects. That victim told a reporter that one of his assailants had asked for Carlos before ransacking the cash register.

The owner, Carlos Smith, said that the man hit on the head was his 72-year-old father. He had asked him to mind the store while he himself briefly stepped out. His father was taken to Newark's University Hospital for treatment.

The fivesome were last seen fleeing west on 18th Avenue, with personal property and an undisclosed amount of cash taken.

NPD is asking for the public's help in identifying the suspects. Their images have been

posted on the division's social media. Tips can be left with the Essex County Sheriff's Crime Stoppers hotline and website.

IRVINGTON - Relatives of a township man have been making his funeral arrangements since Feb. 11 while authorities are looking for the person or persons who shot him and injured two others.

Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said that the first township police units were alerted of gunshots being fired from the 200 block of Isabella Avenue at about 9:22 p.m. that Sunday.

They arrived to find Damian Thompson, 27, and a second man shot plus a third man "with a leg injury." All three were rushed to University Hospital.

Although the man with the leg injury and the other shot man were treated for non-life-threatening injuries, Thompson had died by 11:14 p.m. There has been no information of Thompson's last rites or his obituary posted as of Feb. 27.

Athletic Director Taylor Leaves Irvington

The Irvington Public Schools are hoping that the person who succeeds as its athletic director will be as durable and as accomplished as Dr. John Taylor. Taylor, who has been IHS AD from 2017 and helped the Irvington Blue Knights win its 2021-22 NJSIAA football championship, resigned Jan. 31. The Washington state native, as of press time, is finishing his first full month as AD for Burlington Township High School.

Taylor, who himself said that six predecessors went through IHS 2009-17, started the high school's freshman girls volleyball and boys soccer teams, turned the co-ed bowling team into boys and girls bowling, boys and girls golf, varsity and JV boys volleyball, competitive cheerleading, girls wrestling and girls lacrosse.

EAST ORANGE / ORANGE - Public Service Electric & Gas is putting the finishing touches on its "New Lakeside Avenue Substation" - not at 375 Lakeside Ave. in Orange but .7 mile east at 101-55 North Park

St., East Orange.

PSE&G will end a five-year process of getting permits for and constructing a substation on a 2.27-acre site between North Park Street and Kearney Street in East Orange's Doddtown section once it puts it on their electrical grid. It is part of a system modernization and climate hardening effort that includes the Orange Valley/Orange Heights, Washington Avenue Belleville and Fairmount Heights Newark projects.

The work replaces the former Electro-O-Still/Culligan Water plant, part of the Erie Orange Branch right-of-way and a parking lot for the long-gone Orange Mattress Co. factory and showroom. The site is bordered by the culvertes confluence of Nisuan and Wigwam brooks at its southwest corner.

The state's largest utility will deactivate the century-old Lakeside Avenue Substation at the northeast corner of Cleveland Street in Orange's North Ward. PSE&G, in its 2021 Environmental Impact Statement to the East Orange Zoning Board, said that they found it more efficient to build an all-new substation instead of trying to upgrade the .89 acre station and warehouse.

De-energizing Lakeside Avenue Substation will be one more step in PSE&G's leaving that Orange neighborhood. It had also owned three other industrial buildings bordered by Lakeside Avenue, High Street, the Erie Orange Branch right of way and Cleveland Street in its earlier Public Service era.

The four-story building at the corner of Lakeside and High used to be home of the Occupational Center of the Oranges into the 1990s. A garage at 291 Cleveland St., which had a railroad siding, was once the PER Water filter plant before its present use by the Unicorn electrical parts fabricator.

What will ultimately happen to the old substation and warehouse is an open question. It has been listed on the DEP State Historical Preservation Office's register (ID #4892) since 2006.

WEST ORANGE - Municipal employees arriving for work at Town Hall before 8:30 a.m. Feb. 20 were greeted with a silent protest.

West Orange for Humanity members had left 144 pairs of shoes on 60 Main St.'s steps. Above the steps and blocking the front door was a sheet reading: "Complicit in Genocide. 144 Children Murdered in Gaza Every Day."

The group, which was formed in October, is believed to have placed the shoes around 6 a.m. that Tuesday. A township spokesman said that the shoes and banner were removed by 8:30 a.m.

The 144 children killed per day is based on figures provided by the Hamas-run Palestinian Ministry of Health. The same ministry has recently stated that 10,000 of Gaza residents killed in the Hamas-Israel war, whose overall toll is nearing 30,000 by Feb. 27, are women and children.

West Orange Mayor Susan McCartney, whose Feb. 20 arrival time here is not known, issued a Feb. 21 statement.

"I unequivocally condemn all expressions of hate, including abhorrent comments this type of behavior incited during the last council meeting," said Mayor McCartney. "We respect and can empathize with all individuals in the community affected by the ongoing, devastating destruction - but we cannot govern with any sense of changing the trajectory and outcome of these issues.

McCartney was referring to the Feb. 13 Zoom-only Township Council meeting which was peppered with anonymously called antisemitic and racist remarks and insults. The catcalls prompted the council to table their deliberation on whether to issue a resolution urging an Israeli-Hamas ceasefire.

The council, from at least the Feb. 27 meeting, will only allow in-person comments from the public.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Columbia High School administrators had scheduled a review of its safety and security [procedures with the rest of its community here Feb. 26 in the wake of two Shelter-in-Place Code Yellows called on Feb. 23.

Both incidents involved reports of non-CHS students either planning to enter the Columbia campus or already on the proper-

(Continued on page 14)



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ECC SIGNS WIDE RANGING ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH CALDWELL UNIVERSITY

Essex County College students earning Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degrees can now “seamlessly” transfer to nearby Caldwell University with junior status. The two institutions signed a wide-ranging articulation agreement on February 21 during a ceremony held at ECC’s West Essex campus in West Caldwell.

The five year agreement commences on May 1, 2024. It is for designated programs for which the institutions have articulated program agreements.

“This agreement will give more of our graduating students the opportunity to reach the goals they have set for themselves. We are building on what we have done before. Our College provides students the opportunity to earn Associate degrees; that’s what we do. But we certainly don’t want them ending



ECC President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye (left) and Caldwell University President Dr. Jeffrey D. Senese (center) sign the articulation agreement between the two institutions. At right, Caldwell University Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ellina Chernobilsky looks on.

their education at that level. Our agreement gives them another avenue to move up,” said ECC’s President, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

“It makes perfect sense for our two institutions to work together. This agreement provides up to \$30,000 in scholarship money for the transferring students. We serve people in this community who will stay in this community. We will continue to look for other ways our two institutions can work together,” stated Caldwell University President, Dr. Jeffrey D. Senese.

The articulation agreement was signed by Dr. Boakye and Dr. Senese. Dr. Alvin Williams, Executive Dean of Faculty & Academics, called it an “umbrella” agreement covering a wide range of programs.

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

Guterres said that since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, “we have had two years of fighting, two years of suffering, two years of stoking global tensions and straining global relations.”

“Enough,” he stressed, noting that scorning the Charter has been the problem, and honoring it is the solution.

“That means honoring the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders. It is time to recommit to the Charter and renew respect for international law,” he said.

“That is the path to peace and security - in Ukraine and around the world.”

UNITED KINGDOM



WOMEN FACING VIOLENCE IN UK

A UN expert has urged the UK Government to take urgent action to end all forms of violence against women and girls, as the country labelled it a

“national threat.”

“Entrenched patriarchy at almost every level of society, combined with a rise in misogyny that permeates the physical and online world, is denying thousands of women and girls across the UK the right to live in safety, free from fear and violence,” said Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, in a statement at the end of a 10-day visit to the country.

“A woman is killed by a man every three days in the UK and one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime,” she said.

Alsalem acknowledged the robust legal framework for promoting gender equality, including the Equality Act 2010 and other legislation that applies across the United Kingdom. This framework is complemented by important legislation and policies in the devolved regions.

“The UK has been a leader in strengthening its legal framework to address current and emerging forms of violence against women and girls,” the expert said, including coercive control, digitally facilitated violence and stalking, as well as improving access to justice.

“Many countries will look to the UK for inspiration, as well as examples of innovation and good practice on how to make life safer for women and girls, and accountability for crimes

committed against them,” she said.

The Special Rapporteur noted that the ability of the UK and Devolved Administrations to realize the full potential of their legislation and policies on violence against women is undermined by a number of realities, including the dilution of the link between these policies and the UK’s international human rights obligations; a general critical discourse and positioning on human rights, particularly in relation to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees; and the fragmentation of policies on male violence against women and girls across devolved and non-devolved areas.

“The UK can do more to translate its political recognition of the scale of violence against women and girls into action,” Alsalem said. She recommended bringing together all legislative and programmatic strands of intervention on the issue, upgrading and formalizing responsibility for discrimination and violence against women and girls in government, anchoring it in human rights commitments, improving coordination between all parts of government and with civil society, and committing sufficient resources to translate its advanced legislation into action.

The expert highlighted the long-standing lack of adequate disaggregated data, including by

sex, gender, ethnicity and disability, and the emphasis on sex- and gender-neutral approaches in the design and implementation of interventions as key challenges hampering effective monitoring and progress.

The Special Rapporteur expressed concern about how grassroots organizations and specialized frontline service providers working with women and girls are struggling to meet the needs of the most vulnerable women and girls - both foreign and national - subjected to violence, who fall through the cracks and are not covered by statutory service providers. “They are struggling to survive in an increasingly challenging context of rising living costs, a deepening housing crisis and a critical lack of funding,” she said.

“The situation of NGOs working on gender equality and violence against women and girls has reached a crisis point and is simply untenable,” Alsalem said.

“I urge authorities to restore predictable and adequate funding to these frontline organizations, which provide crucial and life-saving services to women and girls desperate to escape abusive and/or exploitative relationships,” she said.

The expert will present her full report to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2025.

BUDGET *(Continued from page 5)*

provide a new option for retirement savings for private sector employees.

Fulfilling his promise to increase homeownership opportunities, this budget includes more than \$50 million for a multi-faceted investment to boost New Jersey’s housing supply and make homeownership more affordable. The investment includes \$10 million to incentivize the creation of new accessory dwelling units (ADUs), \$15 million to help rental assistance recipients find pathways to homeownership and non-profits rehabilitating homes in need of repair, and \$32 million for Down Payment Assistance. Over the last four years, the Administration has invested almost \$120 million into down payment assistance for thousands of families.

Investing in NJ TRANSIT

The Murphy Administration inherited an agency in deep crisis after years of underfunding and disinvestment. However,

over the past six years, NJ TRANSIT has overcome many operational challenges, with nearly every major metric - reliability, on-time performance, safety, and customer satisfaction - making a remarkable turnaround.

In this budget, Governor Murphy is proposing a Corporate Transit Fee to create another dedicated funding stream for NJ TRANSIT that will provide fiscal support. This funding will ensure service is maintained as ridership continues to recover from the pandemic while building upon major operational improvements.

The fee would affect NJ’s wealthiest corporations with net taxable income greater than \$10 million. Small and medium-sized businesses would not be impacted – in fact, nearly 2,500 companies will see their taxes decrease from last year.

Promoting Fiscal Responsibility

The proposed FY2025 budget once again makes good on the Administration’s commitment to our public sector employees,

for the fourth year in a row proposing a full pension payment. The \$7.162 billion payment, which includes contributions from the State Lottery, brings the total contribution to the pension fund under Governor Murphy to \$39.9 billion, or more than triple the total contributions - \$12.2 billion - made by the previous six administrations combined. With this budget, Governor Murphy will be the first governor in a generation to make payments equal to or greater than 100 percent of the Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC) four years in a row.

The Governor continues his focus on fiscally responsible governance, proposing a budget surplus of \$6.1 billion dollars, nearly ten times larger than the average surplus under the previous administration.

This budget also includes new investments in the parole system and the Office of the Public Defender to protect civil rights and maintain New Jersey’s exceptionally low recidivism rate.



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FORMER PRESIDENT SUES SHU - PART II

(Continued from page 7)

terest, which requires all Regents to “treat information received from the University as strictly confidential.”

According to Article 8 of the University Bylaws, the Regents cannot be involved in the day-to-day business of Seton Hall University.

One must wonder why the University expects students to follow its rules, policies, bylaws, yet does not do anything when Regents violate these same procedures. Double standard?

So, while all this was going on, Dean Boozang announced her resignation from the Law School. Mr. Marino was “intent” on awarding Dean Boozang a seven-figure settlement before the investigation into the Law School was complete.

Even after Dean Boozang resigned from the Law School, Mr. Marino “continued to speak privately with Dean Boozang’s individual counsel regarding the terms of her ultimate departure

from the Law School,” court papers state.

This looks to be a violation of Article 8 of the University’s Bylaws which state that Regents are not supposed to be involved in the University’s day-to-day affairs. As an honest man and a loyal university employee, then-President Joseph Nyre repeatedly tried to get then – Board of Regents Chair Kevin Marino to follow the rules, policies, bylaws and regulations of Seton Hall University, state and federal laws.

The unanswered question is, why should Dean Boozang be given the same salary, a million dollars, that is paid to the University President?

President Nyre tries to warn Mr. Marino of violations.

According to court papers, “Recognizing that the contact would violate the applicable rules and bylaws, Plaintiff J. Nyre declined and urged Mr. Marino to direct all communications regarding the investigation to Defendant SHU’s general

counsel so as to avoid compromising the integrity of the investigation.

Mr. Marino not only tampered with the investigation and attempted to influence Dean Boozang’s compensation while the investigation was pending, but also improperly spoke directly with employees of the Law School related to their compensation and promised to give them raises.”

This raises important questions. First, should giving raises be done by the President, Chief Financial Officer, and finally the Board of Regents? Second, Mr. Marino is again violating Article 8 of the University Bylaws by being involved in the day-to-day affairs of the University.

Apparently, Mr. Marino had friends at the university that he wanted to be compensated. The big question is, why would Mr. Marino give raises in the middle of an investigation into embezzlement at the Law School?

According to court papers, “From in or around September 2022 until in or around November 2022, Mr. Marino pressed

Plaintiff J. Nyre - at times aggressively - regarding the terms of Dean Boozang’s potential separation package while continuing to simultaneously report to the Audit Committee and the Board of Regents that no such determination should be made until after the close of the investigation.”

A number of unanswered questions arise. Why did the Board of Regents not double-check what Mr. Marino was telling them? Meanwhile, the Regents are being kept in the dark about the actual circumstances of the situation. All this also sounds like Mr. Marino was telling the Regents one thing while doing something else totally. Question is, whatever happened to oversight?

The honest answer, based on court papers and available evidence, is that there is little, if any, oversight. Even though both J. Nyre and Kelli L. Nyre complained to the Board of Regents about what was happening, but there was no response.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

WEEP

We must come together becoming thick as thieves once again. That my darlings is a matter of survival. Yesterday when driving on Washington Street in East Orange, I was prompted to "look over there," by that whisper in my ear. There, I saw a tree with its top severed and lying below. I was told that this was to be my submission for this week's article. And I immediately knew I was being told to yank Autumn out of the archives once again.

Autumn is a piece I wrote many years ago about the deterioration and corrosion of the family structure. Read it and weep as I always do. Also moan if ya must then let's go make amends

with one another. That being Kin folk, as well as our fellow man. If you're in the area join me in this seek and find adventure. Go seek out that tree and see that living testament in real time!

ROOTS

AUTUMN

*No longer does the gentle breeze of Autumn soothe me
Nor do I any longer take in air inhaling the sweet of change*

*Change such change
For there was a time when the face of Autumn*

*Would paint a picture of such beauty
But now, Autumn has come forth a new*

*Although it did not come all at once, it is here
It has crept upon us as we slept, as a thief does
And I cannot welcome this*

*Simply, what is our fate
if in the most trying of times upon the changing of seasons, we cannot depend*

*Yes, Autumn has removed itself from its place
and it has come inside to dwell
Fall has come upon this once deeply rooted,
this once-strong family
And it is as an evergreen no more*

Winter nears us and if his visit greets us with great force



Photo By Andrea Dialect

wed likely parish

Thus, the need for harvest is no more

*When the fall winds blew rightfully returning those of ripened age
back to the earth from whence they'd come
Their last, their last Autumn was that of our own*

Oh, how deeply saddened my heart

*Understand that the passing of our strongest
has caused the bough to break
Now, ignorance shades us from the sun*

*Now, our branches bow as that of a willow tree
A dying willow that weeps*

Although it did not come all at once, it is here

It has crept upon us as a thief does and I cannot welcome this.

*What is our fate
If in our most trying of times upon the changes of seasons we cannot depend ...*

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

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

ty. The second one said that the visitors would be carrying weapons.

Acting South Orange-Maplewood Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kevin Gilbert and Acting CHS Principal Ann Bodnar said that school administrators heard rumors of students "from another school" intending to arrive at 10:29 a.m.

CHS Main Office staff immediately notified the Maplewood Police Department and ordered a Code Yellow. The sheltering-in-place keeps people from entering or leaving the premises until the police had conducted a building search.

MPD officers searched the building and checked the video surveillance recordings for unauthorized visitors. Teachers gave an "all accounted for" roll call of their class period students. Police, not finding any trespassers, gave the "all clear" at 11:57 a.m.

Normal instruction resumed - until a second rumor surfaced after lunch period. This

word was of non-Columbia students in the building, that more may be coming and that a weapon may be on campus.

Cone Yellow was implemented and MPD swept the building - again. Police granted permission to dismiss class at the usual time. At no time were any weapons found.

BLOOMFIELD - Authorities' search for the vehicle and its driver that stuck a township man while walking his dog Jan. 10 beyond his Jan. 22 death and memorial services for Feb. 10.

Tim Hughes, 51, said an ECPO release, was struck while walking his dog in Eagle Rock Reservation Jan. 10. The release did not state where in the 400-acre reservation - West Orange, Montclair or Verna he was hit.

Hughes endured two surgeries but succumbed from his injuries Jan. 22. The Stoke-on-Trent native emigrated to the US in 1998 and was a computer science officer when the SCUBA diving bug bit him.

Hughes and his business partner founded Gotham Divers equipment and training store in Manhattan. He met his wife Monika when she started shopping there in 2010. The couple moved to Bloomfield to start a family.

Described as an inimitable and quick-witted person, Hughes is also survived by his parents, a brother and two daughters. Celebrations of his life were held in New York Feb. 3 and in England Feb. 10. A GoFundMe.com page to help his wife and children, as of Feb. 27, is nearing its \$100,000 goal.

MONTCLAIR - Motorists using Upper Mountain Avenue be forewarned: the speed limit will soon be lowered to 25 mph between Jerome Place and the Little Falls/Passaic County border.

The Essex County Board of Commissioners, at their Feb. 21 meeting, adopted a resolution dropping the speed limit along that 300-foot stretch of the avenue. Upper

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

Mountain Avenue is also known as County Route 620 where Montclair township cannot lower the limit on its own.

The resolution amending CR 620's speed limit was sponsored by Commission President Brendan Gill, of Montclair. Gill is on Montclair's Vision Zero Task Force and on the NJ Bike Walk Coalition.

He had turned a willing ear to Mayor Sean Spillar and township officials, who have been asking to slow traffic on Upper Mountain Avenue and other Essex County road "hot zones" within Montclair the past year.

Montclair bolstered its case, at least with Upper Mountain Avenue, by having its traffic engineer bring CR 620's crash histories and speed recordings to county attention.

Councilman Robert Russo thanked Gill, the Commission and County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo for the change. The longtime elder and former mayor said that he has been on a "25 to Stay Alive" campaign for all Montclair streets the past year.

GLEN RIDGE - The fruit of the Glen Ridge Public Library's patience may be paying off with some renovations over the winter - but not at the printer/copier.

Printer and copier charges, said Library Director Tina Marie Doody here Feb. 27, are going up March 1. An 8.5 by 11-inch black and white page will go from 10 cents to 20 Friday and color copies will go from 25 cents to 50 per page.

The basic 10 cent photocopy or printer page, at least in the Local Talk area, has gone the way of the \$1 cheese pizza slice. Doody explained that the new charges are in line with those of other libraries and helps the service to pay for itself.

"We will have parity with other libraries," Doody said that Tuesday. "We'll be charging as much as Bloomfield but not as much as Montclair."

The library is down the home stretch of the NJ State Library Bond-funded renovations that began in October. Patrons may already use a second restroom and a bottle-friendly water dispenser, for example, and some third-floor study rooms soon. The work is funded by a library construction bond grant issued in 2019 and awarded in 2022.

"We applied both times in 2021 and 2022 and were put on a waitlist in '22," said the director. "We were awarded in December 2022. and the construction contracts went out in October. We're waiting for the furniture for the study rooms to come in."

BELLEVILLE - What started out as a religious procession along Washington Avenue here Feb. 21 became social media

speculation over "migrants" arrival in town."

Mayor Michael Melham said he started getting calls from people saying that Wednesday that Belleville had become a destination by "Mexican migrants." They had been dropped off by a bus and they were walking along the avenue with a Belleville police escort.

Members from St. Peter's Roman Catholic Parish said that 85 of their members, mostly parish women, were making a walk to honor the "Pope John XXIII Movement." Pope John XXIII (1881-1963), who was canonized as a saint in 2014, is best known for convening the Second Vatican Council, which allowed the Mass to be said in local languages, in 1959.

"It's easier to ask, 'What's going on?' instead of jumping to conclusions," said Melham, who recalled other walks about Belleville. "I'm grateful for people who reached out directly to inquire. I'm also thankful to the women and St. Peter's Parish for their prayers."

The mayor has learned that St. Peter's men will be holding a similar walk in March. The neighboring Nutley Clergy Fellowship is planning "The Nutley Cross-Walk," from Nutley High School, Noon Good Friday March 29.

NUTLEY - Neighbors around Milton Avenue are hoping that the New Jersey Highway Authority will make a lasting tribute to hit-and-run victim Winston Perlaza by maintaining its Garden State Parkway overpass.

Those who converged at the corner of Milton and Linn Road Feb. 14-15, where Perlaza, 22, of Paterson, and a fellow companion were felled by a fleeing driver, found that none of the overpass' walkways were shoveled or salted from a recent snowstorm.

Neighborhood residents had recently asked for shoveling and sanding of the Nutley Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners, however, said that the overpass' upkeep is part of the highway authority's responsibility.

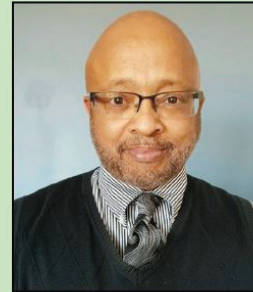
Perlaza, who was born Feb. 19, 2001, was remembered at his Feb. 24 funeral in Passaic as an ambitious young man with an infectious smile. "Bebe" had turned down older brother Erik Ferrer's offer to move with him to West Virginia because he had just landed a mechanic job at Little Falls' Rt. 46 Chrysler Jeep Dodge. He wanted to run a repair garage of his own.

Mother Ana, older brother Ferrer and older sister Natalie are among the Wayne native's survivors. His Nutley girlfriend was presumably with him Feb. 14 and was treated for her injuries. A Lumberton man has been arrested for leaving the scene of a fatal accident and motor vehicle-related charges.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
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