



CAN BARAKA STOP THE VIOLENCE?

Newark Suffers 30 Shootings in the Blink of an Eye

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THE FREE RIDE IS OVER



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LOCAL TALK

◆ 25¢

Covering: NEWARK: Central Ward, North Ward, East Ward, West Ward, South Ward and East Orange, Orange, West Orange, South Orange, Maplewood, Irvington, Montclair, Bloomfield and Surrounding Areas

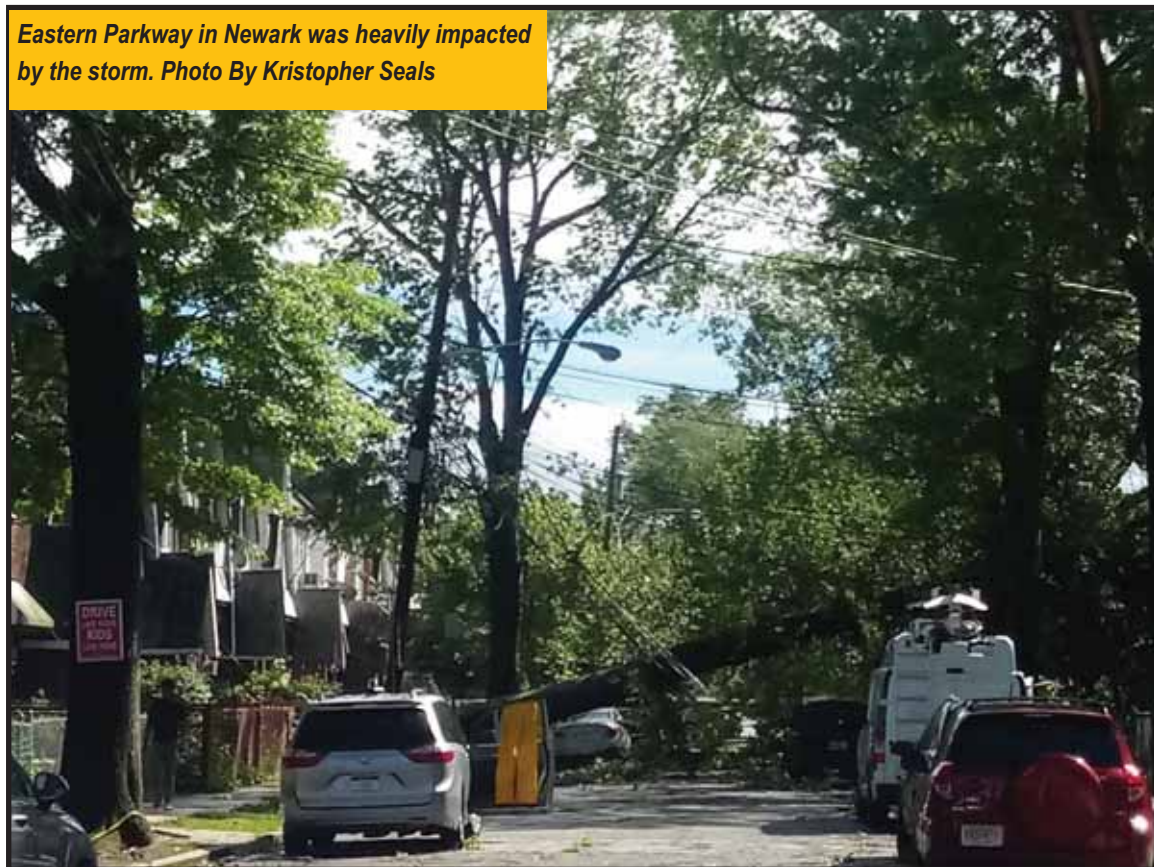
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REGION HIT HARD BY TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS

Eastern Parkway in Newark was heavily impacted by the storm. Photo By Kristopher Seals



By Lev D. Zilbermints & Kristopher Seals

NEWARK - Last week, a word pronounced as “EE-SIGH-EE-AS” meant nothing; now, it will never be forgotten.

Ivy Hill Park was one of several spots that suffered a blow from Tropical Storm

Isaias which pummeled New Jersey August 4. Trees were snapped like toothpicks. Huge branches lay on the ground, blocking roads. One tree was snapped in half, with part lying on the ground and the other part intact.

(Continued on page 8)

UNA ENTREVISTA CON CHARLES HALL (EN ESPANOL)

Charles Hall, a la derecha, hablando con el gobernador de NJ Phil Murphy. Fotos del Local 108



Por Dhiren Shah

PARTE I

Dhiren Shah: Hola Sr. Hall. Usted es un presidente de la Unión en el condado de Essex; ¿le dirías a nuestros lectores sobre usted y su sindicato?

Charles Hall: Bueno, lo primero que le pediría es que se refiera a mí como Charles. Soy el presidente de Local 108 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union, UFCW, AFL-CIO-CLC. Nuestra unión internacional tiene 1,3 millones de personas. Local 108 representa a los trabajadores en el almacenamiento, comercio minorista, gobierno municipal, supermercados, transporte, residencias de

(Continúa en la página 11)



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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

All of us forgot about Coronavirus on Tuesday and Wednesday. In the neighborhoods of New Jersey, only one thing was in all of our minds: Tropical Storm Isaias. For over a week, weather forecasters were mentioning this storm, but not as a big threat. But when it hit the New York, New Jersey area, it disrupted life for most of us. Over 1.6 million households lost power. PSE&G and JCPL are working day and night to restore service. Some got it back and some did not. It might take a few days to restore everyone's power.

Trees fell all over the state. Many roads were closed due to fallen trees. It was harder to find a good direction to travel, even in Google maps or Waze. But we all

felt panic for the spur of a moment only. Our lives went back to normal.

There was a huge blast in the Lebanese capital of Beirut. About 100 people lost their lives, and over 1000 people got injured. More numbers will come out as the days go by. The entire city was spread out with glass and rubble. A nitrogen explosion was suspected, and if it was, it will impact the lives of the Lebanese for years to come.

The direction we are all going is wrong. Instead of peace, it is a competition of making explosives and dangerous bombs. Instead of helping each other in the world, a few leaders are going into competition to see who is the most powerful. This time reminds me of four great leaders: Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela who tried in a true sense to bring peace in the world. I don't even count Nobel Peace Prize winners, because those are about politics and popularity too.

Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President

Joe Biden denied requests for taking a cognitive test during a Errol Barnett from CBS interview with moderators at a conference of Black and Latino journalists. As per AOL: "In an exchange with CBS's Errol Barnett during a wide-ranging, multi-moderator interview at a conference of Black and Latino journalists, Biden balked at Barnett's question about whether Biden had even taken an exam. "No, I haven't taken a test. Why the hell would I take a test?" responded Biden, who then posed a rhetorical analogy. "C'mon man," he chided Barnett. "That's like saying, 'You — before you got on this program you took a test where you're taking cocaine or not, what do you think? Huh? Are you a junkie?'" Barnett followed up by asking Biden what he would say to Trump, "who brags about his test and makes your mental state an issue for voters?" "Well, if he can't figure out the difference between an elephant and a lion, I don't know what the hell he's talking about," said Biden with a laugh. "Look, c'mon man, I know you're trying

to goad me, but I'm so ... looking [forward] to have an opportunity to sit or stand with the president on the debates."

Now is a time for all of us to know the two candidates running for president. We want to know all the facts, including the financial statements of President Donald Trump. We all want to know the condition of Joseph Biden. At his age of 77 years old, does he have dementia or not? Can he make independent decisions without anyone's interference to protect the United States of America?

Locally, how is everyone handling the pandemic situation? Also, due to the coronavirus, the economic situation is affecting everyone's lives. Are the administrators handling the issues properly, and not giving money awards meant to help the needy to their friends and family members instead?

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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- 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
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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HI 82 LO 69	HI 79 LO 70	HI 82 LO 70	HI 88 LO 73	HI 92 LO 74	HI 92 LO 76	HI 88 LO 75

CAN BARAKA STOP THE VIOLENCE?

By Thomas Ellis II

It has been a very violent few weeks and, months in the city of Newark, but in July, the violence was off the hook. The shootings and killings have escalated for some reason.

Not only have the shootings and violence increased, but several victims of the shootings were women. In a climate where people all over are saying "Black Lives Matter" since when did we start shooting, stabbing, and carjacking women in the community?

July 13, 2020: at around 6:30 pm a male was shot inside Ivy Hill Park. The condition of the victim was unknown, and the shooter fled the scene. Also that day, there was a shooting at 161 Garside; the NPD found shell casings but no victim.

July 26th: at around 10:30 pm a 21-year-old female was shot and killed in Bradley Courts. The gunman fired several rounds, striking 13 other people and fatally injuring the woman.

July 28th: a male was stabbed to death at Penn Station. Also that day, three people was shot in the North Ward in the 100 block of Riverside Courts. One male was shot in the chest, and the police found two more victims that were shot in the leg.

There was a shooting at the Georgia King Village complex while children and residents were outside taking in a nice summer day.

While writing this story, I noticed that several gunshot victims were self-transporting themselves or had someone drop them off at the various hospitals in the city. One thing that people need to be careful of is that if a person has been shot and you move them or try to rush them to the

hospital before the ambulance arrives you could be doing more damage to the victim than good. The number one reason is because the bullet(s) can travel in the body depending on where a person is shot.

During the last week of July, there were over 30 shooting incidents throughout the city, which truly caused the shooting stats to rise not to mention the murder stats for all those who were killed during the past 60 days.

The sad part of the majority of these senseless shootings is that in many instances the shooter or shooters fled the scene with many of them not getting caught for their act. It does not make the community any safer when people know or heard of people that have shot up a block or complex, and no one says anything. All that does is put more people at risk, and allows the shooter(s) to roam free to possibly commit another shooting or murder somewhere in the city.

Now, there were too many shootings in July to include in this article, with several families still reeling from the pain, and hurt from the loss of a loved one or their loved one being shot.

The shootings and violence have continued during the month of August. On August 1, a male was shot on Grumman Ave around 6:50 p.m. Again, this was another shooting victim that transported himself to the hospital. Also that day, a woman was found stabbed senselessly in the North Ward of Newark. Over the past few weeks there's been an uptick in the stabbings in the City.

August 2nd: a 31-year-old Lamar Rutherford of Irvington was shot and killed on South 8th Street and 14th Avenue. There is

a small memorial shrine with t-shirts and stuffed animals on a tree near the area he was murdered.

August 4th: There was a shooting in the South Ward. The incident happened around 100 Willoughby Street, in which the victim was shot in the head.

It's really a shame, the level of violence that have been going on in Newark, with no protests, rallies, or community leaders, or church pastors speaking out. Newark's violence is off the hook.

Back in the day, if there was this many shootings and killings going on in the city I can remember when several antiviolence groups and organizations would be shutting down the city, screaming at the top of their lungs, "Stop the Violence," "End the Violence," but it has been very silent. Many of the groups or leaders are focusing on other things and it looks like the violence have been put on the back burner.

With several of the shootings in the city, there have been drive-bys with people just pulling up in a car or cars and spraying bullets at their target or targets, but in the cross-fire, they are hitting and injuring incident people. In several shootings the police recover a high number of shell casings on the block, in the street or on the grounds of the complex.

In response to the Newark violence, there will be a Zoom presentation with questions and answers, with the NPD Captains and the Public Safety Director on Friday evening. Let's hope the residents ask some serious questions on how to make Newark a safer city, because there's been too much Newark violence.

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Ambassador for Peace
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
www.localtalkweekly.com

1576 Springfield Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Email: localtalk@aol.com

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Cell: (973) 280-7547
Fax: (973) 622-1120

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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 / IRVINGTON - The latest proposal to build on the Pabst Blue Ribbon brewery site has had its variances approved by the Newark Zoning Board of Adjustment and has been the subject of a virtual Zoom town meeting last month.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and West Ward Councilman Joseph McCallum had fielded the public's questions about the 646 dwelling unit "Crown Village" via Zoom July 28. Newark's adjustment board had approved height variances on the five five-story buildings to flank Grove Street and line the southern side of South Orange Avenue July 8.

July 8's zoning board hearing was scheduled after neighboring property owners around the five-parcel, seven-acre lot were notified. The notices included Irvington address holders, since that township's northern end borders the area.

Crown Real Estate Holdings, of Elizabeth, proposes building four floors of studio and one- to three- bedroom apartments of "multigenerational housing" atop of some 28,000 square feet of street-level commercial space. Its amenities include a daycare center "with a secured outdoor play area," an outdoor basketball court, two gymnasiums, "a shared work space with a conference room, community rooms and an indoor parking garage of around 650 spaces.

Crown Village is the fourth proposal for the site since it was cleared in 2008 - and the third since it bought the property in 2015.

Baraka, in his 2017 State of the City Address named the site for a "Veterans Village" and polytrauma center, which combined

medical offices with said housing and some commercial-retail space. Residents and community activists marched to and rallied at the site in 2018 to protest a proposal to place a juvenile detention and rehabilitation center there.

Welco Real Estate was initially involved with a proposed mixed residential/commercial redevelopment there. Essex County meanwhile realigned Grove Street north to its South Orange Avenue intersection.

Pabst, of Milwaukee, bought the 1930-built Hoffman soda bottling plant in 1945. It removed some of the brewery's equipment and abandoned the rest in 1986. Its landmark 60-foot, 100,000-gallon bottle water tower, removed in 2006, remains in five sections in a T. Fiore warehouse.

EAST ORANGE - A city man, accused of going on a spree of assaults in Nutley and a police pursuit in Belleville, remains in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since July 14.

Nutley police first got a call from a resident while she was receiving first aid at a Hawthorne Avenue store early July 13. The 31-year-old gave a description of a man - who punched her after she refused to talk with him along Nutley's Bloomfield Avenue - and the 2011 grey Hyundai Sonata was driving towards Hillside Avenue.

A 60-year-old woman soon reported that the same man took a swing at her after refusing to let him use her cell phone along Hillside Avenue and the said car. Although she ducked his assault, she fell and struck her head on the ground.

Two more Nutley women called police from Franklin Avenue and Centre Street minutes later. The first, 43-years-old, described the man, who put her in a chokehold from behind until "she screamed for her husband. The other, 34, said the man crossed the street to punch her while she was waiting to enter a nail salon.

Nutley police broadcasted the incidents plus descriptions of the suspect and the Hyundai which had been reported as stolen from East Orange.

Belleville patrol officers found a car matching the de-

scription in their township and tried to pull it over. When the driver refused, a pursuit ensued until the driver's arrest 6:20 p.m. that Monday. BPD said that the suspect had collided with one of its cruisers, a parked car and a tree before attempting to flee on foot.

Quinn Mayweather, 22, has been charged with and held for aggravated assault with intent for serious bodily injury, knowingly receiving stolen property and recklessly eluding police after failing to heed instructions to stop. Mayweather is also being held on a Clifton robbery warrant; a sexual assault charge from Bloomfield is pending.

ORANGE - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and East Orange Police Director Dominick Saldida, on Aug. 1, had identified the Orange bicyclist who was killed at a major East Orange intersection July 29.

The county's Homicide and Major Crimes Task Force, added Stephens, is continuing its investigation of the death of James B. Allen, Jr., - including the identification of vehicles that had struck him at Freeway Drive East and Evergreen Place 2 p.m. that Wednesday.

Emergency responders, said Stephens and Saldida, arrived there by 2:30 p.m., to find Allen, 26, "severely injured." Witnesses told them that Allen and his bicycle were struck by "multiple vehicles" there.

A medic declared Allen dead at the scene. The scene was taped off for several hours for a field investigation, diverting NJTransit No. 94 busses and other traffic.

Stephens and Saldida added that none of the drivers who struck Allen and had stayed at the scene were not charged.

Allen's funeral or memorial service has not been announced as of 10 a.m., Aug. 5.

WEST ORANGE - Township elders and residents' July 13 discussions on what to do next since the Valley Section's Christopher Columbus statue has been removed, may continue during the Township Council's Aug. 11 live/virtual meeting.

Township Business Administrator John Sayers confirmed

July 13 that the 28-year-old Columbus monument had been removed from its traffic island at Valley Road, Kingsley Street and Quimby Place earlier that month. The family of Joseph Dorey, who was instrumental in the Valley Civic Organization's 1992 Columbus fundraising and erection, had picked the statuary from the township's DPW yard.

DPW workers had removed the monument at Mayor Robert Parisi's late June instruction. The removal follows Newark's preemptive taking down of its two statues.

Resident Akil Khalfani, July 13, said that he was "thankful that the voices of the people were heard - at least in part - and that it (the Columbus monument) was removed. The Essex County College Africana Institute director added that he believes that the monument be replaced with one that reflects West Orange's diversity or the contribution of the indigenous Lenai Lenape.

Council President Michele Casalino's response to Khalfani's suggestion could be summed up as "Maybe not exactly there."

"As far as in this spot and place, the reason why that monument went up was because of all the people who worked so hard with the VCO," said Casalino. "Many of the residents are upset because the monument was about the people of that neighborhood - and there are people who're still there."

Neighboring Orange, Bloomfield, Nutley and Belleville have so far kept their Columbus monuments in place. There are petitions circulating to remove or retain the statuary in Orange, Bloomfield and Nutley.

SOUTH ORANGE - An Our Lady of Sorrows pastor's Aug. 2-8's leave from his parish would not normally generate comment - except for a letter to a lector on the latter's wearing a "Black Lives Matter" shirt at a recent Mass - that had been leaked to the public Aug. 1.

Rev. Brian Needles, in the letter that first surfaced on the SOMA Lounge Facebook page, wrote to Lector Tom Morris, 68, that he had objected to his wearing a BLM t-shirt when it was his turn to quote Scripture at a Sunday Mass. A lector is a lay

(Continued on page 7)

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO MAKE VACCINATIONS A PRIORITY

August is National Immunization Awareness Month



TRENTON - In honor of National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), the Department of Health is reminding New Jerseyans that they have the power to protect themselves against serious, potentially deadly vaccine-preventable diseases by receiving routine immunizations. The Department encourages individuals to talk to their doctor, nurse, or other healthcare professional to ensure that their and families are up to date on recommended vaccines.

“It’s critical to ensure that routine vaccination is maintained during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to protect individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks,” said Health Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli. “Routine vaccination prevents illnesses that lead to additional medical visits, hospitalizations and place further strain on the healthcare system.”

While many serious diseases are no longer common in the United States due to the success of vaccines, these diseases still exist and can spread when people are not vaccinated. The 2019 measles outbreaks serve as a reminder of how quickly dis-

eases can spread when children and adults are not vaccinated.

Childhood vaccines protect against 16 serious diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), hepatitis B, varicella (chickenpox) and pneumococcal disease, thereby reducing the spread of disease to others in classrooms, child care centers and communities.

Everyone six months of age and older is recommended to receive a yearly flu vaccine. Benefits of flu vaccination include reduced flu illnesses, fewer doctors’ visits, and fewer flu-related hospitalizations.

As children get older, they are more likely to get certain diseases like meningococcal disease and infections that can lead to human papillomavirus (HPV) associated cancers. Preteens can be protected by getting the recommended vaccines. Additionally, some childhood vaccines wear off over time, so booster shots are needed to help stay protected from serious diseases like tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.

The need for vaccines does not end in childhood. New Jer-



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sey recognizes August as Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease Awareness and Improvement Month. Adults may need vaccines to protect against whooping cough, pneumonia and shingles. Vaccination is especially important for those who suffer from chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma. Suffering from one of these chronic health conditions and getting sick with a vaccine-preventable disease can cause severe health consequences. Other adult vaccines may be recommended based on age, health condition, job or lifestyle.

Those who are planning to become pregnant should check with their doctor to make sure they have received all recommended vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all pregnant women receive flu vaccine at any time during pregnancy, and whooping cough vaccine (Tdap) early in their third trimester, during each pregnancy. Vaccinating women against these diseases is a safe and effective way to help protect both mother and child.

“I strongly encourage New Jerseyans to schedule an appointment with their healthcare provider to catch-up on vaccines they may have missed during the early stages of the pandemic,” said Commissioner Persichilli. “Many healthcare practices have implemented additional precautions and policies to ensure vaccines can be administered in an environment that maximizes pa-

tient safety. It is especially important that everyone 6 months of age and older receive a flu vaccine this year while COVID-19 may be circulating within our communities.”

Most health insurance plans cover recommended immunizations. Parents who need help paying for vaccines should ask their child’s doctor or nurse about the Vaccines for Children program. This program provides no-cost or low-cost vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native. Adults who are uninsured or do not have insurance for certain vaccines should contact their local health department or federally qualified health center to see if they qualify for free or low-cost vaccines through the 317-funded program. The New Jersey Department of Health has been allocated a large number of flu vaccine doses for these two programs for the upcoming flu season.

Vaccines are frequently available at doctor offices, as well as other convenient locations, such as pharmacies, workplaces, community health clinics, and health departments. The Vaccine Finder tool (<https://vaccinefinder.org/>) can assist in finding vaccination sites in a particular area.

Information about vaccines, recommended immunization schedules for all age groups and can be found at the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/



UNITED STATES

Three Charged in Bitcoin Scheme Twitter Hack

On July 31, three individuals were charged for their alleged roles in the Twitter hack that occurred on July 15, 2020.

Mason Sheppard, aka "Chaewon," 19, of Bognor Regis, in the United Kingdom, was charged in a criminal complaint in the Northern District of California with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and the intentional access of a protected computer.

Nima Fazeli, aka "Rolex," 22, of Orlando, Florida, was charged in a criminal complaint in the Northern District of California with aiding and abetting the intentional access of a protected computer.

The third defendant is a juvenile. With exceptions that do not apply to this case, juvenile proceedings in federal court are sealed to protect the identity of the juvenile. Pursuant to the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act, the Justice Department has referred the individual to the State Attorney for the 13th Judicial District in Tampa, Florida.

"The hackers allegedly compromised over 100 social media accounts and scammed both the account users and others who sent money based on their fraudulent solicitations," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian C. Rabbitt of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "The rapid investigation of this conduct is a testament to the expertise of our investigators, our commitment to responding quickly to cyber attacks, and the close relationships we have built with law enforcement partners throughout the world."

As alleged in the complaints, the Twitter attack consisted of a combination of technical breaches and social engineering. The result of the Twitter hack was the compromise of approximately 130 Twitter accounts pertain-

ing to politicians, celebrities, and musicians.

The hackers are alleged to have created a scam bitcoin account, to have hacked into Twitter VIP accounts, to have sent solicitations from the Twitter VIP accounts with a false promise to double any bitcoin deposits made to the scam account, and then to have stolen the bitcoin that victims deposited into the scam account. As alleged in the complaints, the scam bitcoin account received more than 400 transfers worth more than \$100,000.

This case is being investigated by the FBI's San Francisco Division, with assistance from the IRS-Criminal Investigation Cyber Unit; the U.S. Secret Service, San Francisco and Headquarters; the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and their REACT task force and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Counsel Adrienne Rose of the Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section and Assistant U.S. Attorneys William Frentzen and Andrew Dawson of the Northern District of California.

Additional assistance has been provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida; the State Attorney for the 13th Judicial District in Tampa, Florida; the Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs and Organized Crime and Gang Section; the United Kingdom's Central Authority and National Crime Agency; Chainalysis and Excygent.

The allegations of a criminal complaint are merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

MIDDLE EAST

Dozens Dead in Beirut Blast

The United Nations has said that it is "actively assisting" in the response to the horrific explosions that ripped through the port area of Beirut on Aug. 4, reportedly leaving dozens dead and thousands wounded, among them some UN naval peacekeepers.

A statement from a UN spokesperson said Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the people and Government of Lebanon, following the horrific explosions in the capital.

The UN chief wished a speedy recovery to the injured, including several UN personnel working in Lebanon.

News reports suggest that along with dozens of deaths, perhaps several thousand people were injured in the massive blasts, which sent shockwaves across the bustling city of Beirut, bursting out windows and shaking buildings. The cause of the explosions has not yet been confirmed.

"The United Nations remains committed to supporting Lebanon at this difficult time and is actively assisting in the response to this incident," Mr. Guterres said.

Separately, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the President of the UN General Assembly, also extended his deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the explosion in Beirut today and wished a speedy recovery for the injured.

"Mr. Muhammad-Bande would like to reiterate his solidarity with Lebanon during this time," said the Assembly President's Spokesperson.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said that as a result of a huge explosion, a ship from its Maritime Task Force docked in the port was damaged, leaving some UNIFIL naval peacekeepers injured - some of them seriously.

"UNIFIL is transporting the injured peacekeepers to the nearest hospitals for medical treatment. UNIFIL is currently assessing the situation, including the scale of the impact on UNIFIL personnel," said a statement from the operation, which was set up in 1978 initially to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, as well as to ensure the area returned to Beirut's control.

U.S. President Donald Trump expressed his sympathies to Lebanon at a press conference, but held suspicions about the explosion.

ASIA

Philippines Getting COVID-19 Aid

Prioritizing the safety and well-being of women and girls, the UN and partners launched on Aug. 4 a COVID-19 humanitarian response plan to assist some 5.4 million of the poorest and most marginalized people in the Philippines.

According to the UN, the Humanitarian Country Team, the COVID-19 Response Plan aims to provide "critical health interventions and multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance" to those in epidemic hotspots and will be the largest response since 2013, when Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda ravaged the country and claimed some 7,800 lives.

"The pandemic is challenging the capacity of response of any single country in the world," said Gustavo Gonzalez, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines.

"Our role is to make best use of our global knowledge and resources to join Government's efforts to contribute to the safety and well-being of the Filipino people," he added.

Some 50 UN and local and international non-Government partners are involved in the program. And with a price tag of about P6 billion - \$122 million - 23 percent of the response plan has already been mobilized, the UN said.

The plan is being kicked off as the epicenter of Manila and surrounding provinces have returned to lockdown after eased quarantine measures saw a surge in cases.

Millions remain out of jobs, while the already crippled economy face bleak forecasts, according to news reports.

The response plan to COVID-19 concentrates on supporting the Government in addressing its immediate challenges, including health, food security, water and sanitation.

And while it spans until the end of the year, the plan will be updated according to needs as they arise throughout the deadly

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 4)

church officer who provides a Biblical passage reading before the public during service.

Needles, in the letter, agreed that "the lives of black people matter" but added that he finds the agenda of the actual BLM organization "very controversial, to say the least."

Pastor Needles therefore said he "respectfully request that you (Lector Morris), in a spirit of goodwill, refrain from wearing that t-shirt or any other t-shirt with an overtly political slogan on it while lecturing." (Morris has since been attending St. Mary's Church in Newark.)

OLS' Parochial Vicar, Rev. Richard Pfannenstiel, when asked Aug. 1, said he was not privy to Needles' letter - and therefore could not comment.

The Archdiocese of Newark has meanwhile reminded parish pastors of its dress code in an Aug. 1 letter.

RCAN's letter opened with the parishioner's right to wear clothing that "promotes a cause or a movement." Lectors, however, are responsible to follow RCAN's dress code - including the prohibition "of any clothing that distracts from the word of God by drawing attention to the individual."

MAPLEWOOD - A predawn collision along Union's part of I-78 July 29 has left one township family mourning, a township woman healing and the New Jersey State Police trying to pinpoint its cause.

NJSP Troopers and Union police and fire units responded to a 3:04 a.m. call of a car and semi-tractor trailer truck collision by 78-East Milepost 52.8 that Wednesday. They found a BMW 328 and the Volvo-pulled tractor trailer on the right shoulder - with the BMW partially wedged under the trailer and on fire.

BMW passenger Tamu I. Waluye, 28, of Maplewood, was swiftly extricated and taken to a local hospital for treatment of minor injuries. Volvo truck driver Dorel Gherman, 57, of Citrus Heights, Calif., was uninjured but taken to Newark's

University Hospital for treatment.

Union firefighters found themselves putting out fires from the BMW and in the tractor's trailer. The latter was carrying Grade 5 polypropylene plastic Chinese food containers - some of which had melted and re-hardened on the shoulder.

All of 78's local eastbound lanes were closed until 7 a.m. and were not completely reopened until Noon. Eastbound drivers who had not made the switch to 78's express lanes in advance found themselves in a mile-long backup that started at Exit 49-Rt. 124/Morris Avenue.

Arriving responders, however, were unable to do anything for the BMW driver - Kadeem R. Buckham, 29, of Maplewood. Kadeem, who was declared dead at the scene, was a Montclair-based real estate agent for Steven Lewis Group/eXp Realty.

Funeral arrangements for Buckham, who had studied fashion marketing in Manhattan's Wood Tobe-Coburn School, were not announced as of 10 a.m., Aug. 5.

MONTCLAIR - Mayor Sean Spillar and the Township Council, while you read this, are considering a Senior Citizens Advisory Committee report on converting The United Way's Miller Memorial Building into a community senior center.

The first floor of the United Way of Northern New Jersey's Suburban Essex Office here at 60 North Fullerton Ave., said the committee report, would have ample space for the township's senior center. The United Way, which has owned the building since when it was the Community Chest in the 1920s, would retain use of the basement and second floor for itself and its current tenants.

Such conversion, however, would be subject to an agreement with United Way NNJ and the township.

Montclair's Edgemont Park House, which has served as its de facto township-wide senior center since 2016, has been closed while the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus pandemic is being curbed.

Edgemont Park House, said its pre-pandemic users, is too

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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.

small for its senior programs. Montclair seniors' only other option, since 1974, is using Essex County's Glenfield Park Community Center.

Montclair, Glen Ridge and "West Essex" comprise United Way NNJ's Suburban Essex territory. The Cedar Knolls-headquartered region includes Morris, Somerset and Warren counties.

60 No. Fullerton is similar in size and age to the Manton Bradley Metcalf Memorial Building

at 439 Main St., Orange. It was built for and presented to the Welfare Foundation of the Oranges and Maplewood (another United Way forerunner) in the wool merchant heir's memory. The local United Way had sold it off by the 1980s.

BLOOMFIELD - Township police detectives are looking for a shotgun-wielding robber - and the SUV and its driver who accompanied him - during a corner
(Continued on page 10)

This tree by West Side High School felt the wrath of Isaias. Photo By Kristopher Seals



ISAIAS (Continued from page 1)

The park entrance at Mt. Vernon Place and Manor Drive was blocked by huge branches that lay on the ground. The lawns were full of broken branches, big and small. A big snapped branch lay on the tennis court fence.

Eastern Parkway was among the hardest spots hit, especially from Ivy Street to its southern end. Several trees toppled over, which residents said was due to bad maintenance by the City of Newark as it pertains to pruning and weak roots. Walking through the devastation was dangerous, as power lines were tossed all over, in close proximity to puddles from the torrential rain.

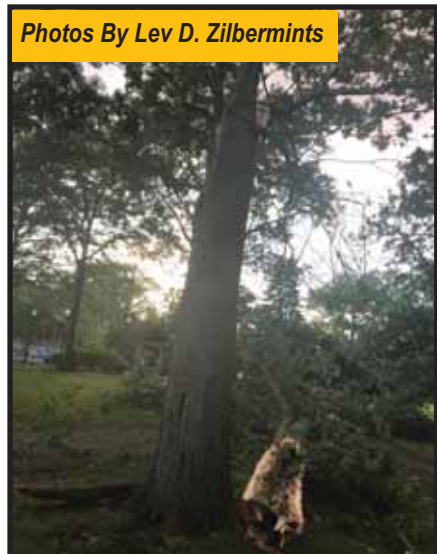
Other areas also got hammered. South Orange Avenue was littered with debris, with a huge tree toppled over at West Side High School. In East Orange, one tree blocked access to Sanford Street between Tremont and Rhode Island avenues, while another tree leaned precariously over Harrison Street by Monte Irvin Park.

According to data from the National Weather Service and Rutgers New Jersey Weather Network, the gusts of wind ranged from 68 miles per hour at Newark Liberty International Airport to 75 mph in Berkeley

Township. A record 109 mph winds were measured near Ship Bottom over water. Isaias even spun off at least one known tornado in Cape May, and many more along its eastern seaboard trek

Electricity was available in Ivy Hill Park Apartments. The complex survived the Blackout of 2003 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012. However, other parts of New Jersey were not as fortunate, as over 1.4 million were left without power.

After the storm, life went on at Ivy Hill Park. Sports enthusiasts used the high-jump bar, step-up bar, parallel bars, and wobble board to do gym exercises. Locals sat on benches, relaxing, while others walked around, watching teens play soccer and kids use the children's playground. The only damage was the downed trees and branches. Everything else was apparently safe.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Orange Board of Education Public School District

The Orange Board of Education has in accordance with the N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13, has scheduled a Virtual Special Closed Meeting for **Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**, to discuss the following:

- **Re-Opening Plan Presentation and Discussion**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Orange Board of Education Public School District

The Orange Board of Education has in accordance with the N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13, has scheduled a Virtual Special Closed Meeting for **Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**, to discuss the following:

- **2020-2021 Budget Adjustments/Revisions Presentation and Discussion**



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From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

DELUSION: THE DETACHMENT FROM REALITY

In listening to the responses that some of our leaders are bringing to COVID-19, it is clear to me that some are "deluded" and passing their delusion to many people. I am not trying to be a psychiatrist, but I am taking the simplest definition: "Delusion is a detachment from reality."

More sophisticatedly, delusion is "an idiosyncratic belief or impression that is firmly maintained despite being contradicted by what is generally accepted as reality or rational argument. It is typically a symptom of mental disorder- the delusion of being watched." Stated in other ways, delusion is "fantasizing," "lying to oneself," "daydreaming," or using "false imagination."

Concerning COVID-19, the deluded individuals refuse to wear masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended. They argue that social distancing might not be necessary for some situations but still hope that they will not contract the virus or spread it. There is an urgency to open schools without taking all of the necessary precautions and hope that teachers, children, and parents will be all safe. Some mountebanks are even offering bogus medications as a cure.

As stated, I do not want to get into the psychiatric descriptions of delusion. Still, it seems clear to me that when we lie to ourselves; when we seek to justify our bad behavior in anything; when we blame others for our lack of personal discipline; when we listen to bad advice and put it in practice to please people; when we hand ourselves over to the devil and think that we will not be destroyed, that is a delusion.

Let me use an illustration

that is not connected to COVID-19, but I now think of it as my youthful days of delusion. It felt especially good to me. I was driving my father and a group of his friends down the freeway to Atlantic City. My father and friends thought I was an excellent driver, for I used to drive from Toronto and Ottawa, many weekends. That was some 280 miles-451 km, depending on the route one takes. But going to Atlantic City for a conference, was a special treat.

The older men (as I thought of them then) were tired, and I was given the wheel. I did not drive the entire distance at 110 mph, but when I thought the men were sleeping, and the road was clear, I tested my skills. And the Buick Electra, with its 350-horsepower engine, seemed up to it. I would have upped the speed more if fear had not entered my heart. As I look back at all I did with my dad and his friends in the car, I thank God for his forgiveness. He forgave my foolishness and sent some holy angels to protect the praying men who were half asleep in the car.

At points, I am sure the holy angels took the steering out of my hands. I thought that my new freedom had given me the right to break speed limits and do as I pleased. I have seen many a youth not so "lucky" as I was. I have seen their cars in ditches. I have seen their cars on the opposite side of the road, all wrapped around trees. I have seen them in hospital emergency rooms. And I have a few friends whose children did not come home alive; I attended their funerals.

I am talking about delusion, the kind of thing that detaches people from reality. The kind of thing that makes people lie to themselves. It does not need to be the diagnosed psychotic "delusion grandeur" that psychiatrists like to speak of, but the kind that makes us "live" and "believe" lies at all times. While one must admit that delusion has been within the frame of humanity since the dawn of history, it is evident that in this panic-driven time in which we are living, people's hearts and minds are being prepared for a depth of delusion that is to be more destructive

than has been. The Bible tells us that "And for this cause, God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie." (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

I do not know that the Biblical text is blaming God for our delusions. Our delusions are built into the lies we tell ourselves. The Christian fiction writer William Paul Young, who wrote novels like *The Shack*, *Cross Roads*, and *Eve*, says, "Lies are a little fortress; inside them, you can feel safe and powerful. Through your little fortress of lies, you try to run your life and manipulate others. But the fortress needs walls, so you build some. These are the justifications for your lies. You know, like you are doing this to protect someone you love, to keep them from feeling pain. Whatever works, just so you feel okay about the lies."

We might also argue that our delusions are from "the father of lies" (John 8:44). He is the one that twists our minds and hearts. It is he that makes anyone think good is evil and evil is good. It is he that fans the flames of the dark sides of our lives. It is he that allows a man or woman to cheat on a spouse and lies about it. It is he that makes a person accept factoids in place of facts. He allows a person to see the truth and deny it. He allows an individual to remain in an abusive relationship and try to justify it. It is that same one that leads people into a sense of false comforts when they are engaging in reckless behavior. Yes, it is the devil that makes us lie to ourselves and allows us to live in the darkest of night and pretend that they are in the light.

We must blame ourselves and also blame the devil most for being deluded. We must not blame God for our actions. Don't blame other people. Do not blame any pathetic politician who is seeking to delude us. Do not even blame news media or social media. The only way to overcome delusion is to take responsibility and stop the actions leading to delusion. In effect, we must never forget that destruction is at the end of the road on the path of delusion.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 7)

store holdup and assault here July 22.

The employee at Gerard's Deli told responding BPD officers that he noticed "an African American male with a shotgun" entering 220 Hoover Ave. at 6 p.m. that Wednesday. The suspect demanded money and hit the employee over the head with the long-gun.

The employee watched the suspect flee in a black Jeep Cherokee driven by another African American man. The driver was described as wearing a white t-shirt and as having a tattooed left arm. The suspect is described as being of thin build, 5-ft, 7-in. to 5-8 and weighing 155-160 lbs.

The corner deli has served the neighborhood since the 1950s under several names.

GLEN RIDGE / NUTLEY - The Mountainside Medical Center, of Glen Ridge, and its parent, Hackensack Meridian Health, are to be sued by a Nutley resident and her attorney over how they had handled her post-June 26 counter-demonstration pictures that led to her dismissal.

Valarie Pastore, 62, and her attorney Joseph Tripodi, of West Orange, have notified Mountainside and HMH July 25 of their intention to sue.

It is not clear whether Pastore and Tripodi are seeking damages and/or her return as Mountainside's Director of Physician Recruitment. What is clear is that Pastore wants to clear her characterization of being a racist.

Various social media forwarded footage of Pastore among other counter protesters at Nutley's Christopher Columbus monument at Chestnut Street and Kennedy Drive June 26. The video and still clips appear to show Pastore, who was wearing a red MAGA hat, making a Nazi salute at the Nutley for Black Lives demonstrators who had finished their march before the statue and municipal building.

Pastore, said Tripodi on July 25, was actually "waving good-
(Continued on page 12)

HALL (Viene de la página 1)

ancianos y otros campos.



También sirvo en las juntas ejecutivas de UFCW y NJ AFL. Soy un primer vicepresidente en el consejo laboral de Essex West Hudson. Estoy muy involucrado en la comunidad y servir en varias comunidades y juntas gubernamentales. Tengo el privilegio de servir como presidente de la Organización de Desfiles Afroamericanos. Es una organización estatal. Me gusta ayudar a la gente, y esto es lo que hacen los sindicatos.

Supongo que los I'm títulos son bonitos, pero en realidad soy sólo un niño nacido y criado en la gran ciudad de Newark. Tengo el privilegio y el honor de despertarme e ir a trabajar y luchar por la gente y hacer todo lo posible para ayudarlos. Esto es lo que hacen los sindicatos, ayudar a la gente.

DS: Charles, ¿por qué crees



que la gente necesita sindicatos?

CH: Los sindicatos dan voz a los trabajadores en el lugar de trabajo. Les da la oportunidad de negociar sobre sus condiciones de trabajo y economía. Para ser claros, pueden negociar sobre cosas como salarios, beneficios, salud y seguridad y todos los asuntos del lugar de trabajo. Los trabajadores necesitan tener buenos beneficios médicos y un plan de jubilación. Los contratos sindicales proporcionan una

resolución de quejas a los trabajadores que reciben un trato injusto.

Me gusta pensar en los sindicatos como el gran ecualizador. Los sindicatos dan a los trabajadores un asiento en la mesa. Lo que quiero decir es que llegan a comunicar sus problemas e inquietudes a la dirección de la empresa, aunque su sindicato y los representantes elegidos son sus compañeros de trabajo. Todos sabemos lo difícil que sería para un trabajador promedio reunirse con el presidente o la alta dirección de una empresa.

He aquí un hecho para usted: los trabajadores sindicalizados ganan más dinero que los trabajadores no sindicalizados en trabajos sindicalizados. En este mundo en el que vivimos, los trabajadores necesitan que alguien tenga su espalda. No tienes que ir demasiado atrás en la historia; sólo mira lo que ha sucedido en los últimos 10 años. Los ricos se han vuelto más ricos que nunca, mientras que los pobres y los pobres trabajadores, los que menos, se han vuelto más pobres. Nuestra clase media está luchando debido al creciente

costo de vida. Los sindicatos son la respuesta para corregir el desequilibrio en nuestro sistema económico. La negociación colectiva ayuda a aumentar los salarios en todos los ámbitos.

DS: Cuéntanos sobre la participación de los sindicatos en la política.

CH: Nos involucramos en la política para abogar por nuestros miembros y familias trabajadoras. "Si no estás en la

mesa, entonces probablemente vas a estar cenando". Es más cierto de lo que la gente sabe.

Los sindicatos son el asiento de una familia trabajadora en la mesa. Creo que la gente da por sentado los beneficios que reciben. Tomemos por ejemplo el aumento del salario mínimo, la licencia por enfermedad ganada, la licencia familiar pagada y otras prestaciones a favor de los trabajadores. Estos



beneficios son introducidos y presionados por los sindicatos y los políticos amistosos de los trabajadores. Se trabaja mucho para hacer realidad estos beneficios. Los beneficios legislativos son para todos los trabajadores, no sólo para los sindicatos. Al mismo tiempo, los sindicatos están en la mesa de negociaciones, luchando por mejorar los beneficios legislativos. Personalmente he estado involucrado en el impulso de aumentos del salario mínimo, sirviendo en varias comisiones estatales.

Los sindicatos deben participar en la política para impulsar una legislación que beneficie a las familias trabajadoras. También debemos estar ahí para luchar contra las cosas que lastiman a las familias trabajadoras. Por eso estamos involucrados en la política.

DS: Charles, sé que usted representa a los trabajadores que fueron considerados esenciales en este tiempo de COVID -19. ¿Qué hizo su sindicato para ayudar a los miembros en esta pandemia?

CH: Permítanme decir primero, estoy muy orgulloso de ser parte del movimiento obrero. Los sindicatos han sido la voz de los trabajadores en todo nuestro país. La AFL-CIO-CL nacional y los sindicatos internacionales,

incluidos mi sindicato unido de trabajadores de alimentos y comerciales y el consejo de RWDSU, dirigen el debate sobre la seguridad de los trabajadores, el EPP y la paga de riesgos. Nuestros sindicatos también se reunieron con funcionarios federales y electos por el estado sobre financiamiento de estímulo y otros beneficios. Sí, los trabajadores tenían un amigo y un asiento en la mesa. No puedo

imaginar a qué habrían sido sometidos los trabajadores de supermercados, plantas avícolas, plantas de carne de vacuno y de cerdo, residencias de ancianos y muchas industrias si no fuera por sindicatos. "Si no fuera el sindicato, ¿quién habría sido la voz y habría enfrentado las preocupaciones de los trabajadores promedio?" Aquí en NJ, nos aseguramos de que el gobernador Murphy conociera los problemas y preocupaciones de los trabajadores.

PARTE II

Dhiren Shah: Además de ayudar a proporcionar servicios esenciales, ¿qué más ha hecho la unión durante esta pandemia?

Charles Hall: En cuanto a Local 108, la Unión a la que sirvo, entramos en modo de emergencia, abriendo nuestra oficina los 7 días de la semana. Inmediatamente nos pusimos en contacto con nuestros miembros de todas las maneras posibles (mensajes de texto, llamadas de conferencia y reuniones de zoom). Enviamos a cada empleador bajo contrato una carta de salud y seguridad y solicitamos una reunión de zoom. Nuestro sindicato local contrató a un consultor de salud y seguridad para asegurarse de que nuestros miembros
(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

estuvieran a salvo. Continuamos llevando a cabo llamadas diarias de gestión del trabajo centradas en la salud y la seguridad y la paga de riesgos.

También hicimos reuniones de zoom informativo, que abarcaron temas como el estrés y una reunión espiritual interreligiosa para ayudar a nuestros miembros a saber cómo hacer frente a la presión y el estrés. Nos ponemos a disposición las 24 horas del día para los miembros. Quería que nuestros miembros supieran que estamos ahí para ellos. Nuestro sindicato guió a nuestros miembros con desempleo, discapacidad, compensación de trabajadores muchos otros asuntos de preocupación.

Dhiren Shah: ¿Puede hablarnos de la participación del sindicato en la comunidad?

Charles Hall: Local 108 cree firmemente en ayudar en la comunidad. De hecho, la misión de los sindicatos es prestar una ayuda en la comunidad.

Después de todo, los sindicatos se trata de levantar a la gente. Sé que podría encontrar cientos de historias sobre sindicatos en todo nuestro estado ayudando a los necesitados, niños, educación, enfermos, ancianos, veteranos, exploradores y muchos otros esfuerzos caritativos y comunitarios.

Local 108 trabaja en estrecha colaboración con el consejo laboral de Essex West Hudson bajo el liderazgo del presidente Thomas Giblin y el consejo cada año, con miles de dólares en becas. También formamos parte de un comité asesor laboral que recauda fondos para el Fondo de Becas Thurgood Marshall.

Apoyamos a la Organización de Desfiles Afroamericanos, la Fundación de Recursos para el SIDA para la Infancia y otras organizaciones benéficas dignas. El movimiento obrero cree en levantar a la gente y construir buenas comunidades.

Dhiren Shah: Muchas gracias por su tiempo.

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Statistics available as of August 5, 2020

Municipality	8-4-2020	8-5-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1,036	1,038	65
Bloomfield	1,124	1,120	67
Caldwell	122	122	9
Cedar Grove	478	480	113
East Orange	2,034	2,040	227
Essex Fells	25	25	2
Fairfield	145	145	17
Glen Ridge	40	41	9
Irvington	1,479	1,482	155
Livingston	518	518	69
Maplewood	347	347	27
Millburn	164	165	7
Montclair	462	463	51
Newark	8,142	8,139	651
North Caldwell	45	46	4
Nutley	520	522	36
Orange	1,047	1,052	89
Roseland	90	89	14
South Orange	118	118	4
Verona	140	139	14
West Caldwell	285	288	46
West Orange	1,284	1,293	185
Total	19,645	19,672	1,861
Negative tests	122,020	122,995	

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 8-5-2020)

New Jersey: 183,327 cases / 13,989 deaths (Plus 1,853 probable)

United States (approx.): 4.816 Million / 157,800 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 18.65 Million / 703,300 deaths

NJ Gov. Phil Murphy has extended the State of Emergency Order for another 30 days. Also, a seven-month old child may now be the state's youngest COVID-19 victim.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

by at the departing protestors." That frozen-in-time wave or salute, plus related social media received by HMH, prompted Mountainside to fire Pastore by July 1.

Both Pastore and Tripodi assert that Hackensack-Mountainside had conducted "a sham investigation" and "bowing to a Twitter mob that demanded the termination and reputational lynching" of Pastore.

Pastore, said Tripodi, had come to the Columbus monument after hearing rumors that NFBL members would tear it down. The BLM-affiliated group had told Nutley's municipal and UNICO officials beforehand that they wanted to end

their "Roll for Black Lives" march at town hall and would not touch the statue.

BELLEVILLE - Mayor Michael Melham has been explaining what he had meant by proposing that the entire township be declared "An Area in Need of Redevelopment" since his July 14 introduction of the ordinance before the council.

Before Belleville's elders consider the township-wide AINOR measure, it has to be first approved by the Belleville Planning Board at their Aug. 13 meeting. The measure may also have to go before the Belleville Zoning Board of Adjustment prior to any final council decision.

The measure, as drafted by Melham and Township Attorney (Continued on page 13)

THE FREE RIDE IS OVER

By Walter Elliott

EAST ORANGE - "You'll have to pay for it now," was the refrain that a New Jersey Transit bus driver made to a rider while she boarded a Linden-bound No. 94 at the Prospect Avenue and Renshaw Street stop around 9:30 a.m. Aug. 5.

"Let me look," said the rider, who sorted through her change while finding a seat nearest to the driver. The No. 94 NABI coach continued through the Presidential Heights/Upsala section while the rider found and deposited her coins in the farebox.

The above example, commonplace in pre-COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus pandemic times, was found on the dozens of local NJTransit bus trips "Local Talk" took since the practice was resumed Aug. 4.

NJTransit, after suspending cash fare collection and front door boarding April 9 as a pandemic spread curb, resumed the over century old practice Monday morning.

The statewide public agency had been rolling out advance word on the inevitable resumption since Executive Director Kevin Corbett's July 29 declaration. "Local Talk," for example, began hearing news reports on the radio later that Wednesday.

"No Cash" and "Rear Door Boarding Only" signs began coming off buses that same day. Copies of an eight-paragraph

announcement were posted in transit stations, bus shelters and on nearby utility poles early July 30.

On board recordings of taking cash and front door boarding were being played July 31. The new message was sometimes played with the older, "wear your mask" and "50-percent capacity" recordings.

"Local Talk," who took 24 rides on NJTransit local buses Monday-Wednesday, found near-uniformity of front door and farebox use.

Only one southbound 13 bus on Newark's Broadway Aug. 4 had riders board by the rear door. One rider on a Montclair-bound 29 needed help from colleagues to make change.

Some of the more savvy riders knew that the era of "free" bus rides would end - it was a question of when.

NJTransit had suspended front door boarding and cash fare collection for the safety of its drivers and the riding public.

The agency, on one hand, encouraged riders to buy and display paper ride tickets or passes the last five months. NJTransit, this same week, announced that Newark Light Rail/City Subway riders can now buy single ride tickets on its cell phone app.

There was no means, for the most part, for drivers to collect the paper tickets. Drivers of routes contracted out by NJT, like the Jersey City No. 80S bus-

es, taped up paper envelopes along rails to collect tickets.

This "free ride" sun had never shone on the Nos. 24, 31 and 44 buses. CoachUSA's local route drivers took riders through their front doors so they could collect tickets and cash.

The Aug. 4 resumption is part of NJTransit and the state's climb to recovery. Commuter rail conductors had been taking cash on-board since July 5.

Neither Corbett nor Gov. Phil Murphy have mentioned that NJTransit was taking a major hit at the farebox. Garden State riders have generally paid two-thirds of what it actually costs to run a bus or a train. This makes New Jersey one of the highest farebox revenue recovery states in the nation.

Both have tied banning cash fare collection as a health measure - along with "the installation of new safety barriers for the drivers.

Supposedly retrofitting NJTransit's bus fleet with these new barriers was not unheard of. The MTA's New York City Bus Operations were also making barriers in June with an eye towards their collecting cash fares in August.

Whatever these new barriers are, "Local Talk" has not seen them so far Aug. 3-5.

While "Local Talk" applauds NJTransit for putting light rail tickets on its app, it still finds buying physical two or plus zone tickets an exercise in pre-

planning.

One is able to easily buy two zone, three zone and so on tickets at Newark's Penn and Broad Street stations. There is no such option on the old and new Ticket Vending Machines at Newark Branch Brook Park Station.

One can buy 10-trip tickets or monthly two, three or four zone monthly passes from the TVMs there. That is great for those using the Newark Light Rail or Subway.

It would be more convenient to have single two-plus zone tickets there for those who take connecting buses. The 27, 90, 92 and 99 buses are two zone routes; the 74 into Paterson is a four-zone route.

There are hand-made posted signs at the Irvington Bus Terminal the last three weeks, declaring "We're open for tickets." This is a small step towards reopening bus terminals and railroad stations beyond Newark or Hoboken.

The signs, however, never say when Irvington's ticket booth is open. It has never been open during the daylight weekdays "Local Talk" has visited. This must be frustrating for other riders, since the Irvington Bus Terminal has been billed as NJTransit's second or third busiest.

Perhaps NJTransit should consider installing one of the new TVMs on Irvington terminal's center island.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 12)

Steve Martino, would apply to existing one- and two- bedroom houses. It would amount to a five-year property tax increase deferral program for homeowners.

"When you make an addition on your house, your property taxes go up the second you put

the addition on," said Melham. "We're incentivizing anybody who wants to make a major improvement on their houses."

Improving a property affects both the market and assessed value. Since the assessed value of a property is set at 25 percent of its market value, the improvement would also increase a homeowner's tax bill.

The Melham-Martino AI-

NOR tax abatement plan would defer the property tax increase over five years. An improvement that averages a 20 percent property tax increase, for example, would not show up on the first year's tax bill.

The improvement's tax increase, instead of getting a 100 percent hit, would be a 20 percent hike on year two, up to 40 percent on year three and so on

until the full increase is reflected on year five's bills.

While Melham's AINOR plan will open Belleville up to tax abatements and incentives, the township will not be using the power of eminent domain. The mayor said that similar tax increase deferrals on improvements have been made in parts of Bloomfield, Newark and South Orange.

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

REPRESENTING YOURSELF IN COURT

Judges cringe when self-represented parties appear in their courts. Self-represented litigants all too often have no idea about the rules of court or the relevant law. Most self-represented litigants cringe when they realize they have to go court. They hope that the judge will treat them fairly and give them a chance to be heard.

The truth is that most self-represented litigants, or pro se litigants (Latin for “for self”), appear in court without an attorney because they cannot afford an attorney, not because they don’t think they need an attorney or that having an attorney would be a waste of time. Worse than not knowing the law and the rules of court, pro se litigants are filled with emotion. They are nervous and when standing before the judge, they feel like a fish out of water. This causes them to forget most of what they planned to say while at the same time they barely hear what others in the courtroom are saying.

The not knowing the rules of court, not understanding the process, the judge’s seeming lack of empathy come together to leave many pro se litigants with an intense dislike for the judge who, in their mind, “did not hear a word I said,” or “that judge simply did not give me time to express myself!”

Alternatives to Being

Self-Represented

Most people think that having an attorney is like a stop light: Go or Stop. This is not always the case. When an attorney agrees to represent you from start to finish, that is “full representation.” This means that the lawyer will handle the matter from start to finish including preparing documents to send to the court, speaking with the other side and his/attorney, gathering information, questioning witnesses in court, negotiating a settlement.

If you cannot afford full representation, find a lawyer who will unbundle legal services allowing you to select from a menu of legal services and customize your representation. For example, the attorney may draft all of the documents submitted to the court, and you represent yourself in court. In court, you would question the witnesses and present your documents to the court. Or the other way around. You submit the paperwork to the court, and the lawyer will handle the questioning of witnesses and presentation of evidence.

If you are going to court on a child support matter, you might retain the attorney to advise you present relevant financial information. Maybe, you only pay for an hour or two of the attorney’s time to explain the law and tell you what to expect; how the hearing will proceed; what documents you will need to prove your cause; help you develop a game plan.

If you intend to represent yourself in court, it is important to understand the law and court procedures. Step one is to go to the New Jersey judiciary website at njcourts.gov. There is a section entitled “Self-Help Center.” The site is filled with useful information on many areas of the law including family, landlord-tenant, criminal, special civil and municipal court matters. You can often obtain the forms you need to send to the court and the instructions as to how to complete forms.

Another alternative is to find places that have a volunteer attorney program where you might be able to get advice about what things you can ask for in court, what facts you will need to provide the court, and what documents you might need to bring to court. Rutgers Law School has a vibrant clinic program where lawyers-in-training under the supervision of licensed attorneys may be able to help you with your case at no cost. Or they may, at very least, speak with you about your legal problem. Call the Essex County Bar Association or Newark-Essex Legal Services to see if you can obtain assistance through their resources and networks.

Lastly, consider using the web to learn something about the law and something about what you can ask for. Go on the website and read blogs written by New Jersey Attorneys concerning your issue. You will be able to learn what is important to the court and find out how the court looks at your issue. Remember, the law differs state to state so make sure you read blogs written by New Jersey Attorneys. Read more than one or two.

Before Your Hearing

While it might be uncomfortable, talk to the other side to see if you can find a solution to the legal issue that both of you can live with. Remember, when you settle, everyone leaves something on the table, so don’t expect the other side to totally accept your proposed solution. Even if you can’t resolve all of the issues, if you can pare down the issues that the court has to decide, the better off you are.

Think about it this way, even if you don’t resolve any of your issues, at very least, you will learn the other side’s position and needs. Judges get paid the big bucks to decide important issues, but it can be frustrating for the judge to find out that he is going to be the referee because two adults could not sit like adults and at least attempt to resolve their problem. This is espe-

cially true in the family court where the judge really does not want to tell parents how and when they can parent their children.

If you are calling a witness, think carefully about who to call. You will not have unlimited time to call everyone you know who may know something about the issue, so plan carefully. Which witness is the best witness? Who will explain most clearly? Who had the best view? Once you have selected your witness, write down your questions. Practice with the witness asking and answering the questions. Remember, a notarized statement from a witness is unacceptable because if the other side has a question about the statement, the piece of paper can’t answer the question. Only people give testimony in court.

At the Hearing

You have done all of the things listed above, so you are ready! Remember...

1. Dress for court. Courtrooms are conservative places, so dress appropriately.
2. Be organized and prepared. Your papers should be neat and organized. If your papers are scattered all over the table, that will send a message to the judge. More importantly, you must be able to get to important information quickly.
3. Know what you are asking the court to do. You might want to have the exact language you want in the order written down before you go to court. This way if you get nervous, you will remember to say what you need to say. Be specific.
4. Take notes. When the judge or the other side is talking, write down points you want to make in rebuttal.
5. Speak only to the judge, or to the witness, not to the other party. If you need to talk to the other side, it should be done out of the presence of the judge.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

pandemic.

The response plan is also a steppingstone to the UN's mid- and long-term support to COVID-19 recovery, which will be developed in the upcoming UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework.

CARIBBEAN

Concerns Grow Over Child Safety

Across Central America and the Caribbean, the more than 70 million children impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic could soon face another threat - catastrophic hurricane storms, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned on Aug. 3.

"In the coming days and weeks, children and families will be at risk of being hit simultaneously by two disasters, COVID-19 and hurricanes," cautioned Bernt Aasen, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

While acknowledging that displacement, infrastructure damage and service interruptions caused by storms - particularly in coastal areas - could render individuals more vulnerable to the disease and its impacts, the UN children's agency expressed special concern that a powerful storm could severely undermine ongoing efforts to stem COVID-19.

The coronavirus could spread easily in crowded emergency shelters or displacement sites where physical distancing would be difficult to ensure, according to UNICEF.

At the same time, existing control measures like handwashing could falter if water, sanitation and health infrastructure were to be damaged or destroyed.

"This is the perfect storm we fear for the Caribbean and Central America," said the UNICEF official.

In addition to straining national and local health systems in the region, the pandemic is also raising serious questions about the aftermath of a catastrophic hurricane, including movement restrictions and budget shortfalls, which may hinder national hurricane preparedness efforts.

"As we continue to take precautions to keep families safe from

COVID-19, efforts to prepare for hurricane now are vital to mitigate the spread of virus among the most vulnerable communities," Mr. Aasen explained.

As UNICEF reported in a recent Child Alert, over the coming years the Caribbean region is expected to experience intensified storms and subsequent population displacements.

In late May, tropical storm Amanda caused flooding and landslides in parts of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. At least 33 people were killed in the region and thousands were displaced. All three countries have confirmed cases of COVID-19.

And in the 10-year period from 2010 to 2019, storms caused 895,000 new displacements of children in the Caribbean and 297,000 in Central America, according to the UN children's agency.

Across the region, UNICEF is working to support hurricane preparedness efforts and public health responses to COVID-19 through education, community outreach and technical support.

In collaboration with Governments and other partners, the agency is working to build disaster resilience among communities in the region, including by adjusting hurricane preparedness and response plans to reflect COVID-19 risks with a focus on vulnerable groups, like children, pregnant women and single-headed female families.

AFRICA

Lake Chad Attacks Condemned

The Secretary-General strongly condemned "heinous attacks" against civilians in the Lake Chad Basin, a UN spokesperson said on Aug. 3.

"The attacks led to the killing and abduction of many civilians, including women, children and displaced people who had fled violence," Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said in a statement, referring to assaults in the Lac Province of Chad and the Far North Region of Cameroon on July 31 and Aug. 2 respectively.

News reports pinned responsibility for this most recent aggression in the troubled region on Boko Haram jihadists.

Mr. Haq spelled out that "those responsible for these atrocities must

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

The 6th annual Monte Irvin Baseball Tournament was held last week in Orange at Central Playground. Among the teams in the tourney were the Philly Blues Jays, Camden Braves, New York County Kings, Queens Comets, New Jersey Bulldogs and Monte Irvin Giants. In the championship game, the Comets defeated the Bulldogs 2-1.

Before the title game, tourney host Walley Boyett, remembered the life of former umpire and friend Bernard McCallum for his dedication and service in umpiring the games. A plaque was giving to his mother and family, and the Monte Irvin title game was renamed the Bernard McCallum championship game.

In Major League Baseball, the St. Louis Cardinals had 13 players test positive for the coronavirus. Their four-game series against Detroit has been postponed. Also, the "Field of Dreams" game in Iowa was postponed to 2021.

In other sports news. Several players have opted out of playing in the upcoming NFL season. Among them are NY Giants lineman Nate Solder and NY Jets linebacker CJ Mosley.

Finally, due to COVID-19, the Connecticut collegiate football program will be cancelled for this year. Players will likely keep their eligibility. Also, in the NHL, the New York Rangers were eliminated from the Stanley Cup Playoffs by Carolina.

be held accountable."

"International human rights law and international humanitarian law must be fully respected and all civilians in Cameroon and Chad must be protected", he stressed on behalf of the UN chief.

In conclusion, the spokesperson upheld the UN's "steadfast" support to the countries of the Lake Chad Basin in their efforts "to overcome the scourge of terrorism, and address the security, political, humanitarian and socio-economic challenges in the region."

In separate coverage on the morning of Aug. 4, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) expressed outrage over an "unprovoked and brutal attack" on 800 internally displaced people (IDPs) in a makeshift camp in Cameroon's Far North region.

"At least 18 people were killed and 11 injured in the incident during the early hours of Sunday August 2," UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch told journalists at a regular press briefing in Geneva.

While some of the wounded were evacuated to Mokolo district hospital, an hour's drive from Nguetchewe, another 1,500 people, including terrified residents of the hosting village, fled to the nearby town of Mozogo for safety.



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