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JOHN LEWIS REMEMBERED TOM GIBLIN INTERVIEW ECC APPOINTS INTERIM PRESIDENT



TRENTON - New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Chair Senator Ronald L. Rice issued the following statement on the passing of Congressman John Lewis:

"A baton has been passed. It's the one John Lewis didn't realize he carried across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965 - but one he clutched tighter, held higher and ran harder with in each of the 55 years since. When John left this earth on Friday evening, his leg in the relay was done -
 (Continued on page 8)



By Dhiren Shah

Dhiren Shah: Welcome to this interview Assemblyman Giblin. The biggest issue right now is COVID-19. In your opinion, how does the governor taking steps to control the pandemic.

Thomas Giblin: I salute the governor for his leadership. With a lot of leading pro-
 (Continued on page 9)



ESSEX - Chairwoman Marion A. Bolden and the Essex County College Board of Trustees congratulates Augustine A. Boakye, Ph.D. on his appointment as Interim President of Essex County College. Because of the challenges facing all higher education institutions due to the pandemic, the Board of Trustees seeks to provide ample time for a smooth transition for our Interim President and for Dr.
 (Continued on page 10)



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Turn to
PAGE 16



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-in-Chief

Minutes debut in 1968. Chris gave President Trump a hard time, showing the facts whenever he answered something without any base. On Sunday, it was watched by over 5.5 million TV viewers.

New York and New Jersey have added another 10 states to their traveling advisory, making a total of 31 states. That means people from 31 states cannot easily visit their loved ones, cannot do business person-to-person, and businesspeople cannot check their products up close to make decisions before ordering. It is tough on those who want to move the economy forward. We must trust people with the CDC guidelines. Making the laws tougher do not solve the problem. As this is going on, it seems the liquor stores, lottery and online casinos are more important to our elected officials.

The pandemic started in China, and I agree with President Trump that we should be tougher on China. They are stealing our data and our technology. Plus, when there was a report of a fire

at China's consulate in Houston, Texas, the Chinese consulate general did not allow our fire department to work inside the consulate. What is there to hide? This incident raises the eyebrows of our administrators, politicians and the media.

From the time the coronavirus started and up to today, China has been hiding something and is not being upfront about the problems and solutions. The whole world is going through the worst pandemic since over 100 years. Now we are struggling to find a vaccine to put this COVID-19 behind us. Some countries claim that they have a vaccine, but none of the countries have positively come up with a solution yet. Hundreds of billions of dollars are being spent on the research around the world.

Due to the coronavirus, the schools may or may not open in the fall. I have a suggestion for the schools. Right now, we have a 5 days a week education system. Change it to 6 days a week. Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 50% of the students and

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for the other 50%. For the teachers, they have to teach on Monday and repeat the same topic to the other 50% on Tuesday. The homework for the Monday students will be the same as the Tuesday students, as it will be for the other days. That way, the teachers do not have to work harder than they have to now, but they will get paid for 6 days instead of 5 days. The sixth day should not be count as overtime, but as regular pay.

This is a very critical situation for the world and its economy. So, the school administrators, staff, teachers and students have to work towards the best solutions possible. This is my suggestion for a solution. If anyone has a better solution, send it to me at localtalk@aol.com and I will be glad to publish it. Thanks in advance.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HI 90	HI 87	HI 90	HI 93	HI 94	HI 89	HI 87
LO 74	LO 80	LO 73	LO 74	LO 76	LO 73	LO 71

EAST ORANGE PARTNERSHIP OFFERS FREE MEALS AND FRESH PRODUCE TO RESIDENTS

Photos Courtesy City of East Orange



EAST ORANGE - The City of East Orange is excited to announce its latest partnership with the East Orange YMCA, Seashore Food Distributors Inc., and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey to provide free lunches and fresh produce to residents.

The food distribution takes place every Wednesday at 12pm at the Office of Emergency Management located at 402 Springdale Avenue.

“When Covid-19 first reared its head, many of our residents were afraid to venture out to the supermarket. We had to quickly set up a grab n’ go food distribution network to ensure our residents would not go hungry,” said Mayor Ted R. Green. “The outpouring of support and generosity from around our area has been overwhelming and teaming up with the YMCA has allowed us to expand our outreach and touch more families throughout the city.”

Prior to partnering with the city, the East Orange YMCA hosted its food distribution at their location on 100 North Arlington Avenue, but with the start of camp, space became limited.

Newly-appointed YMCA Director Washima Redding reached out to the city to see how the two entities could collaborate.

A natural fit was to connect the Y with the Office of Emergency Management which had

been operating a weekly lunch distribution to accommodate residents on the north side of town.

Now, in its 3rd week, the food distribution effort services an average of more than 400 families each week. Every Wednesday, approximately 440 boxes containing 15 to 20 pounds of food is delivered to the Office of Emergency Management from the YMCA and Seashore Food Distributors.

The produce is distributed in conjunction with the 200 prepared lunches made available by the Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs. Each package of food contains lettuce, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, carrots, oranges, plums, and melons. The Community Food Bank also provides non-perishable items including rice, peanut butter, tuna, beans and other canned foods.

“It’s extremely rewarding to not only be able to fill bellies, but to also serve dignity, care and hope for the community, so we really appreciate this partnership,” said Redding.

To maintain current social distancing practices, the city created a systematic process by which residents have the option to either walk-up or drive-through. Residents that choose to pick up their boxes by drive-through will be directed to an access point at which time their box will be placed in the trunk of their car while they remain

Annual Hospital Public Meeting

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inside of the car. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis with only one package per car.

The partnership with the YMCA and Seashore Food Distributors will last until the end of August. The YMCA is currently accepting volunteers to help with weekly distribution. East Orange police and fire personnel, as well as members of the CERT team, have been among the volunteers serving the community.

For more information on the

food distribution partnership, please contact the East Orange Office of Emergency Management at 973.677.8924 or the East Orange YMCA at 973.673.5588.



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 police officers are looking for five suspects who have held up four gasoline stations at gunpoint July 11-16.

The first suspect was last seen running from the Route 21 Exxon at 1443-47 McCarter Hwy. onto Third Avenue and Broadway at 1:40 a.m. July 16.

The man first walked up to the station attendant and, a minute later, to the convenience store clerk inside. The suspect showed a handgun and demanded cash. He had left with an estimated \$400.

Newark police detectives' review of the station's surveillance recordings found the suspect buying items there 6:30 p.m. July 15. He left in a maroon 2003-05 Buick Century that bore temporary license plates.

Detectives are also looking for "four black men who occupied a stolen white BMW" who held up three other stations overnight 11-12.

The quartet first hit the Uptown Exxon at 387 Springfield Ave., at 11:45 p.m. July 11, followed by the Gulf at 242 Elizabeth Ave. and the Exxon at 1 Elizabeth Ave. Each time, they left the car, showed their guns and demanded money.

NPD officers found the BMW, abandoned, along Morris Avenue later that morning. Detectives believe that the foursome were also responsible for armed robberies of individuals across all five wards that overnight.

IRVINGTON - Three of the township's bravest were taken to RWJBarnabas' burn unit in Livingston as the result of a two-alarm house fire here July 19.

The first IFD units who re-

sponded to a fire call at 5:30 p.m. Sunday found the 2.5 story house at 5 Lafayette Pl.'s second floor ablaze. The incident commander called the second alarm when the flames began to reach the adjacent houses.

Firefighters, upon entry, found the house unoccupied. The three uniform people who were taken to St. Barnabas Burn Unit were treated and released overnight.

The fire remains under IFD investigation.

EAST ORANGE - County Sheriff Armando Fontoura's Crime Stoppers has posted an up to \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person who shot an off-duty juvenile jail officer from East Orange in Newark late July 3.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II said that Laquan T. Nowlin, 32, of East Orange, was found fatally shot in his car while parked at Newark's Sanford and Lanark avenues before 11:50 p.m. that Friday.

Witnesses told city and county detectives that they saw "a dark colored" car pull up alongside Nowlin's. Its passenger got out, shot Nowlin, got back in and sped south on Sanford.

Stephens and Fontoura said that Nowlin was off duty from the Essex County Youth Detention Center in Newark. They said they have no connection between Nowlin's employment and his being shot.

Nowlin's funeral or memorial arrangements have not been announced as of Noon July 22.

ORANGE - Orange Police Department Street Crimes, Gangs & Narcotics Task Force members served search warrants on a driving school here July 14 - and came away with what they said were materials better suited for illegal gambling.

OPD Detective Lt. Kevin Mooney said they served warrants on Hi-Tech Driving School's office at 122 S. Center St. earlier that Tuesday after a long investigation.

"Operation Hitech Driving School" culminated when a plainclothes OPD officer "conducted purchase of illegal lottery tickets at that location."

OPD's probe had determined

that the office "was a point of service for 'Poule,' a numbers game associated with the Dominican lottery." Police, on gaining entry July 14 found "alcohol, card games and dominoes games" present.

Officers also arrested Kevin Martinezgil and Jean Raymond. The duo, whose residences and ages were not disclosed as on Noon July 22, were charged in Orange Municipal Court each on promoting gambling, maintaining a gambling resort, possessing a gambling device, possession of gambling records and conspiracy thereof.

Hi-Tech, at the corner of South Center and Parrow streets, had been a driving school since 2005. The 122 S. Center building once housed the Orange Key Club in the 1960s and 70s.

The task force had served warrants and seized illegal lottery materials at five city addresses Feb. 12.

WEST ORANGE - The driver at the center of the June 6, 2019 rollover that killed Christopher "C.J." Morgan and injured 19 other cadets and two trainers have been sentenced July 21 to three years in a military prison.

A military judge in Georgia's Stewart-Hunter Air Force Base Tuesday has further ruled that U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ladonies P. Strong's rank be demoted to private E-1. She will also receive a misconduct discharge upon the finish of her military confinement.

Strong was found by a court-martial jury of eight Army officers and soldiers guilty of negligent homicide and obstructing the authorized seizure of materials. The panel acquitted her of involuntary manslaughter, reckless operation of a vehicle and two counts of dereliction of duty.

Strong was driving a 2.5-ton medium tactical cargo vehicle that carried Morgan, 19 other cadets and two trainers in Camp Natural Bridge - about eight miles outside of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Strong was taking them out for a field navigation orienteering class June 6, 2019. It is not clear in public records whether the Army 3rd Infantry member was among the injured.

The rollover killed Morgan,

22, at the scene. The West Orange Class of 2017 graduate was a star wrestler for the Mountaineers here and the Army Golden Knights. Morgan, who would have graduated with the Class of 2020, was studying law at West Point.

Several WOHS students, including Morgan's younger brother, have been accepted by the USMA. There is also a scholarship here in his name.

The USMA-West Point Class of 2020, at their commencement ceremony last month, placed Morgan's portrait on an empty folding chair among them.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood School District will soon have former New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice John E. Wallace on their property as a school integration monitor.

Wallace is to consider recommendations from Temple University education professor Dr. Edward Fergus. Fergus, hired by SOMSD as a consultant, has been on premises since 2018.

Wallace's new job and Fergus' new role are two conditions SOMSD had agreed to July 16 in exchange for the SOMA Black Parents Workshop dropping their three-year-old racial discrimination lawsuit.

SOMA-BPW, in its Nov. 15, 2017 complaint, claimed that the two-town district was failing to meet integration goals as set forth in a 2014 consent decree with the State Department of Education Office of Civil Rights.

The BPW, among its charges, said that SOMSD has practiced de facto segregation among its five elementary schools. Four schools' student bodies are predominantly Caucasian while the fifth is predominantly African American - in an 11-school district that is 55 percent White and 27 percent Black.

The parents' group had further asserted that SOMSD tended to place non-white and special needs students onto less academically challenging classes and courses. This levelling and tracking have led to fewer non-whites taking advance placement courses and tests, aggravating

(Continued on page 13)

FDA ISSUES HAND SANITIZER WARNING

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers and health care providers that the agency has seen a sharp increase in hand sanitizer products that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested.

The agency is aware of adults and children ingesting hand sanitizer products contaminated with methanol that has led to recent adverse events including blindness, hospitalizations and death.

Methanol is not an acceptable active ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects. FDA's investigation of methanol in certain hand sanitizers is ongoing. The agency will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Consumers who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol and are experiencing symptoms should seek immediate treatment for potential reversal of toxic effects of methanol poisoning. Substantial methanol exposure can result in nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, permanent blindness, seizures, coma, permanent damage to the nervous system or death. Although all persons using these products on their hands are at risk for methanol poisoning, young children who accidentally ingest these products and adolescents and adults who drink these products as an alcohol (ethanol) substitute, are most at risk.

FDA reminds consumers to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose. If soap and water are not readily available, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recom-

mend consumers use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent ethanol (also referred to as ethyl alcohol).

FDA remains vigilant and will continue to take action when quality issues arise with hand sanitizers. The agency is especially concerned with:

- The dangers of drinking any hand sanitizer under any conditions. While hand sanitizers with possible methanol contamination are more life-threatening than those that are not contaminated, FDA urges consumers not to drink any of these products.
- Certain hand sanitizers that may not contain a sufficient amount of ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol.
- Hand sanitizers that are sold or offered for sale with false and misleading, unproven claims that they can prevent the spread of viruses such as COVID-19, including claims that they can provide prolonged protection (e.g., for up to 24-hours).
- Products that are fraudulently marketed as "FDA-approved" since there are no hand sanitizers approved by FDA.
- Products packaged to appear as drinks, candy or liquor bottles, as well as products marketed as drinks or cocktails because their appearance could result in accidental ingestion or encourage ingestion. Children are particularly at risk with these products since ingesting only a small amount of hand sanitizer may be lethal in a young child.

Previously, FDA warned against the following specific sanitizers:

- All-Clean Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-002-01)
- Esk Biochem Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-007-01)
- CleanCare NoGerm Ad-



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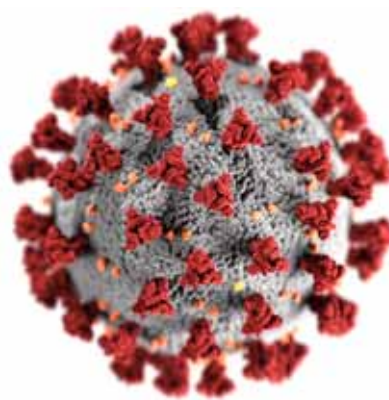
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On July 22, Pfizer Inc. (NYSE: PFE) and BioNTech SE (Nasdaq: BNTX) announced the execution of an agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense to meet the U.S. government's Operation Warp Speed program goal to begin delivering 300 million doses of a vaccine for COVID-19 in 2021.

Under the agreement, the U.S. government will receive 100 million doses of BNT162, the COVID-19 vaccine candidate jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, after Pfizer successfully manufactures and obtains approval or emergency use authorization from U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The U.S. government will pay the companies \$1.95 billion upon the receipt of the first 100 million doses, following FDA authorization or approval. The U.S. government also can acquire up to an additional 500 million doses.

Americans will receive the vaccine for free consistent with U.S. government's commitment for free access for COVID-19 vaccines.

"We've been committed to

making the impossible possible by working tirelessly to develop and produce in record time a safe and effective vaccine to help bring an end to this global health crisis," said Dr. Albert Bourla, Pfizer Chairman and CEO. "We made the early decision to begin clinical work and large-scale manufacturing at our own risk to ensure that product would be available immediately if our clinical trials prove successful and an Emergency Use Authorization is granted. We are honored to be a part of this effort to provide Americans access to protection from this deadly virus."

"Expanding Operation Warp Speed's diverse portfolio by adding a vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech increases the odds that we will have a safe, effective vaccine as soon as the end of this year," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "Depending on success in clinical trials, today's agreement will enable the delivery of approximately 100 million doses of this vaccine to the American people."

The BNT162 program is based on BioNTech's proprietary mRNA technology and supported by Pfizer's global vaccine development and manufacturing capabilities. The BNT162 vaccine candidates are undergoing clinical studies and are not currently approved for distribution anywhere in the world. BioNTech is the market authorization holder worldwide and will hold all trademarks for the potential product. Both collaborators are committed to developing these novel vaccines with pre-clinical and clinical data at the forefront

(Continued on page 15)



UNITED STATES

Son of Federal Judge Murdered

On July 19, tragedy has struck the home of a well-known federal judge who has overseen scores of cases at her Newark bench.

Mark Anderl, the husband of U.S. Federal Judge Esther Salas, is in critical condition after being shot by a man dressed as a FedEx delivery person. The suspect also shot the couple's son Daniel right outside their North Brunswick home, who sadly died at the age of 20 due to his injuries.

A manhunt that included Middlesex County, state, and federal officials was immediately launched, and led to a suspect in Sullivan County, New York. However, he was found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. On July 20, the FBI identified Roy Den Hollander as the primary subject. He is said to have been a lawyer who was negatively affected by one of Judge Salas' cases in 2015.

"Judge Salas and her family are in our thoughts at this time as they cope with this senseless act," NJ Governor Phil Murphy tweeted.

Attorney General William P. Barr issued the following statement: "On behalf of the entire Justice Department, I send my deepest condolences to Judge Salas and her family on the death of their son and wish her husband a swift and complete recovery. This kind of lawless, evil action carried out against a member of the federal judiciary will not be tolerated, and I have ordered the full resources of the FBI and U.S. Marshals Service to investigate the matter."

In 2006, Salas was selected as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey, and five years later, she would be appointed as a federal district judge on the recommendation of President Barack Obama. Salas is the first Latina to serve as a judge on the federal level.

MIDDLE EAST / AFRICA

Bad Drugs Taken Off Streets

Nearly 20 million illicit pharmaceutical items were taken off the market in a regional operation coordinated by INTERPOL across the Middle East and North Africa.

Running from 1 February to 1 April 2020, the operation coincided with the coronavirus pandemic, and saw a trend in the trafficking of items related to COVID-19. Among the seizures were:

- 61,000 respiratory masks and one artificial respirator in Morocco
- 63,418 face masks and 360 sanitizing products in Jordan
- 85,000 medical products (facemasks, gloves, thermometers, medical glasses, etc.) in Qatar.

The participating countries – Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar and Saudi Arabia - carried out inspections and seizures at ports, airports, land borders, free trade zones (entries and exits), postal hubs, warehouses, pharmacies and other points of sales.

They reported seizures of a wide variety of medicines including anesthetics, analgesics, antimalarial medicines, benzodiazepines (tranquilizers) and corticosteroids, as well as supplements, sexual stimulants and growth hormones. Examples of medical products seized are syringes, suture threads, surgical adhesive tapes and electronic glycaemia readers.

Pharmaceutical crime poses a serious danger to public health. Falsified and counterfeit medicines threaten the lives of the most vulnerable members of society.

"INTERPOL is committed to tackling all forms of pharmaceutical crime and disrupting the activities of the organized criminal groups that profit from it. The volume of illicit medicines and counterfeit medical products seized during this operation is a reminder of the extent of this global problem and the very real risk to public safety," said Paul Stanfield, INTERPOL Director

for Organized and Emerging Crime.

Authorities in Iraq reported two major cases. In the first, officials seized around 761,000 boxes of illicit medicines in seven shipping containers, with an estimated value of nearly USD 2 million. In the second case, authorities seized around 400 boxes and 9 million illicit pills.

"The extent of these seizures demonstrates the need for operations such as Qanoon, and shows the success that can be achieved when countries coordinate their law enforcement efforts among police, customs and regulatory authorities," commented the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate for Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Iraq.

In Kuwait, 16 seizures were reported totaling almost 10 million medical pills, mainly Tramadol (an opioid painkiller). The illicit trade in Tramadol trade affects a number of countries in the region and is driven by terrorist groups as a means of financing their activities.

Building on the foundations of the first phase of Operation Qanoon in 2018, seizures in this second phase were significantly higher: with around 20 million items seized in 2020 compared with 1.5 million in 2018.

Law enforcement officials in the region made notable side seizures of methamphetamine and Captagon amounting to nearly 5 million pills and tablets. While these narcotics were not in the specific remit of Operation Qanoon and are not included in the official results, they clearly indicate the proliferation of this type of high stimulant street drugs in the region. Captagon, an amphetamine, is widely associated with ISIL/Da'esh, both in terms of financing its terrorist activities and by use by its fighters in combat.

Qanoon is a multi-year initiative targeting illicit medicines and medical products in the Middle East and North Africa region. The initiative collects and shares information in order to identify transnational issues and trends, support investigations and dismantle criminal networks.

CARIBBEAN

Call Made to Address COVID-19

As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the world, Latin America and the Caribbean are now suffering some of the highest rates of transmission, the UN chief said on Thursday, releasing a new policy initiative on how best to recover in a region already embroiled in poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequality.

The UN brief reveals that several countries in the region, are now among those with the highest per capita infection rates worldwide and shines a light on how the crisis is impacting vulnerable groups, including indigenous communities and women.

"The most vulnerable populations and individuals are once again being hit the hardest," Secretary-General António Guterres said in a video message on the pandemic's effect throughout a zone grappling with fragmented health services - even before the coronavirus.

The UN chief emphasized the impact of the coronavirus on women across the region, who make up the majority of the workforce and now bear the brunt of additional caregiving. He highlighted the plight of older persons and individuals with disabilities, who are at greater risk; and indigenous peoples, those of African descent, migrants and refugees, who suffering disproportionately.

It is projected that there will be a 9.1 percent contraction in gross domestic product (GDP), which will be the largest in a century.

While stressing the need to "do everything possible to limit the spread of the virus and tackle the health effects of the pandemic", Mr. Guterres noted that "we must also address the unprecedented social and economic impacts."

The policy brief underlines an array of urgent and longer-term steps for better recovery, including the prioritization of distance learning and continued child-centered services to mitigate education interruptions.

Governments within the region are also being asked to do more to reduce poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, such as by providing basic emergency income and anti-hunger grants.

(Continued on page 15)

PARKING RULES BACK IN EFFECT TO RESUME STREET SWEEPING OPERATIONS

EAST ORANGE - Please be advised that street sweeping operations will resume in the City of East Orange on Monday, July 27, 2020 when EOPD will begin strictly enforcing the parking regulations.

Warnings are currently being issued and motorists are asked to pay attention to all new signage and adhere to parking rules.

Due to the extraordinary number of people at home during the pandemic, the city temporarily relaxed the parking rules to relieve motorists from additional stress. However, now that people are starting to return

to work, it is crucial that the city return to its regular street-sweeping schedule to keep East Orange clean.

“When our streets are clean, our neighborhoods look better and we greatly minimize the risk of environmental and safety hazards in the community,” said Mayor Ted R. Green. “Clean streets make a world of difference in the quality of life for our residents, business owners, employees and visitors. I am asking everyone to comply with our parking rules and to take pride in our city.”

If you have any questions, please call 973.266.5151.

BILL TO ELIMINATE MANDATORY SENTENCING MINIMUMS FOR CERTAIN NONVIOLENT CRIMES CLEARS ASSEMBLY PANEL



Carter (D-Middlesex, Somerset, Union) and Shanique Speight (D-Essex) released the following joint statement:

“Mandatory minimums have contributed to the staggering racial disparities in New Jersey’s prison system, along with the overall rise

TRENTON - Following the recommendations by the New Jersey Criminal Sentencing and Disposition Commission (CSDC), legislation to eliminate mandatory minimum prison terms for certain nonviolent property and drug-related offenses such as shoplifting or distributing a controlled dangerous substance was approved July 20 by the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

The bill (A-4369) would also reduce the mandatory prison term for second degree robbery and second degree burglary from 85 percent to 50 percent of the sentence imposed.

The measure’s sponsors, Assembly Democrats Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex), Linda

in the number of incarcerated people. In 1982, 11 percent of incarcerated individuals in New Jersey had mandatory minimum terms; in 2015, it was 74%. Today that number is likely higher. Even more troubling, people of color are 12 times more likely to be incarcerated than their white counterparts.

“This injustice needs to end. By eliminating mandatory minimums, we will reduce racial disparities and the number of people incarcerated for nonviolent crimes, as well as allow judges to consider special facts when assessing a case. Our goal is to truly ensure justice for all.”

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David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency. A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

HAND SANITIZERS

(Continued from page 5)

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- Lavar 70 Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-006-01)
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JOHN LIEWS REMEMBERED

(Continued from page 1)

but the baton he cherished and so faithfully championed has been passed to each of us in the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus and to members of the New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus as well.

“I have had the privilege of engaging in very memorable discussions with John Lewis on America’s ongoing Civil Rights Movement and his vivid, concrete expectations for the full realization of

liberty for the Beloved Community. His expectations concerning every Black elected official across the land was nothing less than ferocious protection of our legislative and societal progress toward racial equality. His vision demanded that we push on with the fervor and fortitude commensurate with the magnitude of our responsibility to finally give meaning to our pledge for ‘liberty and justice for all.’

“The NJLBC accepts John



President Barack Obama awarding a 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom to Congressman John Lewis. Photo Courtesy White House

Lewis’ baton with the humility and reverence it deserves. At a time when our nation is raw with repeated acts of racial violence and injustice, New Jersey’s Black and Latino Legislatives Caucuses - and, more importantly, the communities we uphold - suffered a devastating defeat last week as we were denied our righteous seat on the panel charged with dispersing funds from New Jersey’s historic and unprecedented \$9.9 billion emer-

gency borrowing bill. To have minorities excluded from that table at the precise moment when America stands at destiny’s crossroad is incomprehensible and unconscionable.

“But in Congressman Lewis’ name, our caucuses will continue to use every means necessary to drag New Jersey into a new era of inclusivity. We are hopeful our dialog with Senate President Sweeney will spur the Senate to follow the example of the As-

sembly and fast track a package of eight criminal justice reform bills into law for the governor’s signature. These bills will outlaw false 9-1-1 call intimidation and harassment, prohibit the use of chokeholds in police apprehensions and mandate a wide range of racial and cultural diversity training for law enforcement personnel.

“The NJLBC stands in profound gratitude for how Congressman Lewis lived his life imbued with a faith not entombed in the pages of leather-bound bibles but rising resurrected into the fullness of the human heart. We vow to establish justice, redemption, healing and reconciliation throughout our state and across our wounded nation.

“John Lewis fought the good fight and has finished the race. He kept the faith. Now it is our turn to ‘be bold, brave and courageous and find a way...to get in the way.’”

TOM GIBLIN INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

grams, he has developed safeguards. He has done a remarkable job to control the coronavirus spread. He is trying to meet challenges.

DS: What is the biggest thing your constituents are concerned about with this pandemic?

TG: I think it is legislation dealing with unemployment. The numbers are staggering. We take it case by case in our district. And we work with those who are eligible for unemployment. We try to help our constituents in the best possible way.

DS: What is your take on the possible expansion of unemployment funds?

TG: I think no doubt that it helped with an additional \$600 per week. It will be expiring shortly. The US Senate didn't pass the extension for an additional \$600 per week. However, they have passed unemployment from 39 weeks to 59 weeks. I have requested the commissioner of labor develop training programs for the unemployed. Unemployed people are set to lose an additional \$600 and they will be back on the market. The pace will not be the same. Atlantic City casinos will have 45,000 open jobs. Hopefully and slowly, we will be the same position as the pre-COVID-19 era.

DS: Small businesses have been hit the hardest during COVID-19. How will they get back on track?

TG: There were a wide variety of forgivable loans for small businesses. Face masks, social distancing, and an education process for people to do business

will help our economy. People will not be having extra money to spend. They will not be making the same amount of money as they had a year ago, especially the restaurant, bar and café industry.

DS: Was there any plan conceived to outright suspend rent and mortgage payments at least for another 6 months?

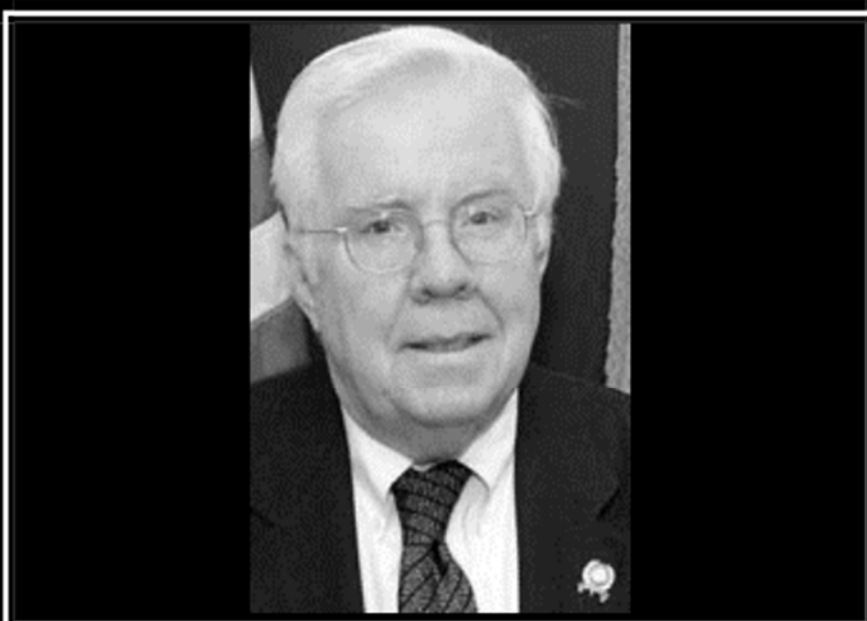
TG: The legislation has already passed. I was co-sponsor of the legislation. For mortgages and foreclosures, they were given three months more time. With legislation, we gave more time for tenants as well. For those with delinquent rents under these hard circumstances, landlord protection is available. The program was geared towards the rent and landlords.


DS: Local Unions and National Unions have helped their members for a long time. In the new era, how can you help your members?

TG: There are some issues always. With educational programs, work environment changes, skills concerns, supplemental unemployment benefits, we try to help our members. With a supplemental unemployment fund, we help the members. Members put aside some funds for emergencies. If they are unemployed, the union will match the amount of a member's unemployment check. Also, they will receive healthcare coverage and retraining programs.

DS: What are operating engineers?

TG: They work in multi-skill jobs. It's a diversified trade union that primarily represents stationary engineers and mechanics who maintain physical plant fa-




Assemblyman
Thomas P. Giblin
 34th Legislative District of New Jersey
 Clifton - East Orange - Montclair - Orange
 (973)779-3125
 AsmGiblin@njleg.org

cilities in various industries throughout the state.

DS: Let's talk about your representation for the people as an Assemblyman. When did you first get first elected as Assemblyman?

TG: I was first elected as Assemblyman in 2005. For 10 years I was chairman of the Essex County Democratic Party.

DS: What legislation attributed to you are you most proud of?

TG: I have dealt with many issues as an Assemblyman. The minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour was very important to families of the 34th District. Also, legislation to advocate work support, help out colleges and universities for their future planning.

DS: Why did you decide not to run for higher office?

TG: I ran for County Executive in 2002. I was unsuccessful against Joseph DiVincenzo. There are many issues when it comes to running for higher office. Circumstances, financial support, family and time.

DS: Did you oppose any resolution presented by Governor Murphy's administration?

TG: If I disagree, I make amendments to the resolution and keep a good relationship.

DS: Thank you very much for your time.

TG: If constituents have any issues that are state-related, I encourage them to contact my office at 973-779-3125.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Humility

If there ever were a time that I think I need to reflect on the word humility, it is now. I say this because I am opining that our nation has reached its limits in the exhibition of so much pride that we are about to be wiped off the face of the earth.

This has been the case with the history of nations, which seems to me, is about to happen to us. Maybe you have forgotten Andrew Davis' song because it is buried in the sands. It used to be proudly sung in England and her colonies. Here it is:

*Rule, Britannia! Britannia,
rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never
shall be slaves.*

*When Britain first, at
heaven's command,
Arose from out the azure
main,
This was the charter of the
land,
And Guardian Angels sang
this strain:*

*The nations not so blest as
thee
Must, in their turn, to ty-
rants fall,
While thou shalt flourish
great and free:
The dread and envy of them
all.*

*Still more majestic shalt
thou rise,
More dreadful from each*

*foreign stroke,
As the loud blast that tears
the skies
Serves but to root thy native
oak.*

*Thee haughty tyrants ne'er
shall tame;
All their attempts to bend
thee down
Will but arouse thy gener-
ous flame,
But work their woe and thy
renown.*

*To thee belongs the rural
reign;
Thy cities shall with com-
merce shine;
All thine shall be the subject
main,
And every shore it circles,
thine.*

*The Muses, still with free-
dom found,
Shall to thy happy coasts
repair.
Blest isle! with matchless
beauty crowned,
And manly hearts to guard
the fair.*

*Rule, Britannia! Britannia,
rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never
shall be slaves*

Each time I hear, "We are the greatest nation on earth," being said about the United States of America, I am reminded of the theologian/ethicist Reinhold Niebuhr's 1952 book, *The Irony of American History*, in which he challenged the pride of the American nation. Martin Luther King Jr. said that Reinhold Niebuhr had a greater influence on him than Ghandi.

That said, I have shuddered at our boast that we are the wealthiest nation on earth. I have heard the repetition also of our boasted military might. We have

also boasted of our democracy. We have boasted of our health system. But let me ask, do we ever stop to think of one of the most profound sayings in the Proverbs, namely: "Pride goes before destruction and an arrogant spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

The man who wrote or collected this proverb must have known much about what he was speaking. Yes, he was one of the richest and wisest kings of his generation. His father had left him a kingdom that stretched from the borders of Egypt to the Euphrates. He had ships at sea to bring him gold. Nations from everywhere sent their ambassadors to seek his wisdom. His table was spread with the most delicious meals. He had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines (1 Kings 11:9), whatever the latter means.

After dedicating himself and his nation to God at the start of his kingship, and praying one of the most effective prayers (2 Chronicles 6:7). He received the affirmation of God and was given the challenge, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV).

It was not long before he forgot the reality of his moment of dedication, his prayer, and the challenge. In reality, his kingdom started to crack in his day, and soon after his death, it fell apart (divided) under his son Rehoboam. (2 Chronicles 10; 1 Kings 12).

Such was the tragedy for the kingdom of Israel and the tragedy for the history of nations as Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Syria, Greece, Media-Persia, Rome,

Great Britain, the Mongols, and so many more. Read Paul Kennedy's book, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, William Shirer's *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, Edward Gibbon's *The History of the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*, and other histories in this genre to grasp what happens when nations become arrogant.

Do I need to say more than quote the great apostle Paul who said, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he falls." (1 Corinthians 10:12)

If you know about Paul, he had it all made as a young man. He got an early start in life, being educated at one of the most upstanding universities at the time, namely the University of Tarsus. He had for his mentor a name among names, Gamaliel.

By the age of thirty, he was named to the highest Jewish church council, the Sanhedrin. Paul was well respected that he received letters from the council to arrest Christians from all over and take them back to Jerusalem for trial. He even consented to the death of one of the early fire-brand preachers, called Stephen.

Paul was going places until one day, the Lord Jesus Christ met him on the road to Damascus and knocked him off his horse. His story is told and retold in Acts 9:1-19; 22:6-21; 26:12-18. Thank God that Paul learned a lesson of humility before it was too late.

We might not be able to save the nations, but we can save our lives. As the apostle James says, "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:10).

My prayer is that each one of us will take thought before we boast and that the leaders of the nation will read and follow the warnings of history and Scripture as given above.

ECC NAMES

INTERIM PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

Anthony E. Munroe as he transitions to Borough of Manhattan Community College.

For the last eleven years, Dr. Boakye has served Essex County College as an Acting Dean of

Liberal Arts and Business, a Chairperson of the Business Division, and an Associate Professor of Economics/Finance. Dr. Boakye recently received the International Teaching Excellence Award from the international Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). While serving as

Chair, Dr. Boakye spearheaded efforts to secure accreditation from the ACBSP, one of only two community colleges in the state to be so recognized.

Under his leadership, Essex County College has received accreditation for several programs, including the American Bar Association (ABA) Extension Ap-

proval for the Paralegal Studies Program (A.S.). Additionally, Dr. Boakye championed the creation of several new academic programs in areas such as Finance, Supply Chain Management, and Business. He is also the founder of the popular Business Week and Business Plan

(Continued on page 12)

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

The Monopoly in US Health Care Extends Beyond Health Insurers

Health Insurance is Just One Big Monopoly in US Healthcare, Not the Only One.

Imagine this. Two giant Sumo wrestlers. Their plan is not to fight and compete against each other as they should. Their plan is to agree and combine their powers to crush all smaller players.

The two Sumo wrestlers are the US Health Insurance (health financing) industry and the US health care delivery system.

And who are the small players they want to crush? First and foremost, it's the patients. Yes, but they also have their designs on crushing the few remaining independent doctors and independent hospitals and clinics.

We know that the US health insurance industry is monopolistic and growing its monopoly power. This trend concentration trend isn't new. A 2012 study found that the high levels of concentration - as defined by Federal anti-trust regulators - was present in 68 percent of US communities in 1998 and that proportion had grown to 99 percent by 2006. There was a corresponding increase in premiums amounting to seven percentage points over the same period. In other words, less competition meant higher insurance premiums. This trend covers all forms of health insurance today. You have to grin and bear it whether you purchase

your insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchanges, employer group plans or Medicare Advantage plans.

By end of 2017, one fifth (22%) of those purchasing healthcare insurance on the ACA exchanges had just one medical insurer covering their communities. Another one fifth (21%) had a choice of just two insurers. In summary, four out of six people had very little choice in whom they selected as their healthcare insurers. Between 2007 and 2015, the proportion of the Medicare Advantage market share held by the top four largest insurers went up to 61 percent from 48 percent. Between 2006 and 2014, for both individual and group policies, the market share of the top four firms grew from 74 percent to 83 percent.

Why So Little Prevention?

Because health insurance is a relatively new phenomenon - compared to say transportation, retailing or communications industries - there is no long tradition of to ensure the markets remained competitive. However, by the 1970s when the private health insurance industry had consolidated and grown to become the primary means of financing healthcare, the anti-trust fervour of the previous decades had gradually dissipated.

The insurance industry drew more scrutiny in more recent years. The Obama administration filed lawsuits to block mega merger deals between large insurers.

But to this day, the US does not have a comprehensive policy for balancing the rising market power of insurers against the market consolidation of healthcare providers. So, one Sumo wrestler is free to do as he wishes and we will see rising healthcare premiums till something is done about it.

Hiding in Plain Sight

It seems that the other Sumo wrestler is also hiding in plain sight. The monopoly power is at work everywhere. You cannot shrug your shoulders and say this is America. That is how business works. But when we accuse the insurance industry for its monopolistic tendencies, we

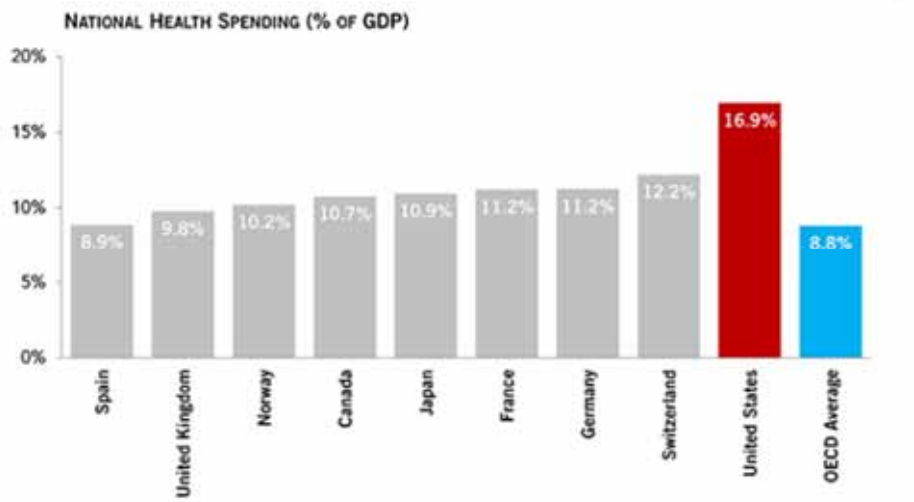
are just looking at the tip of the iceberg.

In an article written in June 2019, Axios pointed out that The U.S. health care system is full of monopolies. It quoted Open Markets policy director Phil Longman in the article saying that "America's health care crisis is brought you by monopoly."

That is no exaggeration. The merging and concentration trend in healthcare is real and its everywhere. Check out this table from the Axios article, using Open Markets Institute data. It depicts the combined market share of two of the largest companies operating in a number of healthcare subsectors.

INDUSTRY	INDUSTRY REVENUE	TWO LARGEST COMPANIES
Dialysis centers	\$24.4b	92%
Dialysis equipment mfg.	\$2.3b	78%
IV Solution	\$1.5b	75%
Syringe mfg.	\$3.8b	69%
Orthopedic products mfg.	\$10.6b	63%
Health care consultants	\$6.0b	47%

Data: Open Markets Institute; Chart: Axios Visuals



SOURCE: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD Health Statistics 2019, July 2019. NOTE: Data are for 2018. © 2019 Peter G. Peterson Foundation.

From dialysis equipment and services to IV solutions and syringes, to orthopedic products, two companies control more than half the markets in these subsectors. As Axios notes, this trend is everywhere. Hospital systems are merging and gobbling up independent doctors' practices. The result: They can charge more for the care they give. Pharmacy benefit managers and insurers are also merging growing so big that their collective revenues exceeds that of the powerhouses of the tech industry. And that is big.

Why We Should Care

A monopolized healthcare market reduces the quality of care, while also increasing costsⁱ. The monopolies are why the US spends way more on health care than any other industrialized country. And we don't even get good outcomes for that.

US Spends More of National Income on Health Care

In relative terms, the US we spend more of our national income than all other developed nationsⁱⁱ.

US Spends More for Health Care Per Person

Our per capita health care spending - that is result of dividing the entire national health care costs by the number of people in the country - is twice the average of other developed nationsⁱⁱⁱ.

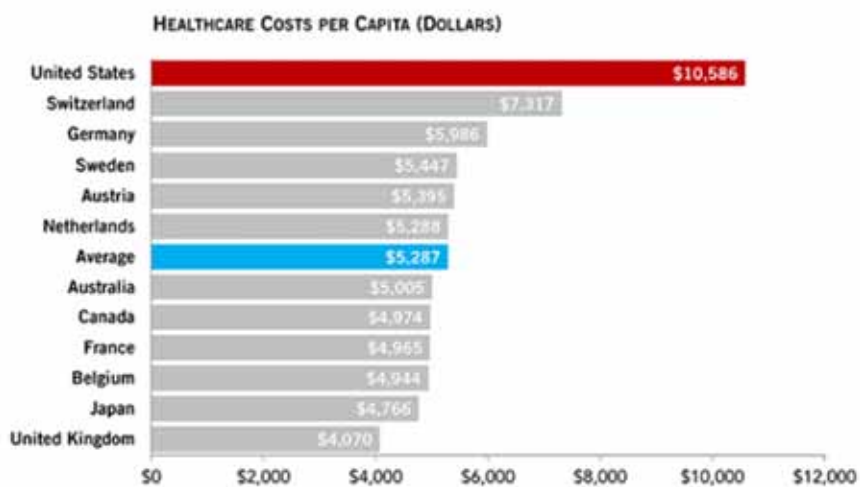
While it is easy to explain away that away with our relatively high cost of living, that is not the main reason for our high healthcare costs. Medications and medical procedures in the

(Continued on page 12)

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 11)

- Our obesity rate twice as higher than the OECD average (of 36 nations).



SOURCE: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD Health Statistics 2019, July 2019. NOTES: Data are for 2018. Chart uses purchasing power parities to convert data into U.S. dollars. Average is for other wealthy OECD countries with above median GDP and above median GDP per capita. © 2019 Peter G. Peterson Foundation FGPF.ORG

US are far higher compared to the costs in similar nations^{iv}. Three other reasons that contribute to higher healthcare costs include hospital consolidation, an absence of a US national healthcare system and a highly predictable one, insufficient industry regulation^v.

We also pay than all other countries for healthcare administration^{vi}.

And We Deliver Appalling Healthcare Outcomes

If we had good healthcare outcomes to show for it, then

- Americans visit their physician fewer times than our peers in most countries. This could be due to us not having enough physicians.
- We spend more on expensive technologies such as MRIs and go for more specialized procedures like hip replacements far more often compared to citizens of other nations.
- Compared to other peer nations, the U.S. hospitalizes more people for preventable causes and have the record for the highest rate of avoidable deaths.



we can be happy. But we have appalling outcomes that are closer to the worst performers and are nowhere near the best.

- We have the lowest life expectancy and also the highest suicide rates among the top 11 OECD nations.
- We have the highest chronic disease burden.

- Not all is gloom and doom though. In the US we do outperform others in preventive measures including the highest rates of breast cancer screening among women between the ages 50 to 69 and the second-highest rate of flu vaccinations among people age 65 and
- (Continued on page 15)

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Statistics available as of July 22, 2020

Municipality	7-21-2020	7-22-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1,017	1,019	63
Bloomfield	1,106	1,104	68
Caldwell	112	116	8
Cedar Grove	477	472	111
East Orange	2,002	2,000	223
Essex Fells	24	24	2
Fairfield	143	144	18
Glen Ridge	39	41	9
Irvington	1,450	1,450	153
Livingston	501	504	68
Maplewood	328	327	26
Millburn	157	155	7
Montclair	445	448	51
Newark	7,968	7,976	643
North Caldwell	42	43	4
Nutley	498	505	35
Orange	1,025	1,036	86
Roseland	85	85	14
South Orange	105	107	4
Verona	133	134	13
West Caldwell	281	275	45
West Orange	1,270	1,264	184
Total	19,208	19,229	1,835
Negative tests	104,112	105,318	

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 7-22-2020 at 5 pm EDT)

New Jersey: 177,645 cases / 13,787 deaths (Plus 1,920 probable)
United States (approx.): 3.941 Million / 142,700 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 15.056 Million / 619,700 deaths

Governor Murphy has signed Executive Order No. 168, allowing the resumption of contact practices and competitions in outdoor settings for organized sports defined as "high risk" by the New Jersey Department of Health's "Guidance for Sports Activities."

ECC NAMES

INTERIM PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 10)

Competition at Essex County College.

"I am truly honored to be appointed as Interim President to lead this historic institution," Dr. Boakye stated. "With our dedicated faculty and staff, ECC continues to serve a diverse population and transform lives with its many academic and non-academic programs. As an internal candidate, I am well aware of the challenges facing ECC during this unprecedented time and look forward to working with everyone to

move Essex forward. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees and the College Community's trust in me and willingness to support me to reposition ECC. "I am committed to advance our mission during this period of transition for all our students, staff and alumni."

Chairwoman Bolden concluded, "The Trustees and I look forward to working with Dr. Boakye. I am confident that ECC will continue to provide quality academic instruction and exceptional training programs for the entire Essex County College Community."

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

On July 20, Governor Phil Murphy announced that due to the coronavirus outbreak, sports fans won't be allowed at MetLife Stadium, as there is currently a statewide limit of 500 people at outdoor gatherings. This rule certainly applies to both the Giants and Jets. Rutgers football is also looking at playing home games without fans this year, that is, if a college football season takes place this fall. Any and all spectators will be limited to the immediate family of players and coaches.

Despite this, Murphy has made exceptions for "low risk" activities, such as karate schools, but with no sparring and an emphasis on instruction.

Major League Baseball is currently engaged in "Summer Training" as the Mets and Yankees are taking to the field with no

one in the stands. The big issue right now is the fate of the Toronto Blue Jays, who are desperately seeking somewhere to play home games after Canadian officials declined to allow baseball games in that country, as well as other locations nixing the idea. This issue is a little different for Canadian NHL teams, as that league has its own unique protocols for when the league resumes, again without fans. Meanwhile, the NBA will start up inside a "bubble" in Florida.

NCAA Tournament men's and women's basketball tournament hockey have been pushed back to hopefully resume once the virus is done or strongly contained. This is also holding true for high school sports. The football regular season has already been pushed back one month to October.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 4)

the district's persistent "achievement gap."

MONTCLAIR - Those who have an interest on whether the township should build dedicated bicycle lanes may want to see if its public hearing will join the Montclair Planning Board's July 27 agenda.

MPB members Carol Loughman and Daniel Gilman presented a report to their colleagues here July 13 recommending the said hearing. The session would involve changing the language of Montclair's Comprehensive SAFE Streets Implementation plan.

One passage would be where homeowners, businesses, houses of worship and non-profits would be notified of any planned bike lane installation. There must be 70-percent or greater agreement among those affected for the lane to be built.

Loughman, a former independent Township Council candidate, said the report made her more willing to consider dedicated bike lanes. It is too early whether Montclair's dedicated lanes would resemble more like Newark or New York City's lanes.

CITY OF EAST ORANGE HONORS FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FIRE CAPTAIN ROBERT SLAUGHTER WITH STREET RE-NAMING

Retired EOFD Captain Robert Slaughter is flanked by city officials and members of the East Orange Fire Division in front of Fire House 5 during a Street Re-Naming Ceremony held in his honor on July 15, 2020.



EAST ORANGE - Mayor Ted R. Green and the East Orange City Council designated the corner of South Clinton Street and Elmwood Avenue across from Fire House Five as Robert Slaughter Square on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. The ceremonial street re-naming honors the legacy of Retired Fire Captain Robert Slaughter, a well-respected public servant and the first African American fire captain in the City of East Orange.

Family, friends and local public officials gathered to pay

tribute to Captain Slaughter, who also served as Special Chief in charge of public relations and fire safety. During his nearly 30-year tenure, Captain Slaughter was instrumental in the founding of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters (IABPFF), the Firefighters League Advocating Minority Equality (FFLAME), and in 1969, was selected president of the Vulcan Pioneers of New Jersey.

"I'm honored to give a gentleman like Mr. Slaughter his flowers while he is still here," said Mayor Ted R. Green. "This street-renaming is to serve as a reminder for all of our young people that visit this corner so they can remember the esteemed legacy Captain Slaughter left in the City of East Orange."

Fifth Ward Councilman Mustafa Brent, who is also a fire captain in the City of Newark, reminded guests about the hardships Slaughter had to endure as an African American firefighter at the height of the Civil Rights Movement when segregation still existed throughout the nation.

"Mr. Slaughter was a firefighter in a time where they used to send firefighters home because they didn't want them working in a firehouse because it was an all-European crew," said Brent. "I want all to understand the gravity of not just being a firefighter at that time, but [what it took] to elevate to captain and retire as (special) chief."

East Orange Fire Chief André Williams echoed the sentiments of Councilman Brent, referencing the turbulent time Captain Slaughter had to navigate and how it paved the way for him and the rest of the East Orange Fire Division, which is predominantly African American and reflective of the current city

population.

"Robert Slaughter came on the job in 1961, that's before most of us could even vote. It was not easy to be a firefighter anywhere in this country in 1961 as a black man," said Williams. "What he endured, he endured it for us to stand here today and wear this uniform. Understand that without him, I wouldn't be standing here. He is a pioneer that fought for equality for African American firefighters."

Before the new street sign was unveiled, Captain Slaughter spoke to the audience of over 50 people, which included many EOFD retired and current firefighters.

"I thank everyone for showing up and showing appreciation. I thank everyone that chooses to be a fireman, it wasn't like that at one time. Thank you for showing up," said Slaughter.

Captain Slaughter retired with distinction after 29 years of service.

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

DO I NEED A LAWYER TO BUY A HOUSE? PART I

The short answer is you absolutely need a lawyer to buy a house! If you are a first-time homebuyer, the need for an attorney increase by ten. For most first-time buyers, this is the largest investment of your life so far, and you don't want to live to regret the purchase! Do not think that because you have lived in a house all of your life, you know how to purchase one, especially the first one. Call on the services of an expert. Retain a lawyer to help you.

The lawyer's role in the purchase is not to tell you that the house is in the right location. The lawyer's role is not to tell you that the neighborhood schools are great. The lawyer's role is not to tell you that you are paying the right price for the house. The lawyer's role is to guide you through the thought process with lots of opportunities to abandon the deal if it is not right for you.

Here's what I mean. The smart buyer, the buyer who wants a purchase without drama selects an attorney before they begin the search for that brand-new home. If you don't know a real estate attorney, ask around. You have friends who have purchased homes, speak with them; get a few names.

Importantly, don't rule out an attorney because of price. Select an attorney who is experienced in helping clients either buy or sell residential real estate. Don't select an attorney who just left the prosecutor's office and

has never handled a real estate closing in his life.

Like doctors, lawyers have areas of concentration. Regardless of how great a heart doctor is, if you broke your leg, you would not go to the heart doctor. You would choose an orthopedist who regularly deals with people with broken legs. Lawyers are like doctors in that regard.

So now you have your real estate attorney, and you are set to start your search. You call a realtor, or maybe you use a site like Zillow or Trulia to find the perfect home. All I can say is **Buyer Beware!**

First of all, remember, the realtor who shows you the house works for the seller. The realtor is paid by the seller and owes her allegiance to the seller. This is not to say that the realtor will not be truthful with you about the condition of the property, but the realtor can only divulge what she knows which could be a lot, or not so much.

If you find a house using Zillow or Trulia, you may deal directly with the seller who has a clear vested self-interest. Your lawyer works for you and his job is to protect your interests.

You sign a contract to buy the dream house! Signing the contract does not immediately obligate you to purchase the house. Call your lawyer. You have three days during which your attorney can review the contract. If necessary, your lawyer can extend the three-day attorney review. You will want to tell him what you were told during the negotiations with the realtor. His job is to ensure that you get what you were promised before you signed on the dotted line.

Consulting with your attorney is particularly important if you are dealing directly with the seller. The seller's attorney has more than likely prepared a contract that tilts favor to the seller, not you. Your attorney's role will be to even out the terms by either adding or rejecting terms that are not favorable to you. Your attorney will reject the contract prepared either by the realtor or the seller's attorney but advise that the contract could be acceptable if seller agrees to your terms. . . and the negotiations begin.

If you are not purchasing new construction, and the house was built in the 40s or 50s, you could have a potential million dollar headache about to happen. Here's what I mean. If you buy a house that has an underground oil tank and the tank is leaking, the ground water could become contaminated. Hundreds of people could become ill as the result of drinking the water that your underground tank contaminated.

The contamination problem belongs to the owner of the home when the problem is discovered. In other words, the problem belongs to YOU! You are not going to be able to sue the seller assuming that the you can locate the seller to sue and that seller has not relocated to the North Pole by the time you figure out you have a problem.

Therefore, your attorney will want you to have a specific inspection to make sure that there is no underground tank. he cost of the inspection is about \$300. \$300 is a lot of money, but not nearly as much as finding out five years down the road that your house is worth \$0 because you a living on an environmental waste dump, and more importantly, that it is your responsibility to clean up the site.

If there is an underground tank, your attorney will ensure that seller addresses the clean-up, a \$5,000 to \$??? problem, and that seller produces the appropriate documentation from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection saying that the problem has been addressed and no further action is required.

Your attorney will ensure that you have the opportunity for a home inspection. He can extend the time for you to complete an inspection to as much as fourteen days. A home inspection is not when your uncle who is in the building trades takes a look around and declare the property is good shape. A home inspection is when you pay approximately \$500 for a thorough home inspection and are provided a detailed written report of the findings.

You must attend the home inspection. You can't send your brother because you have to work. A good home inspector will look at the roof, the plumbing, electrical, and heat systems.

He will look at the landscaping to determine if there are negative indications. He will turn on the faucets and look under cabinets. He will tell you if there has been deferred maintenance issue and whether something does not work.

To the best of his ability, he will look where you probably have not looked. He may tell you about things that require further investigation. For example, if you buy a house in the winter, he may tell you that you need to see if the air conditioning is working at a later date, prior to closing the deal.

Do not rely on municipal inspections. Municipal inspectors are looking for code violations. Here's a story to illustrate the point. A guy named Jim purchased a house in early November. When he inspected the property, there was no heat. The realtor told him truthfully that the owner was now living in a nursing home and speculated that as the reason the heat was turned off.

Despite his attorney's warnings, Jim decided not to have a home inspection because the inspector wanted \$400 to conduct an inspection. After all, he thought, the city will come out to inspect. The city did inspect and found that everything satisfied all of the town's codes. Except when title finally transferred in February and Jim and his family were excited and anxious to move into their brand new home, he discovered that the boiler was cracked, and he would have to purchase a new boiler before they could occupy the house.

In the real estate world, it's always **BUYER BEWARE!** What you see, and don't see, is what you get. You must make sure that what you see and don't see is what you actually want, or at least something you are willing to live with.

Had Jim spent \$500 for a home inspection, rather than settled for a \$40 code inspection, he would have timely learned that the boiler was inoperable. He could have demanded that seller repair the boiler. He saved \$500, but ended up spending \$3,500 to replace the boiler.

Remember to read Part II of this series, "Do I need a Lawyer to Buy a House?"

VACCINE (Cont. from page 5)

of all their decision-making.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine development program is evaluating at least four experimental vaccines, each of which represents a unique combination of messenger RNA (mRNA) format and target antigen. On July 1st, Pfizer and BioNTech announced preliminary data from BNT162b1, the most advanced of the four mRNA formulations. The early data demonstrates that BNT162b1 is able to produce neutralizing antibodies in humans at or above the levels observed in the plasma from patients who have recovered from COVID-19, and this was shown at relatively low dose levels. Local reactions and systemic events were dose-dependent, generally mild to moderate, and transient. No serious adverse events were reported. On July 20th, the companies announced early positive update

from German Phase 1/2 COVID-19 vaccine study, including first T Cell response data.

Recently, two of the companies' four investigational vaccine candidates (BNT162b1 and BNT162b2) received Fast Track designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). 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. Further data from the ongoing Phase 1/2 clinical trials of the four vaccine candidates will enable the selection of a lead candidate and dose level for an anticipated large, global Phase 2b/3 safety and efficacy study that may begin as early as later this month, pending regulatory approval.

If the ongoing studies are successful, Pfizer and BioNTech expect to be ready to

seek Emergency Use Authorization or some form of regulatory approval as early as October 2020. The companies currently expect to manufacture globally up to 100 million doses by the end of 2020 and potentially more than 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021, subject to final dose selection from their clinical trial.

In addition to engagements with governments, Pfizer and BioNTech have provided an expression of interest for possible supply to the COVAX Facility, a mechanism established by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and World Health Organization (WHO) that aims to provide governments with early access to a large portfolio of COVID-19 candidate vaccines using a range of technology platforms, produced by multiple manufacturers across the world.

WORLD NEWS (Cont. from page 6)

Mr. Guterres also flagged the urgent need for greater international support.

"I have called for a rescue and recovery package equivalent to more than 10 per cent of the global economy", reminded the UN chief, underscoring the need of the international community to provide liquidity, financial assistance and debt relief for Latin America and the Caribbean.

"Latin American and Caribbean countries - and in particular small island developing States - should not be excluded from global assistance," he asserted. "The international multilateral response needs to be extended to middle-income countries."

Broader structural challenges must be addressed to build back better and transform the region's development model.

Against the backdrop of pervasive inequality, accessible and comprehensive welfare systems must be developed, fair taxation systems created, decent jobs promoted, environmental sustainability strengthened, and social protection mechanisms reinforced, according to the UN chief.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 12)

older, after the United Kingdom^{vii}.

So What Can We Do?

A Brookings Institution report, Making health care markets work: Competition policy for health care makes this observation:

The U.S. health care system does not work as well as it could, or should. Prices are high and rising, there are serious quality problems, and many characterize the system as rigid and unresponsive, lacking dynamism and innovation. A lack of competition is a major contributor to this dysfunction. In some cases, markets lack the basic conditions required to stimulate and support competition. In others, conditions have changed in ways that reduce competition. The latter has been particularly the case due to consolidation among both providers and insurers.

Ah yes, regulate healthcare better!

Regulate Healthcare Better

We need a new competition policy for healthcare that covers both providers and insurers. But to this day, the US does not have a comprehensive policy for balancing the growing market power of healthcare insurers against the rapid consolidation occurring among US healthcare providers. Until we do, things are not going to turn for the better.

The authors of the Brookings Report offers a collection of actionable policy reforms - from federal level to the state level - under four key themes.

- Increase federal and state scrutiny into both horizontal and vertical mergers is a good place to start. It is also necessary to eliminate various federal and state policies encouraging provider consolidation and protecting incumbents.
- Remove barriers to price competition among providers. At the same time, provider competition can be encouraged by state licensing

boards through facilitating various practices including telehealth and by increasing transparency. Sunlight can solve a lot of problems too.

- Anticompetitive practices should be prevented by the States. State Insurance Commissioners can play a bigger role in reviewing insurer contracts.
- Last but not least, make it easier for independent physician practices to remain financially viable including providing access to capital.

And Pay More Attention to Healthcare Insurance

If you believed that the US government at the highest levels didn't know what needs to be done, think again. You can check out this report - Reforming America's Healthcare System Through Choice and Competition - and see how much they know about what must be done and are yet not doing it. It is signed by Alex M Azar II, Steven T Mnuchin and Alexander Acosta.

I am looking forward to some healthy increased competition. But when will that happen?

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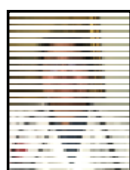


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