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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RULES IMPACT USES OF TCE & PCE **PAGE 4**

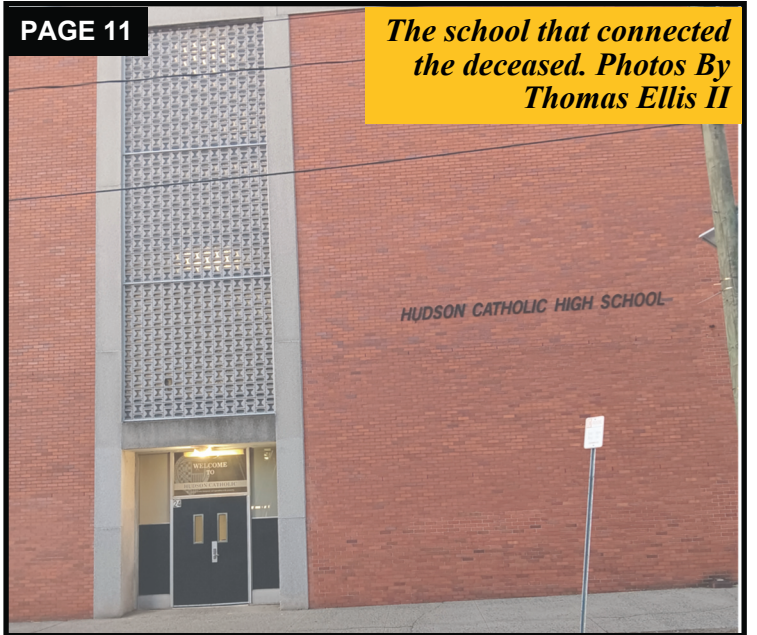
MORE THAN 100 ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSE MARTIN LUTHER KING MARCH

SIX PERISH IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT



Photo Courtesy P.O.P.

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The school that connected the deceased. Photos By Thomas Ellis II

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STATE D.O.E. TELLS NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS: "NICE TRY."

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The June 1 Newark Public Schools "Superintendent's Staff Fun Day," held at a Somerset County retreat, has proven costly - by a rounded down \$33,000 in the eyes of the New Jersey Department of Education.

NPS officials revealed at the Board of Education's Nov. 26 meeting that its Central Office received a \$33,000 invoice based on an NJDOE Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance October to Superintendent of Schools Roger Leon. The to-be-refunded \$33,000 resolution was authorized by the school board that Tuesday night.

Leon had scheduled a "Fun Day" at Warren, NJ's Forest Lodge. An estimated 275 adults and 140 children of staff members had participated in relay races, rock wall climbing, egg tosses, limbo dancing, a corn hole toss, operating a claw machine, a hula hoop contest and

similar activity at the wedding venue that Saturday.

The then-NPS school board, in approving the Fun Day, described its goal as "communicating a shared vision and plan for developing, supporting and sustaining a positive culture and climate in all classrooms, schools and departments across the district."

OFAC investigators, in October, reported back to Leon that the Fun Day amounted to a "Nice Try" but had failed to cut the agency's educational and developmental mustard.

"The activities held during Fun Day were largely recreational and focused on leisure, competition and amusement," said OFAC's report. "The event lacked an educational or professional development component and did not demonstrate a clear connection to the district's strategic objectives or organizational development."

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	<p>Primary Care Multi Specialty Group THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES 60 Evergreen Place, Suite 400, East Orange, NJ</p>	<p>Offering Same Day Appointments for All Specialties and DOT Exams</p>	<p>Turn To PAGE 16</p>
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Christmas is right around the corner, with less than two weeks left. However, people are ordering more via other internet sites, which can deliver as fast as Amazon. Local Talk's team and I wish all of our readers Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays in advance. A month from now, the McDonald's in East Orange will be reopening on January 11, 2025.

President Biden recently visited Angola, Africa to gain access to an oil rich country. West Africa is facing a lot of influence from China. It is a good decision to visit the long stand-

ing Democracy, and an ally of United States.

Of course, the time was convenient, as he left soon after he pardoned his son Hunter Biden. This was not a good thing, because from now onwards a President's family and close allies will do whatever they want, and if they get caught within the President's term, they will be pardoned by the President. Another reason for the trip could be that war is going on around the world. It seems like the policy of Joseph Biden is to distract people's minds away from his declining popularity.

A brush fire started at 10 acres and has spread to about 2,200 acres in Malibu, California. Brush fires are a huge problem in Southern California. Malibu is home to an affluent rich community, including many Hollywood stars.

Luigi Mangione was arrested as a suspect for the shooting death of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson in New York City. He is facing second degree murder charges and second degree weapon possession charges. He was caught at a McDonald's restaurant at Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Recently, President-elect Trump has suggested that he will issue an executive order to cancel birthright citizenship. Maybe he will set this towards illegal immigrants and continue birthright citizenship to the children of actual US citizens.

The game of cricket did not have a huge following about 12 years ago, when Local Talk Community Foundation was sponsoring a women's cricket team. In one of the local meetings, one of the representatives said that the International Cricket

Council decided to make cricket a world-known sport. Today, cricket has become one of the most-known sports in the world and about 95 countries are participating in three different form.

There are three forms of game; the first is Test Cricket, which plays for 5 days with two innings for each team, which is the original form of the cricket game. The second is T20i, which has one inning with 20 overs for each side, which is the most popular game nowadays. The third format is ODI (one day international) which also has one inning for each side and 50 overs. Day by day, cricket is getting momentum. Cricket will be included in the next Olympics, which will take place in Los Angeles.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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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 & Windy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Showers	Rain	Clouds & Sun	Partly Cloudy
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LO 25	LO 26	LO 32	LO 41	LO 45	LO 39	LO 36

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RULES IMPACT USES OF TCE & PCE

WASHINGTON - On Dec. 9, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the latest risk management rules for trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) under the bipartisan 2016 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) amendments, marking another major milestone for chemical safety after decades of inadequate protections and serious delays. These protections align with President Biden's Cancer Moonshot, a whole-of-government approach to end cancer as we know it.

TCE is an extremely toxic chemical known to cause liver cancer, kidney cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. TCE also causes damage to the central nervous system, liver, kidneys, immune system, reproductive organs, and fetal heart defects. These risks are present even at very small concentrations. Under today's rule, all uses of TCE will be banned over time (with the vast majority of identified risks eliminated within one year), and safer alternatives are readily available for the majority of uses.

PCE is known to cause liver,

kidney, brain and testicular cancer, as well as damage to the kidney, liver and immune system, neurotoxicity, and reproductive toxicity. Today's final rule will better protect people from these risks by banning manufacture, processing and distribution in commerce of PCE for all consumer uses and many commercial uses, while allowing some workplace uses to continue only where robust workplace controls can be implemented.

"It's simply unacceptable to continue to allow cancer-causing chemicals to be used for things like glue, dry cleaning or stain removers when safer alternatives exist," said Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Michal Freedhoff. "These rules are grounded in the best-available science that demonstrates the harmful impacts of PCE and TCE. EPA continues to deliver on actions that protect people, including workers and children, under the nation's premier bipartisan chemical safety law."

PCE and TCE are both non-flammable chlorinated solvents

that are volatile organic compounds. PCE can biodegrade into TCE, and PCE may contain trace amounts of TCE as an impurity or a contaminant. The chemicals can often serve as alternatives for each other. For several uses of TCE that will be totally prohibited, there is an analogous use of PCE that can continue safely in perpetuity under workplace controls. Some examples of uses that will be prohibited under the TCE rule, but will continue under the PCE rule include: industrial and commercial use as an energized electrical cleaner, in laboratory use for asphalt testing and recovery, use to make refrigerants and other chemicals, and for vapor degreasing.

"Over 40 years ago, a mother named Anne Anderson from Woburn, Massachusetts, approached me and started a crusade to keep any more children like Jimmy Anderson, her son, from dying from cancer caused by toxic chemicals. Anne's work directly led to this announcement from the Environmental Protection Agency that I am overjoyed to celebrate today alongside her and every community that stands to benefit - a finalized ban on trichloroethylene and most uses of perchloroethylene, two chemicals that cause cancer, affect reproductive systems, are neurotoxic, and compromise immune systems," said Senator Ed Markey (D-MA). "Despite their dangers, these chemicals could still be found in industries like dry cleaning, automotive repair and manufacturing. With no doubt that these chemicals are deadly, there is no doubt that this final rule will save lives - especially our children's lives - the country."

"The Camp Lejeune contaminated drinking water issue has dragged on over the better part of forty years ever since TCE, PCE and other organic solvents were first documented in the base's drinking water supply in October 1980," said Jerry M. Ensminger, Retired U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant. "My daughter, Janey, was conceived aboard Camp Lejeune during the drinking water contamination and died of leukemia in 1985, at the age of nine. I first began my fight for justice in 1997, and was later joined by Mike Partain in 2007,

who was also conceived aboard the base and diagnosed with male breast cancer at the age of 39. Mike and I welcome this ban on TCE by the EPA and this is proof that our fight for justice at Camp Lejeune was not in vain."

Trichloroethylene

TCE is used as a solvent in consumer and commercial products such as cleaning and furniture care products, degreasers, brake cleaners, sealants, lubricants, adhesives, paints and coatings, arts and crafts spray coatings, and is also used in the manufacture of some refrigerants. Safer alternatives are readily available for the majority of these uses.

EPA is finalizing its prohibition on all uses of TCE, most of which will be prohibited within one year, including TCE manufacture and processing for most commercial and all consumer products. This will protect most people who are likely to be exposed to TCE from uses covered by TSCA, including all consumers and workers in many sectors and many communities.

A limited number of uses in the workplace will be phased out over a longer period. Those uses will only continue with required stringent worker protections in place. All TCE uses with longer phaseout timeframes will have worker safety requirements, such as a Workplace Chemical Protection Plan that includes an inhalation exposure limit. The final rule sets a different inhalation exposure limit for airborne TCE than was proposed. This change was made in response to public comments to ensure the limit is feasible to implement and monitor while still reducing risk. EPA estimates that the new inhalation exposure limit would reduce long-term workplace exposure by 97%.

Many of the TCE uses that are continuing for longer than one year occur in highly industrialized settings that can adopt EPA's new stringent worker protections, such as uses of TCE to clean parts used in aircraft and medical devices, to manufacture battery separators, to manufacture refrigerants, as well as in other transportation, security and

(Continued on page 9)

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UNITED STATES



**SUSPECT ARRESTED
IN HEALTHCARE
CEO'S DEATH**

Usually, when a murder suspect is arrested, there is unanimous cheer among the populace. This case, however, had an unusual caveat.

At around 6:45 a.m. on Dec. 4, UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson was shot and killed while New York City for an investor's conference. CCTV footage showed a masked assailant firing a gun with a silencer at the victim. Shell casings from the scene showed that the bullets were engraved with the words: "delay, deny, defend." The phrase is a well-known industry phrase which lays out a tactic for not paying out insurance claims.

Although the suspect wore a mask, there was one interaction when his face was visible, and a manhunt began.

Days later, at 9:14 a.m. on Dec. 9, police officers in Altoona, Pa. were dispatched to a McDonald's restaurant for reports of a male matching the description of the United Healthcare CEO murder suspect. Officers made contact with the male who was subsequently arrested on unrelated charges.

The man detained was 26-year-old Luigi Mangione, who had a medical history of spondylolisthesis, a condition where spinal vertebrae slip out of place. He is related to Maryland state delegate Nino Mangione.

Piece by piece, authorities were able to determine that he came into NYC on a Greyhound bus in November, checked into a hostel, and caught a bus leaving the city from the George Washington Bus Terminal, all within an hour's time.

There was also a 262-page manifesto. One of the segments in the writing included: "To the Feds, I'll keep this short, because I do respect what you do for our country. To save you a lengthy investigation, I state plainly that I wasn't working with anyone...I do apologize for any strife or traumas but it had to be done. Frankly, these parasites simply had it coming."

The weapon in question was discovered to be a ghost gun, which is untraceable. Among the myriad of charges he faces are carrying a gun without a license, forgery, falsely identifying himself to the authorities, and possessing "instruments of crime" in Blair County, Pennsylvania, second-degree murder, three counts of illegal weapons possession, and forgery in the borough of Manhattan, New York City.

In a press conference announcing the capture of Mangione, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said, "In America, we do not kill people in cold blood to resolve policy differences or express a viewpoint... I understand people have real frustration with our health care system, and I have worked to address that throughout my career.

"But I have no tolerance, nor should anyone, for one man using an illegal ghost gun to murder someone because he thinks his opinion matters most... In a civil society, we are all less safe when ideologues engage in vigilante justice."

It would seem that Shapiro felt the need to say this because, despite the heinous nature of the crime, many have lauded the suspect as a hero. Some have even given the Altoona McDonald's negative reviews online for "snitching" on the alleged shooter's whereabouts. Americans have had frustrations with the health care industry for years, including Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield recently changing

course on a plan to limit anesthesia for patients. Still, murder is not an appropriate response.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 12-10-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 548
- Total Dead: 652
- Total Wounded: 2273
- Shootings Per Day: 1.59
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of December 10: 345

**MIDDLE EAST
SYRIAN DICTATOR
OVERTHROWN**

After 14 years of brutal war and the fall of the dictatorial regime, the people of Syria can seize an historic opportunity to build a stable and peaceful future, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Dec. 8.

As reports continued to emerge from the Syrian capital, Damascus, where opposition forces declared victory overnight on State television, the UN chief said in a statement: The future of Syria is a matter for the Syrians to determine.

There is much work to be done to ensure an orderly political transition to renewed institutions, Mr. Guterres, and noted that his Special Envoy, Geir Pedersen, will be working with all Syrians to this end.

Mr. Pedersen, who has been attending a high-level meeting of Arab States in Doha this weekend, has called for "urgent political talks" in Geneva to secure a peaceful future for Syria.

There was widespread backing for his appeal, he said on Saturday, from Iran, Russia and Türkiye along with the United States, France, Great Britain, Germany and the European Union.

In the meantime, the Secretary-General renewed his call for calm and avoiding violence at this sensitive time, while protecting the rights of all Syrians,

without distinction. He also noted that the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises and personnel must be respected in all cases in accordance with international law.

"We will need the support of the international community to ensure that any political transition is inclusive and comprehensive and that it meets the legitimate aspirations of the people of Syria, in all their diversity," Mr. Guterres said and underscored that: "Syria's sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity must be restored."

The UN, he said, will honor the memory of those who have borne the brunt of the 14-year conflict.

"We remain committed to helping Syrians build a country where reconciliation, justice, freedom, and prosperity are shared realities for all. This is the path to sustainable peace in Syria," concluded the Secretary-General.

The dramatic development in the Syrian capital follows a lightning advance by armed opposition forces, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), on 27 November from their stronghold in the country's northwest into Government-controlled areas, reportedly supported by rebel groups joining from the south.

The UN negotiator also issued an appeal for the new rulers in Damascus to ensure a stable transfer of power and to maintain the country's institutions.

This was the "clear desire" of millions of Syrians, Mr. Pedersen insisted, so that they can ultimately see their "legitimate aspirations" fulfilled "and restore a unified Syria, with its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, in a way that can receive the support and engagement of the entire international community."

Years of fighting between Government troops reinforced foreign State-backed fighters against opposition forces including ISIL extremists - now essentially pushed out of Syria - have devastated Syria, despite repeated calls for peace via several rounds of UN-led negotiations in

(Continued on page 8)

SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New York Red Bulls competed in their second Major League Soccer championship match this past weekend in Carson, California. They were there to attempt to become the lowest seed in the playoffs to ever win it all. Unfortunately, they came up short before a sellout crowd, losing 2-1 to the Los Angeles Galaxy

LA Galaxy got their goals from Joseph Paintsil and Gaston Brugman, with the shots getting goalkeeper Carlos Coronel at 9' and 13'. Sean Nealis scored in the 28th minute for the Red Bulls, but it was not enough. The Galaxy won their six MLS Cup with the victory.

In other sports action, the Seton Hall women's team is 6-2 on the season, with a recent win over Howard University 87-63 at Walsh Gym. Five Lady Pirates reached double figures, with sophomore Savannah Catalon leading with 21 points and six steals. Faith Masonnius add-

ed 16 points, Jada Eads had 14, Ya Ya Lops had 12, and Shailyn Pinkney had 10 points.

On Sunday, the Seton Hall men took part in the Big 12 Big East Challenge, taking a bad loss at home to Oklahoma State 85-76. OSU was led by Robert Jennings with 14 points and 4 rebounds and Brandon Newman who added 13 points.

Leading SHU was Isaiah Coleman with 18 points and Scotty Middleton's 16 points. The Pirates ripped off 50 points in the 2nd half, but still fell short of the victory.

In the NFL, the Jets lost in Miami to the Dolphins 32-26, while the Giants got a FG attempt blocked late to lose at home to the Saints 14-11. Both NY teams are in contention - for the 1st pick in the draft.

Finally, Juan Soto has set a record for the largest contract in MLB history. The now-former Yankee will slide from the Bronx to Queens and join the Mets on a 15-year, \$765 million deal.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Public Notice is hereby given that the East Orange City Council has established the following Meeting Dates for January 2025;

Monday, January 1st

Swearing-In Ceremony Noon
Annual Reorganization

Monday, January 13th

Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

Vernon Pullins, Jr.
City Council Chairman

Monday, January 17th

Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

Cynthia S. Brown
City Clerk



MORE THAN 100 ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSE MARTIN LUTHER KING MARCH



Photos Courtesy P.O.P.



More than 100 organizations have endorsed The Martin Luther King March Of Resistance that will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2025, 12:00 noon, starting at the Martin Luther King Statue, 495 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Newark, New Jersey.

The march is sponsored by the People's Organization For Progress (POP). It has been endorsed by 128 grassroots, civic, community, labor, student, religious, racial and social justice organizations.

"We are having this march to honor the achievements of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement, to recommit ourselves to ideals and objectives for which they stood, and to demonstrate our determination to resist the efforts of the incoming Trump administration to continue to turn back the clock on the past eighty years of racial and social progress," Lawrence Hamm, Chair-

man, People's Organization For Progress stated.

"Two weeks ago we announced that 28 organizations had endorsed the march. Two weeks later one hundred more have joined as endorsers. This is a positive development which shows that many people understand the gravity of the times in which we are living and that they are ready to resist," Hamm said.

"The presidency of Donald Trump demands vigilance and response. This country was built by working people, particularly the slave labor of African Americans. We will not go back to slave labor that produces a minuscule rich class on the backs of the masses living in deprivation," declared Deborah Smith Gregory, President of NAACP Newark whose chapter has endorsed the march.

"Over 100 organizations have endorsed

this March of Resistance because we understand the collective power of organized people," Smith Gregory stated.

"This march on January 18, 2025, will show that we, the activists, civil rights organizations, labor, clergy, community groups, elders, and next generation of leaders are united over core issues and will not idly stand by while hard fought civil and human rights get eliminated. The concerns of working families and the poor must be heard and addressed," Charles Hall, President, Local 108 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union UFCW stated, whose labor group has also endorsed the march.

"As a labor leader, I am confident the march will show the labor movement's alliance with other groups, and that unions are committed to staying the course and lifting people up. We will send a signal to those in

(Continued on page 12)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

Geneva.

Ousted President Bashar al-Assad was granted asylum in Russia.

HAITI EXECUTIONS OVER VODOO

At least 184 people, including 127 elderly men and women, were killed in Haiti's Wharf Jérémie neighborhood of Cité Soleil over the weekend, prompting strong condemnation from Secretary-General António Guterres.

According to local reports, the elderly victims were massacred under the orders of a gang leader in the area who consulted a voodoo priest after his son fell ill and died, who pinned the blame for the mystery illness on elders using witchcraft, often called "voodoo."

"The Secretary-General strongly condemns the continued gang violence and loss of life in Haiti," said UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric, conveying Mr. Guterres's "deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of victims of this horrific act."

The Secretary General also urged Haitian authorities to "conduct a thorough investigation and ensure that perpetrators of these and all the other human rights abuses and violations are brought to justice."

Armed gangs are continuing to terrorize Haiti's capital, forcing thousands more civilians to abandon their homes that has now displaced more than 700,000 people, the UN reported.

"The activities of armed gangs in the capital Port-au-Prince continue to disrupt people's lives, especially the most vulnerable," UN Spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric told reporters at a Briefing in New York.

"The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that between December 6 and 8, more than 4,500 people have

become newly displaced due to ongoing insecurity," Mr. Dujarric said.

Despite security challenges, humanitarian operations continue. "During the first week of December, the World Food Program (WFP) distributed more than 100,000 hot meals to 24,000 people across four displacement sites in the capital," Mr. Dujarric noted.

IOM has delivered water to approximately 14,000 displaced people across six sites, while also providing medical care and mental health support to more than 12,000 people forced from their homes.

In a breakthrough for maternal healthcare in one of Port-au-Prince's most dangerous districts, "the Isaie Jeanty maternity ward, which is located in Cité Soleil, was able to reopen after being closed for nine months due to insecurity," Mr. Dujarric said.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is now supplying the facility with essential medicines and equipment, restoring vital services for expectant mothers in the crisis-hit community.

TCE & PCE (Continued from page 4)

defense systems.

For the use of TCE in manufacturing refrigerants, the longer timeframe supports fighting climate change by complementing efforts to phase down climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons under the bipartisan American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.

All of these uses ultimately will be prohibited, but some of the exemptions associated with longer timeframes are necessary to avoid impacts to national security or critical infrastructure. In addition, some of the timeframes have been adjusted from the proposed rule based on public comment to allow reasonable time for transitioning to alternatives.

Further, to support cleanup activities at sites of past TCE contamination (e.g., Superfund sites), EPA is allowing essential laboratory use and proper disposal of TCE wastewater to continue for 50 years provided worker protections are in place, including the inhalation exposure limit set by today's rule.

Perchloroethylene

PCE is a solvent that is widely used for consumer uses such as brake cleaners and adhesives, in commercial applications such as dry cleaning, and in many industrial settings. Safer alternatives are readily available for the majority of these uses.

EPA is finalizing a 10-year phaseout for the use of PCE in dry cleaning to eliminate the risk to people who work or spend considerable time at dry cleaning facilities. Use of PCE in newly acquired dry-cleaning machines will be prohibited after six months. Compliance dates for machines that are already owned will vary depending on the type of the dry-cleaning machine used, with older types of machines being phased out sooner than newer ones. Many dry cleaners have already begun this transition. This timeline is unchanged from the proposed rule.

EPA's final risk management rule requires companies to rapidly phase down manufacturing, processing and distribution of PCE for all consumer use and many uses at industrial and commercial workplaces, most of which will be fully phased out in less than three years. For most of the uses of PCE that EPA is prohibiting, EPA's analysis found that alternative products with similar costs and efficacy to PCE are reasonably available.

The rule also finalizes stringent, achievable controls for continuing uses under a Workplace Chemical Protection Program. These rules generally occur in highly sophisticated workplaces that may be important to national security, aviation and other critical infrastructure, as well as uses that complement the agency's efforts to combat the climate crisis. These uses in-

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clude:

- Use in the production of other chemicals, including refrigerant chemicals that may complement efforts to phase down climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons under the bipartisan American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.
- Use in petrochemical manufacturing.
- Use in agricultural chemical manufacturing (originally proposed to be prohibited).
- Use for cold cleaning of tanker vessels

(originally proposed to be prohibited).

- Use as maskant for chemical milling.
- Use as a vapor degreasing solvent.
- Use in adhesives and sealants.
- Use in energized electrical cleaning (originally proposed to be prohibited).
- Processing into formulation, mixture or reaction products.
- Import, recycling, disposal, processing by repackaging and domestic manufacturing of PCE.



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 - Public Safety Director Emmanuel Miranda Sr. requests the public help identifying some suspects who robbed a victim at gunpoint on December 3, 2024.

At approximately 8:18 p.m., two Black males brandishing weapons approached the victim from behind in the 400 block of South 9th Street. The first suspect pointed the gun at the victim, demanding that he give up his wallet and cell phone. When he complied, both suspects shoved the victim toward an empty lot before they ran away southbound on 9th Street toward 16th Avenue.

Suspect #1 wore black pants and a ski mask and suspect #2 wore a white checkered jacket, black pants, and a black ski mask.

Director Miranda Sr. urges anyone with information about the suspect's identity to call the Police Division's 24-hour Crime Stopper tip line at 1-877-NWK-TIPS (1-877-695-8477). All anonymous Crime Stopper tips are confidential and could result in a reward.

IRVINGTON - ECPO and Irvington police detectives are investigating the circumstances of an assault that left an East Orange woman fatally stabbed and a Newark man in that city's Essex County Corrections Facility

here early Dec. 1.

The first IPD officers had responded to a 911 call of a woman injured before 121 S. 21st St. at 3 a.m. Sunday. They found an unresponsive woman with multiple stab wounds on the sidewalk of the Olympic Apartments.

Township officers summoned local EMS, who then rushed Shanniya Major, 32 to Newark's University Hospital - where Major died.

Officers soon found a barefoot man near the crime scene which matched a caller's description of the stabber. An investigation of Major and Denzel R. Dozier's second floor apartment found signs of a struggle.

The initial investigation has Dozier stabbing Major while she was asleep. Major tried to flee but Dozier fatally caught up with her outside.

Dozier, 33, is being held on a first degree purposeful murder, a count each unlawful possession of a weapon and possession thereof for an unlawful purpose plus a parole violation.

EAST ORANGE - Authorities said that the search for a missing city woman had ended in a closed Newark Housing Authority building Dec. 4.

ECPO detectives are meanwhile asking for the public's help in tracing the late Rhanasia L. Knight's last steps - from being last seen here along South Clinton Street Dec. 1 to her being found "unconscious and unresponsive" in an NHA Bradley Court Building 66 apartment.

Knight, 30, was last seen alive leaving from 151 South Clinton here at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1. She was headed in the direction of Newark's North Munn and Tremont avenues.

ECPO detective said that they believe that no foul play was involved in Knight's death.

Knight's funeral arrangements are to be announced after the New Jersey Regional Medical Examiner's autopsy.

ORANGE - When the city's building inspector placed a red "Uninhabitable" label on the for-

mer Rossi Paint headquarters at 401-03 Main St., Dec. 5, it added a similar one on 407 Main St. next door - although it was not touched by flames, soot or water from the Dec. 1 fire.

407 Main St., which used to be Ca Sabor Equadoriano until it was bought by the city in 2018, was ravaged by vandals and/or copper pipe salvagers, as it had appeared to "Local Talk" through an open side door (since boarded up) Dec. 3.

401-03 and 407 Main were bought by the city to make way for the Orange REC Center and apartment building at the old YWCA 395 Main. The public-private partnership calls for those buildings and a single-story structure at 12 High St. be replaced with a community fitness center on the first two floors and apartments on the upper four.

When the city put up perimeter fencing around the old Orange YWCA and Rossi buildings in April, they did not do so for the corner property at 407. It had since been subject to occasions of vandalism since the restaurant moved out in 2020.

The building at the northeast corner of High and Main had been a restaurant since at least 1974. It had been one of several places for Guy's Restaurant 1990-2007 before finally settling at 333 Valley Rd., West Orange.

407 Main's first use was as an automobile service station since at least 1922. (Main Street was renumbered from 1918.) William Bonnet, of Orange and Armand J. de Rosset, of East Orange, opened a repair shop in 1922, starting a string of garages and as an Atlantic gas station into 1970. (Atlantic Petroleum, of Philadelphia and Richfield, of Los Angeles, merged as ARCO in 1966 and moved out of the Northeast by 1975.)

Demolition dates for all four buildings have not yet been announced. The Orange REC project has been in the works since 2015.

WEST ORANGE - A township police detective's peeled eye on a shopping plaza's surveil-

lance recordings and some information from his Verona and Cedar Grove colleagues led to the Dec. 2 arrest of a Newark man on several parked car break-ins there.

WOPD Det. Austin Vanderhoof had reported to LA Fitness and The Shops at Essex Green to record reports of several car burglaries and/or attempted burglaries on Nov. 25-26. Although the break-ins happened mainly on the gym's parking lot to the shopping center belt road's south, there were other reports elsewhere on the plaza's lots - and all happened at night.

Det. Vanderhoof turned to the video recordings - where a similar man appeared to be in all burglaries. He asked neighboring departments if the suspect looked familiar; Cedar Grove and Verona detectives confirmed that the same one hit their residents' vehicles.

The detective continued undercover surveillance, interviews and searches until he attained the suspect's positive identification. Hakim Hodges, 28, was arrested Dec. 2 on eight counts of car burglary/theft and two attempted burglaries/thefts from the Essex Green area.

Hodges was remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility Dec. 2 until he had posted bail by Dec. 10. It is not known whether Cedar Grove and Verona had lodged their charges against him as of press time.

SOUTH ORANGE - May 14, 2024 was the last date where village voters had participated in its nonpartisan municipal elections - and will be for at least for the next 10 years.

The Village Council, in a practically unanimous vote Nov. 25, has moved its mayor-council elections onto the November General Election ballot. The move takes effect on Nov. 4, 2025 and is to last until November 2034, where village elders may review whether more village voters had participated in the said elections compared to

(Continued on page 14)

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SIX PERISH IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT

By Walter Elliott & Thomas Ellis II

NEWARK - That the Essex County Prosecutor's Office has not released the identities of the six people who died in a Dec. 6 car crash here under U.S. Route 1-9 have not kept a mother from releasing half of their names.

Natasha McKnight told reporters who attended a Dec. 7 vigil here said that sons Lamar and Darryl McKnight and passenger Brad Cunningham were killed when the car they were in crashed and burned at about 10:45 p.m. Friday. She said that neither son disabled their cell phone GPS tracker - which led her to the wreck off Raymond Boulevard and Blanchard Street which Newark police, fire and EMS were responding to.

An initial investigation had the late model four-door sedan taking the Rt. 1-9 South ramp from Raymond but had somehow left the on-ramp, became airborne and struck a pillar supporting the overhead Pulaski Skyway. The car burst into flames - which is what the first NFD units found.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II, in a Noon Dec. 9 press conference here, said that the identifi-

cation release is pending dental record checks.

Lamar McKnight and Cunningham's deaths caused Hudson Catholic Regional High School Principal Terence Matthews to cancel classes Monday but have staff and counselors on the Jersey City campus available.

L. McKnight, 41, was a first-year head coach of the Hudson Catholic Hawks football squad. He had started a quarterback camp in 2017. Cunningham, a former Rutgers football player, was McKnight's assistant coach.

D. McKnight, 33, was recently hired by the state as a counselor. L & D McKnight were cousins of State Sen. Angela McKnight (D-Jersey City).

The players, students, and friends of the coaches had nothing but nice words to say about Coach Lamar and Coach Brad, and how they helped to shape their lives in so many ways on and off the field.

The loss was extremely hard for Natasha McKnight after losing her two sons in the horrific crash.

"I don't want to know what happens right now. I just have to focus on the fact that I

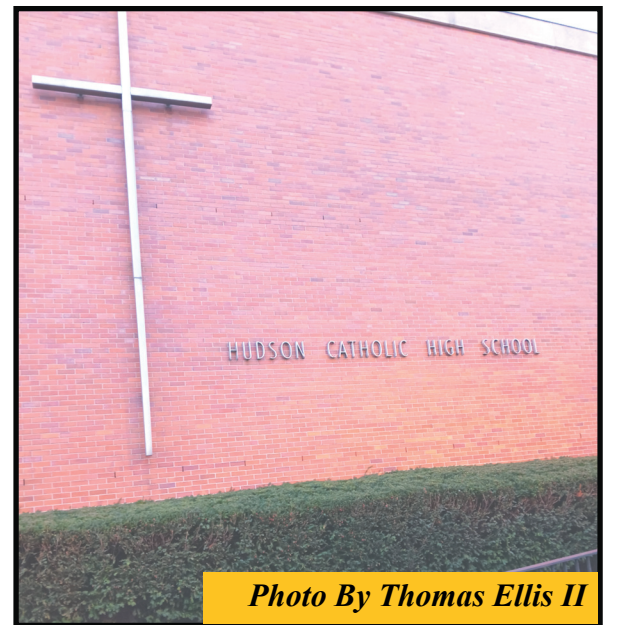


Photo By Thomas Ellis II

have to bury my two boys," said Natasha McKnight.

The cause of the accident has not been determined yet, but this has hit Hudson Catholic hard, along the staff, students, family members, friends and the Jersey City community.

This was a heartbreaking way to start the holidays for so many.

“NICE TRY”

(Cont. from pg. 1)

The precise \$33,813.90 is 77 percent of \$43,813.97 that the NPS Central Office and Forest Lodge had agreed to in their contract. That contract was proposed by the superintendent's office on April 15 and was approved by the Board of Education May 23. The amount just fell under the \$44,000 threshold for a contract to be published for contract bidding.

Some observers, when looking at NPS' budget and its proportion of state aid, may consider the \$33,000 reimbursement a drop in the fiscal budget.

New Jersey's largest public school district has a 2024-25 school budget of about \$1.5 billion. About 83 percent of that budget - \$1.25 billion - comes from various forms of state aid; some from NJDOE and most from a State Legislature appropriation.

NPS and 32 public school districts have been receiving state aid after being deemed neediest as the result of a series of Abbott vs. Burke New Jersey Supreme Court "Thorough and Efficient Education" rulings going back to 1974. (This is why the 33 were first called "Abbott Districts.")

The OFAC Fun Day ruling is part of the state's checks and balances on how the districts spend New Jersey's money.

"It's not a fine," said OFAC Investigations Unit manager Thomas Martin to a reporter Dec. 2. "It's a recovery of funds that, because we deem a violation in state aid, didn't find them. There's a subtle nuance to that - but we don't have a fine component."

"They determined that they felt that the district had not spent the money appropriately in their opinion," said NPS Business Administrator Valerie Wilson at the Nov. 26 board meeting, "and quoted three statutes that they believed we violated."

The NJDOE office said that the district

had violated NJAC statute 6A:23A-5.8(e)2 on fiscal accountability, budgeting and efficiency and NJSA 18A:11-12(a) on travel and field trips.

The NPS administration will tap from the other 13.2 percent of the school budget - and most likely the Newark property taxpayer.

Most of the 13.2 percent includes school taxes that residential, commercial and industrial property owners pay every fiscal quarter.

NPS, said its Public Information Director Paul Brubaker Dec. 3, will not appeal OFAC's recovery request, saying that it is not in the interest of the school board to do so.

"What I want to make clear is that ... we appreciate the team from OFAC, because that they in fact did is provide us guidance on how we actually have a fun day this (2024-25) year," said Leon. "We're actually thankful to them in the process of kind of where we're at right now."

MLK MARCH

(Cont. from pg. 8)

power that we are united and organized. We will not go down the road of hate and division," Hall stated.

"This march is about communities, working families, and those who have the least not losing more ground. It is also about the country our children live in," Hall noted.

"We can see from Trump's nominations for cabinet positions and other offices that this will be an administration for the billionaires. The incoming Trump administration is already planning another round of trillion dollar tax breaks for the rich and draconian budget cuts in social programs and government downsizing that will hurt the poor, working people, and the struggling middle class who make up the majority of Americans. We have no choice but to fight back. Our lives are at stake," Hamm said.

"Although we are glad to have 128 endorsing organizations we are not going to stop there. We are going to continue to seek more endorsements in the days and weeks ahead. Other organizations that wish to endorse should contact POP right away," Hamm said.

The 128 endorsing organizations include: Local 108 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union UFCW AFL-CIO, Salvation and Social Justice, NAACP - New Jersey State Conference,

NAACP New Brunswick Area Chapter, Showing Up for Racial Justice - New Jersey (SURJ-NJ), Newark Branch NAACP, Man Village Men's Support Group, Latino Action Network, Bethany Baptist Church, Good Neighbor Baptist Church, Newark Interfaith Alliance, Make The Road New Jersey, International Black Women's Congress, Justice For Bernard Placide Jr Foundation, Unifying Mothers & Men Initiative, Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee of Elizabeth, New Jersey, 350 NJ-Rockland, Seton Hall University Martin Luther King Scholarship Association, Integrated Justice Alliance, Muslim League of Voters of New Jersey, African-American Commission of Camden, Returning Citizens Support Group, West Orange for Humanity, Bergen County Black Caucus, United Parks As One, Cease Fire Now NJ, The Radical Elders, Irvington NAACP, American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch, PAL-Awda NY/NJ, Go Pro Radio, Occupy Bergen County, Solidarity Singers of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, North New Jersey Democratic Socialists of America, New Jersey Poor People's Campaign, Newark North Jersey Black Churchmen, Not On My Watch, New Jersey National Action Network (NJ NAN), Jumpstart, Wisdom Shapes Minds Community Development Corporation, Community All Unite TV, WSM Associates LLC, CHS Construction Company, RiverSand Development

LLC, Metamorphosis Development Enterprise LLC, CS2 Development LLC, Street To Street Mentorship, Corey Lewis Teague, National Black Political Convention, All Politics Are Local, Lazos America Unida, New Jersey Black Issues Convention, Food and Water Watch, Let's Save Paterson, Metropolitan Baptist Church, University Hospital HPAE local 5089, South Ward Environmental Alliance, Jewish Voice For Peace-Northern NJ, New Jersey Coalition for Justice, Nesbitt Funeral Home, Friends of NJ Legacy Foundation, Mt Teman AME Church, Foremost Productions, Pax Christ NJ, Newark Civilian Complaint Review Board, Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark Anti-Violence Coalition, NJ Communities for Accountable Policing, NJ Alliance for Immigration Justice, African Diaspora for Justice, Elizabeth Vulcans, Urban League of Essex County, National United Youth Council, African American Alliance USA, New Jersey Peace Action, Greater Newark Chapter NAN, Journey To Justice, NAN South Jersey Chapter, Justice for Drew JC, Young Professionals for Justice, Black Lives Matter Paterson, Elombe Brath Coalition, Newark's Impact, American Civil Liberties Union of NJ, Faith In New Jersey, Clean Water Action, NJ ACTION 21, Greater Unity Faith Tabernacle, Holy Renaissance Ministries United Church of God, First Bethel Baptist Church Rev Grady James III & Rev Grady

James IV, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, MAPSO Freedom School, The Phillip Pannell Foundation, UMAA Network: Urban Matters Advocacy & Action, Keur Soutoura, Family of Jesus Crucified Ministry Incorporated, Daughters Friends & Sisters in The Lord for Africa, Miss Africa Tri State Pageant, African Views Organization, Newwave African World, Benloren Nigerian Enterprises, Sterling Funding Inc, Institute for Peace and Leadership USA, Community Safe Zone, Hear My Cries, Inspired By You, Frontiers International Plainfield Area Club, Justice And Unity Campaign, New Jersey Working Families Party, New Jersey Blind Veterans Association, Amazon Labor Union-IBT Local 1, Our Revolution NJ, REFAL, International Action Center, Workers World Party, United National Antiwar Coalition, Resistencia en Accion NJ, Mt. Airy United Fellowship of Philadelphia, Gregory Thomas Foundation, South Ward District Police Association, Heard AME Church, Essex West Hudson Labor Council, Montclair State Adjunct Faculty Union AFT Local 6025, Unity Freedom Baptist Church, Nigerian American Public Affairs Committee New Jersey, NAACP: Oranges & Maplewood Branch, A. Philip Randolph Institute Essex & Union County Chapters, and Build More Unity.

For more information contact the People's Organizations For Progress at (973) 801-0001.

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The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

TOSS IT

As a male friend quickly reminded me, I was getting older too. Using the word old, to be exact. This came up as I lovingly reminisced about my mother, reflecting on the bittersweet reality of our last encounter. This week's draft submission had been dropped in my lap.

Check out the draft below and visit localtalkweekly.com to read the full story in the Entertainment section. Don't forget to follow my [msdialect](#) Instagram and [Andrea Dialect Lab](#) pages. Like, follow, and share!

EXPIRATION DATE

Google this nursery rhyme: The Old Gray Mare

While sitting outside the East Orange library, I spotted an old acquaintance approaching the building. I hadn't seen him in a while, so I called out enthusiastically, "Hey you! Oh my God! I haven't seen you in so long - what's it been, about three years now? Wow! How's everything going? You look good!"

His reply when he got closer making it more personable: "Look at you with all that gray hair! Wow, you're getting old - what's up with that?"

At that point, I lost track of the conversation. My mind immediately went into time travel, reminding me of a moment years ago. I was hanging out at a friend's house after she'd been away most of the summer. It was her first day back, and her mother hadn't seen her "all summer long, mind you!"

Her mother had been at work when she arrived, but when we heard her car pull up, my friend rushed to the door, grinning from ear to ear, excited to see her mom. When her mother opened the door, she looked her daughter up and down and said, "Why you got those ugly shoes on?" At that moment, her mother came across as so...shallow.

Eventually, my thoughts faded back to the present, where Mr. Mister was still chuckling. I replied, "Well, Minister P-" (and yes, I did say Minister!) - it sure is good to see you're still spreading the gospel." Then I added a little FYI:

out ranked choice voting - which would be a first in "Local Talk" land.

The village, after a decade-long effort, had the State Legislature provide the May-to-November move option in the latter's changing South Orange Village's charter last year. That charter change also included replacing "Village President" and "Village Trustees" with mayor and council members. South Orange remains one of New Jersey's six villages.

All Village Council Members, except for the absent Councilwoman Jennifer Greenberg, voted for the election calendar move.

MAPLEWOOD - Township



Photo Courtesy Andrea Dialect

"You see my gray hair because I like it and I want ya to. Had I lived my life trying to gain others' approval, I would've scurried over to the beauty supply store and bought myself a temporary bottle of the fountain of youth. I'm an older woman and have no problem being such. My gray may or may not testify to my age, but that statement speaks volumes about yours."

Then, I tied it up with a verbal bow I'd best not mention. He tried, but he couldn't clean that one up. Amazingly - and sadly, I might add - this wasn't the first time I've dealt with someone badgering me about my age, gray hair, or weight. Usually, the culprits are males. I think they assume these are things all women obsess over. While plenty do, I don't!

What's up with all the demolition squad reps? They say that

Committee member Deborah Engel and her Maplewood Democratic Committee colleagues have been explaining since Nov. 26-27 on why she will not succeed Deborah Adams as mayor on or around Jan. 1.

The five Township Committee members, like in Nutley, select one of their own as mayor during their annual reorganization meeting, which is usually held on or right after Jan. 1. They usually select a mayor in a caucus meeting before public observation ahead of Jan. 1 - which is how Mayor Adams was picked to stay on for a second year.

All five committee members are MDC members - which is where Engel and the party com-

the economy's a mess and jobs are scarce. Yet, those guys always seem to be hiring. I see their uniforms and badges nearly everywhere I go. My gray hair? Funny!

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Some people yank out a tape measure to see if they "measure up." But I don't get caught up in age, the size of their bottoms, the size of their purses, who they with, where they live, what they wear, or what they drive. I'm not threatened by the youth of our youngins, and I certainly ain't sweating over folk calculating numbers. When the time is right, there will be one available for me.

Like I tell those guys who are so kind as to inform a sista about the ratio of men to women: there's no shortage - for me or for anyone else who decides there's no shortage. Besides, there's only one Queen Bee, and I am it. Now, how you like them odds?

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 have any questions, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

mittee have contrasting views.

Engel, on Nov. 26, said she was passed up because she did not sign an endorsement for Cong. Mikie Sherrill (D-Montclair) for Governor that was being passed around - and lost her mayoral support from another TC member.

Sherrill announced her gubernatorial primary run Nov. 18, joining five other Democrats and six Republicans, as of press time, in pursuing space on the June 3i, 2025 party primary ballot. The 11th Congressional District representative is competing against Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, former Montclair mayor Sean Spiller and former State Senate President Steve Sweeney,

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg. 10)

the traditional second Tuesday in May vote.

Ordinance 2024-21, which has the State of New Jersey Legislature and Board of Elections blessings, automatically extends the three council members' terms who are up next year. Bobby Brown, Bill Haskins and Karten Hartshorn Hilton's terms, whose terms were to expire (voters' choices pending) July 1 now expire on Dec. 31.

Village Mayor Sheena Colium said that the village would save "north of \$60K" in not having to hold a May election. Colium, who exclaimed, "I'm excited - it's game time!," considers the shift a step towards trying

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

of Pennsauken.

MDC Chairman Ian Grodman, in a Nov. 27 statement, said that she had talked with Engel after the caucus meeting. Grodman said that "Ms. Engel's comments clearly set forth that her frustration lies not with the MDC but with an individual or individuals on the TC. Engle said that such was the case and she apologized if it appeared that way."

Sherrill, also on Nov. 27, said, "As Deb said, this didn't come from our campaign and it has no place here." Spiller and outgoing Jersey City Mayor and candidate Steve Fulop criticized those caucus members who would make a gubernatorial endorsement a selection condition.

BLOOMFIELD - The ECPO, Bloomfield police and the Paterson Police Department have issued limited information on one of the latter city's finest allegedly exposing himself to a child here before his Dec. 3 arrest.

Authorities said that Angel Acevedo, 31, was identified by the victim as calling out from a green 1997 Honda along Franklin Street, exposing himself and driving away towards Belleville at about 4 p.m. that Monday. BPD officers, using the car's description, spotted him at Watsessing Avenue by Florence Avenue afterwards.

The officer has been charged with disorderly conduct - lewdness and third-degree endangering the welfare of a child by a non-caretaker. His detention status is unclear as of Dec. 8 other than his having a scheduled Dec. 17 first appearance hearing.

PPD said that Acevedo has been suspended without pay for 90 days and may be facing internal administrative discipline. He had joined the force in July 2019.

"Bloomfield Tech HS" Ideas Wanted

Newly sworn-in Mayor Jenny Mundell is asking for ideas on reusing the former Essex County Boys Vocational-Technical High School building - and her listening tour may come near you in early 2025. The township, under Mayor Michael Venezia's administration, bought the building and its five-acre lot for \$10 million in October 2023.

Mundell, on Nov. 19, said that she had Township Attorney Michael Parlevocchio ask Bloomfield Public Schools Superintendent Salvatore Goncalves if he had any ideas for the closed 1930-2018

high school at 209 Franklin Ave. Mundell said she will be scheduling a public town hall meeting early next year. The Essex County Schools of Technology Board of Education, which folded the Bloomfield Tech and Newark's North 13 Tech communities into the new Donald M. Payne, Sr. School of Technology Sept. 1, 2018, had moved Newark Tech's community 2021-23 while the latter's school building was renovated.

MONTCLAIR - Last rites for the late Montclair Public Schools STEM Director, Jennifer E. Goforth, was a Nov. 29 visitation at the Rossi Funeral Home and a Funeral Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, both of Scotch Plains.

Jennifer Elaine Bloch, who was a Scotch Plains resident before recently moving to North Plainfield, died suddenly on Nov. 22 - the same day as her 49th birthday. The Los Angeles native first moved to New Jersey to attain a bachelors of arts degree in mathematics from Rutgers, then to Detroit for a masters in teaching from Mary Grove College and back to the Garden State for a supervisor's certification from Kean University.

Bloch was working at Rutgers as a tutor and a mentor when she met Karlefe Goforth in 2009. They married on March 9, 2017 and settled in Scotch Plains - where they raised Jamir and Jylena Blanding. They were Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners and, later, members of Summit's Fountain Baptist Church.

The family joined Jennifer's battle against Stage Three breast cancer.

Parents Ricardo and Remedios Bloch and brother Jeffrey Bloch are also among her survivors.

BELLEVILLE - Those who drive, ride or walk along two more major roads here are experiencing two more sets of closures here Dec. 2 - 20.

The township had announced on its website Dec. 2 that "a possible road closure" could occur on Belleville Avenue between Washington Avenue and Main Street. This section of the 13-mile Essex County Road No. 506 is along the south side of Belleville's Town Hall and Public Safety Complex.


Although that section of Belleville Avenue is a county road, it is not clear what sort of work was being done - and whether it is weather sensitive.


The Belleville site also listed a "possible closure" of Mill Street Dec. 9-20 from "Franklin Avenue to the Bloomfield line." This section runs on the north side of the Extra Space Storage, Wawa

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This is on top of the continuing NJDOT State Rt. 7 centerlane project that has been going on since Nov. 26 and is to last until Dec. 22. between Rossmore Place and Little Avenue. This is the third phase of a northward utility installation, milling, repaving and streetscaping project that had started between Mill and Academy streets last summer, that is headed north into Nutley.



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