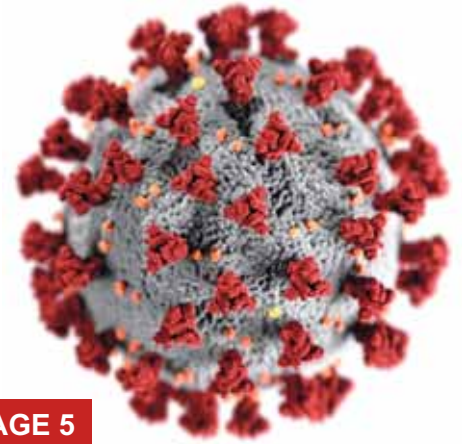


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TWO COMPANIES ON "FAST TRACK" FOR COVID-19 VACCINE

*If Approved, Vaccine Can Be
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PAGE 5

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NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER HEALTHCARE HEROES "SAY YES TO THE DRESS"

Darrell K. Terry, Sr., President and CEO of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey poses with the "Brides to Be" and their new gowns. Photos Courtesy NBIMC



*Employees Win Kleinfeld's Bridal Wedding Gowns,
Thanks to a Special Donation*

On July 8, eight Newark Beth Israel Medical Center nurses, pharmacists and social workers gathered in the hospital's lobby to choose a Kleinfeld's Bridal wedding dress and make their wedding day dreams come true.

The Front Line Appreciation Group (FLAG) of South Orange and Maplewood, New Jersey donated the 18 sample dresses from Kleinfeld's Bridal - the premiere bridal boutique featured on the show "Say Yes to the Dress" - to the hospital. It is one of many

(Continued on page 12)

GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS ORDER MANDATING FACE COVERINGS



TRENTON - On July 8, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 163, which requires individuals to wear face coverings in outdoor public spaces when it is not practicable to socially distance and keep a six-foot distance from others, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners, except where doing so would inhibit that individual's health, where the individual is under two years of age, or in situations where individuals cannot feasibly wear a face covering, such as when eating or drinking at outdoor dining areas.

(Continued on page 5)



PAGE 6

CATHOLIC CHURCH GETS BILLIONS



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Turn to
PAGE 16



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and many Black leaders. Abraham Lincoln saved the union and abolished slavery, but did not immediately improve the lives of Black people. However, Lincoln deserves some credit, as his intentions were sound.

Ending slavery was a start, and the struggle of many black leaders has slowly and gradually changed minds. However, the mindset for many centuries has not changed fully yet, as many white supremacists still think of Black people as slaves or inferior. I think all humans are the same: equal. With the Washington Redskins changing their name, it is just another towards progress, as the protests are growing and now, other minorities and even white people are joining the protests. Why not to abolish racism? But it's not as easy as one speaks.

Minorities and white people should make sure that all the protests are nonviolent. All groups should treat each another as equals. Forget about the past, as long as the present equality is

in existence. If anyone breaks the rule, they must be punished hard. We all should not allow any police brutality. If they have been trained that way, then we should change the system of training. Nepotism is also a big problem. When someone breaks the rule, the other family members and friends will protect them.

Also, as I have mentioned a few times before, police department have some problems, but the worst is the police internal affairs division. They do not prepare a tough report, as long as the person who has broken the rules is with their group or union. So, as I have suggested before, the internal affairs division should be from another county for one year, and they will be replaced after that year by another county.

Another problem with police is the last three years' salary towards retirement. By flattering the mayor and the police director or police chief, they get overtime hours for the last three years of their service. The calculation for

the retirement should be average overtime hours allowed for their working tenure. So rather than buttering up the bosses, they can work for the community.

There should also be a community point system. Those officers who receive good reviews from the community should get some points. Community points should decide their raises and their promotions.

Last week, the Supreme Court ruled that the President was not immune from a state grand jury investigation. It is a victory for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus "Cy" Vance. Now he will prepare a subpoena for Trump's tax records. However, there will be appeals and the outcome of the case will be delayed by a couple of months. It is critical to get the records at least a month before the November election, so the voters can make a decision by knowing the facts.

Joe Biden is not coming out in public. Many people are skeptical about his ability to serve the country. I have heard many

(Continued on page 15)

Hello Readers,

Why? What? When? All of these start with W. White also starts with W. However, when it comes to white people who talk about Black Lives Matter, the majority of them never said a word in favor of the movement. When Lisa Durden went on Fox News to talk about Black Lives Matter, she lost her job at Essex County College. Even though Black Lives Matter started 7 years ago, it did not truly reach everyone's minds until the death of George Floyd.

There was a racial injustice 800 years ago in the UK and over 250 years ago in the US. In those days, it was a part of everyone's life. Years later, several movements were led by Martin Luther

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- Publisher & Editor-in-chief : Dhiren Shah
- Editors : Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah
- Journalists / Writers : Kristopher Seals | Walter Elliott | Bro. Thomas Ellis | Dhiren Shah | William Hathaway Jr.
Dr. Daniel Louis | Ahmed Screven, Esq. | Anuj Shah | Lev Zilbermints | Kinjal Shah | Asha Shah | Akshat Shah, MD | Ivy Mahabir | Kalindi Bhatt | Dr. Robert Kennedy
- Photographers : Dhiren Shah | Kristopher Seals | Thomas Ellis II | D. Adams, Jr.
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HI 79 LO 68	HI 82 LO 72	HI 92 LO 74	HI 95 LO 78	HI 95 LO 75	HI 87 LO 74	HI 92 LO 75

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STOP THE VIOLENCE VS. STOP THE KILLING SOFTBALL GAME



Photos Courtesy Thomas Ellis II

By Local Talk Staff

On July 4th, the Enough Is Enough Coalition, Ivy Hill Little League, Local Talk, and UVSO held its 8th Annual Stop the Violence Softball Game in Ivy Hill Park.

The game was an overwhelming success this year, as in years past the two team playing was Stop the Killing vs. Stop the Violence. Stop the Violence won 16 to 5.

This year, several Newark Police Department officers from the 6th Precinct joined in the event, along with their Captain Douglas. It was a great day to play the game, as the weather was nice, and there was even a

cookout after the game for the players, families and community members who have lost a loved on to guns and violence. The Stop the Violence game has been organized by Minister Ellis, President/ Founder of the Enough Is Enough Coalition as a way to get the message out

about "Stop the Killing, Stop the Violence," and no matter which team wins, the message is clear.

Over the past few months, and since the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic, crime and violence, shootings and murders have risen in many cities, with Newark being one of them. Just in the past few weeks, Newark has



seen several murders with numerous shootings. So, there is a great need to spread the message, because the violence and murders are hurting families, businesses, and communities in a big way.

It has always been said that one of the solutions to guns and violence is people acting, people getting involved, people joining in together to make their community safer, and that's what the Stop the Violence Softball game does. It brings people together for one common cause, and that's prevention, education, and

raising the level of awareness of the dangers of guns and violence. That's what Enough Is Enough Coalition has been about and doing since it was founded in Atlanta, Georgia in 1993.

Supporting the efforts this year were Ivy Hill Little League, Local Talk



Newspaper, UVSO, IYO, Ivy Hill Neighborhood Association, NPD 6th Precinct, Ivy Hill Apartments, City Supermarket, and Ivy Hill Liquors. Each one of these businesses or organizations donated food for the cookout, refreshments, ice, or whatever was needed to make the softball game an overwhelming success.

The NPD officers and players had so much fun that they are setting up another Stop the Violence vs. Stop the Killing softball game soon.

TOWN WATCH

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 - City and Essex County authorities have been asking the public, since July 9, if they have seen Fatim Wiingate or know his whereabouts.

Wingate, said Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose, is wanted for questioning regarding the May 30 shooting of three men and a woman here at Willoughby Street and Forest Place.

Police who first responded to that South Ward corner, on calls of a shooting there, 9:10 p.m. found evidence - but no victims. RWJBarnabas' Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and University Hospital officials later called field investigators that two victims each had meanwhile arrived at their emergency wards.

Ambrose had not said how Wingate is connected to the shooting. All four victims were treated and released.

IRVINGTON - Garden State Parkway motorists were taking to local streets here for 65 minutes to avoid a three-car crash that injured at least one driver and closed all northern lanes here early July 13.

State Police Troopers said they arrived in the area of Exit 144-North, Milepost 145.9, at 3:58 a.m. Monday - three minutes after being notified. They found themselves having to close all four lanes while extricating occupants of one vehicle. One driver was taken to a local hospital in unknown condition.

When troopers and other first responders reopened all lanes at 5:05 a.m., the traffic backlog had rolled back to Exit 141. Others not stuck in line took the Eastern Parkway and other adjacent streets to get to South Orange

Avenue or Interstate 280.

EAST ORANGE / ORANGE - An East Orange man and former Orange resident, accused of shooting another man in front of Bayonne City Hall and police headquarters in early daylight July 5, has been detained in South Kearny's Hudson County Correctional and Rehabilitation Center since his arrest later that Sunday.

Malachai F. Worsley, 27, said the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, has been charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and being a person not to possess a weapon. Worsley may be further charged with eluding and resisting arrest.

Bayonne police officers, responding to shots fired along Avenue C between 27th and 28th streets, found a Newark man in front of City Hall at about 8:25 a.m. The 24-year-old victim, who was shot twice in his left torso, said a man in another car had pulled up, shot him and sped north on Avenue C.

While Bayonne police and fire personnel treated the victim and took him to the Jersey City Medical Center, BPD detectives got the suspect and his car doing the shooting and fleeing. The victim was a passenger in another car parked by City Hall. The suspect's car was found by Jersey City police in their Greenville section.

A man later identified as Worsley was soon spotted by Bayonne and Jersey City patrols while he was attempting to return to his car at about 2:39 p.m. A four-block foot chase and apprehension ensued.

Worsley, while living in Orange, had pleaded guilty in 2016 to shooting two cars along Jersey City's Rutgers Street on Oct. 4, 2014.

The Newark victim was listed as in stable condition July 5.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Although Frank Sanchez's contract with the South Orange-Maplewood School District's Board of Education reads that he is to start work "no later than Aug. 24," Columbia High School's latest principal has been on the job

since July 6.

Sanchez, a second-generation Cuban-American from Elmwood Park, had been holding ZOOM conferences with CHS's students and teachers throughout July, learning what is needed in the two-town school system's flagship school. That includes how to bridge the district's achievement gap and discipline disparities among the diverse student body, the status of its School Resource Officers and how to re-open CHS in the coronavirus-ushered social distancing era.

Sanchez admits that he found the SOMSD community more diverse than his previous stints at Mountain Lakes and Springfield public schools. He left the Morris County district after 12 years when that board decided not to make him permanent Mountain Lakes High School principal. He started out as a teacher and administrator in nearby Springfield schools in 2006.

"They (CHS' teachers) talked about how diverse the school is and how it is exciting for them (and) for students to have different perspectives," said Sanchez. "It's very rare in public schools."

Students and teachers are at the core of Sanchez's intentions. He wants the CHS student body to have a greater voice in decision making. He wants to hire the best teachers available "who care and to create an environment to celebrate excellence."

Regarding SROs, Sanchez wants to see them become more like mentors and to establish restorative justice. While he said, "there shouldn't be a wall with AP classes," Sanchez believes that tracking students begins at junior high school, prompting him to start talking with the respective Maplewood and South Orange Middle School principals.

"Low expectations for students by faculty is still bigotry," said Sanchez. "We want our faculty . . . to really be our cheerleader and promote that child to take that class that might be a stretch."

MONTCLAIR - What started off as a June 29 dispute between Marion Road neighbors over some backyard work turned into a "Permit Karen" video that has gone viral and been nationally

broadcasted.

"TMZ," aired a cell phone video clip July 1 of "Susan" who was standing on the Upper Montclair residential street, telling neighbors that she had been harassed by her neighbors for two years while calling Montclair police that their neighbors had assaulted her.

Susan's neighbors - Fared Nassor and Norrindi Brown Hayat - were recording and had posted it on their Facebook page. The three-year residents said that they had Susan leave their backyard three times in 30 minutes. They said that she had kept asking if they had permits to install their backyard patio. Two Montclair construction officials were called over - who said the Hayats do not need a permit for such work.

Norrindi Hayat called Susan, "Karen" in the video, triggering the "Permit Karen" label. There are some 1,500 video clips or memes since 2018 showing Caucasian females calling the authorities on usually African Americans who are legally engaged in some activity.

One example surfaced from Central Park May 25, where birdwatcher Christopher Cooper asked Amy Cooper (no known relation) to leash her dog in that area. A. Cooper responded not by leashing her dog, but, on C. Cooper's video, called NYPD that she was being "assaulted by an African American. The video's reaction included A. Cooper losing her job and, briefly, her dog.

MPD sent a patrol car to the block in what they called "a dispute that remains under investigation." Some 40 neighbors held a block rally June 30 in support of the Hayats, who are lawyers. Former Fourth Ward Councilwoman Dr. Renee Baskerville has meanwhile called on the Township Council to increase penalties on false report filings.

BLOOMFIELD - Saturday afternoon business as usual was interrupted for at least a couple of hours July 11 after an SUV crashed into a Town Center storefront here at 1:20 p.m.

A preliminary investigation found that the driver of the silver four-door Toyota had lost control and backed into the front

(Continued on page 13)

TWO COMPANIES ON "FAST TRACK" FOR COVID-19 VACCINE

If Approved, Vaccine Can Be Ready For Mass Production by Year's End

By Local Talk Staff

As the race for a vaccine against COVID-19 continues, two companies have gotten much closer in achieving that goal.

On July 13, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) designated two experimental vaccines as "fast-tracked" from pharmaceutical companies German based BioNTech and American-based Pfizer. Both companies join Moderna on the fast track list, as that company was approved back in May to find a vaccine for COVID-19, which is medically known as Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

"Fast Track" is a process designed to facilitate the development, and expedite the review, of new drugs and vaccines that are intended to treat or prevent serious conditions that have the potential to address an unmet medical need. This designation was granted based on preliminary data from Phase 1/2 studies that are currently ongoing in the United States and Germany as well as animal immunogenicity studies.

The companies released early data from the ongoing U.S. Phase 1/2 study for the product candidate BNT162b1 on July 1, 2020. The manuscript is available on the online preprint server medRxiv and is concurrently undergoing scientific peer-review for potential publication. Early data from the German trial of BNT162b1 are expected to be released in July.

The BNT162 program is evaluating at least four experimental vaccines, each of which represent a unique combination of messenger RNA (mRNA) format and target antigen. BNT162b1 and BNT162b2 are both nucleoside-modified RNAs, formulated in lipid nanoparticles. BNT162b1 encodes an optimized SARS-CoV-2 receptor-binding domain (RBD)

antigen, while BNT162b2 encodes an optimized SARS-CoV-2 full-length spike protein antigen.

"The FDA's decision to grant these two COVID-19 vaccine candidates Fast Track designation signifies an important milestone in the efforts to develop a safe and effective vaccine against SARS-CoV-2," said Peter Honig, Senior Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs, Pfizer. "We look forward to continue working closely with the FDA throughout the clinical development of this program, Project Lightspeed, to evaluate the safety and efficacy of these vaccine candidates."

"We are pleased to have received Fast Track designation from the FDA for two of our vaccine candidates and look forward to working closely with the FDA, along with our partner Pfizer, to expedite the clinical development path forward," said Özlem Türeci, Chief Medical Officer at BioNTech.

The Project Lightspeed vaccine development program is based on BioNTech's proprietary mRNA-based technology platforms and supported by Pfizer's global vaccine development capabilities. The BNT162 vaccine candidates are undergoing clinical studies and are not currently approved for distribution anywhere in the world. Pfizer and BioNTech are committed to developing these novel vaccines with pre-clinical and clinical data at the forefront of all decision-making of both companies.

Subject to regulatory approval, the companies are expecting to start a Phase 2b/3 trial as soon as later this month and are anticipating enrolling up to 30,000 subjects. If the ongoing studies are successful, and the vaccine candidate receives regulatory approval, the companies currently expect to manufacture up to 100 million doses by the end of 2020 and potentially more than 1.2 billion doses by the end of 2021.



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GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS

ORDER MANDATING

FACE COVERINGS

(Continued from page 1)

The Order, which takes effect immediately, also reiterates New Jersey's policy of requiring face coverings in indoor spaces that are accessible to members of the public, such as retail, recreational, and entertainment businesses, areas of government buildings open to the public, and mass transit buses, trains, and stations, again with exceptions for health reasons and children under two.

"As I've said before, we know this virus is a lot less lethal outdoors than indoors, but that does not mean it is not lethal," said Governor Murphy. "The hotspots we're seeing across the nation and certain worrisome transmission trends in New Jersey require us to do more. In the absence of a national strategy on face coverings, we're taking this step to ensure that we can continue on our road back as one New Jersey family."

The Order notes that situations when wearing a face covering would inhibit an individual's health include when an individual is engaging in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities, when in the water, and in other situations where the presence of a mask would pose a risk to the individual's safety.

The Order also notes that for indoor commercial spaces that are not open to members of the public, such as office buildings, those spaces must have policies

that at a minimum, require individuals to wear face coverings when in prolonged proximity to others. The Order also notes that child care centers, other child care facilities, and youth summer camps are not governed by this Order, and those settings continue to be governed by Executive Order No. 149 (2020) and applicable standards issued by the Department of Health.

Furthermore, the Order clarifies that for outdoor dining purposes, outdoor areas shall be defined as open air spaces that either 1) have no roof or cover, or 2) have a fixed roof or temporary or seasonal awning or cover, with at least two open sides that would comprise over 50 percent of the total wall space if the space were fully enclosed.

Lastly, the Order clarifies that practices and competitions for sports defined as "Low Risk" by the Department of Health's "Guidance for Sports Activities" are permitted in both outdoor and indoor settings. No-contact practices for sports defined as "High or Medium Risk" are permitted to resume in outdoor and indoor settings.

Contact practices and competitions for sports defined as "Medium Risk" are permitted to resume in outdoor settings only. Contact practices and competitions for sports defined as "High Risk" remain prohibited in both indoor and outdoor settings.

All sporting activities are subject to the "Guidance for Sports Activities," and such activities must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.



UNITED STATES

Catholic Church Gets Billions in PPP Loans

The next time you go to church, you might want to think twice about putting something in the collection plate.

Multiple reports have claimed that the Roman Catholic Church operating in the U.S. has received "at least" \$1 billion in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, and the number could be in excess of well over \$3 billion.

While the PPP was made to help business navigate the pandemic, churches and other religious organizations netted over 3,000 loans to dip into the near \$660 billion fund. Fifteen of the loans went to the Archdiocese of New York.

What made the churches eligible was a generous move by the Trump Administration, which made them exempt from the 500 employee cap rule on PPP loans.

There is no word if there is any rule banning churches from using PPP loans to pay off settlements because of sex abuse claims or other legal actions.

ASIA

Security Law Draws Concerns

The UN human rights office, OHCHR, has expressed alarm at the arrest of demonstrators in Hong Kong, following China's adoption of a national security law for the Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Spokesperson Rupert Colville told journalists in Geneva on Friday that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was continuing to analyze the new law after it came into force on July 1, regarding its compliance with international human rights obligations.

"I think several hundred people have been arrested since protests began ... I think the last I heard, we understood 10 of those people have been charged under the new law, but I don't have more details at this point on the nature of the charges at this point and so on."

He added that colleagues are "very much actively counting, trying to get those kinds of details and we'll see what kind of concerns we have about individual cases."

Mr. Colville pointed to "vague and overly broad" definitions of some offences in the new law that had been adopted by China's National People's Congress.

"This may lead to discriminatory or arbitrary interpretation and enforcement of the law, which could undermine human rights protection," he explained.

Reiterating concerns about restrictions on freedom of expression highlighted by High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, the OHCHR official insisted that such laws "should never be used to criminalize conduct and expression that is protected under international human rights law."

The "one country, two systems" governance framework that was introduced at the end of British rule also risked being undermined, the experts insisted, enabling the Chinese Government to establish "agencies" in Hong Kong "when needed."

Provisions governing the offence of "collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security" contained in article 29 of the new law were also concerning, the OHCHR spokesperson added.

"This may lead to a restriction of civic space and of the possibility for civil society actors to exercise their right to participate in public affairs," he said.

"These provisions could also lead to criminalizing human rights defenders and activists for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly."

AFRICA

Crooks Infiltrating Industry

A new INTERPOL report has found the billion dollar mobile money industry in Africa is being exploited by organized crime groups - a trend only set to increase as the service is rolled out across the continent.

The 'Mobile money and organized crime in Africa' report presents an overview of the criminal exploitation of mobile money services, including fraud, money laundering, extortion, human trafficking and people smuggling, the illegal wildlife trade and terrorism.

Africa is the "world leader" in the mobile money industry, accounting for nearly half of all registered mobile money accounts globally.

The prominent role that mobile money plays in African societies and economies, and the rapid pace at which its infrastructure has been developed, has enabled criminals to "exploit weaknesses in regulations and identification systems" and commit mobile money-enabled crimes.

The report notes that mobile money itself has proven to be a positive force for financial inclusion and economic development in many African countries, and that a more cash-based informal economy can sometimes present even graver challenges to law enforcement.

However, a lack of robust identity checks to verify users combined with a need for greater law enforcement resources and training on mobile money-enabled crimes have created a financial system distinctly vulnerable to criminal infiltration.

Types of ID required to register for a mobile money account are not standardized across Africa and acceptable documents range from national identity cards to company IDs, tax certificates and driver's licenses.

While such a broad spectrum of acceptable IDs benefit the growth of mobile money services, it also increases their vulnerability to fraud, money laundering and other crimes.

In parallel, despite progress in conviction rates for mobile money-enabled crimes, the tech-

nical expertise and equipment required to complete investigations can prove difficult to integrate into the court process.

With mobile money poised for even greater growth in Africa, unless the vulnerabilities are addressed, these services pose a significant threat to consumers and national security.

By 2025, smartphone user rates in Sub-Saharan Africa alone are projected to rise from roughly 39 percent today to 66 percent. Higher smartphone adoption, combined with a wider array of mobile money services on offer, will likely increase the number of transactions performed through smartphone apps.

"The evidence shows that criminals are already exploiting mobile money services in Africa. The anonymity that these services too often allow and the technical nature of the industry also present a challenge to law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting these crimes," said Cyril Gout, INTERPOL Acting Director of Operational Support and Analysis.

"This report emphasizes the need to act is now. By addressing the vulnerabilities highlighted by Project ENACT, we can ensure that the mobile money industry continues to grow throughout Africa without being compromised by those who seek to undermine it," added Mr. Gout.

CARIBBEAN

Dusted

A massive dust storm currently blanketing many parts of the Caribbean, posing a significant threat to regional health, has revealed the importance of having effective warning systems in place, the World Meteorological Office (WMO) said.

The storm arrived in the Eastern Caribbean from North Africa last week, affecting a wide area so far, spanning from the northern coast of South America to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

"Sand and dust storms are severe hazards that can affect

(Continued on page 14)

LOCAL ECONOMIC COVID-19 RECOVERY TAKES MORE SMALL STEPS

By Walter Elliott

IRVINGTON - Those looking for signs of the local economy reopening may find them on public transportation, local houses of worship and libraries like here at the Irvington Public Library.

"Local Talk" arrived at IPL at 9:30 a.m. July 13, a half-hour after it had opened its doors to the public for the first time since March 13. The differences found Monday, compared to the pre-COVID Novel Coronavirus pandemic era were noticeable.

The circulation, reference and computer technician's counters now have tall plexiglass panels as barriers or screens. Half of the reading area's chairs and tables are gone, periodicals are obtainable by request and the cafe vending machines have been unplugged.

While one still needs a valid library card or guest pass to access the computers, only 10 of IPL's 15 terminals are available. The central station on each row has been disconnected for social distancing.

Public libraries here, South Orange, Belleville and, on July 14, Nutley opened their indoors for limited hours and services. The West Orange Public Library blazed the "Local Talk" trail July 6.

They and other public libraries have reopened their lobbies for arranged patron pick up and drop off of materials since June 16. Most libraries will continue to old virtual story times and summer reading clubs online as they have since Gov. Phil Murphy imposed his "shelter-in-place" public health emergency executive order.

Murphy (D-Rumson) has been lifting his executive order restrictions as part of his administration's economic "Road to Recovery." Those partial or full relaxations are tied to data showing declines in COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths.

"Our economy is climbing the stairs up," recently said Murphy at one of his recent daily coronavirus briefings. "We see some other states who have

lifted their restrictions in a way where they are not getting infection rate spikes. We've been through that Hell and we don't want to go through that Hell again."

Some local institutions are taking their due diligence and time responding to Murphy's green lights. The Newark Public Library, for example, has continued its online services while having yet to announce their system's reopening as of press time.

Back at IPL July 13, "Local Talk" had learned that it still honors Newark library cards. The circulation desk clerk had granted LT a 30-day temporary use of its computers since the publication's NPL card had expired June 1 with no ability to renew.

Murphy Grants Full Bus Capacity

One may find taking a bus to IPL - or a train or light rail car to anywhere else - that may be more crowded than since April 11 perhaps even before one reads this.

Murphy announced on July 13 that he will allow NJTransit and other public and private carriers to take its bus, rail or light rail vehicles up to full capacity as of 8 p.m. July 15.

The Governor, in his Executive Order No. 165, removes the 50-percent capacity limit he had placed in his April 11 EO No. 125. Murphy cited increasing ridership of more people returning to work for his rollback.

EO 165, in its 21 pages, explains that other aspects of the old order remain in place. One must still wear masks, display a ticket or a pass instead of paying cash on board, enter and exit through the rear door and try to maintain social distancing.

While some NJTransit bus drivers, like those on the No. 13 route, have followed the half-full capacity limit, "Local Talk" has found other routes - like on the 21 or 25, problematic at certain times of the day.

Some routes, like the No. 1 between Newark and Jersey City's Journal Square or Ex-

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change, are more problematic when they run in one hour or longer intervals. The No. 1 has to take above 50 percent riders on rush hours because workers, who just finished their shifts, would otherwise wait an hour.

Socially Distant Worshiping

Those who came to 450 North Maple Ave., East Orange, for Bethel New Life United African Methodist Episcopal Church's first indoor service in

three months July 5 was met by one of its pastors at the door.

The assistant pastor used a laser temperature scanner on worshippers' heads while asking if they have had any COVID-19 symptoms. The worshippers are then told that, unless they are related, are to sit six feet apart in every other pew.

Senior Pastor Sidney Walters promptly started the service at 11:30 a.m. and, despite it being First Communion Sunday, fin-

(Continued on page 10)

**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION
FISCAL YEAR 2020 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and under provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for Federal Fiscal Year 2020 federal financial assistance, Federal Fiscal Year 2019, Federal Fiscal Year 2018, and Federal Fiscal Year 2017 carryover funds from the following programs: \$343.86 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating and capital assistance; \$277.48 million under Section 5337 State of Good Repair; \$34.92 million under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities; \$11.57 million under 49 U.S.C. Sections 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program; \$167.50 million of Federal Highway Authority; \$363.94 million under Section 5324 Public Transportation Emergency Relief; and \$41.52 million of Discretionary funding for a total of \$1.24 billion.

Federal operating funds will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipients in conformance with Federal and State guidelines. NJ TRANSIT intends to provide the non-Federal share of capital projects through credit for toll revenues. The Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Federal program is described below.

**FISCAL YEAR 2020 FEDERAL PROGRAM
Proposed Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
Capital Lease Payments	71.310
Cumberland County Bus Program	1.020
Dual Power Locomotives	50.761
Elizabeth Intermodal Station Reconstruction	20.000
HBLRT Weehawken Tunnel Repairs	7.050
Lyndhurst Station Reconstruction	5.075
MMC Building Perimeter Flood Control	1.088
PL 42 Locomotives	19.692
Preventive Maintenance - Bus	108.134
Preventive Maintenance - Rail	53.292
ROC Unit Substation	2.000
SJ BRT/Avandale Park and Ride	4.435
Total:	\$343.857

**Proposed Section 5337 State of Good Repair
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
Dual Power Locomotives	21.406
MMC Building Perimeter Flood Control	6.856
Newark Penn Station Electric System Improvement	4.536
Newark Penn Station Old Boiler Restoration	5.310
PL42 Locomotives	22.097
Preventive Maintenance - Bus	4.556
Preventive Maintenance - Rail	196.018
Signal Renewal Brielle to Bay Head	16.700
Total:	\$277.479

**Proposed Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
Articulated Buses	34.923
Total:	\$34.923

**Proposed Section 5310, 5311
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	7.380
Rural Transportation Assistance Program	4.186
Total:	\$11.566

**Proposed Federal Highway Authority (FHWA)
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
HBLR Route 440 Extension	8.000
Hoboken Ferry	2.380
Multi-Level III Rail Car Purchase	150.620
Newark Intermodal	0.500
Passaic Bus Terminal	2.500
Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements	3.500
Total:	\$167.500

**Proposed Section 5324 Public Transportation Emergency Relief
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
Super Storm Sandy - NJ TRANSITGRID	363.936
Total:	\$363.936

**Proposed Discretionary Funding
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
Access & Mobility Partnership	.606
Articulated Buses	17.275
Bus Lifts	7.000
Electric Buses	1.500
Greenville Bus Garage Roof Rehabilitation	2.600
Passenger Ferry	6.000
PTC CRISI	6.542
Total:	\$41.523

A. Property Acquisition/Environmental, Economic, and Social Aspects

Any property acquisition or relocation that may be required will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the law and regulatory requirements. As appropriate, the social, economic, environmental, and relocation aspects of the projects will be investigated. If required under applicable laws and regulations, interim findings may be presented at a future public hearing and further public comment will be solicited. Prior to the implementation of any of the projects and to the extent required, NJ TRANSIT may prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Federal regulations. The availability of this document will be made known by publication in the same manner as this notice. NJ TRANSIT will adhere to all Federal statutes and regulations affecting structures or properties eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Comprehensive Planning

NJ TRANSIT projects are developed in coordination with the following planning organizations: The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Northeast New Jersey urbanized area; the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which is the designated MPO for Camden, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester counties; and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, which is the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forums for local decision-making concerning the proposed projects. The projects are developed in consultation with local elected officials, interested citizens, and providers of private bus services.

C. Private Enterprise Participation

Through the comprehensive planning process administered by the MPOs and ongoing communication with NJ TRANSIT's Office of Private Carrier Affairs, NJ TRANSIT continues to discuss with private carriers their participation in the capital program. In addition, NJ TRANSIT encourages, to the maximum extent possible, the participation of the private sector in the development and implementation of public transportation in the State of New Jersey.

D. Senior Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities

Services to be provided will be consistent with NJ TRANSIT's program of reduced interstate and intrastate rail and bus fares for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Every reasonable effort will be made to plan and design program elements involving facilities generally available to the public with careful consideration of the special needs of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.

E. Public Input

NJ TRANSIT invites public comments on the above projects and its performance. Request for additional information on NJ TRANSIT's program of projects, written comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Joyce J. Zuczek, Board Secretary, Office of the Secretary to the Board, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246 by **July 31, 2020**.

Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may modify the above program before final submission to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will make a determination, pursuant to FTA regulations, as to whether a public hearing is in order. The above list of proposed projects will become the final list of projects unless notification is provided in the same manner as this public notice.

Kevin S. Corbett
President & CEO
New Jersey Transit Corporation



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Use of Our Freedoms During COVID-19

It is often stated that "one of the greatest gifts that God has given to humanity is freedom." Such freedom is accepted as fundamental to the American way of life and ensconced within the Constitution as four great freedoms.

The **First Amendment** to the Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an **establishment of religion**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the **freedom of speech**, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to **petition** the Government for a redress of grievances."

Although he did not seek to add it to the Constitution, as Americans got involved in WWII, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his annual address to Congress on Jan. 6, 1941, in which he articulated what became known as the Four Freedoms. Two of these four freedoms relate to the First Amendment: freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship God in one's own way, then he added, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

Painter Norman Rockwell did a series of paintings illustrating the four freedoms as international war goals that went beyond defeating the Axis powers. Thus, after the war, the four freedoms, alongside those in the United States Constitution, were embedded in the charter of the newly formed organization named the United Nations, formed to maintain peace in the world. These freedoms have become the basis for calling for human rights all across the world.

I wish to observe, after providing the context for clarifying that there is a need for freedom at the heart of human life, that there is much abuse of free-

doms across the world. To list the countries where freedoms are heavily restricted would require volumes. But I note in this reflection that it is a profound tragedy that here in the United States of America where freedom is so highly respected, there is an abuse of our freedoms by those who do not understand that there are boundaries to freedom.

Let us take the example as to what the COVID-19 has revealed concerning the misuse of freedom. Wherever mask-wearing is left up to a choice, it is amazing how many persons fail to wear. The excuse given is that they have the right to use their freedom as they please. Some have gone into large assemblies at the beaches, political rallies, parties, churches, and other places, and after the events are over within days, there are reports of the spike of the COVID-19, based on what happened at the assemblies. When asked about their behaviors, some politicians have even asserted that they cannot stop them, for it is their "freedom of speech."

I do not know how this can be when we are told that the droplets from the COVID-19 travel some 6-27 feet, depending on the kind of activity in which people are engaging, without their masks. Whatever freedom is involved, I call it "false freedom," and I list them as being:

1. Reckless
2. Selfish
3. Insensitive
4. Unkind
5. Inconsiderate
6. Cowardly
7. And you might add other descriptors, if you wish.

I think of going to places in times past, before we were told how dangerous second-hand smoking was, and people were given the right to smoke anywhere. Even as a little boy, I remember when I appealed to smokers who were blowing their smoke on me, how most of them would not pay any attention to me. It used to be awful on airplanes, rented cars, taxis, and many stores and restaurants. I was overjoyed when there was a ban on smoking in public places. I have never smoked and hated the smell, but have suffered the

pain of friends who have died from lung cancer because their life's partner smoked.

The point I am making should be clear. Yes, we have our freedoms, and such freedoms are to be protected. But when the exercise of your freedom becomes destructive and takes away my freedom, then that is not freedom. Let me go back to wearing a mask to say that if the lack of wearing is going to spread the COVID-19, then it is crucial to wear. Wear your mask. Do not be foolish, because you do not live on an island of your own. We live in community together, and we are here to protect each other. So, let us keep the recommended social distance, wash our hands, and **wear our masks** as we need to.

How shall we use our freedoms, without hurting others or destroying our own lives? Here are just a few Bible answers that I quote. You need not be a Christian to appreciate them. They are very much within the range of what is in the American Constitution and what was articulated by President Roosevelt and Norman Rockwell. They are principles that are at the heart of creation.

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12 NKJV)

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32 NKJV)

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13 NKJV)

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; (Romans 12:10 NKJV)

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; (1 Corinthians 13:4 NKJV)

May God help us to use our freedoms in ways that will be a blessing to all.

COVID-19 RECOVERY

(Continued from page 7)

ished at 12:30 p.m. Communion, except for Walters and the five praise singers and musicians on the altar, was passed out and taken among the pews.

Walters was keeping to 60 minutes in part by practice. He has held hour-long sermons live online during "shelter-in-place." The in-person Wednesday Bible studies were and continue to be held instead in small groups on phone lines.

Bethel New Life, although a self-described healing and deliverance congregation, has suspended its altar calls. Congregants stay in their pews instead for conversion and healing prayers and to offer collections.

"Local Talk" found briefer, less elaborate services and taped-off pews while attending Masses June 16 in Newark's Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. John's Church in Orange. June 16 doubled as the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark's first indoor celebrations as well as Father's Day.

Walking into both sanctuaries, one finds no holy water in their doorway basins and several rows of roped or police taped-off pews.

The officiating priests, except when giving the readings or the homily, wore face masks. Musical worship was limited to a lone cantor. The Mass' order was otherwise as in pre-pandemic.

Although Murphy has opened sanctuaries to 10, then 25 worshipers, houses of worship, as public gatherings, are limited to 25 percent capacity.

The 25 worshiper limit may bring relief to most Jewish synagogues. Most need 10 adults - or 10 men for the more orthodox - to hold a full service; less than 10 members means that the Torah - the scroll of the Five Books of Moses - will not be brought out for scriptural reading.

Some may find social distancing measures literally on the floor at some houses of worship. "Local Talk" noticed, on separate visits to a mosque and a Sikh temple in Jersey City's Journal Square area, their sanctuary carpets marked with duct-taped Xs, six feet apart.

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

My Journey To Keep My Sanity: Article 2 of 2

INTRODUCTION

In the first article of this two-part series, I discussed my experience with burnout and went on to analyze what I believe are three driving factors that are destroying our primary care system and its physician workforce.

Briefly, these are increasing costs, leading to more physician control which has resulted in physician burnout and the shortage. All are inter-connected and have potentiated increased control of medicine by forces outside of our control and has led to a system marred by burdens for paperwork, prior authorizations, merit-based incentive payment system (MIPS), and administrative tasks which has coalesced to a healthcare system of rewards, punishments and pay for performance.

Physician burnout contributes to a 1% reduction in physician work force yearly which equates to losing graduates of seven medical schools, and eight if counting those who commit suicide! Unfortunately, current solutions are inadequate and giving full practice rights to mid-levels whose training equals on average about 3% of the training time required of family physicians will only shift the burden and potentially increase cost and decrease safety of patients.

I, however, believe that there is a solution for cost control, addressing physician burnout and the primary care shortage, and

that solution is Direct Primary Care (DPC), which successfully challenges the existing system. DPC gives physicians autonomy that they so desperately need to help both themselves and their patients, while helping decrease cost of primary care and address physician burnout.

Direct Primary Care defined

First, know that DPC has been around since the late 1990sⁱ. It isn't alien system to physicians. While it does not seem to be a mainstream concept familiar to the majority (75%) of healthcare managersⁱⁱ, roughly 87% of physicians reported being at least somewhat aware of DPC approachⁱⁱⁱ.

Even though industry observations about direct primary care sometimes treat DPC as synonymous with concierge medicine^{iv} or a subset thereof^v, DPC isn't anything like concierge practices, but rather it offers concierge-like services at a fraction of the cost. The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) does draw some distinctions between the two terms^{vi}.

DPC Practices	Concierge Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly membership fees paid by patients or, sometimes, the patient's employer • Patient fees cover extended visits, clinical, lab and consultative services, care coordination, and comprehensive care management • Do not accept insurance or participate in government programs, relying solely on patient fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual patient membership contract with higher fees that can be paid annually or monthly • Membership fees cover an in-depth physical exam and screenings • May continue to accept insurance plans and government programs • Continue to bill patient's insurance company for covered services in addition to membership fee • Cater to higher income populations

Lastly, understand that the number of DPC practices is increasing. Nationwide survey research conducted by Physicians Practice Magazine suggested 53% of physicians were considering or already working in direct primary care^{vii}, whereas the AAFP reported in Spring 2018 that 3%^{viii}, or 4,200, of its nearly 140,000 members^{ix} had DPC practices. The Direct Primary Care Coalition, a national DPC advocacy organization, estimates that there are about 1,000 DPC firms in the United States covering roughly 300,000 Americans^x.

Direct Primary Care Economics & Cost Control



- Average Adult Membership Fee: \$82.86
- 70% of monthly adult membership fees between \$25 and \$100
- 82% of monthly family membership fees between \$50 and \$225



route, have the ability to still buy health insurance but do so for a catastrophic illness with companies that implement the philosophy of medical cost sharing or even opt for high deductible plans with the option of putting money into a healthcare savings account that they can utilize towards their deductible.

The first example of a corporate, multisite DPC model is Qliance. Although it abruptly closed in 2017, with leadership citing "overwhelming financial difficulties"^{xiv} and an "unauthorized withdrawal" by the company's lender of around \$200,000^{xv} as the reasons the company suddenly closed its primary care clinics. Internal data from the group demonstrated that Qliance patients have a >50% reduction in emergency department visits, specialist visits, advanced radiologic testing and surgical procedures than traditional practices^{xvi, xvii}. As expected, the only measure of increased utilization was the number of primary care visits, which more than doubled from an average of 2 to an average of 4 per year during the reporting period. Clearly, as the utilization of low-cost comprehensive primary care increases, the need for high-cost emergency and specialty services decreases. Even amongst elderly recipients of Medicare Advantage, providing similar and easy access to primary, specialty, pharmacy and ancillary care improved healthcare utilization and reduced healthcare costs^{xviii}.

Next, understand that DPC is affordable. In 2017, both the AAFP and the DPC administrative software platform Hint both surveyed their respective members and users about their DPC practice. Their cost findings share strong similarities.

AAFP DPC members also report that 87% did not charge a per-visit fee in addition to patient membership fees. Additionally, over half (57%) have executed employer-based contracts, and 29% are looking to pursue contracts in the next 1-3 years^{xiii}.

Physician Burnout & Primary Care Shortage

The average monthly cost of individual or family membership for a DPC practice is less than that of a cellphone bill. Such individuals, whom choose this

(Continued on page 12)

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 11)

tion of a DPC practitioner's experience within the model is limited.

First, we must understand that there is a problem, and then what that problem is? The Physicians Foundation, with help from the Merritt-Hawkins whom conduct biennial surveys of American Physicians, conducted their most recent one in 2018^{xix}: overall, looking at physician "professional morale, practice patterns, career plans, perspectives." Amongst the respondents, 55% describe their morale as somewhat or very negative, 78% sometimes, often or always experience feelings of burnout and 23% of physician time is spent on non-clinical paperwork. 46% of the respondents planned to change career paths, 48.7% would not recommend medicine as a career to their children or other young people. 78.7% of physicians found patient and physician relationships amongst the two factors most satisfying with 37% finding loss of clinical autonomy and 37.6% finding regulatory/insurance requirements as the least satisfying part of medicine. 46.4% of physicians spend greater than 10 hours per week doing non-clinical (paperwork) duties only. 17% plan to retire, while 12% plan to find a non-clinical job or position.

This gives us a better understanding of what the physician feels and what may be leading to burnout. So, what about Direct Primary Care Physicians? The Moral and Practice Patterns of DPC providers^{xx} was a survey sent out to DPC physicians of which 72 responded from 39 states. Amongst them, 9.7% reported often experiencing feelings of burnout and no respondents reported always experiencing feelings of burnout compared to 78% of physicians working in the existing insurance-based system. Nearly 67% reported that "they would recommend medicine to their children and other young people" compared to only 48.7% in the current system. Amongst the physicians, only 26.4% reported spending greater than 10 hours per week on "non-clinical

(paperwork) duties" versus 46.4%. 79% respondents reported "generally having all the time needed with patients to provide the highest standards of care."

Conclusion

The data speaks for itself and the conclusions are for the reader to derive. Losing up to and including 7 medical school classes to burnout and approximately 1 to suicide every year, will continue the trend of physician shortage, especially in primary care. The current solutions of giving full practice rights to incompletely trained providers will potentially wreak havoc and continue the uptrend of high cost utilization, while putting our patient population at risk.

I know the path I will take as I start my career in Primary Care Medicine and the data supports my decision. But what will the future hold for the country? It is difficult to predict, but there are forces in play, and it seems that the tide for healthcare is moving towards allowing people to have skin in this game called healthcare. When people are directly involved with the cost of their care, only then do businesses change. A business that hides behind unknowns can do so for so if the people allow it to. As I continue my lifelong journey to try and perfect my understanding of the human mind and body, I've learned that I, along with my colleagues, must do more than just manage disease. We must understand the business side of medicine as well and pass on that knowledge to our colleagues as well as our patients. We should strongly consider a holistic approach towards the health of our patients, which includes more than their acute complaints and only then will we be able to truly provide complete care. I will end with one very famous quote, that speaks for itself, of Andrew Taylor Still MD/DO, father of Osteopathic Medicine: "To find health should be the object of the doctor. Anyone can find disease."^{xxi}

References

(Continued on page 15)

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Statistics available as of July 15, 2020

Municipality	7-14-2020	7-15-2020	Deaths
Belleville	999	1,008	63
Bloomfield	1,105	1,102	66
Caldwell	118	118	8
Cedar Grove	478	483	112
East Orange	1,998	1,994	220
Essex Fells	23	24	2
Fairfield	141	140	18
Glen Ridge	41	41	9
Irvington	1,445	1,444	151
Livingston	502	504	68
Maplewood	325	324	26
Millburn	154	154	7
Montclair	443	443	47
Newark	7,920	7,940	637
North Caldwell	43	41	4
Nutley	503	503	35
Orange	1,024	1,017	86
Roseland	86	85	14
South Orange	105	107	4
Verona	132	134	14
West Caldwell	273	275	44
West Orange	1,263	1,265	183
Total	19,121	19,146	1,818
Negative tests	98,151	100,099	

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 7-15-2020 at 3 pm EDT)

New Jersey: 176,278 cases / 13,660 deaths (Plus 1,974 probable)

United States (approx.): 3.459 Million / 136,900 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 13.397 Million / 580,400 deaths

License, registration, and insurance renewals have been extended (Those that expired in March-May now expire in September, and those from later expire at the end of the year.)



Kayla Torppey, Pharm D, Residency Program Director holds up the wedding gown that she won.

SAY YES TO THE DRESS

(Continued from page 1)

donations that the group has made to the hospital throughout the pandemic.

The dresses arrived in early June and employees began submitting their stories for a chance to win an opportunity to choose a dress.

Winners included a nurse administrator who is getting married for the second time, a pediatric ICU Nurse who is getting married after 10 years and self-quarantined throughout the pandemic to keep her family and fiancée safe; one Neo Natal Intensive Care nurse submitted her daughter for a chance to win, the daughter lost her job in NYC during the pandemic.

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

The New Jersey High School Football summer workouts have gotten underway, going on through August 28th. There will be a two week hiatus from August 29th though September 13th, during which only virtual meetings will be permitted at that time. The official start of the fall regular season has been pushed back by approximately one month to October 2nd.

Under the current plan developed by the NJSIAA Sports Advisory Task Force, which is composed of athletic directors from across the state, the regular season will end on November 7th.

In other sports news, the NFL East team known by Washington have officially dropped their old team name and logo, and will employ a new name this upcoming season. In college football, the Big Ten announced that it would employ a conference-play only season for all fall sports, including football, with the return of Greg Schiano at Rutgers being something to look forward to as he had a big off season recruiting local athletes in New Jersey. This comes after news of the Ivy League moving sports to Spring of next year, and the Patriot League outright cancelling Fall sports due to the pandemic.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 4)

window of 549 Bloomfield Ave. The crash into the Civilized Nation clothing and shoe store grazed a curbside parking meter and had missed the GNC store to its west and a vacant former walk-in medical office front to its east.

Westbound traffic, including buses on five NJTransit routes, were rerouted onto Municipal Plaza and Franklin Avenue until a police-contracted flatbed tow truck extricated the SUV. Its driver suffered non-serious injuries.

GLEN RIDGE / NUTLEY - A township woman, who was exercising her right to peacefully assemble by Nutley's Christopher Columbus monument June 26, may have found the hard way that her behavior there can cost her a job with a borough employer.

Hackensack Meridian Health, responding to photos and video footage of the Nutley for Black Lives and counter-demonstrators that Friday, stated that Valerie Pastore had lost her job at Mountainside Hospital June 30. Pastore, who has

24 years' experience as a recruiter, was Mountainside's director of physician hiring since January.

The photos and videos Twitter posters sent to Hackensack Meridian June 28 has Pastore among a group of people around the monument, yelling insults at the NFBL protestors. Some of the pictures appear to have her giving a Nazi "Seig Heil" salute at NFBL.

Hackensack Meridian, in its June 30 Twitter response, said that the person in the video is no longer its employee. The confrontation started on social media rumors that NFBL's "Roll for Black Lives" march intended to vandalize or topple the Columbus monument.

UNICO Nutley Chapter President Lorraine Kucinski first passed along the rumors as that to her members June 24. Kucinski, when told by Nutley police and NFBL that no intention to deface the monument, sent a June 25 e-mail to dissuade UNICO members from assembling there.

Several homeowners have since filed vandalism reports, saying that their "Black Lives Matter" lawn signage had been defaced June 27-28.

CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST ESSEX COUNTY DETECTIVE

Allegedly Lied to Conceal That He Installed GPS Device On Suspect's Vehicle Without Warrant



The Office of Public Integrity and Accountability charged Timothy Kealy, 27, of Bloomfield, by complaint-summons with the following criminal offenses: Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution (3rd Degree); Tampering with Public Records or Information (3rd Degree).

The Professional Standards Bureau ("PSB") of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office ("ECPO") began investigating Kealy in January 2020 after learning that Kealy, who was assigned to the Essex County Narcotics Task Force, had allegedly purchased and installed a GPS tracking device on a suspect's car without formal or legal authority. The ECPO has a process by which detectives must obtain permission from supervisors to apply to a judge for a warrant, and only ECPO-issued GPS devices may be used. A court-issued warrant is required by law for law enforcement to install a GPS device on a vehicle.

Kealy was suspended as a result of the investigation and

was ordered by PSB detectives to turn over his service weapon and various other items, including his county-issued phone. In connection with the hindering and tampering charges, it is alleged that Kealy lied about the whereabouts of the county-issued phone, saying it was at a repair shop, in order to prevent PSB detectives from obtaining access to the phone. The phone was not at the repair shop and has not been recovered.

The Attorney General thanked the Professional Standards Bureau of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office for their investigation and referral.

Third-degree charges carry a sentence of three to five years in state prison and a fine of up to \$15,000. The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Deputy Attorney General Anthony Robinson is assigned to prosecute the case for the Corruption Bureau within the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability.

Attorney General Grewal created the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) in September 2018 to combat corruption and strengthen public confidence in government institutions. In December 2019, the Attorney General issued a directive codifying OPIA and making it a permanent part of the Attorney General's Office. That directive established the OPIA Corruption Bureau as the lead office within the Department of Law & Public Safety for the investigation and prosecution of state criminal violations involving corruption and abuse of public trust.

OPIA has a toll-free Tipline 1-844-OPIA-TIPS for the public to report corruption. The AG's Office has an Anti-Corruption Reward Program that offers a reward of up to \$25,000 for tips leading to a conviction for a crime involving public corruption. Information is posted at: <http://nj.gov/oag/corruption/reward.html>.

TRENTON - Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced on July 10 that criminal charges were filed against a suspended detective in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office for allegedly lying to internal affairs investigators in an investigation concerning his installation of a Global Positioning System ("GPS") device on a suspect's vehicle without obtaining the required warrant from a judge or departmental authorization.

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

WHATEVER YOU DO: DON'T DRIVE DRUNK IN NEW JERSEY!!

As we pass the lazy days of summer and as we start to mingle and mix, young people may want to remember that New Jersey has some of the strictest penalties in the country for those who drive while intoxicated!

A person can be convicted of driving while intoxicated for operating or even attempting to operate a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level of .08% or greater. To be convicted, you need not be actually driving your car. There just needs to be evidence that you intend to drive your car.

For example, if you are parked at the curb behind the wheel asleep, with the car key in your pocket, you can be convict-

ed of driving while intoxicated. Not because you were actually driving, but because the circumstances suggest that you might/intend to drive the car. It is notable that "driving while intoxicated" includes not only the ingestion of alcoholic beverages but narcotics, hallucinogens or any substance that will reduce your mental faculties and physical capabilities.

As if that were not bad enough, a person can be convicted without proof of actual intoxication if the driver's blood alcohol level is .08% or more. This is called "per se DWI." This is determined by a calculating at how many drinks it would take you to reach a certain blood alcohol level given various factors. So, don't go blabbing to the police, "I only had two beers!"

What typically happens is that the police stop you and ask you out of the car to take various balance tests: Walk a straight line. Close your eyes and touch the tip of your nose with your index finger. Walk backward in a straight line. Failing the tests allows the police officer to impound your vehicle for twelve hours and request a breathalyzer test. The result of the test serves as practically proof positive of driving while intoxicated.

There is virtually no judicial discretion when it comes to DWI penalties. Almost every aspect is required by the statute. So do not think you will make a jaw dropping deal with the prosecutor. And while DWI penalties in the

state have always been stiff, they just got exponentially worse.

For example, if your blood alcohol was between .08% and .10%, upon conviction you received a fines and penalties of \$500 - \$600. (\$250 - 400 fine VCCB, DDEF and SNSF penalties of \$50, \$75 and \$100. Your license is suspended. As if the fines were not enough, you are required to sign up for 12 to 48 hours in the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) Program which will cost you another \$75.

And the topper is that beginning December 2019, the penalties for driving while intoxicated got worse (or better depending on your perspective). The Legislature found that because a majority of drunk drivers, including first-time offenders, often continue to drive with a suspended license, even first-offenders need to install an ignition interlock device into their vehicle.

An ignition interlock device (IID) is a device about the size of a cell phone that is connected to a motor vehicle's starter system. The IID works by measuring the blood alcohol concentration/content (BAC) of the driver before and during the operation of the vehicle. The driver will be required to blow into the ignition interlock device in order to start their vehicle. Provided their BAC is below the programmed level, the vehicle will start as normal.

If the driver's BAC is higher than the preprogrammed level

that was set by the state, the vehicle will not start. And, by the way, the device must be installed by professionals and the cost is between \$70 and \$150 + monthly leasing/maintenance cost of about \$75 give or take. The worst of it is that you will never have your license reinstated unless you complete *all* of the penalties, pay all the fines. In other words, your license will not be restored if you never install the interlock device which may really be problematic if, in point of fact, you really don't own a car even if you do attend IDRC and even if you do pay all the fines and penalties.

Proponents of the device claim is that the device will actually cause people to change their behavior...stop drivers from driving while intoxicated and save hundreds of lives. Proponents claim that 1 individual is killed by a drunk driver every 49 minutes and that approximately 29% of all vehicular deaths are alcohol-related accidents. Proponents further claim that installation of the interlock device with a registered blood alcohol level of between .08% and .10% will only have their licenses suspended for 30 days rather than three months. They would be allowed to drive with an IID during the next three- to six-month period when their license would have otherwise been suspended.

These penalties are draconian! If you get a little tipsy, call Uber!!

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

weather, climate, the environment, health, economies, transport and agriculture in many parts of the world," said Dr. Oksana Tarasova, Head of WMO's Atmospheric Environment Research Division.

"The ongoing dust storm, which has affected daily life in the Caribbean, shows the importance of forecast and warning services."

Although dust blows from Africa across the Atlantic every year, the UN weather agency said this year's event has been particularly intense and extensive.

The dust storm has darkened

skies, contaminated rainwater and greatly reduced visibility. It also poses a significant health hazard.

Countries such as Martinique, Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico have reported air quality levels in the "hazardous" category, with record values of PM10 - a particulate matter which can cause respiratory problems and disease.

Concentrations reported in Puerto Rico are at the highest level observed in the last 20 years.

Scientists at the University of Puerto Rico have also observed record high levels of aerosol optical thickness, or the measure of tiny solid or liquid particles in the air, such as dust,

sea salt, or pollution from factories.

"This is a dust event of truly historic proportions", said Professor Olga L. Mayol-Bracero at the University of Puerto Rico, and her counterpart, Dr. Andrea Sealy, meteorologist with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology.

Sand and dust storms are common in arid and semi-arid regions of the world. They are usually caused by thunderstorms, which create strong winds that can transport large amounts of sand and dust thousands of kilometers away.

Every year, around 2,000 million tons of dust enters the Earth's atmosphere, according to WMO. While much of this oc-

curs naturally, a large part is due to poor water and land management.

WMO on Friday released the latest edition of its annual Airborne Dust Bulletin which found that mineral dust concentrations last year generally were similar to 2018 levels.

Through its Sand and Dust Storm - Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS), the UN agency provides operational forecasting aimed at reducing impacts on the environment, health and economies.

It has regional centers providing forecasts for Asia, Northern Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas.

THREE OUT-OF-TOWNERS ARRESTED FOR GRAFFITI

McCarter Highway mural and traffic light boxes near City Hall defaced

NEWARK - Public Safety Director Anthony F. Ambrose reports the arrests of Alexa Lipke, 25, of Greenbrook, Jayrone Rivera, 25, of Bergenfield, and Brendan Roura, 29, of Brooklyn, for vandalizing incidents.

"I'm grateful that our police officers apprehended the individuals who defaced City of Newark property, because we will not tolerate vandals who criminally devalue the city's beauty," Mayor Baraka said. "Newark has a vibrant arts community that we are working with to further beautify our city and coming here with malintent from another town is not acceptable."

"I applaud the officers who quickly identified and arrested these

vandalism suspects," Director Ambrose said. "We will continue vigorously investigating all incidents involving property damage or other criminal activities that occur in the City of Newark. Individuals will not get away with committing these criminal acts here."

On June 28, 2020, police observed Lipke writing graffiti on traf-



Alexa Lipke



Jayron Rivera



Brendan Roura

fic light boxes at Broad and Franklin streets, near Newark City Hall. Officers also found Lipke in possession of CDS marijuana and drug paraphernalia. She faces charges of graffiti to City property, CDS possession (marijuana) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On July 5, 2020, Roura and Rivera were

observed spray painting a mural at McCarter Highway and Hamilton Street. Each man was arrested and charged with criminal mischief.

These charges are merely accusations. Each suspect is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

EDITORIAL (Cont. from page 2)

times in his first term as Vice President that he was really good. But now the question arises if he can connect the dots on all sides serving as the President every day. Can he make decisions in the best interest of the public and the United States of America? The first test for him is to pick the right candidate for Vice President. He declared a long time ago to pick a woman for his running mate. By doing so, he eliminated many good prospects.

To beat Donald Trump, the running mate pick is crucial. The second test will be three debates with the President. Finally, there will be a debate between the running mates of both candidates; for Trump, it will be Vice President Mike Pence.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 12)

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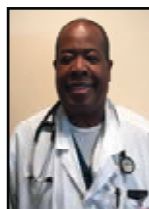
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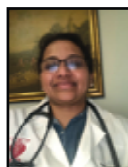


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Nirmala Kania, MD

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Mary Elias - NP ▶



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Shandel Douglas - NP
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 Nmandu Utuk - NP
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