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# LOCAL TALK

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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## THREE VAILSBURG HOMICIDES UNDER INVESTIGATION



**NEWARK** - The long Furth of July holiday weekend proved fatal for three people in the states largest city.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II and Newark Public Safety Director Anthony F. Ambrose announced July 4 that the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force, which includes detectives from the Newark Police are investigating three city homicides.

On July 3, Laquan T. Nowlin, 32, of East Orange was fatally shot in the area of Sandford and Lanark Avenue in Newark. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 11:50 p.m.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS



A polling site in Essex County.

Photo By Lev D. Zilbermintz

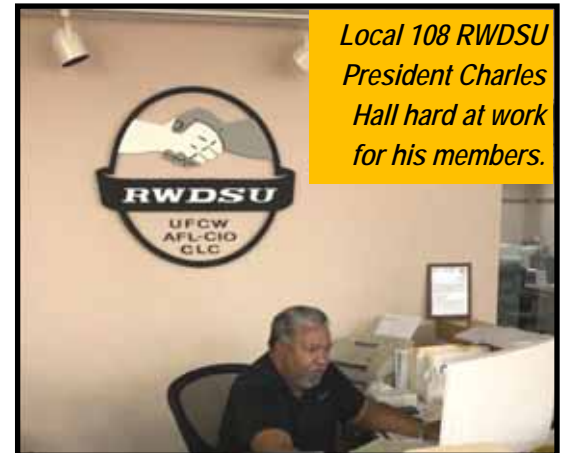
By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - July 7's initial major party primary election results, whose ballots are to be received here at the Essex County Hall of Records until 8 p.m. July 14, are exhibiting two trends with potential local through federal level impact.

Workers for Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin and county Board of Elections Clerk Linda von Nessi are still closely following, validating and counting the mostly Vote-By-Mail ballots as of "Local Talk" press time. There are also some provisional ballots to count and counts from what few voting machines have been deployed in what Gov. Phil Murphy called in June a "hybrid" election.

*(Continued on page 14)*

## INTERVIEW WITH UNION PRESIDENT CHARLES N. HALL



Local 108 RWDSU President Charles Hall hard at work for his members.

By Dhiren Shah

**PART II**

**Dhiren Shah:** In addition to helping provide essential services, what else has the union done during this pandemic?

**Charles Hall:** As far as Local 108, the Union I serve, we went into emergency mode, opening our office 7 days a week. We immediately reached out to our members in every possible way (texting, conference calls and zoom meetings). We sent every employer under contract a health and safety letter

*(Continued on page 10)*



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**Editorial**

Dhiren Shah  
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

We all are counting days and weeks, as coronavirus has been going through our heads every moment of our lives since February. Some are cautious and careful and going around in public with masks and gloves. Some do not care and are going out in public without masks. In the beginning, the mask wearing population was low, but now it is more. When we go for grocery or shopping, now 90% of people are wearing masks. However, the other 10% are spreading the virus to the world.

Protests are especially important in life, but they should be

peaceful. However, if the protestors are not wearing masks, then corona leaves its impression behind. This is the same when it comes to Trump's rallies. The President does not believe in masks, but it is especially important. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro did not believe in masks, but on Tuesday he tested positive for the coronavirus. While Trump does not believe in wearing masks, many persons on his staff tested positive. Testing every day does not mean that you will not get coronavirus. Tested negative means that up until then, the person did not have COVID-19, but they might get coronavirus by getting exposed to 1,000 viral particles or more.

The CDC has announced: To successfully infect a person, the virus needs a dose of - 1000 viral particles (vp). The typical environmental spread of activities per minute: Breath - 20vp,

Speaking - 200 vp, Cough - 200 million vp, sneeze - 200 million vp. Someone needs only 1000 vp to get infected.

Wearing masks will protect you and others too. So, please follow CDC guidelines and please use masks in all public areas. Also, please clean your mask daily if it is washable.

The United States is a developed country. On July 4th weekend, shootings happened all over the country. Killings and shootings might have jumped up in July by about 60%. The way we are acting right now is not good for a developed country like the United States. All over the country, there were many shootings. In Chicago, over 80 shot and 15 killed; New York, 64 shot, 8 killed; Philadelphia, 21 shot, 5 killed; Atlanta, 66 shot and 13 killed. In Detroit, a 5 year old was accidentally shot by a 4 year old. Does the movement of defunding the police have anything

to do with this violence? The morality of the police department is down. The bad elements know this, and that basically gave them the green light to be violent. We need safety and security for our lives.

Cory Booker, a favorite for the senate seat, won with a landslide. He received about 330,000 votes (89.44%) while Lawrence Hamm received about 38,900 (10.56%) in the Democratic primary election. It was a vote by mail election. In my opinion, Cory deserves it. Meanwhile, in the Democratic Presidential primary, Joe Biden as expected received 87.5% votes and Bernie Sanders received 12.5% votes. Bernie Sanders withdrew his candidacy on April 8, 2020.

*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
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## RED BLOOD STAINING OUR STREETS

By Thomas Ellis II

I have noticed that since the murder of George Floyd by a white police officer in Minneapolis, people all over are upset, angry, and mad. There have been several thousand people protesting in many cities during this coronavirus pandemic, chanting Black Lives Matter as a way to show their displeasure.

Now, weeks after all the protests and marches people are starting to paint Black Lives Matter in bright yellow paint on the streets. One of the sites where they painted this saying is right in front of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave in Washington D.C. in front of the White House, and they changed the name of the street to Black Lives Matter Plaza.

In Newark, downtown on Halsey Street you can see the words in yellow saying Black Lives Matter. People are excited, and some are even proud of it. However, while they are so pumped about that, red blood is staining our streets across the country.

Let's look at Newark. There have been several murders over

the past few weeks. People have been shot all over the city, with the most recent being a male shot eight times in the 30s block of North 5th Street. When the police arrived, they found no victim, but a male entered University Hospital with multiple gunshot wounds.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen shots fired on Summer Avenue, a Newark man found after being shot in the North ward, shots fired on Parker Street, and a double homicide that took place on July 4th on Brookdale Avenue. This came hours after an Essex County Youth Correction Officer was shot and killed on Sandford and Lanark avenues. Smith Street at South Orange Avenue in the West Ward is still blocked off to traffic, because of an execution style shooting that took place weeks ago.

In Jersey City, a 17 year old was shot and killed this past Monday night, while three people injured in stabbing in Plainfield.

In just one weekend in Chicago, 102 people were shot, with a three year old among those suffering from gunshot wounds.

In Atlanta, over the 4th of July weekend, an eight year old was shot and killed at a Wendy's.

The family of the eight year old is devastated, and the Mayor of Atlanta, Keisha Lance Bottoms, held a press conference, saying, "Enough Is Enough. We have to stop killing our own people. It's getting out of hand."

In her plea to the community she told them, "This little girl was not shot by a police officer, but by a member or members of the community."

As she deals with this, the mayor is also dealing with Georgia's governor issuing a state of emergency over the violence in the city, as well as being diagnosed with COVID-19 along with her husband and at least one of her children.

While all these shootings and murders are going on in the black community, and the shooters or murderers in many cases are black, you don't see Black Lives Matter protests or people showing up in these cities making demands or demanding answers. In the meantime, Red Blood is Staining our Streets.

You would think that with an uptick in violence in NYC, Bal-

timore, Atlanta, California, Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Washington D.C., Philly, and other cities where black people live, you would see Black Live Matter marches and protests all over; but that has not happened. You would think that with all the red blood staining the streets, Black Lives Matter would be hitting those streets.

It's sad to think that groups, organization, churches, will only come out in large numbers to protest when a white cop kills a black man, but when a black man kills a black man, these groups are hard to find in your community. They are needed in many instances to comfort the families, to help the families, to help raise awareness or protect the community.

I can understand people standing up against police brutality, I have participated in hundreds of marches over my years, but what I don't understand is how we can be so excited and fired up about the yellow paint on the street, but not angry, mad, and upset about the red blood staining our streets.



# 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** - It is too early to tell whether Giordano Recycling's clients, including those in Maplewood and South Orange, will have their regular curbside pickups postponed while city and county investigators trace the source of this South Ward transfer plant's July 6 fire.

Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose said that up to 80 city firefighters battled the two-alarm fire 6:45-8:22 p.m. Monday. The first units found all three stories of the building at 142-156 Frelinghuysen Ave. ablaze upon arrival, preventing their initial attempts at entry.

NFD personnel were able to enter when the second alarm was called at 7 p.m. They found the property unoccupied since their scheduled 4:30 p.m. closing.

Ambrose said that two firefighters were injured after falling off the plant's loading dock. While one remained on-duty, the other was taken to University Hospital for observation and release. Traffic, including buses on CoachUSA's No. 24 route, were detoured for nearly two hours.

## Fallen Wires Fell Rail Service

Commuters along NJTransit's Morris & Essex and Montclair Boonton lines awoke early July 7 to the news that downed overhead power lines west of Newark Broad Street Station had suspended the line's service among here, New York

Penn Station and Hoboken Terminal until 1 p.m.

Riders heading east of here were told to take the Newark Light Rail into Newark Penn Station and/or substitute bus service 7-9 a.m. PATH had concurrently cross-honored NJTransit rail tickets and passes.

While how the wires came down were being investigated as of press time, it came about 12 hours after a tree fell on wires in Madison, halting westbound service between Summit and Hackensack. The fallen wires came during NJTransit's first two days of restored scheduled full service since March 16.

**IRVINGTON** - Funeral arrangements for a Newark man, who was found shot on a township street here late July 2, remain unannounced as of 3 p.m. July 7.

Anthony E. Young, 37, said Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Police Director Tracy Bowers Friday, was found at the intersection of 18th Avenue and 21st Street just before 10:30 p.m. that Thursday. Young was declared dead at the scene.

Detectives from Irvington and ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force are continuing their investigation.

## Driver Pulls Gun on Off-Duty Cop

Bowers and his detectives are also looking for the driver of "a gray car" who drew a gun on an off-duty Irvington police officer early July 5.

Bowers said that the officer and a female companion were driving along Springfield Avenue when the suspect's car pulled up at about 2:55 a.m. Sunday.

The other driver began an argument with the female rider which ended with his "pulling out a gun, pointing it at the officer and driving away."

**EAST ORANGE** - A city man, who worked as a county juvenile

detention officer, was shot dead along a street in Newark's Vailsburg section July 3.

Stephens and Ambrose said that responding Newark Police Division officers found Laquan T. Nowlin, 32, at Sanford and Lanark avenues Friday night. Nowlin was declared dead at the scene 11:50 p.m.

Nowlin was off-duty from his job at Newark's Essex County Youth Detention Center at the time. Neither Ambrose nor Stephens have confirmed or quashed whether his work and the shooting are related.

## City Man Arrested for Dec. 3 Track Push

Morris County prosecutors said that Paul E. Stewart, 57, was arrested, charged with second-degree aggravated assault and released on his own recognizance June 26-July 6 in regards to another NJTransit rider being pushed onto the Dover station railroad tracks before an approaching train on Dec. 3.

Stewart, said Morris County Prosecutor's Office spokesman Paul Milo Monday, is accused of pushing a Parsippany man off the station's high platform. The man, who suffered nine broken ribs and lacerations, was able to roll under the platform until bystanders lifted him back up.

Witnesses said that the victim was helping another rider with using a ticket vending machine when Stewart approached him, demanding that he get out of the way. When the victim said there was enough room for Stewart to get by, witnesses added that the city man pushed him twice - the second causing the five-foot fall.

Stewart, who stayed at the scene, told NJTransit and Dover police that he pushed the elderly man "as the result of an argument." There is also security camera footage of the incident.

**MONTCLAIR** - The peaceful transfer of municipal power happened here at the Municipal

Building Noon July 1 even though questions about how the county counted May 12's Vote By Mail ballots continued before Montclair's quadrennial inauguration.

Outgoing Mayor Robert Jackson handed his gavel to Sean Spillar moments after Gov. Phil Murphy swore the former Third Ward Councilman into office.

All six Township Council members were subsequently sworn into their new or returning offices. Former mayor Robert Russo and newcomer Peter Yacobellis, for example, took their respective at-large seats.

Returning First Ward Councilman William Hurlock was also named Deputy Mayor. Second Ward Councilwoman Robin Schlager was placed on the Montclair Planning Board. Schlager and Third Ward Councilwoman Lori Price Abrams were named onto the Board of School Estimate.

Newcoming Fourth Ward Councilman David Cummings completed Montclair's 2020-24 mayor-council lineup about two and a half hours after Montclair's League of Women Voters and NAACP Branch held a "Make Every Vote Count" demonstration outside.

Baskerville and 15 township voters, citing signature mismatches and late-delivered ballots, had sought New Jersey Superior Court-Newark's injunction to hold the July 1 inauguration. The hearing judge, on June 19, let the inauguration happen - and granted Baskerville and Company for a hearing Sept. 11.

The NAACP and LWV locals want Essex County officials to ensure that future BVM ballots be accounted for. While they underscored Dr. Renee Baskerville's claim that county officials had not counted 1,086 ballots May 12-14, they stressed that the outgoing Fourth Ward Councilwoman was not connected with their protest.

# ACCESS TO HIV MEDICINES SEVERELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19



Photo Courtesy WHO

Seventy-three countries have warned that they are at risk of stock-outs of antiretroviral (ARV) medicines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new WHO survey conducted ahead of the International AIDS Society's biannual conference. Twenty-four countries reported having either a critically low stock of ARVs or disruptions in the supply of these life-saving medicines.

The survey follows a modeling exercise convened by WHO and UNAIDS in May which forecasted that a six-month disruption in access to ARVs could lead to a doubling in AIDS-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa in 2020 alone.

In 2019, an estimated 8.3 million people were benefiting from ARVs in the 24 countries now experiencing supply shortages. This represents about one third (33%) of all people taking HIV treatment globally. While there is no cure for HIV, ARVs can control the virus and prevent onward sexual transmission to other people.

A failure of suppliers to deliver ARVs on time and a shut-down of land and air transport services, coupled with limited access to health services within countries as a result of the pandemic, were among the causes cited for the disruptions in the survey.

The findings of this survey are deeply concerning," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director - General. "Countries and their development partners must do all they can to ensure that people who need HIV treatment continue to access it. We cannot let the COVID-19 pandemic undo the hard-won gains in the global response to this disease.

## Stalled Progress

According to data released today from UNAIDS and WHO, new HIV infections fell by 39% between 2000 and 2019. HIV-related deaths fell by 51% over the same time period, and some 15 million lives were saved through the use of antiretroviral therapy.

However, progress towards global targets is stalling. Over the last two years, the annual number of new HIV infections has plateaued at 1.7 million and there was only a modest reduction in HIV-related death, from 730,000 in 2018 to 690,000 in 2019. Despite steady advances in scaling up treatment coverage - with more than 25 million people in need of ARVs receiving them in 2019 - key 2020 global targets will be missed.

HIV prevention and testing services are not reaching the groups that need them most. Improved targeting of proven prevention and testing services will be critical to reinvigorate the global response to HIV.

## WHO Guidance and Country Action

COVID-19 risks exacerbating the situation. WHO recently developed guidance for countries on how to safely maintain access to essential health services during the pandemic, including for all people living with or affected by HIV. The guidance encourages countries to limit disruptions in access to HIV treatment through "multi-month dispensing," a policy whereby medicines are prescribed for longer periods of time - up to six months. To date, 129 countries have adopted this policy.



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Countries are also mitigating the impact of the disruptions by working to maintain flights and supply chains, engaging communities in the delivery of HIV medicines, and working with manufacturers to overcome logistics challenges.

## New Opportunities to Treat HIV in Young Children

At the IAS conference, WHO will highlight how global progress in reducing HIV-related deaths can be accelerated by stepping up support and services for populations disproportionately impacted by the epidemic, including young children. In 2019, there were an estimated 95 000 HIV-related deaths and 150 000 new infections among children. Only about half (53%) of children in need of antiretroviral therapy were receiving it. A lack of optimal medicines with suitable pediatric formulations has been a longstanding barrier to improving health outcomes for children living with HIV.

Last month, WHO welcomed a decision by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve a new 5mg formulation of dolutegravir (DTG) for infants and children older than 4 weeks and weighing more than 3 kg. This decision will ensure that all children have rapid access to an optimal drug that, to date, has only been available for adults, adolescents and older children. WHO is committed to fast-tracking the prequalification of DTG as a generic drug so that it can be used as soon as possible by countries to save lives.

Through a collaboration of multiple partners, we are likely

to see generic versions of dolutegravir for children by early 2021, allowing for a rapid reduction in the cost of this medicine," said Dr Meg Doherty, Director of the Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI Programs at WHO. "This will give us another new tool to reach children living with HIV and keep them alive and healthy."

## Tackling Opportunistic Infections

Many HIV-related deaths result from infections that take advantage of an individual's weakened immune system. These include bacterial infections, such as tuberculosis, viral infections like hepatitis and COVID-19, parasitic infections such as toxoplasmosis and fungal infections, including histoplasmosis.

Now, WHO is releasing new guidelines for the diagnosis and management of histoplasmosis, among people living with HIV. Histoplasmosis is highly prevalent in the WHO Region of the Americas, where as many as 15,600 new cases and 4,500 deaths are reported each year among people living with HIV. Many of these deaths could be prevented through timely diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

In recent years, the development of highly sensitive diagnostic tests has allowed for a rapid and accurate confirmation of histoplasmosis and earlier initiation of treatment. However, innovative diagnostics and optimal treatments for this disease are not yet widely available in resource-limited settings.



# WILLIS EDWARDS III INDICTED

## *Former Orange Acting Business Administrator Facing up to 118 Years in Prison*

**NEWARK** - The former acting business administrator for the Township of Orange, New Jersey, has been charged in a 28-count indictment with conspiracy, bribe-taking, money and property fraud, federal tax fraud, and making false statements in connection with a mortgage, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced July 8.

Willis Edwards III, 49, formerly of East Orange, New Jersey, and currently of Lithonia, Georgia, was charged with 14 counts of wire fraud, two counts of bribery in connection with the business of a federally funded local government, two counts of theft from a federally funded local government, two counts of mail fraud, two counts of false statements concerning a mortgage, one count of bribery in connection with the business of a federally funded local government and organization, one count of theft from a federally funded local government and organization, one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and the IRS, and one count of filing a false tax return. A date for Edwards' arraignment has not yet been scheduled.

According to documents filed in this case: In January 2015, Edwards had his friend, Franklyn Ore, form Urban Partners LLC (Urban Partners), using cash provided by Edwards. During 2015, Edwards used Urban Partners to funnel to himself a stream of concealed kickbacks in exchange for Edwards' official action as an Orange public official and assistance in the affairs of Orange and in violation of his duties in connection with:

- A Saturday literacy program for which Orange and the Orange Public Library were awarded a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant, funded by the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by Essex County, to provide tutoring services for low and moderate-income families (the Saturday Literacy Program);

- A project for which an urban planning company located in Montclair, New Jersey, had received a one-year, \$150,000 contract from Orange to provide professional economic planning services to analyze the conditions within the Central Orange Redevelopment Area (the "redevelopment project"); and
- A project to acquire the Orange YWCA building and develop it into a community recreation center.

### *The Saturday Literacy Program Fraud and Kickbacks*

Despite knowing that Urban Partners did not provide any services to the library in connection with the Saturday Literacy Program, Edwards caused false and fraudulent vouchers to be submitted in March 2015 and in May 2015 to Essex County seeking Saturday literacy grant funds for expenses purportedly paid to Urban Partners. In support of the fraudulent vouchers, Edwards had phony documents submitted to Essex County, including: (1) a sham contract between Urban Partners and the library, backdated to over six months before Urban Partners had been formed, (2) false statistical data about the children who supposedly attended the literacy sessions, (3) fake Urban Partners invoices, and (4) backdated library checks payable to Urban Partners that had not been negotiated when submitted to Essex County to give the false impression that the Library had paid Urban Partners, when it had not done so.

Between April 2015 and June 2015, Essex County provided the Library with \$50,000 in HUD funds for the Saturday Literacy Program. Between May 2015 and August 2015, Edwards caused the library to pay Urban Partners approximately \$36,000, despite knowing that Urban Partners had not provided the library

with any services in connection with the Saturday Literacy Program. Edwards received kickbacks from Ore from the money paid to Urban Partners by the library. At Edwards's direction, Ore also provided a portion of the proceeds from the library to an associate of Edwards. Ore spent the remaining proceeds for his own personal benefit.

### *The Redevelopment Project Fraud and Kickbacks*

Edwards used his influence as an Orange public official to arrange for the planning company to hire Urban Partners after the planning company had received its contract with Orange. Ore provided services to the Planning Committee and, between August 2015 and February 2016, the planning company, which was receiving payments from Orange, paid Urban Partners \$33,220. Edwards received kickbacks from Ore from the money that the planning company paid to Urban Partners.

### *The YWCA Project Fraud and Kickback*

In December 2015, aware that his resignation as an Orange public official would become effective on Dec. 31, 2015, Edwards took further steps to use his position for corrupt and fraudulent purposes. Edwards advised Ore that Edwards had access to Orange discretionary funds and wanted to use them by the end of the year. At Edwards's instruction, Ore generated and submitted a fraudulent invoice from Urban Partners to Orange, billing Orange \$16,800 for services purportedly related to the YWCA Project. Edwards, knowing that no services has been rendered, approved the issuance of a purchase order and Orange paid Urban Partners \$16,800. On Dec. 30, 2015, Edwards received a substantial amount of the \$16,800 in a kickback from Ore.

### *The Plagiarism Scheme*

From June 2015 to June 2016, Edwards duped Orange into making payments to a con-

sultant, which were, at least in part, for academic papers that the consultant arranged to have written for Edwards. Edwards, who was enrolled in a graduate program at a university in New Jersey, plagiarized the papers that Orange paid for and passed them off as his own work. Between December 2015 and March 2016, with Edwards's approval, the consultant submitted three fraudulent invoices to Orange calling for payments of \$12,000, \$16,000, and \$10,000 for purported professional services. Orange paid the money to the consultant and Edwards received from the consultant academic papers that had been written for him. On June 20, 2016, Edwards submitted several papers which were virtually identical to the papers that he had received from the consultant. In emails to the professors, to which the papers were attached, Edwards asked the professors to grade the attached outstanding assignments so that he did "not receive a failing grade for all of the hard work that [he had] done."

### *The Graduate School Payments Scheme*

The indictment also charges Edwards with fraud in connection with funding his graduate studies. Between December 2015 and July 2016, Edwards engaged in a scheme to defraud Orange of \$25,142 in payments to himself and University 1 related to Edwards's graduate courses there and at another university in New Jersey through the use of a fraudulent approval memorandum.

In February 2016, when Edwards was no longer an Orange public official, he dictated the following language to an employee in Orange's Finance Department (Orange Employee 1) for use in a fraudulent approval memorandum addressed to Edwards: "As per the employee handbook, this memorandum serves as consent for you [Edwards] to enroll in the courses as discussed. Please forward the invoices to process for payment." Edwards instructed Or-

(Continued on page 7)

# WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

## An Analysis of the 1932, 1968, 1980, 1992 and 2020 Presidential Elections

By Lev D. Zilbermints

As matters currently stand, the country has the highest unemployment numbers since the Great Depression of 1929-1941. There is now 13.3% unemployment, compared with 14.2% a month earlier. Unlike 1929, today's economic crisis was caused by the coronavirus. And although the economy is reopening, the country is in a recession after nearly 11 years of economic growth. This article will compare 2020 to 1932 and points in between, in an attempt to draw conclusions from historical similarities.

Today, President Donald Trump is using an "America First" approach. This policy consists of protectionist attitude, withdrawing from important treaties, adopting an isolationist approach. Boundaries are closed to immigrants from many countries. There are tariff wars with China. World leaders find Trump difficult to deal with. There are protests in the streets of American cities.

### 1932

President Herbert Hoover, elected in 1928, is seeking reelection. Like Trump, Hoover favored protectionism and an isolationist policy. The stock market crash of 1929 brought about the Great Depression. After the Roaring 1920s, the economy tanked and would not recover until World War II.

In July 1932, an army of World War I veterans from all over the country marched to Washington, D.C. demanding that the government pay out their war bonuses earlier. Now, the payout was not supposed to happen until 1945, but the veterans demanded it anyway because of the poor economy. The Bonus Army, as it was called, was made of 17,000 U.S. World War I veterans, together with their families and affiliated groups, for a total of 43,000. The Bonus Army was led by Walter W. Waters, a former ser-

geant.

The demonstrators camped in a "Hooverville" on the grounds of what today is Section C of Anacostia Park. Back in 1932 it was Anacostia Flats, a swampy, muddy area across the Anacostia River from the federal core of Washington. There were approximately 10,000 men, women and children living in two large camps.

The U.S. House passed a bill to move forward the date for veterans to receive their cash bonus. However, the Senate defeated the bill by a 62-18 vote on June 17, 1932 and then fled the city.

A month passed. Finally, President Hoover ordered the Secretary of War Hurley to disperse the protesters. On July 28, 1932, 500 infantry, 500 cavalry, 6 M1917 light tanks and 800 policemen were thrown against the Bonus Army. There were 2 dead veterans and 2 dead children and 55 injured. Government forces suffered at least 69 policemen injured. The Bonus Army was dispersed, their demand for an early payout rejected. The point is that the Bonus Army incident is considered by Wyatt Kingseed, a noted historian, to be a contributing factor in Hoover's landslide loss of the 1932 election loss to Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Today, in June 2020, the situation is similar. Various polls show President Trump trailing former Vice President Joe Biden by anywhere between 7 to 15 points. A lot of it has to do with how the media, which is pro-Democratic, portrays President Trump. The other factor is the coronavirus epidemic. The absence of a vaccine or antiviral treatment means that many businesses have to stay closed. In 1932, it was the economy and money. In 2020, it is the coronavirus' effect on the economy.

Where 1932 and 2020 differ is African-Americans and the way they voted. In 1932, Jim Crow laws prevented many African-Americans from voting in

(Continued on page 11)

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### EDWARDS INCITED

(Continued from page 6)

Orange Employee 1 to backdate the memorandum to Aug. 17, 2015, to give the false impression that Edwards had received approval for Orange to pay for academic courses in which he had enrolled.

On Feb. 10, 2016, at Edwards's direction, Orange Employee 1 sent an email to a senior public official in the office of

the Mayor of Orange (Orange Employee 2) containing a draft of the fraudulent approval memorandum. Orange Employee 2 later provided Orange Employee 1 with a final copy of the fraudulent approval memorandum on Orange letterhead, purportedly from the Mayor of Orange, addressed to Edwards, and backdated to Aug. 17, 2015. It included the language that Edwards dictated to Orange Employee 1 and bore the stamp of

(Continued on page 13)





## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### **United We Stand, Divided We Fall**

Today, we are facing what is being characterized as one of the most significant divides ever seen in the United States of America. Some historians say it seems to parallel events just before the Civil War with the great debates over the Confederacy or the Union. Some who experienced the 1960s say, it parallels the marches as the Civil Rights Movement sought the freedom of Black Americans.

Others say that it is now worse because the President and some on the so-called "radical" right and "radical" left are stoking the fires of division by their words and actions. Such attitudes can potentially break out into violence that is so tragic and challenging to control that America might become a police or militarized country.

The use of the Insurrectionist Act might seem a far cry, but what is seen in dreams can become a reality. To remind anyone who might not know:

- The Insurrection Act was passed by Congress in 1807, empowering the President of the United States to deploy U. S. military and federalized National Guard troops within the United States in particular circumstances, such as to suppress civil disorder, insurrection, and rebellion.
- The Act provides a "statutory exception" to the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, limiting the use of military personnel under federal command for law enforcement purposes within the United

States.

- Before invoking the powers under the Act, 10 U.S. C & 254 requires the President first to publish a proclamation ordering the insurgents to disperse.

This is why the attorney general went out to order the police and the national guard members, on the night of the protest, to remove the protesters using tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets, before the president could go out for that photo op with a Bible. And although the attorney general and the president have received some criticism since, no one has attempted to impeach them. In reality, subtly, America is teetering on the brink of a dictatorship with divisions so deep that it will take a divine hand such as it came to the hands of the Union Army in Atlanta in August 1864. The Confederate Army, then, had all the advantage, but as some religious historians have noted, it was not so much the genius of Tecumseh Sherman that caused the Northern army to gain the victory, "It was the hand of God."

Here is what I believe. Once again, in this nation, we need God's hand to deal with the political, economic, relational, and cultural divisions that we are now experiencing. While the president and many of our politicians are undoubtedly using the divisions for their political advantage, we are conscious that if we get caught up in such divisions, we will not survive for long. If you are one who seems to be denying the realities or pretending ignorance, I beg that you admit or see the realities as to what is happening about us. Please open your eyes because there is no way that we will be able to live in this division.

Do I need to make you aware that demons live in division? Or let me say it more religiously, "The devil loves division." According to the Biblical record, there was "war in heaven."

I do not have space to repeat the details here, but here is how it is introduced in Revelation 12:7-9: And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels and prevailed not; neither was their place found anymore in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (KJV).

Read the full story in Revelation and the rest of the Bible and convince yourself or ask God to convince you that this is real history. This mess of disunity in the United States of America and around the world did not start yesterday. It has been around for a long time, and the devil and his angels are using it to destroy all of us.

But the point I have been making from the initial point of our reflection is that we are not going to survive this way. We cannot live in chaos. This is why God created the cosmos. (Genesis 1:1). Our world has been messed up by the forces of demons (Genesis 3).

This is what biblical history states. Whether you accept the biblical history, it does not matter. Whether you blame the devil or some oppressive political leader or some narcissistic persons for all the disunity we are facing now, might be a fact of interest. The reality is that we are in a mess. And we cannot survive.

Jesus was quite clear on this, and that is why he prayed so hard in his garden prayer that his disciples would be united (cf. John 17). Among the Beatitudes he said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." (cf. Matthew 5:9, cf. John 14:27).

Yes, Jesus knew that for our world to survive, we have to build unity, for without unity,

there is no possibility for our survival. Before I conclude the reflection, might I appeal to your hearts by listing a few suggestions so we can help build this unity that we now seek?

1. We need to ask God to help us take away the high walls of prejudice in our hearts.
2. Admit the reality that as religious as some of us are, we might share the structural racism that is being spoken of. If it is impacting us at all, let us ask God to help us discern it and get rid of it.
3. Stop the "name-calling," the "labeling." This is what we hear from some of our politicians, "The Radical Left," "The Marxists," and the rest of prejudicial terms we use that might help us win an argument but will not build the unity or Union we seek.
4. Stop projecting on others who we are.
5. Learn the power of forgiveness. Yes, we have been wronged, but we "Make a mountain out of a molehill too often."
6. Learn to respect one another. We are God's children together, regardless of our color.
7. Let to pray for God to bind us together.

"We are stronger together," is not a phrase that we hang as a sign in our offices or our homes." It is a practice we should adopt. As a minister who has gone to many homes to help partners reunite, I am always amazed to see the plaques they have in their homes speaking of the ideal of unity that they have for the family, and yet they are "fighting like dogs" as has been said.

Unity is built on humility. Let us ask God for some of this humility at this time.



# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## My Journey To Keep My Sanity: Part 1

### INTRODUCTION

Like many others, I entered one of the most challenging fields to date, so that one day I can learn to comprehend the human mind and body and provide care to the most innovative organism to set foot on this planet. Hence, I chose to study Cell Biology and Neuroscience with Psychology in my undergraduate years then went on to pursue my lifelong journey of learning medicine and completed my residency training in Internal Medicine & Pediatrics. However, as my medical studies progressed, I became disillusioned, not only towards my ability to comprehend the vast amount of information required of me to care for the human body, and its intricacies along with the ever-evolving research, but also the business of healthcare.

It was during my second year of residency that the burnout caught up. I was ready to leave medicine and go into business school. I knew I wanted to go into Primary Care, but I could not fathom having to spend the rest of my life doing paperwork. It was while I was doing research on different practice styles for primary care medicine that I came across the concept of Direct Primary Care. I traveled to Colorado that same year for a rotation at an organization that championed the principles of direct primary care. After my experience, I knew that I would

pursue Direct Primary Care after I completed my training.

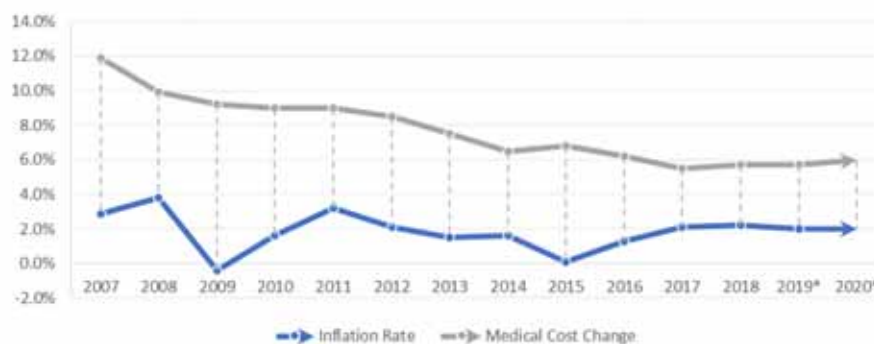
In order to set myself up for success, I needed to learn about the existing healthcare system and its flaws. Like everyone else, I knew it was broken, but not how. After reading Catastrophic Care by David Goldhill and America's Bitter Pill by Steven Brill, I had a better understanding of the existing healthcare system and its intricacies. I have since then concluded that the change required to fix the broken insurance-based primary care system and reverse primary care burnout isn't complex and there is ample evidence for me to make that claim.

I, however, will not discuss the possible policy changes that can potentially reverse the path we have chosen to pursue, as there are many more intelligent people pursuing such answers. Instead, my focus is to analyze healthcare spending, primary care segmentation, physician burnout and allow you to decide whether the solution I discuss is a potential one.

### Problem #1 - Cost

One big problem with the insurance-based system is cost. Health care costs in the United States have increased significantly over the last decade, dramatically outpacing inflation at nearly three times the rate of inflation.<sup>i, ii, iii</sup>

**COST CHANGE COMPARISON 2007-2020**



Research suggests that primary care services account for between 5.8% and 7.7% of US healthcare spending.<sup>iv</sup> Based on 2019 national healthcare spending forecasts, which is \$3.8 trillion, calculated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services<sup>v</sup>, total primary care spending is estimated at \$256.5 billion.

### Problem # 2 - Burnout

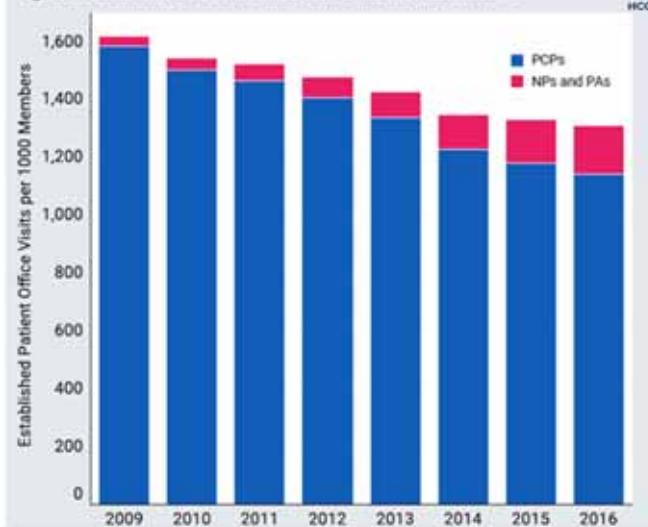
Physician burnout - a condition in which physicians lose satisfaction and a sense of efficacy in their work - has become widespread in our profession, likely driven by frustrating electronic health records, and soaring burden of administrative tasks all the while undermining patient encounters. Perhaps the catalyst to burnout and this new era of measurement and accountability that targets quality, errors, inequities, and soaring costs may be possibly due to the 1999 publication of the Institute of Medicine's "To Err is Human" report or the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. Whatever the cause, the burnout is real, and patients do not like being cared for by Physicians who are experiencing symptoms of burnout, which further translates to reduced patient satisfaction in primary care and increased med-

ical errors.

### Problem #3 - Shortage

Since 2009, primary care visitation has been steadily dropping, according to data collected by the Health Care Cost Institute<sup>vi</sup>. The decrease has been especially sharp in recent years, as patients switch to lower-cost urgent care centers staffed with

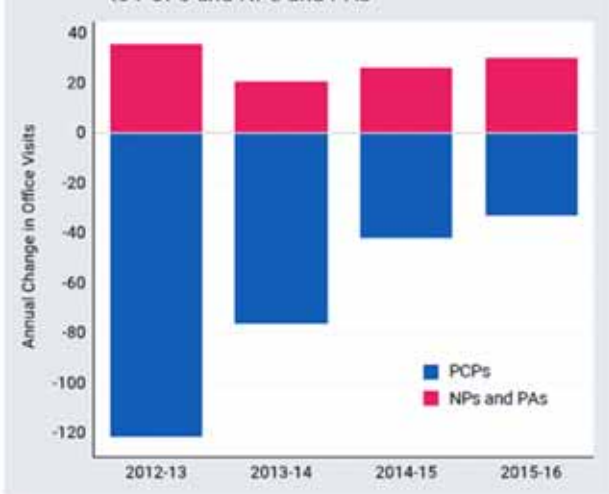
Figure 8: Established Patient Office Visit Utilization, 2009-2016



more nurse practitioners and physician assistants<sup>vii</sup>.

Some of the substitution away from primary care physicians (PCPs) may be due to a

Figure 4: Annual Change in Office Visit Utilization to PCPs and NPs and PAs



shortage of doctors in this practice area. United Health Group estimates that nearly 13% of US residents live in a county with too few PCPs (defined as less than one PCP per 2,000 people)<sup>viii</sup>. If the current physician retirement and medical student specialization rates continue, its estimated that the PCP shortage could almost triple by 2030<sup>ix</sup> or simply put, one PCP per 6,000 people. This physician to patient ratio will make it impossible for physicians to continue to practice primary care.

### Conclusion

These problems, I believe, are the key to the continued destruction of primary care. The increasing cost of primary care has potentiated increasing control by the government by enforcing measurement and accountability which has further translated into a system of re-

(Continued on page 12)



Photos Courtesy RWDSU

Preparing meals for Juneteenth.



A socially distant union workers meeting.



**INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES N. HALL - PART II**

(Continued from page 1)

and requested a zoom meeting. Our local union hired a health and safety consultant to make sure our members were safe. We continue to conduct daily labor management calls focusing on health and safety and hazard pay.

We also did informational zoom meetings, covering topics such as stress and an interfaith spiritual meeting to help our

members know how to cope the pressure and stress. We made ourselves available around the clock for the membership. I wanted our members to know we are there for them. Our union guided our members with unemployment, disability, workers compensation many other matters of concern.

**Dhiren Shah:** Can you tell us about the union's involvement in the community?

**Charles Hall:** Local 108 believes strongly in helping out in

the community. In fact, it is the mission of unions to lend a helping in the community. After all, unions are about lifting people up. I know you could find hundreds of stories about unions across our state helping those in need, children, education, sick, elderly, veterans, scouts, and many other charitable and community efforts.

Local 108 works closely with the Essex West Hudson labor council under the leadership of President Thomas Giblin and the council every year, with thousands of dollars in scholar-

ships. We also are a part of a labor advisory committee that raises funds for the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund.

We support the African American Parades Organization, the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children and other worthy charities. The labor movement believes in lifting people up and building good communities.

**Dhiren Shah:** Thank you very much for your time.





**WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE***(Continued from page 7)*

Southern states. In other states, black people could vote, but it was not guaranteed. Separate but equal was the law of the land. Whites and Blacks used separate facilities, lived in segregated neighborhoods, and in many states, could not intermarry. Discrimination and racism were the order of the day. Black people in 1932, when they did vote, cast their ballots for Republican candidates.

Today, black people have been voting Democratic since the 1960s. There are no grandfather clauses or barriers preventing African-Americans from voting, using the same facilities as white people or intermarrying with whites. United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is married to a white woman. Former President Barack Obama's mother was white. There is still racism and discrimination, but of a different type than decades earlier. The laws were changed in the 1960s and 1970s to ensure greater equality for all, at least in the eyes of the law.

**1968**

Having compared 1932 to 2020, let us look at other historical examples. In 1968, as in 2020, there was social upheaval and riots in America. President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Democrat, decided not to run for reelection. Republicans nominated former Vice President Richard Nixon. Johnson was blamed for the Vietnam War, the riots, the social upheaval. A pandemic of the influenza A (H3N2) virus entered the U.S.A. in September 1968. According to the Center for Disease Control, the estimated amount of deaths was 1 million worldwide and about 100,000 in the United States. Most excess deaths were in people 65 years and older.

Nixon defeated incumbent Vice President Hubert Humphrey by a vote of 301-191 in the Electoral College. The popular vote was much closer, with 43.4% for Nixon, 42.7% for Humphrey and 13.5% for George Wallace, who campaigned in favor of racial segregation.

Wallace, the American Independent party candidate, received 46 electoral votes and five states of the Deep South. It was the last time an independent candidate received a substantial amount of electoral votes. Historians consider 1968 to be the election that permanently disrupted the New Deal coalition that had dominated presidential politics since 1932.

The passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 allowed minorities to vote, especially in the South.

**1980**

During the 1980 presidential election the main issues were the economy, the Iran hostage crisis, inflation, high interest rates, stagnation. President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, was running for reelection against Ronald Reagan, former actor and governor of California. Independent John Anderson was the third-party candidate. However, unlike 12 years earlier, an independent candidate received no electoral votes.

Reagan defeated Carter in a landslide, with 489 to 49 in the Electoral College. In terms of the popular vote, Reagan had 50.75% to 41.01% for Carter and 6.61% for John Anderson. Republicans won control of the U.S. Senate for the first time since 1955.

**1992**

During the 1992 presidential election, George H. W. Bush ran against Arkansas governor Bill Clinton and independent Ross Perot. Bush's ace in the hole, foreign policy, was deemed not important after the fall of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War and the relatively peaceful climate in the Middle East after the Gulf War. The economy was in a recession, which made Bush vulnerable. While Bush attacked Clinton's character and focused on foreign policy, Clinton focused on the economy.

Bill Clinton won the election with 370 votes to 168 for Bush in the Electoral College. Billionaire Ross Perot, who received 19% of the popular vote, did not win any Electoral College votes.

**Analyses**

However, the election of 2020 has a number of crucial differences from those of 1932, 1968, 1980 and 1992. One key difference lies in the fact that there are serious questions being asked whether ex-Vice President Joe Biden is mentally fit to be President. Franklin Delano Roosevelt had polio and used a wheelchair. Mentally, however, he was all right. In 1968 and 1992 no candidate had health issues. In 1980, Carter tried to make Reagan's age an issue (Reagan was 69) but it did not work.

With the advent of the Internet, television, cell phones, and social media, communication is much faster than decades ago. Social media has become very important in people's lives. Thus, when Biden or Trump say something or do something, it becomes immediately known worldwide. Thus, when someone notices Biden forgetting what he said 15 minutes ago, it becomes known immediately.

That is not to say that Trump's critics have not tried to paint the president as unfit for office. Most recently, former national security adviser John Bolton has published a tell-all book full of criticism against Trump. And over the past three years, numerous doctors and psychologists have publicly stated their opinion, without having examined the president, that Trump is not fit to be president.

Another important difference between 1932 and 2020 is that today the economy is recovering better than in 1932. Congress has repeatedly passed, and Trump signed, legislation giving financial assistance to businesses suffering from the coronavirus-induced recession. President Hoover did not pass any such laws in 1929-1933.

Interestingly enough, in 1932 there was definitely police brutality. At the time, there were no Miranda rights for those arrested. Segregation was the law of the land, with separate facilities for whites and blacks. Today, people are protesting worldwide against police brutality, racism and other issues. In this there is a marked difference between 1932 and 2020.

President Hoover tried to combat the Great Depression by restricting trade and increasing taxes on the wealthy with legis-

lation such as the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act and the Revenue Act of 1932. In contrast, President Trump has signed legislation such as the CARES Act of 2020 to help combat the recession. He has decreased taxes on the wealthy in order to stimulate the economy. The election of 1932 also marked the last time Republicans won a majority of black and African-American vote.

Norman M. Thomas, the Socialist Party candidate, received 884,885 votes, or 2.23% of the popular vote in the 1932 presidential election. He did not get any Electoral College votes. In 2019-2020, another democratic socialist, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, did well in Democratic primaries until defeated by former Vice President Joe Biden.

As this article was being prepared, news came that rapper Kanye West declared his intention to run for U.S. President. West has been endorsed by the billionaire Elon Musk as well as his own wife Kim Kardashian. It is too soon to tell what effect Kanye West will have on the election. One thing is certain, however. It is quite possible that the West campaign will siphon votes from Joe Biden than from Trump. Such a scenario happened in 1992, when Ross Perot siphoned votes from George H.W. Bush.

So where does all this leave the American people? In the final analyses, if the economy improves; a treatment or antiviral is found for the coronavirus; and Biden keeps making mistakes, Trump wins. On the other hand, if the economy does not recover; there is no treatment or cure for the coronavirus; and Trump is seen as insensitive to protests around the country, Biden wins. A lot will depend on the performance of Biden and Trump in the upcoming presidential debates. These could easily make or break a campaign.

The American people must vote their conscience at the polls in November. A lot will depend on which choice America makes.

*Lev D. Zilbermints has a Masters in Political Science from Rutgers University, Class of 2005 as well as a Bachelor's in Political Science from Bloomfield College, Class of 1996.*

# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

The New Jersey high school baseball season will now restart with a new round of games called "The Last Chance World Series." It will be held for a few weeks, and 222 teams comprised of many seniors will take part. The regular season was cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

All 21 counties will be represented, and there are several local teams involved. Among them are the Bloomfield Bengals, West Orange's high school baseball team and the Montclair High

School team, will be called the Errico Baseball Club. Other teams include the Millburn Millers and some Newark squad, which feature Newark Academy, Central, and East Side.

North and South Jersey regional pool play will begin on July 14th. The semifinal round will begin July 21st, and the championship game will take place in Trenton.

In pro ball news, Kansas City Chiefs star quarterback Patrick Mahomes has signed a record breaking extension; 10 years for a minimum of \$400 million. .

## THREE VAILSBURG

### HOMICIDES UNDER

#### INVESTIGATION

(Continued from page 1)

The victim was employed as a juvenile detention officer at the Essex County Youth Detention Center. At this time there is no indication that the homicide is connected to his employment.

On Saturday, July 4, two people were fatally shot in the 100 block of Brookdale Avenue.

The victims have been identified as Nekeya Grady, 36, of Willingboro and Earl Cohen, 46, of Newark. They were both pronounced dead at the scene at 2:58 pm.

Both investigations are active and ongoing. No arrests have been made.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force tips line at 1-877 TIPS- 4EC or 1-877-847-7432.

## THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 9)

wards, punishments and pay for performance. This tightening control has led to increased burdens and administrative tasks alienating physicians, not only from direct patient engagement, the core of their desire to pursue medicine, but also from their families which has further potentiated burnout. Burnout overall contributes to a 1% reduction in physicians' professional work effort, which equates to losing the graduates of seven medical schools annually – before accounting for other outcomes of burnout such as early retirement or leaving the profession altogether, or even physician suicide! \* This snowball effect will continue to destroy our primary care system. Even though, many states have offered solutions which equilibrates to providing

Nurse Practitioners full practice rights so that they may serve the same role primary care physicians do, this solution will not fix the core of this problem, and the mounting stress amongst practitioners is likely to continue to increase burnout and cost. Replacing physicians will only shift the problem.

However, there is a solution, for cost control in primary care, to address physician burnout and to address the primary care shortage, and that solution, I believe, is Direct Primary Care. I will show how that is in the next article. This was originally published in Doximity.

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Stats available as of July 7, 2020

Municipality	7-6-2020 12 pm	7-7-2020 12 pm	Deaths
Belleville	996	998	61
Bloomfield	1,100	1,097	65
Caldwell	116	120	8
Cedar Grove	470	475	110
East Orange	1,964	1,974	214
Essex Fells	23	23	2
Fairfield	137	137	18
Glen Ridge	38	39	8
Irvington	1,439	1,438	152
Livingston	501	494	67
Maplewood	317	319	26
Millburn	148	148	7
Montclair	435	434	50
Newark	7,866	7,859	630
North Caldwell	42	41	4
Nutley	496	499	35
Orange	1,022	1,018	85
Roseland	86	86	15
South Orange	101	101	4
Verona	133	132	13
West Caldwell	266	265	43
West Orange	1,247	1,248	177
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,943</b>	<b>18,945</b>	<b>1,794</b>
<b>Negative tests</b>	<b>89,811</b>	<b>90,237</b>	

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 7-8-20 at 4 pm EDT)**  
**New Jersey: 174,039 cases / 13,476 deaths (Plus 1,947 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 3.016 Million / 131,600 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 11.892 Million / 545,600 deaths**

**NJ Gov. Murphy is mandating use of face coverings outdoors when social distancing is not possible.**

industries/assets/pwc-hri-behind-the-numbers-2020.pdf.

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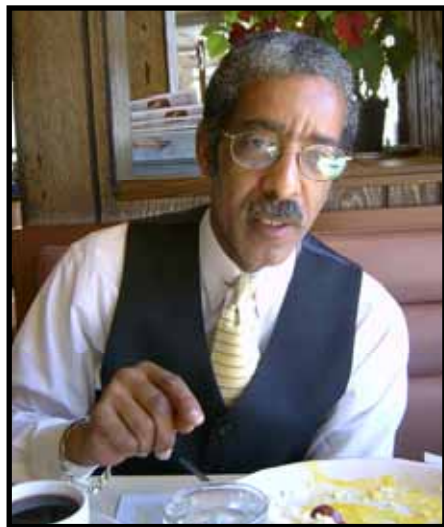
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# SENATOR RICE CALLS FOR INCLUSIVE USE OF PARKLAND



**TRENTON** - On July 2, Senator Ronald L. Rice issued the following statement calling for inclusive dialog as New Jersey debates use of its parklands and recreational areas for all residents statewide:

"Members of our state's Legislature and administration are currently discussing New Jersey's open space, recreational areas and parkland and whether there is an appropriate opportunity for us to invite the 'private for-profit and non-profit sector in reducing maintenance and capital investment backlog and environmental remediation at state parks in order to facilitate enhanced cultural, recreational and local economic opportunities

for New Jersey residents through appropriate means including leaseholds.'

"This is a critical item in our budget deliberations, considering that even before COVID-19 devastated our economy, New Jersey's parks were already operating at a deficit hundreds of millions of dollars below their capital improvement funding requests.

"It is even more crucial from the perspective of environmental justice, which is inseparable from economic and social justice, now in laser focus across our nation. Despite repeated survey and studies, New Jersey's minority communities have suffered from inadequate access to parks and recreational facilities for decades. COVID-19 has brought much of this injustice to the foreground and in light of its toll on communities of color, our lack of park and recreational facilities for urban residents is unacceptable.

"Our beautiful Garden State deserves every enhancement possible to allow the outdoors to be enjoyed by the full spectrum of our population. Nature has a restorative power that revitalizes our bodies, refreshes our minds and rejuvenates our souls. Good

stewardship of the land demands a reverence for environmental concerns and the wisdom to delegate land use in accordance with the recreational needs of our people.

"Preserving open space is our responsibility to future generations and the rebalancing of our environment. But just as important is finding ways to create areas for outdoor sports and exercise for our most neglected people - the non-affluent, non-suburban residents whose parks have atrophied from systematic neglect and whose school playgrounds, once the heartbeat of urban communities, have been reclaimed as faculty parking lots. Our parks must serve all people by encouraging a balance of active, passive, structured and unstructured recreational activities.

"Nature is for everyone - not just the rich - and it needs to be especially accessible to those without backyard patios and manicured lawns. The use of our state parks is not a black and white issue, or an open-shut case dictated by one group of us. There are many voices in our state and they all need to be heard.

"As I've written publicly and in letters to the governor and my

legislative colleagues, the coronavirus pandemic has uprooted decades of growth, and life itself, in every sector in our beautiful Garden State. Today, as we survey the expanse of our state laid bare, we realize that this is our chance to get it right, to come as close to Eden as is humanly possible. Now is the time to choose what seeds will sprout into the best environment for all of us. This is our chance to choose who will do the planning and the planting and how the fruits of our efforts will be distributed.

"The underprivileged and disadvantaged in New Jersey deserve to reap the benefit of wise land use with prudent development that yields a higher quality of life. The use of our state parkland is as fundamental an issue as there is - and it requires a steady hand on the plow. As we move forward, I encourage a robust dialog to explore the option of inviting investors to help us provide the full scope of outdoor recreational venues for the enjoyment of our citizens. This time, as we stand at the crossroads of our future, let's not leave anyone behind.

## **EDWARDS INDICTED** (Continued from page 7)

the initials of the Mayor of Orange to give the false impression that the Mayor of Orange had approved Edwards's reimbursement for the courses, when the Mayor of Orange had not done so.

### *Federal Tax Fraud*

Edwards also caused a false 2015 federal tax return to be filed with the IRS. From January 2016 to April 15, 2016, Edwards conspired with his tax return preparer, Zenobia Williams, to defraud the United States and the IRS by claiming bogus labor expenses of \$27,055 for his business, Natural Care Municipal Cleaning Services LLC (Natural Care), on that tax return.

In addition to falsifying business expenses, Edwards also un-

derreported Natural Care's income. He reported \$40,000 in gross receipts, when Natural Care actually received approximately \$52,000 in payments from a New Jersey law firm and approximately \$32,500 in payments from a local Board of Education. Edwards also did not report the ill-gotten gains that he obtained in 2015 in connection with the Saturday Literacy Program, the Redevelopment Project, and the YWCA Project.

### *Making False Statements in Connection with a Mortgage*

In 2014, Edwards also made false statements to obtain mortgage relief on a \$248,000 30-year mortgage loan that he obtained in 2005 to purchase a residence in East Orange, New Jersey. As of Feb. 11, 2014, Edwards had fallen substantially in arrears on his mortgage pay-

ments. On April 7, 2014, Edwards submitted a completed Request for Mortgage Assistance form to the mortgage servicer. Edwards disclosed that he was employed by Orange and falsely indicated that he did not have a second employer, when, at the time, he also was employed by a New Jersey County College at an annual salary of approximately \$45,000. On Oct. 8, 2014, Edwards and the mortgage servicer entered into a Home Affordable Modification Agreement. In reliance upon false representations made by Edwards, the mortgage servicer provided the following benefits, among others, to Edwards: (1) \$95,590 of Edwards's debt was forgiven between July 2015 and July 2017, and (2) the real estate property was taken out of foreclosure.

On Jan. 13, 2020, Ore entered a guilty plea to an information charging offenses related

to the Saturday Literacy Program, the Redevelopment Project, and the YWCA Project. On Feb. 13, 2020, Timur Davis, the former Executive Director of the Orange Library, entered a guilty plea to an information charging an offense related to the Saturday Literacy Program and another HUD-funded program to replace an HVAC/Chiller unit at the Library. On Dec. 30, 2019, Williams entered a guilty plea to conspiring to defraud the United States and the IRS.

U.S. Attorney Carpenito credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Joe Denahan in Newark; special agents of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christina Scaringi; and special agents of

(Continued on page 15)

# Legally Speaking



**Cassandra Savoy, Esq.**  
*OP/ED*

## DIVORCE DO'S AND DON'TS

If you are about to go through a divorce, you already know that the stress is incredible at the beginning and is likely to only get worse! There are things you should and should not do to reduce the stress not only for yourself, but for your children, and to make the process proceed more calmly.

### *Do make sure you ACTUALLY want a divorce!*

The decision to get a divorce is an emotional one and should not be made lightly or while you are in the throes of extreme emotion. Before you file. . .

- Do make sure that you have completely ruled out recon-

- ciling with your spouse.
- Do make sure you have spoken with your spiritual advisor(s).
- Do make sure you have met with a marriage counselor.

Remember what filing for divorce will do and will not do. Filing for divorce will not "straighten him out!" Filing for divorce will not make her behave differently; nor will filing for divorce compel him to focus on your marriage and children. Once you file the divorce and your spouse is served, taking it back may be difficult. You may change your mind, but he may not change his!

### *Don't take it out on your children!*

Regardless of the hurt and anxiety that you feel, your children need to know that you love them. Children often feel like the divorce is their fault so you will not want them to carry this guilt, and you will want them to have a warm, supportive environment.

- Don't discuss your marital problems with the children. They should not become your sounding board.
- Don't use parenting time or child support as bargaining chips in the negotiations. Your children still have to eat, and they remain your responsibility. They still want and need your love.
- Don't disparage the other

- parent or the other parent's new relationships. Use the time you have with the children to learn about what is going on in their lives and to get to know them.
- Do refocus your energy on helping with homework, attend their school and after-school events, make sure you remain an active part in their lives.
- Do relax and enjoy them so they can relax and enjoy you. They will feel less stress and realize how much they love you.

### *Do gather financial documents*

Divorces deal with two things, what will happen to the children, and how will we equitably divide marital assets and liabilities. You will need financial records.

- Do make copies of all your financial records before you file: phone records, mortgages, car notes, credit card and investment statements, wills, trusts, deeds, insurance policies, pension statements, and tax returns for the past three years.
- Do obtain records of accounts you share with your spouse.
- Do go online and download or print records for at least the two prior years.
- Don't assume that your spouse will produce all of the

records you need

Some spouses do not respond well to being served with a divorce complaint, and it can be a real headache getting documents and information after you file.

### *Don't take divorce advice from family and friends*

Friends and family want to be supportive and comforting during this stressful time; they want to share their experiences and give you an idea of what to expect. The outcome of the divorce is based on the facts and circumstances of each case. What was relevant in your friend's case may not be relevant in your case. The law may have changed. More importantly...

- Do let your friends and relatives provide emotional support for you
- Don't let them provide legal or financial advice regarding your divorce
- Do get outside, objective opinions on how you handle the legal and emotional aspects of your divorce. Get a good lawyer to help you handle the legal aspects of the divorce.
- Do see a good therapist or counselor to help you handle the emotional issues. And, once you do,
- Don't disregard them just because what they say is not what you want to hear.

## ELECTION RESULTS (Continued from page 1)

Registered Democratic and Republican party voters had their late Spring Primary say on who will represent them on the Nov. 3 general Election ballot.

Murphy - citing the need to curb the spread of the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus - issued Executive Order 144 to move the June 6 primary date to July 7. The Governor later modified his order to allow county election clerks to deploy at least one voting machine polling station - like here at the Hall of Records - 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. July 7.

Durkin, von Nessi and company had counted enough earlier-received ballots to issue an initial results report on essex-

clerk.com five seconds after the polls' 8 p.m. closing.

One early trend is that candidates endorsed by the Essex County Democratic Committee had repelled those who were fielded by more progressive or independent Democrats. This trend had mostly held up in their municipal, state and federal level primaries.

There is one Republican primary for one of New Jersey's U.S. Senate seats that remain too close to call as of Noon July 8.

Herewith an initial, unofficial results summary. Final results are not to be certified by Durkin here until July 24.

### PRESIDENT

Countywide Democratic vot-

ers selected Joseph R. Biden, of Delaware, over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders 62,367 votes to 7,210. That Sanders halted his campaign in May, making Biden the presumptive nominee, may have been a factor in the nine-to-one vote ratio.

Incumbent President Donald J. Trump, of New York, received a wider ratio against any challengers in the Republican primary. Trump drew 6,863 votes to 451 "write-in" votes. Some of those write-ins may have included those for former Boston, Mass. Mayor William "Bill" Weld.

### CONGRESS

U.S. Senate

Incumbent Cory A. Booker, of Newark, received an eight-to-one ratio against Lawrence "Larry" Hamm, of Montclair, in Essex County and statewide, in the Democratic primary. Booker will either face Rikin "Rik" Metha, of Morris Twp. or Hirsh V. Singh, of Atlantic City, as his Republican Challenger Nov. 3.

61,839 registered participating Democrats selected Booker against 6,944 for Hamm. Hamm headed a "Not Me, Us" slate that competed for selected Congressional through Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholder nominations. There were 50 write-in votes so far counted.

Metha, who holds a narrow lead on Singh for the Republican nomination both here and

(Continued on page 15)



**EDWARDS INDICTED**

(Continued from page 13)

IRS-Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Montanez with the investigation leading to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Cari Fais and J Fortier Imbert of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Special Prosecutions Division.

The charges and allegations in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

"Local Talk" contacted the office of Orange Mayor Dwayne Warren, but received no reply as of presstime.

*The Charges Against Willis Edwards III*

Offenses Charged	Maximum Term of Imprisonment	Maximum Fine
Conspiracy to commit wire fraud or wire fraud and mail fraud	20 years	\$250,000
Wire fraud	20 years	\$250,000
Mail fraud	20 years	\$250,000
Theft from a federally-funded local government	10 years	\$250,000
Bribery in connection with the business of a federally funded local government	10 years	\$250,000
Conspiracy to defraud the United States and the IRS	Five years	\$250,000
Subscribing to a false tax return	Three years	\$250,000
False statement concerning a mortgage	30 years	\$1,000,000

**ELECTION RESULTS** (Continued from page 14)

statewide, mustered 3,422 Essex Countywide votes to Singh's 1,956 among 8,052 votes counted so far. Patricia Flanagan, of Lawrenceville, drew 1,086 votes, followed by Natalie Lynn Rivera, of Sicklerville, at 346 votes, Eugene T. Anatgnos, of East Hanover, at 171 votes, and 81 write-ins.

Metha, who received 17 of the state's 21 Republican party county organizations, drew 37 percent of New Jersey votes to Singh's 37. Flanagan trails with 17 percent of that vote, Rivera five percent and Anatgnos three percent.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Eighth Congressional District*

Incumbent Albio Sires, of W. New York, turned back a substantial challenge from Hector Omar Osequera, Jr., of Union City, and William Sheehan, of Bayonne, for his bid for a ninth Congressional term.

Essex County voters favored Sires with 4,390 markers to "Not Me, Us" runner Osequera's 1,231 votes and "Sanders 2020" runner Sheehan's 246. There were 32 write-ins.

While Osequera waged a vigorous grassroots and social media campaign, Sires was endorsed by Booker, Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) and Lt.

Governor Sheila Y. Oliver (D-East Orange), among others.

Sires is to face at least Republican nominee Jason Todd Mushnik, of Jersey City. Essex County GOP voters gave Mushnik 630 ballots against 14 write-ins.

*10th CD*

Democratic voters re-selected Donald M. Payne, Jr., of Newark, over independent John J. Flora, of Jersey City, and Sanders 2020/Not Me, Us runner Eugene David Mazo, of Newark.

Payne garnered 34,798 votes to Mazo's 2,724. Flora tallied 1,166. There were 32 write-ins. He is to face at least Republican Jennifer "Jen" Zinone, of Bayonne, on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot. Zinone, in Essex County, got 688 votes against 22 write-ins.

*11th CD*

Essex County Democrats gave incumbent Mikie Sherrill, of Montclair, an almost unanimous endorsement 19,917 votes to 56 write-ins. Sherrill is to square off against Republican nominee Rosemary Becchi, of Parsippany, Nov. 3. Essex County GOP members gave Becchi 4,759 against 38 write-ins.

**ESSEX COUNTY**

Incumbent Essex County Democratic Committee Board of Chosen Freeholders and County

Clerk candidates fended off what progressive, independent or write-in candidates they faced in Tuesday's primaries.

All four At Large Freeholders turned back a "Not Me, Us" slate on a five-to-one ratio.

Irvington's Romaine Graham topped the at-large tallies at 55,851 Livingston's Patricia Seabold was second at 53,561, followed by Montclair's Brendan Gill, at 51,954, and Newark's Rufus Johnson, at 51,758.

East Orange's Simone J. Jelks-Bandison, at 11,567, finished fifth overall and as the top "Not Me, Us" vote-getter. Anthony Diaz, at 11,391, and fellow Newarker Sabre Burroughs, at 10,474, rounded out the balloted field.

The incumbents are to face an all-female slate of Essex County Republican Organization challengers Nov. 3.

GOP voters, at 6,481, gave Alexandra Campisi, of Fairfield, their top tallies. Gynise Gotto, of Belleville, was next at 6,375. Monique Headen was next at 6,369 and fellow Newarker Bernada Quezada followed at 6,277.

*District Freeholders*

District Four, covering West Orange and "West Essex," had a Democratic and a pending Republican challenge to incumbent Leonard Luciano.

The ECDC-backed Luciano, of Fairfield, tallied 11,230 votes. "Not Me, Us" challenger Jennifer Larsen, of West Orange,

netted 4,698.

Luciano is to face GOP nominee Adam Kraemer, of West Orange. Kraemer carried his party's nod with 3,852 votes.

Primary results for the other four county district freeholders, barring independent or write-in General Election campaigns, may be the first step towards the incumbent's coronation. The ECDC endorsees had no intra-party opposition and the EPRO did not file candidate petitions.

In District One, Newarker Robert Mercado mustered 4,746 unopposed votes. Fellow Newarker Wayne Richardson received 12,143 in District Two. East Orange's Tyshammie Cooper carried 13,513 in District Three. Bloomfielder Carlos Pomares polled 15,072 in District Five.

Voters of parties faithful have respectively nominated incumbent Christopher Durkin, of South Orange, and challenger Kristina Christoforou, of Fairfield, to vie for Essex County Clerk.

Durkin got the Democratic nod with 63,138 votes, Christoforou the GOP nod with 6,584.

Durkin and von Nessi, barring any challenges or recounts, intend to certify July 7's party primary results on or by July 24. Independent/minor party candidates and non-partisan board of education candidates are to file their respective Nov. 3 General Election ballot petitions by 4 p.m. July 25 here at the Hall of Records.



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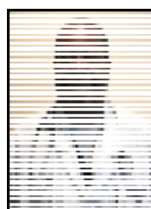
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