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NEWARK FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE HOUSING COMPLEX BLAZE

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REMEMBERING A PIONEER: MILDRED C. CRUMP (1938-2024)

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - People who knew or were acquainted with Mildred C. Crump, who died here Sunday morning, are examining the threads in her 86-year-long tapestry.

Most breaking news of her passing started with her being the first African American woman to become a Municipal Council member and Council President. Many mentioned her being the first such Braille teacher in New Jersey and in her native Detroit.

"Anyone who knew or was impacted by the heart and mind of Mildred Crump feels deep sadness in her passing today," said Mayor Ras Baraka. "Yet, we cannot deny that our sadness is overshadowed by profound gratitude for how she plied her considerable gifts and talents to make the world a better place. The fact that she was the first

Black woman to attain many stations in life is but a byproduct of her conviction in the righteousness of uplifting others."

"Tammy and I are saddened to learn of the passing of Mildred Crump - a giant, a trailblazer and our dear friend," said Gov. Phil Murphy. "A model public servant, Mildred deftly advocated for the most vulnerable in her community. Her impact was felt around the world, which is why she was called Mother Africa."

"I'm deeply saddened," said Secretary of State Tahesha Way. "Mildred broke down barriers and blazed a trail for countless people, including myself."

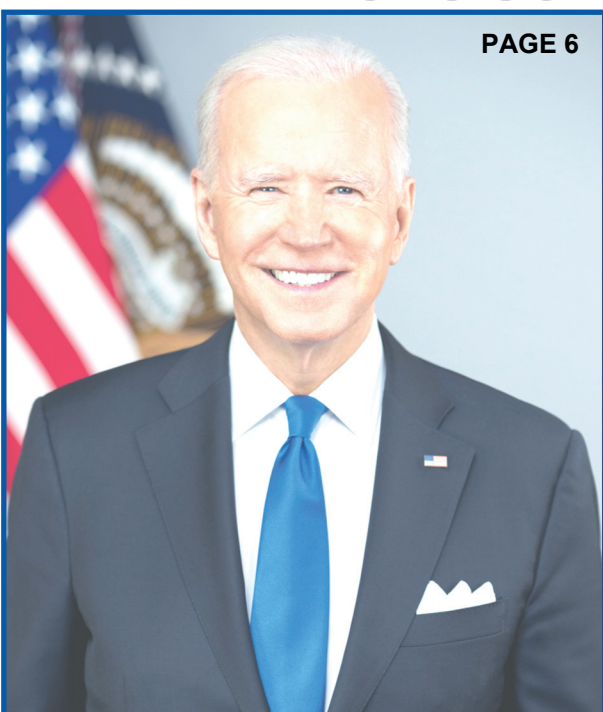
Those considerable accomplishments are the start of the intertwining threads of the

(Continued on page 7)



IS HE A LIAR? ... BIDEN PARDONS SON

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RED BULLS WIN MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE

PAGE 5

Photo Courtesy New York Red Bulls



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Turn
To
**PAGE
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Former Newark Council President and longtime public servant and activist Mildred Crump has died at the age of 86. She had some health issues for quite some time as we heard. She became the first black councilwoman in the city of Newark in 1994 with the support of the community. Later, she became the first black woman to serve as Council President.

She was a founding member of 100 Black Women Inc. She always fought for black women.

A Newark street is named after in recognition of her longtime dedication and work for the city of Newark. The staff of "Local Talk" will pray for her soul and send our condolences to her family, friends and supporters.

President Biden and his press secretary said a couple of times that he would not pardon his son Hunter Biden. However, before his term end in January 2025, he used his authority to pardon his dear son. No father wants his son to go to jail for 15 years. President Biden pardoned Hunter Biden for not only the two main cases on a gun and taxes, but it also covers anything from Jan. 1, 2014 up until Dec. 1, 2024.

Hunter Biden was found

guilty in a court of law. Now, his sentencing will be closed to reality.

South Korea is in chaos right now. President Yoon Suk Yeol initially declared martial law, over fears that people in the opposition party were sympathizing with North Korea right before an election. However, the South Korean Parliament intervened, and Yeol announced he would lift the order. The news drew concern from other countries, including the U.S. and U.K., who urged calm despite the unrest.

We all are listening and dreaming about Tesla cars. However, three college students were killed in a Tesla Cybertruck crash. This happened outside of

Oakland, California. There were four students in the car, but one person was pulled by a person in the vehicle behind them. They were going way above the speed limit as we've heard. It is grave news for the family and friends of those bright young students.

Residents in Morris County, New Jersey have seen drones every night lately. They are curious to know whether it is drones or UFOs. The FBI has now started watching them as well. Everyone wants to know from where these drones have originated. Are these drones spying on us? Let's see what the FBI comes up with.

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>
Wintry mix morning	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Rain	Mostly Cloudy / Rain	Showers
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Progression and Management of Chronic Health Condition: The Role of Obesity

You certainly may have noticed, but there are more overweight people in the United States than there are people of normal weight. It's not even close. According to the CDC, 74% of American adults are over-

weight. In other words, for every ten people you see, expect seven to be overweight. That's... not so good, but it gets worse.

The CDC also states that 42% of Americans are obese. To translate that to raw numbers, that's 142 million obese Americans. For context, obesity is having a BMI over 30, while being overweight is having a BMI over 25. For even more context, BMI means body mass index, and it is widely accepted as the best metric for assessing weight. BMI is calculated by dividing the weight of a person (in kilograms) by the square of their height (in meters). You can save yourself the stress of fighting your phone calculator by using online BMI calculators.

Despite the sheer number of overweight people in the United States today (FYI, around 249 million people), many people are self-conscious about their weight and make plans to hit the gym sometimes. Do they actually follow through with these plans?

Well, that's another story, but there's no debate that a lot of overweight people know they are overweight and should lose weight.

Interestingly, many people don't even know they are overweight. For instance, if you are a 30-year-old woman who is 5'4 and 150 pounds, you have a BMI of 25.7 and are overweight. Honestly, it is not until many start struggling to fit into their clothes and seeing their belly massively protruding that they get the hint that they are overweight. There is no such confusion for obese people.

Using the same 30-year-old, 5'4 woman, she will need a weight of 175.5 pounds to have a BMI over 30 and officially be obese. At this point, it's impossible to miss the excess weight she has put on. Now, this woman may feel even more pressure than normal to hit the gym and work out more, with a lot of that pressure coming from how society views her. However, there are much worse implications to being obese than what society thinks.

According to several scientific studies over the years, obesity is strongly associated with multiple chronic conditions. Note that chronic conditions are conditions that last for three months or longer, requiring ongoing medical attention and often being unresponsive to curative medications. In other words, you will very likely have to manage these conditions for the rest of your life if you have them. Let's consider the link between obesity and chronic conditions, then.

For starters, obesity can lead to insulin resistance (a condition where the body cells no longer respond to the hormone insulin), causing blood sugar levels to skyrocket and stay high. If the sugar levels remain consistently high, the individual can develop type 2 diabetes, a chronic condi-

tion that can cause damage to nerves and blood vessels, heart attacks, stroke, eye problems, and kidney issues. Then, there's a condition known as metabolic syndrome, which comprises a wide range of other conditions like diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and an increased risk of cardiovascular mortality.

Second on our list are cardiovascular diseases. They include coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, hypertension, angina pectoris, and myocardial infarction. The main ways obesity contributes to cardiovascular diseases is by increasing blood pressure and causing an accumulation of fat and cholesterol in the arteries. When fat and cholesterol get too much in the bloodstream, as is the case in obesity, they may form a buildup on the walls of the arteries known as plaque. The plaque can cause arteries to narrow, restricting blood flow, and this plaque may also burst, causing injury to the blood vessels and a subsequent blood clot.

Furthermore, obesity is associated with musculoskeletal problems like arthritis and physical disability. I mean, this makes a lot of sense - if there is too much weight on the bones and joints of the body, it is only a matter of time before these supporting skeletal structures start to weaken and cause mobility issues. The hip and knee are two areas that are particularly affected among people with obesity.

Yet another chronic condition is cancer. The higher a person's BMI, the higher their risk of cancer, as well as a higher risk of dying from cancer. Some of the cancers that have been associated with obesity include throat, colon and rectum, pancreas, kidney, liver, gallbladder, and blood cancers.

Other chronic conditions that have been associated with obesity

(Continued on page 12)

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New York Red Bulls have made it to the MLS Championship Round, thanks to a 1-0 win over Orlando City SC. Defender John Tolkin whipped in a strong pass to Defender Andrea Reyes who scored the only goal in the 47th Minute. Defender Sean Nealis made his 157th Career appearance for the team. The 11-9-14 Red Bulls are the lowest seed at #7 to reach the title round in the Major League Soccer playoffs, where they will face the LA Galaxy.

Head coach Sandro Schwartz is the 12th Coach in MLS history to reach the championship stage in his first season as a head coach. After the game, Schwartz said he was happy for the accomplishment of winning the Eastern Conference finals.

The last time the Red Bulls reached the MLS Cup Final was back in 2008 in a loss to the Columbus Crew. Their journey can end either like the New York Liberty, who won their first title, or like the New York Yankees, who lost to a team from Los Angeles in the Dodgers.

In college basketball, the Seton Hall men's basketball men team is struggling out of

the gate. Despite being at home at the Prudential Center, they lost to Monmouth University for the first time ever, 63-51. Isaiah Coleman led the team with 20 points, while Chaunce Jenkins had 12 points. SHU is now 15-1 all time against Monmouth.

On the women's side, the Lady Pirates were back at home this past Monday night at Walsh Gym and beat San Francisco 59-56. Seton Hall women's basketball is now 6-2 on the season. Sophomore Savannah Catalon had a big 26 points and Shailyn Pinkney added 14.

As for the NJ high school, Cedar Grove lost their bid for a state title to Glassboro 56-14 at MetLife Stadium. By next week's paper, we will see if the Shabazz Bulldogs win the state championship at Rutgers Stadium.

Speaking of Shabazz, they took on rival Weequahic in the annual Soul Bowl, but took a shocking upset 19-14. Leading Weequahic was Paul Jones who rushed for a touchdown and hit junior wide receiver Tyshawn Boyd for a touchdown in the first half of the game. Weequahic got out to a 17-0 in the first half, and held on for the Thanksgiving victory.



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Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



In another annual Thanksgiving game, the East Orange Campus Jaguars mauled their rival Barringer 62-0. East Orange finished their season 10-3.

Finally, in the NFL, the Giants became the first team to be eliminated from postseason contention by way of a 27-20 loss at

the Cowboys on Thanksgiving. As for the Jets, they might as well hang it up after a 26-21 at home to the Seahawks. The highlight of the game saw former Jet lineman Leonard Williams run back an Aaron Rodgers interception 92 yards for a pick-6 TD.



**UNITED STATES
BIDEN PARDONS SON**

After someone says, “No one is above the law,” and replies “No,” when asked if they will do something specific, does it count as a lie if they do the opposite?

On Dec. 1, President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. gave a full and quite extensive Presidential Pardon to his son, Hunter Biden, despite saying he wouldn't.

“Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter,” the President said in a statement. “From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department’s decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted. Without aggravating factors like use in a crime, multiple purchases, or buying a weapon as a straw purchaser, people are almost never brought to trial on felony charges solely for how they filled out a gun form. Those who were late paying their taxes because of serious addictions, but paid them back subsequently with interest and penalties, are typically given non-criminal resolutions. It is clear that Hunter was treated differently.

“The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election. Then, a carefully negotiated plea deal, agreed to by the Department of Justice, unraveled in the court room - with a number of my political opponents in Congress taking credit for bringing political pressure on the process. Had the plea deal held, it would have been a fair, reasonable resolution of Hunter’s cases.

“No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter’s cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son -

and that is wrong. There has been an effort to break Hunter - who has been five and a half years sober, even in the face of unrelenting attacks and selective prosecution. In trying to break Hunter, they’ve tried to break me - and there’s no reason to believe it will stop here. Enough is enough.

“For my entire career I have followed a simple principle: just tell the American people the truth. They’ll be fair-minded. Here’s the truth: I believe in the justice system, but as I have wrestled with this, I also believe raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice - and once I made this decision this weekend, there was no sense in delaying it further. I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision.”

A majority of people did not agree with the President’s decision, suggesting that it was dishonest and could hurt his legacy. While most were not too concerned about the mercy on the gun and tax charges, this section of the pardon raised eyebrows:

“A Full and Unconditional Pardon For those offenses against the United States which he has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2024, including but not limited to all offenses charged or prosecuted (including any that have resulted in convictions) by Special Counsel David C. Weiss in Docket No. 1:23-cr-00061-MN in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware and Docket No. 2:23-CR-00599-MCS-1 in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

One of the biggest detractors was none other than his predecessor - and successor - President-elect Donald Trump.

“Does the Pardon given by Joe to Hunter include the J-6 Hostages, who have now been imprisoned for years? Such an abuse and miscarriage of Justice!”

On the surface, the pardon seems like an escape from any issues. However, if Hunter Biden is subpoenaed to appear before a Congressional panel, he cannot use the Fifth Amendment

(“plead the fifth”) on account of the Amendment only applying when prosecution is possible. That said, with a presidential pardon covering everything from 2014 up to Dec. 1, 2024, he cannot do so, as prosecution is impossible on account of the pardon.

Basically, the legal woes for the Biden family may not only continue, but get worse.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 12-3-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 541
- Total Dead: 643
- Total Wounded: 2248
- Shootings Per Day: 1.60
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of December 3: 338

**WORLD
THE QUEST TO
END HIV / AIDS**

Ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 is within reach, but only if global leaders commit to dismantling barriers to healthcare and upholding human rights, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on World AIDS Day.

Observed annually on December 1, the World AIDS Day serves as a reminder of the global fight against the pandemic while commemorating lives lost and celebrating progress.

“Every 25 seconds, someone in the world is infected with HIV,” Mr. Guterres said.

“One-quarter of people living with HIV - more than nine million people - lack access to lifesaving treatment,” he added.

He called for a rights-based approach to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention and treatment, highlighting the harmful effects of discriminatory laws and practices that stigmatize women, girls, and minorities.

“The fight against AIDS can be won,” Mr. Guterres stressed, “If leaders take a rights-based approach to ensure that everyone - especially the most vulnerable - can get the services they need

without fear.”

“We will overcome AIDS if the rights of everyone, everywhere, are protected. I call on all leaders to heed this year’s theme and take the ‘rights’ path,” he declared.

UNAIDS, the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS, reinforced the call, urging governments to “take the rights path to end AIDS.”

Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS Executive Director, stressed the importance of removing systemic barriers to healthcare.

“To protect everyone’s health, we need to protect everyone’s rights,” she said.

Its World AIDS Day report showed that respecting and protecting human rights can help ensure equitable access to HIV services and prevent new infections.

It also revealed how gaps in realization of human rights, and abuses and violations obstruct the end of the AIDS pandemic.

The UNAIDS report underscores that progress will stall without a human rights-based approach. In 2023, 1.3 million people were newly infected with HIV globally, three times the target of no more than 370,000 annual infections set for 2025.

In addition, 63 countries still criminalize LGBTQ+ people, while widespread gender-based violence and limited educational opportunities for women and girls leave them particularly vulnerable.

Last year, they accounted for 62 percent of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa. Worse still, nine out of ten new infections among 15 to 19-year-olds are among girls, reflecting systemic gender inequalities, according to UNICEF.

The disparity is also evident in access to treatment, including for boys and young men.

While 77 percent of adults living with HIV have access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), only 57 percent of children aged 0 to 14, and 65 percent of adolescents aged 15 to 19 do.

“Children and adolescents are not fully reaping the benefits of scaled up access to treatment and prevention services,” said Anurita Bains, UNICEF Associate Director of HIV/AIDS.

MILDRED CRUMP (Continued from page 1)

often pioneering teacher and council woman's life.

Born Mildred Joyce Coleman in Detroit in 1938, she was the daughter of labor union organizer Edgar Coleman and Mattie Lee Johnson and was educated in the city's public schools. The Wayne State University education major, before graduating, received that school's David D. McKenzie Honor Society Award as "The Most Outstanding Female Student for Leadership and Scholarship."

Coleman, in a 1994 interview, said she had answered an ad in the student newspaper to be a part-time volunteer teacher for a blind man. That experience led her to graduate with a degree in special education - and to become the first African American woman teacher of Braille for the blind in Michigan.

Coleman also met a Danville, Va. native named Cecil Crump. Cecil, who was pursuing dual masters degrees in engineering and linguistic science, was bestowed WSU's Howard A. Donnelly Award for outstanding undergraduate leadership and scholarship.

The Crumps moved to Newark in 1965 - where Mildred became the first employed African American Braille teacher for the State of New Jersey. She became a long-time employee and consultant for the state Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Crump also attained a masters degree in public administration from Rutgers University-Newark.

Crump's advocacy for underserved people, Newark Public Schools, tenants rights and for fair taxation led her to make an independent run for at-large municipal council office in May 1986. Although she qualified for the June 17 runoff election, she placed fifth among the 11-candidate field - behind Donald Tucker, Marie Villani, Ralph Grant and Earl Harris.

That special election - which saw Councilman Sharpe James unseat four-term incumbent Mayor Kenneth Gibson - had Crump come 2,100 votes short but ahead of Anthony Imperiale and then-Ironbound Community Corporation Victor De Luca. De Luca moved to Maplewood, where he became its longtime mayor and current Township Committeeman.

"Mildred Crump was a true Newark hero, always fighting for Newark and its people," De Luca told "Local Talk" Dec. 3. "She supported my at-large race in 1986 and four years later we put together an 'All American Team' of us, Donald Tucker and Luis Quintana. Donald was our only winner that year."

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Crump, in a 1989 special election to fill the late Earl Harris' seat, lost to her son Gary by 13 percent. Crump, as De Luca and some news reports noted, and Quintana were elected for at-large council in 1994. She won her seat in part because of Villani's January resignation over her federal fraud conviction.

"I'll always be grateful for Mildred and her family for their support," added De Luca. "I'm proud to call her my friend and fellow advocate for the people."

Crump, saying that the city and her voters deserved a full-time representative, asked for a year's teaching sabbatical. She gave up her seat in an unsuccessful 1998 mayoral campaign, finishing third to James and Ronald L. Rice.

Crump returned to City Hall as part of the Cory A. Booker team's 2006 sweep. "Local Talk" recalls Crump telling here newly and narrowly-elected colleague Carlos Gonzalez

(Continued on page 8)

GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LEGISLATION MAKING OUTDOOR DINING PERMANENT

TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy has signed S3608/A4866 into law, making outdoor dining permissions permanent for restaurants and certain alcoholic beverage retailers and manufacturers.

The permissions - initially established during the COVID-19 pandemic - were set to expire November 30, 2024, but will now be permanent, offering greater support to the food and beverage industry by facilitating opportunities to expand their licensed premises within designated outdoor space or on public sidewalk.

"Outdoor dining has proven to be an incredibly successful venture over the past four years, benefiting business owners and patrons alike," said Governor Murphy. "I'm proud to continue this popular measure and look forward to seeing our restaurant industry continue to grow."

"I'm pleased that both New Jersey residents and restaurants will be able to continue enjoying this option, which has a positive impact on our downtowns and enhances our communities," said Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin. "I'd like to thank the bill's sponsors as well as Governor Murphy for providing the state's residents with as many choices as possible."

"This permanent change to the state's retail consumption segment of the alcoholic beverage industry is a commonsense approach to changing customer preferences,"

said Kirstin Krueger, Interim Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control. "I'm gratified that the pivot we made in 2020 will remain, allowing our industry to stay resilient and keep thriving."

"During the pandemic, outdoor dining was critical to allowing so many restaurants to stay open, keep employees on the payroll, and continue serving loyal customers. Though the pandemic is long behind us, outdoor dining will remain a staple in downtowns and main streets across the state thanks to the bill signed today by Governor Murphy, helping to revitalize communities by attracting more foot traffic, spurring economic activity, and bolstering small businesses," said Tim Sullivan, CEO of the Economic Development Authority.

The legislation will authorize continued use of fixtures such as tents, canopies, umbrellas, tables, and chairs for outdoor dining, making permanent a law that was signed by the Governor in February of 2021.

Under the new law, the holder of a temporary expansion permit issued by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) may have their temporary permit converted to a permanent permit, which is renewable annually and is issued at the approval of local officials.

The primary sponsors of S3608/A4866 are Senator Paul A. Sarlo, Senator Vincent J. Polistina, Assemblyman Roy Freiman, As-

semblywoman Michelle Drulis, and Assemblywoman Barbara McCann Stamato.

"New Jersey businesses benefited immensely from the innovative measures we adopted during COVID to enable the use of outdoor spaces," said Senator Vincent J. Polistina. "By making the temporary outdoor dining and beverage laws permanent, our local businesses will continue to have the flexibility they need to thrive by maintaining the indoor and outdoor seating arrangements that patrons have come to enjoy. This is a big win for business, residents, and local economies."

"Outdoor dining was a lifeline for restaurants and bars during COVID-19 and is a way to help them thrive in a post-pandemic world while fostering lively-community-centered outdoor spaces," said Assemblyman Roy Freiman. "With the signing of Bill A4866 into law, we create a pathway for these entities to permanently offer outdoor dining, which will benefit patrons, establishment owners, and the economy as a whole."

"This bill is a direct response to what our constituents have told us they want: more flexibility for business owners and more vibrant spaces to enjoy their favorite local businesses," said Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis. "By cutting red tape and expanding these opportunities, we're not just listening -

(Continued on page 12)

MILDRED CRUMP

(Continued from page 7)

that she was relieved to see him make the cut.

A majority of voters re-elected her in 2010 and as part of the Ras Baraka team in 2014 and 18. Her colleagues named her Council President in 2006-10, 2013 and 2020-21 a position that included presiding over sometimes contentious colleagues and public speakers at council meetings.

Along the way, Crump cofounded the New Jersey Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Newark Women's Conference and the Global Women's Leadership Collaborative of New Jersey - the latter focused on sisterhood issues here and in Africa.

Calling herself "a Ghana girl," Crump went on a mission to her family's native land while in office. She and husband were members of WBGO-Jazz 88 FM and herself a proud member of the Delta Sigma Theta public service sorority.

For several years, Crump had her own "Straight Talk with Mildred Crump," public access cable television show. She was a regular player of the American Bridge Association's New York Metropolitan Unit and was an in-demand motivational speaker.

Space does not permit listing other memberships and involvements with other organizations. She was a 2020 inductee of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Hall of Fame.

Crump's faith and family were two of her main threads. She and Cecil raised C. Lawrence "Larry" Crump, Esq. and Sheri E. Crump. They were Bethany Baptist Church members, participating in several ministries.

"Revered as a consensus-builder and impactful leader, Mildred Crump's career spanned more than three decades," said East Orange Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green. "She fought for social justice - including better education tenants' rights and female empowerment. She dedicated herself to opening doors of opportunity for everyone, especially those in greatest need."

Crump, who retired as a Braille teacher in 2003, cited health reasons for immediately resigning from the council on Aug. 24, 2021. Her colleagues appointed Larry Crump, her then chief of staff, to her seat and then Council Vice President/Central Ward Councilwoman LaMonica McIver as Council President. Crump was wheelchair-bound in her last years in public.

Her beloved Cecil, 58, predeceased her in 1993.

"After 31 years, my mother has reunited with the love of her life. She loved what she did - being a public servant for the people," said son Larry. "Some people yelling do need the help, no matter what side of the election you're on, you help - that's what I learned from my mother."

"Early this morning, my mother became a treasured ancestor," said daughter Sheri. "She understood her assignment and lived a life of purpose, rigorous, community, faith and love. To say she'll be missed is like saying water is wet."

"Mildred Crump poured her heart and soul in service to her community of Newark and beyond and her legacy will endure," said East Orange, Essex County and State Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy J. Jones, Jr. "She epitomized the best of the human spirit and is truly among the best humanity has produced. She was a devoted wife to her late husband Cecil and a phenomenal mother to Sheri and Larry."

Although funeral arrangements were not announced as of press time, it is anticipated that Bethany Baptist Church would be Mildred Crump's service venue, like it was for Cecil Crump.

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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 - Although it took the Newark Fire Department nearly 90 minutes to quench a transformer fire here at the Stephen Crane Senior Housing Complex Nov. 23, its repair and recovery has lasted well into the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

"Local Talk had noticed temporary fencing blocking off the northern and western sides of 920 Franklin Ave. as late as 8 a.m. Dec. 2. A Public Service Electric & Gas utility truck was in front of the building and an Optimum cable work van parked in the rear lot with access to the gated back at Noon Nov. 29. The van was parked next to a pair of open utility doors with blackening soot trailing above them and onto two rear second floor apartment unit facades.

The Monday morning and Friday afternoon views contrasted with three PSE&G trucks and a Newark Housing Authority car seen parked in front of the 10-story tower at 2:45 p.m. Nov. 24. There were several bystanders watching the repairs; it was not clear whether the watchers were among the 87 residents from 39 families who were evacuated and offered American Red Cross-arranged temporary housing.

An NHA spokesman said Nov. 27 that most of the affected residents were allowed back in once power was restored, except a few who had the sooted apartment exteriors.

Newark Public Safety Direc-

tor Emanuel Miranda said that the first NFD units responded to the North Newark transformer fire at 5 p.m. that Saturday. Power had been lost on Franklin/North 6th St. addresses Heller Parkway South to Bloomfield Avenue and as far west as North 8th Street by the Belleville border. The area includes two neighboring Crane Senior Citizens' towers.

Miranda said that the fire was brought under control by 6:24 p.m. Eight people took up the local Red Cross' temporary sheltering offer. The fire's cause remains under investigation.

IRVINGTON - The township's zoning board of adjustment officials are preparing to consider a proposal to consolidate four industrial properties in the South Ward at their Dec. 12 live Zoom meeting.

It appears that either Richards Manufacturing or Bradford Holdings are looking to expand the electrical and gas fitting maker's footprint at Lyons Avenue and Coit Street. Bradford has owned 517 Lyons Ave. since 2021 and Richards has been its tenant since 2023.

Richards and/or Bradford, as 212 Coit LLC, wants to add 196, 206 and 212 Coit St. onto 517 Lyons. It would expand the two-story building's 3.62 acres to 5.11 acres. 212 Coit LLC has owned the other three lots and their single story buildings since April 26, 2024. All four lots are within Irvington's industrial zone.

Going by the legal notice published Nov. 26 by 212 Coit's attorney, Lawerance A. Calli, of Kinnelon, all four buildings would be replaced by a three-story warehouse of about 48,300 square feet. 212 Coit is seeking several bulk variances, including the creation of a 50-space parking lot for passenger cars and loading/unloading truck trailers with appropriate landscaping.

212 Coit's proposal details may be spelled out when the zoning board posts its Dec. 12 agenda. That agenda will follow their Dec. 2 meeting and agenda.

EAST ORANGE - Police officers here and in Newark are looking for up to seven suspects

in two stolen vehicles who robbed and shot three young men in this city's Pecks Ridge section on Thanksgiving Day.

City officers responded to a Davis Place woman's call that her 21-year-old son had been shot in the legs. They found the victim at Church Place and North Maple Avenue, a block east of Davis, with a bullet wound going through one leg and into the other.

The victim said he was talking at Church and North Maple with a 20- and a 21- year-old man, his friends, when they noticed a black 2019 Cadillac XTS and a white Volkswagen Jetta driving by with an overall seven hooded occupants aboard.

The two vehicles' occupants, on their second pass by the corner trio, got out - and one of them had a handgun. They robbed all three, including a cell phone and the gun carrier shot the victim before fleeing.

Newark police told their East Orange colleagues that a man was relieved of his 2019 Cadillac XTS by two ski mask-wearing and gun-toting carjackers along their Sylvan Avenue at 2 p.m. The VW Jetta was later identified as used in a felonious armed robbery in New York City.

ORANGE - A fire that heavily damaged the vacant former Rossi Paint and Decorating headquarters here at 403-05 Main St. Dec. 1 may well have hastened the 1876 building's anticipated demise.

The Orange Building Department will receive a demolition order from its owner - the City of Orange - once a standard procedure investigation is conducted by inspectors from the city, Essex County Prosecutor's Office and the State Fire Marshal.

OFD "Deputy Chief Riviera" said that the first city firefighters arrived at the 148-year-old three story brick building at 9:30 p.m. Sunday and found heavy fire and smoke coming from its top floor. Riviera pulled a Signal 11 for mutual aid while firefighters began ventilating the building.

Mutual aid came from Irvington, East Orange, West Orange, South Essex and Belleville units to the scene. Additional on-

scene support came from Orange's police, OEM, Fire Prevention and Department of Public Works; University Hospital EMS, the Belleville Cascade Unit, PSE&G, "NJTransit Rehab" and the Bell and Siren Club.

Buses on NJTransit's 21, 24, 41, 44, 71 and 73 routes were detoured from Main Street from High Street/Scotland Road east to South Essex Street. DPW employees spread salt on the Main Street sidewalk to deter water freezing in the 20-degree cold.

The combined firefighting force had extinguished the blaze on the second floor by 10:07 p.m. and put out fires on the third floor and attic. Part of the perimeter demolition fencing that was put up around the ex-Rossi HQ and 395 Main St. (the 1971-built YWCA of the Oranges) in April were taken down to gain access.

Fire damage was kept to 401 -05 Main and did not spread to 395 Main and 407 Main/12 High St. All three buildings have been vacant since the city's respective April 28, 2016 and March 29, 2019 purchases. The three properties are to be the site of a six-story Orange REC Center (on the first two floors) and apartment building (on the upper floors) that has been in the works since 2015.

A vinyl banner heralding the coming Orange REC Center that went up with the fencing was blown down in October and removed. Rossi Paint moved into the former Sovereign/National Westminster Bank building in 2019 as part of the Orange REC Center land swap agreement.

WEST ORANGE - Relatives of two children and the family matriarch who died from a July 13 Valley Section house fire filed two civil lawsuits Nov. 12, Oct. 24 and Oct. 17 under the New Jersey Product Liability Act - including the estate of the deceased grandmother.

The first cousin of the deceased Grace Drury's late husband - Mary Kate Drury - filed suit in State Superior Court-Newark Nov. 12 against the Wertheimer & Sons cleanup company and its subcontractors

(Continued on page 11)

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TOWN WATCH

(Cont. from pg. 10)

who worked on the Liberty Street house after a January fire there. The suit alleges that the cleaners had failed to install fire detectors and other safety equipment and neglected other safety measures that would make the cleaned up house fit for occupancy.

Drury, 75, and grandsons Adain Thomas Drury, eight, and Anthony Joseph Drury, three died within three days from the July 13 blaze from extensive injuries and smoke inhalation. Responding West Orange police officers and firefighters said they found heavy smoke coming from its kitchen. Township inspectors later noticed that the smoke detectors.

M.K. Drury had earlier filed a \$10 million tort claim on Oct. 17 against township officials for allegedly not conducting timely inspections.

Jennifer Dougherty, mother and executor of sons Adian and AJ's estate, meanwhile filed suit Oct. 24 against Montville-based Wertheimer - and Grace Drury's estate - among other respondents. What makes the Pennsylvania resident's suit against M.K. Drury's is that she asserts that the late Grace

had failed to safely maintain the house.

Township officials and Wertheimer have so far declined comment.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD -

The attorney for three of the victims of a former sexually abusing Columbia High School teacher has filed an appeal of an Appellate Court-Newark's Oct. 8 ruling involving the South Orange-Maplewood School District.

John W. Baldante, Esq, who is a partner of a Haddonfield firm, said that he has filed his appeal to SCONJ on Nov. 20. The three-judge panel had ruled that the two-town public school district was not totally responsible for the CHS language arts and special education teacher's behavior.

The three appellate judges had ruled that neither SOMSD or the Upper Freehold Regional School District were "vicariously liable" - that the employer was responsible for employees' conduct while the teacher was sexually assaulting victims. The appellate panel, who had heard arguments Oct. 12, 2022, had combined the two cases.

Baldante is representing three men who were 14 to 17 years old when their teacher, Nicole Dufault, engaged in sexual activity with them 2013-14. Those instances had

happened in her classroom during school hours and in her car on and off school property. Dufault was arrested at her Nutley address after a video recording of one of her trysts with a victim surfaced.

Dufault is serving a three-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty to three counts of aggravated sexual contact. That suspension included forfeiting her teacher certificate and future public employment plus a lifetime of parole supervision.

The appellate panel, however, does not totally absolve SOMSD of its responsibility. It and Upper Freehold are still legally responsible for supervising its employees.

BLOOMFIELD -

A GoFundMe.com page as of Nov. 29 was 85 percent towards raising funds for a New Jersey Department of Corrections officer who was hurt in a Nov. 6 motorcycle-deer accident here on the Garden State Parkway.

New Jersey State Police PIO Sgt. Charles Marchan said from the agency's West Trenton headquarters that Senior CPO Joel Hernandez was riding his way home north on the GSP when he struck a deer by Milepost 150.7 that Wednesday.

(Continued on page 14)

UNION CITY BEATS PASSAIC IN TITLE GAME



*Written By Thomas Ellis II
Photo By Brandon Montenegro*

This past Sunday December 1, the 11-0 Union City Chiefs played the 8 -3 Passaic Chiefs at Caven Point Field in Jersey City, New Jersey for the Championship.

The Union City Chiefs won the game 30-6. Hats off to all the players and coaches for a successful and winning season.

Youth sports are a great way to mentor, inspire, motivate, and instill discipline and teamwork to young players. The coaching and lessons learned with be with the children for a lifetime.

Nothing makes team sports more exciting for the kids then playing in a championship game, giving it all they got, and coming away with the trophy.

Congratulations to the Union City Chiefs.

OUTDOOR DINING

(Cont. from pg. 8)

we're delivering, and I am proud to have gotten this done for the residents and restaurant owners in our district."

"Governor Murphy's action on this bill is a welcome initiative that recognizes the transformative role outdoor dining plays in our downtowns," said Natalie Pineiro, Executive Director of Downtown New Jersey. "Outdoor dining enhances the vibrancy of our communities, driving foot traffic, supporting small businesses, and contributing to the growth of local

economies. This bill will ensure that downtowns across the state remain hubs of activity and innovation, benefiting both businesses and residents alike."

"Governor Murphy's decision to make expanded outdoor dining permanent builds on an initiative introduced during COVID-19, a period of immense challenge for businesses. What started as a lifeline for restaurants during COVID-19 has become a lasting solution that supports small businesses, enriches the dining experience and fosters stronger community connections," said Carlos Medina, President and CEO of the Statewide

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Cont. from pg. 4)

ty include gallbladder disease, acute pancreatitis, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, obstructive sleep apnea (upper airway obstruction during sleep), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and, of course, depression (because why not!).

At this point, it should be crystal clear that obesity will always be associated with different health conditions and a much higher risk of death. Therefore, losing weight must be the primary focus of obese individuals. Note also that any weight loss plan must include dietary changes and increased physical activity - with emphasis on the "must." Speak to your healthcare provider if you need more help losing weight.

As always, stay safe.

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 prac-

tice, 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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Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (SHCCNJ). "This policy represents a critical step in ensuring the resilience and growth of Latino-owned restaurants, which is vital to the small business ecosystem in New Jersey and the SHCCNJ community. It's a pro-business, pro-community model of how innovative policies can transform adversity into enduring opportunities."

"Since the COVID pandemic, New Jersey craft breweries have found outdoor seating options extremely popular among our customers. In an industry where it is paramount to provide

its loyal patrons the hospitality experiences they desire, making outdoor seating areas a permanent option fits into this goal," said Scott Wells, Director of Sales at Bolero Snort Brewing Company in Carlstadt and Board Member of the Brewers Guild of New Jersey. "Not only do these areas provide extra space to enjoy award-winning beers at their local brewery, but they give our partners in the restaurant and bar industry critical opportunities to serve their customers in safe, welcoming outdoor settings statewide."

WORLD NEWS (Cont. from page 6)

EUROPE
ILLEGAL STREAMER SHUT DOWN

Authorities have struck a blow at illegal streaming networks, by shutting down one of the world's largest illegal service. Eurojust and Europol supported the operation, which involved cooperation between Italian, Croatian, Dutch, Romanian, Swedish, Swiss and UK authorities. In a large-scale operation, over 100 searches were carried out against 102 suspects. Eleven suspects are arrested in Croatia.

The suspects illegally distributed material from streaming services online, including films and series. They also pirated more than 2,500 television channels such as sports channels. The illegal service served more than 22 million users worldwide. They were able to make over EUR 250 million in illegal profits per month. The economic damages to the copyright holders of the material is estimated at EUR 10 billion.

To evade authorities, the suspects allegedly used encrypted messaging services to communicate and false identities to register phone numbers, credit cards, server rentals and television subscriptions. On November 26, during an international operation, the servers hosting the illegal streaming were seized and shut down, disrupting the services.

Collaboration between authorities was set up at Eurojust to take down the streaming service. Coordination meetings at Eurojust's headquarters allowed authorities from Italy, Croatia, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom to work together on the investigation and plan the operation to shut down the service and arrest the suspects. Europol supported the operation by deploying experts and analyzing the available intelligence during the investigation phase.

The cooperation between the authorities culminated in a joint operation to take down the services on November 26. During searches in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Romania, Croatia, the United Kingdom and China, over EUR 1.6 million in cryptocurrency and EUR 40,000 in cash was seized. Croatian police arrested 11 suspects.

The authorities involved in the actions were:

- Italy: Public Prosecution Office Catania
- Croatia: The Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime
- Netherlands: Fiscal Information and Investigation Service; Public Prosecution Service Rotterdam
- Romania: Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism; Direction for Fighting Organized Crime - Cyber Crime Fighting Service
- Sweden: National unit against organized crime at the Swedish Prosecution Authority; Swedish Police Authority
- Switzerland: Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland; Federal Office of Police

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MIDDLE EAST
HARD TIMES IN SYRIA

The ongoing escalation of violence in northwest Syria linked to the wider conflict in Gaza and Lebanon has left civilians dead and injured, hospitals “overwhelmed” with healthcare attacks on the rise, the UN warned on Dec. 3.

Renewed fighting last week led by the terrorist group Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and other armed factions has engulfed parts of Aleppo, Idlib and Hama, destabilizing frontlines that had remained unchanged since 2020.

UN human rights office (OHCHR) spokesperson Jeremy Laurence told reporters in Geneva of “a number of extremely concerning incidents resulting in multiple civilian casualties, including a high number of women and children, stemming from attacks by both HTS and by pro-Government forces.”

“The hostilities are resulting in destruction and damage to civilian objects, including health facilities, buildings hosting institutions dedicated to education, and food markets,” he added.

OHCHR has already begun the process of verifying deadly attacks impacting civilians including the deaths of four civilian men on 29 November, “reportedly as a result of multiple ground-based strikes by HTS” hitting an area hosting Aleppo university’s student dorms, the OHCHR spokesperson said.

“According to information gathered by our Office, all victims were students of the university and, following that, many other students fled the university complex,” he

added.

Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), stressed that the situation in the area is “fluid and constantly changing”. While OCHA runs “very solid” coordination mechanisms within Syria and across the border with the humanitarian hub in Gaziantep, Türkiye, it has been forced to put its operation on hold “because of the insecurity,” as active fighting is ongoing and many roads are closed.

OHCHR spokesperson Mr. Laurence also highlighted an incident on Dec. 1 in which 22 civilians were killed, including three women and seven children, and at least 40 others were injured, “reportedly as a result of multiple airstrikes by pro-Government forces in Idlib” which hit a local market and five residential areas in the city.

“We remind all parties of their obligations and responsibilities under international human rights law and humanitarian law: civilians and civilian infrastructure must be protected,” he stressed.

Echoing this call, the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria warned in a statement on Tuesday that “the brutality of past years must not be repeated, or Syria will be driven onto a new trajectory of atrocities.”

Turning to the dire health situation in the northwestern regions, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Syria, Christina Bethke, said that referral hospitals, to which scores of patients are being evacuated from Aleppo by “brave first responders” such as the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, are “overwhelmed” with trauma cases.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

READING IS FOR GROWN FOLK

Parental discretion is advised. Check out the short 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!

THREE THE HARD WAY!

I returned home pretty late last night. I had my three assistants in the car, and it was already around 10:45 p.m., which is pretty unusual. I pull in the drive and head around back to park the car. We had just returned from a photo shoot, so we

had plenty to carry into the house: lights, props, wardrobe, and etc.

Grannyson notices someone sitting "way up on a house, way up high," he says. I made a quick scan and spotted that person on the fire escape of the house next door. As we prepared to get out of the car, I gave the kids the usual move fast, get your stuff, and let's go speech. So the door flings open, and I'm off, headed around the rear of the car to gather things from the trunk. The kids file out.

"Excuse me, miss!" says a voice echoing out. "I can't get in the house. Can you give me \$10.00 so that I can go to my mother's house?" And she repeats, "Excuse me, miss, can you give me \$10.00 so that I can go to my mother's house?"

I look towards her and reply, "Oh, I'm sorry, but I don't have anything on me." By this time, she's on the second level, coming down the fire escape of that three-level house. As she's talking, I'm distributing props, lights, backpacks, and etc. to my assistants. I'm moving fast, but obviously not fast enough because now she's no longer on the fire escape of the three-story house. She's standing at the gate, which is next to the car, which is next to the gate that separates my yard from that yard. Then she repeats..."Excuse me, miss. I can't get in the house. Can you give me \$10.00 so that I can go to my mother's house?"



Photo Courtesy Andrea Dialect

I give her the once, then twice, and three times over. Noticeably, there's a few things going on with her. I apologize for not having the funds available that she needed and continue to do my thing. Yet, once again, she begins her singsong. At this point, I am ignoring her words but never her presence. And guess what? I hear a little voice that says, "I think I got a couple dollars."

My head spins around faster than that little girl's head in *The Exorcist*. I look over - noticeably, this little voice is the voice of my assistant called Grannyson. I give him the look. I signal, motioning that he come to me.

Our unwelcome visitor moves closer to the gate to make more of an impact with her plea. But wait, get this - you wouldn't

believe what happens next. Those three little assistants that I've been talking about? Let's just say that they let curiosity get the best of them. And with their mouths open wide, they bypass me and move to the opposite side of the car at my right, which is now close enough for them to hear Sista Girl's public announcement in a whisper. At any given moment, if she wanted to, she could make this up close and personal.

So, I amp it up. In a voice similar to the voice of the little girl in *The Exorcist*, as overtaken by the force, I strongly suggest that they, "Get over here now!" They sense in my voice that they are in the danger zone. Soon after, I hear the intro of a song sung. My head spins, and I look over at the woman faster than the little girl's head turns in the movie. She senses that she is in the danger zone. She now understands that I am sorry and I don't have anything on me. She drops her head and walks away...

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

(Cont. from pg. 11)

That mile marker would place the collision between Parkway's northbound on-ramp from westbound Belleville Avenue and across from the Essex toll barriers on the Parkway's southbound lanes. The crash time was not reported, nor any related delays. The deer was supposedly killed.

Hernandez, 54, has since had several surgeries to reset broken bones and stop internal bleeding. His recovery period is estimated at three months.

Hernandez has been with the NJDOC since 2016 and, as of Nov. 5, was assigned to Woodbridge's Adult Treatment and Diagnostic Center. He is also a

member of the department's honor guard.

GoFundMe.com page organizers said that Hernandez is his family's sole breadwinner. That family includes caring for his bedridden mother.

Hernandez, 54, has since had several surgeries at a local hospital for broken bones and internal injuries.

MONTCLAIR - The Township Council and Interim Attorney Baul Burr held an executive session Nov. 26 over the status of Chief Financial Officer Padmaja Rao's employment status - without accepting her request to have the session held in public view.

Rao, along with three other township employees, here hand-

ed Rice notices by Burr. The notice informed the foursome that their employment's future were to be discussed in the council's closed door segment and that she had the can request having the hearing held in public.

Rice notices are named after the 1978 Regina Rice vs. Union County Regional High School District case. Rice, 78, retired from the district before 1997 and died in her native Lancaster, Pa. March 17, 2018. The district was dissolved June 30, 1997, returning its four high schools to their respective Berkeley Heights, Clark, Kenilworth and Springfield home districts.

Burr told Rao and her supporters at the Montclair Council Chamber that she will not get her requested open meeting. A

majority of council members also wanted Rao's hearing in the open - but only for her matter.

The interim attorney said that the complaint or complaints against her are intertwined with the three others and would violate the state's Open Public Meetings Act. All four would have to request a Rice notice hearing to be open; the other three's request status was not known.

Council then entered executive session with Interim Manager Michael Lapolla but not Burr. An attorney hired from outside represented the township behind closed doors. It is Lapolla and not the mayor or council who has the power to retain or fire Rao. What the complaints

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

against all four employees are have not been disclosed as of press time.

The township and Rao had agreed in May to a \$1.25 million settlement of her harassment and intimidation suit against certain Montclair officials. The tenured 10-year employee had notified administrators and elders of their not qualifying for a public health insurance benefits plan in 2021, starting a chain of events which led to the firing of then-manager Timothy Stafford last year. None of the current council were on the dais when Rao blew the whistle.

GLEN RIDGE - The Borough has launched its annual Roslyn Bolcato Toys for Tots Drive - now in memory of its founder - here Nov. 26.

"Roslyn and Anthony Bolcato began a tradition by donating to a local Toys for Tots drive; they never imagined that their generosity and drive would span a lifetime and then some," declared the borough on its Facebook page. "With your help we can make this the biggest collection year yet in memory of former Glen Ridge employee Roslyn."

Roslyn Marie Bolcato, 83 - a 23-year municipal employee and, with husband Anthony, a 58-year borough resident - died Oct. 20. Born Roslyn Marie Fieramoscia in Newark Dec. 4, 1936, her family moved to 163 North 16th St in East Orange. The Essex County Girls Vocational High School Class of 1954 graduate used her beautician skills at several Bloomfield hairdressers before starting her borough career in October 1989 at age 59; she eventually retired as administrative assistant to then-Police Chief Sheila Byron-Lagattuta.

Fieramoscia met and married World War Two U.S. Navy veteran and Belleville Anthony Bolsca in February 1961 and moved into the borough's South End to raise Rosanne Bolcato-Reddie. It was during their first Christmas there that they started donating to the USMC-run Toys for Tots.

Granddaughter Alyssa Lyn Cammarato Reddin is also among her survivors. Husband Anthony, 77 - who ran Tony's Deli at 33 Carteret St in Bloomfield's Watsessing section with her 1977-89, died Nov. 10, 2002. Brothers Gabriel Anthony and Ettore Victor Fieramosco and sister Lucille Ann Cammarato also predeceased her.

Roslyn, after an Oct. 25 Funeral Mass at East Orange's Holy Name of Jesus Church, was buried alongside Anthony at Bloomfield's Glendale Cemetery. Memorial toys should go to her same-name Toys for Tots drive.

New and unwrapped toys may dropped off at the Glen Ridge Municipal Building, 825 Bloomfield Ave., or the Glen Ridge Public Library, 240 Ridge-wood Ave., on or by Dec. 18.

BELLEVILLE - The Township Council, after mulling a proposed land swap for 202 and 213-15 Belleville Ave., adopted the developer's proposal at their Nov. 26 meeting.

202 Belleville LLC owns the long-closed Wet Gentlemen's Club at 213-15 Belleville and its across the street vacant parking lot at 202 Belleville. The prospective redeveloper wants to replace the single story former go-go bar and restaurant a four-story apartment building - and offer the parking lot to the township as a public municipal lot.

The council - after listening to Second Ward Councilman Vincent Cozzareli's motion to adopt Resolution 32-24 and Fourth Ward Councilwoman Diana Guardabasco's seconding - unanimously adopted the measure that Wednesday night.

It is not clear on whether 202 Belleville LLC is an offshoot or successor to Meekasa, of Maplewood. Meekasa bought the properties in 2023 - the same year the Belleville Planning Board had considered designating the lots as An Area In Need of Redevelopment.

Wet, which was last open Feb. 22, 2022, and predecessor Red Shingle Go-Go bar, had several visits by Belleville police. Two Elizabeth men were arrested in 2015 for a murder of a Newar man in the parking lot, with one of them pleading guilty in 2016 and is serving a 20-year state prison sentence.

NUTLEY - The Township Committee intends to hold a demonstration of Nutley's new garbage collection system here at their Town Hall chambers 7 p.m. Dec. 12 although the system's new carts began appearing here on Dec. 2.

Those 95 gal. carts, each with a 300 lbs. of "standard household waste" capacity, will be delivered to residents now through Jan. 2 - when the new system starts. Each cart can hold three times the volume of the outgoing garbage cans. The carts, which are township-owned, have wheels and a sealed lid.


Owners of two-, three- and four-family houses will also receive vegetation carts for designated yard waste, including: tree limbs and branches, grass clippings, residential leaves, shrubs, straw, bushes, plants and sod.


Nutley Mayor John V. Kelley IV said that the new carts that his committee colleagues had approved Oct. 24 will be more efficient and cost-effective. Savings

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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LOCAL TALK

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of the outgoing system will save the township "hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Cart users will roll them out to the curb to the designated automatic pickup calendar. Extra carts are available on lease. Dec. 12 and the previous Nov. 21 demonstration are and will be recorded for viewing on Nutley's website and Facebook pages and YouTube channel.

The municipal website has links for the system, on recycling and the cart manufacturer.



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