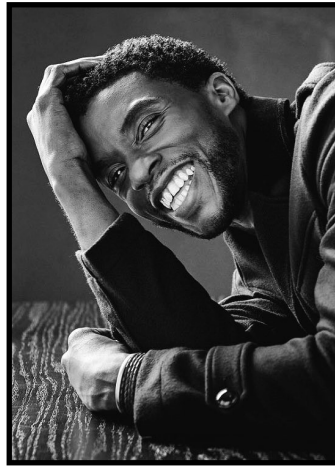


# NEWARK OFFICER LAID TO REST AFTER BRAVE COVID-19 BATTLE

*NPD Detective leaves behind wife, two sons and one niece*

PAGE 3



# CHADWICK BOSEMAN: GIFTED ARTIST AND BELOVED STAR OF "BLACK PANTHER"

(1976 - 2020)

Photo via Twitter

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## AN INTERVIEW WITH ESSEX COUNTY CLERK CHRIS DURKIN

## BACK TO SCHOOL



**Dhiren Shah:** Welcome to this interview Mr. Durkin. Let's get to the big question on everyone's minds: Is it possible for some party to mess with mail-in voting, and how do officials like yourself prevent it?

**Chris Durkin:** Preventing voter fraud is of the utmost importance. Voter fraud is extremely rare. The Federal Bu-  
*(Continued on page 15)*



Photos Courtesy Thomas Ellis II

**By Thomas Ellis II**

This September 8 will mark the first day of school in the city of Newark for all students. The only thing is that this year, school will look a lot different because of COVID-19. Many schools are doing remote

learning, with some Pre-K schools doing possible in-person service for a limited number of children in the classrooms.

Since March 2020, schools have been closed with children doing home schooling for the last quarter of  
*(Continued on page 3)*



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Turn to  
**PAGE 9**





**Editorial**

*Dhiren Shah*  
Editor-in-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

Alexei Navalny, an opposition leader and threat to Russia's Vladimir Putin, has been hospitalized due to poisoning. It is suspected as an attempted murder due to the presence of nerve agent Novichok. Novichok, a Russian word for Newcomer, was introduced between 1970 and 1980. Then it was known as a fourth-generation chemical weapon.

Russia is a democratic federative with a law based state and republican form of government. The government has executive power in the Russian Federation. Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin is supposed to be the powerhouse. However, Russian President Vladimir Putin holds most of the power. He was elected in 2018 for a six-year term.

The wave is changing in the political arena. One of the biggest

names in the United States of America, is Kennedy. No member of John F. Kennedy's had failed since his election. On Sept. 1, in the Massachusetts Democratic Primary, Joe Kennedy III, backed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, lost the Senate election to incumbent Senator Edward Markey, who lined up with left-wing leaders like Bernie Sanders and congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. On the surface, Kennedy was good for the youngsters, as he is only 39 years old. However, Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez drew a lot of young voters to the polls supporting Markey, who served as a Congressman from 1976 to 2013 for the 7th District of Massachusetts. He has served as a junior US Senator since 2013.

The times are changing, and both the presidential candidates have to be very careful in the most difficult time of our lives under the COVID-19 Pandemic. The polling booths are there, but in New Jersey the ballots will be mailed to all registered voters. They have a choice to vote by mail or go to the polling stations and vote by provisional ballot. As mentioned in my interview with Essex County Clerk Chris-

topher Durkin, he said that the chance of a fraud is very minimal.

Polls are favoring former vice president Joseph Biden against Donald Trump. However, as Mr. Wonderful of Shark Tank said, Trump is an entertainer and he won against Hillary Clinton in 2016 because he got the most publicity through the media. This time, anything can happen after the debate. Nancy Pelosi is advising to protect Joseph Biden by avoiding debates all together against Donald Trump. For the first time after almost five months, Biden came out from his basement and went to Pennsylvania to campaign.

Being a democrat, I must support Joseph Biden. However, I want to make sure that he does not have any dementia and he must prove that before I vote for him. As president, in the spur of the moment, one has to make decisions. This is the one of the most or the most powerful post in the world. We want to elect the person who can make decisions in favor of the country. One of the democratic powerbrokers told me that the president has many intelligent persons working for him and he doesn't

have to make decisions. I do not agree with that person. In the day to day routine work, the president does not need to make decisions. However, daily many reports come to him and he has to make decisions on those. Most of the decisions have two sides, one positive and one negative. Biden must prove himself that is he worthy of the presidency.

Since March 1, average daily coronavirus cases are about 38,000. Yesterday, it was over 41,000. So, do not think that the coronavirus is gone. Essex County College and some other colleges have started online classes as of Sept. 1. School and colleges are still working hard to make sure that their institutions are thoroughly sanitized before they can start partial reopenings. I like someone's suggestion to the educational administrators that if any student is COVID-19 positive and they are staying in a dorm/hostel, do not send them home, but quarantine them at the school or college. .

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**

Publisher & Editor-in-chief	: Dhiren Shah
Editors	: Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah
Journalists / Writers	: Kristopher Seals   Walter Elliott   Bro. Thomas Ellis   Dhiren Shah   William Hathaway Jr. Dr. Daniel Louis   Ahmed Screven, Esq.   Anuj Shah   Lev Zilbermints   Kinjal Shah   Asha Shah   Akshat Shah, MD   Ivy Mahabir   Kalindi Bhatt   Dr. Robert Kennedy
Photographers	: Dhiren Shah   Kristopher Seals   Thomas Ellis II   D. Adams, Jr.
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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

<p><b>THURSDAY</b> PM Showers</p> <p>HI 88 LO 70</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b> Sunny</p> <p>HI 86 LO 62</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY</b> Mostly Sunny</p> <p>HI 80 LO 61</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b> Mostly Sunny</p> <p>HI 82 LO 64</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b> Mostly Sunny</p> <p>HI 83 LO 64</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY</b> Mostly Sunny</p> <p>HI 81 LO 66</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> Partly Cloudy</p> <p>HI 81 LO 71</p>
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# NEWARK OFFICER LAID TO REST AFTER BRAVE COVID-19 BATTLE

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - It was fitting that Newark Police Det. Irving Callender's visitation and funeral service was held before relatives, friends, educators, law enforcement and civic leaders here on the Malcolm X. Shabazz High School Football Field Aug. 30.

Callender's casket was laid in state at the center of "The Home of The Bulldogs" gridiron, at the 50 yard line, Sunday. Callender particularly shone as a scholar-athlete here.

He was given a police officer's funeral, reflecting his almost 15 years' service in the Newark Police Division. It was a

career noted by Mayor Ras Baraka, Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose and Gov. Phil Murphy, among others.

Callender's tribute prior to taking his remains to Union's Hollywood Memorial Park that Sunday afternoon was before as many of his relatives who could make it to the field. Talking with those who knew Callender said that he was "the ultimate family man."

Sunday morning's visitation and funeral were hastened by the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. Callender, 43, died from the virus' complications at his Somerset home Aug. 22.

They came to measure the

quality of their loss with Callender, which, in the eyes of "Local Talk News," can be summed up with: "Passion, Love, Vocation."

Irving Gene Callender III was born to Irving Samuel Callender and Deborah Josie Jan. 19, 1977 in Newark. "Lil Irv," over time, was cared for by his paternal grandmother, Jean Doris Callender while growing up in the NHA Hayes Homes projects.

Callender's passion for football was kindled in the Eighteenth Avenue School yard and on nearby lots and streets. He played in Newark's Pop Warner League's Central Ward Cougars and Rams teams.

Callender, upon promotion to Shabazz High, made the Bulldog football, basketball and baseball teams. Football coaches David McCombs and Lou Grimsley placed him as linebacker and helped refine his talents.

"No. 5," known for his hard hits and encouragement of teammates, became an All-State player, culminating in his 1994-95 senior year. He was part of the 7-3 Bulldogs team and, in 1995 was the North's team captain in the summertime North-South Classic for senior players.

Callender also set school, city and state records in all three

(Continued on page 13)



from Pre-K to 12.

One of the Pre-K schools that's looking to provide in-person service with limited capacity is UVSO at their Irvington Avenue and Smith Street locations. They are well prepared to open following the COVID-19 reopening

ty. They gave out bookbags and school supplies. The event also featured food like hotdogs, hamburgers, and refreshments as well as music, the NFD, and Batman



## BACK TO SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

the year. In the beginning, parents were comfortable teaching from home for the first 2 weeks, but the weeks turned into months, which had some parents upset, because they were not prepared for the long haul.

The summer recess is now over, and next week begins the start of a new chapter in education in Newark and across the country. Charter schools have already started with remote learning for all of their students.

Since COVID-19 hit the US, it has caused many hardships. Many have lost jobs, several have died, and thousands have come down with the virus, which has created a lot of anxiety. Parents of school age children are feeling lost, and not understanding the full scope of reopening

guidelines. People in charge have stated they will have no more than 10 children in a class, Plexi glass at the front desk entrance, and hand sanitizing stations throughout the building. All children will practice social distancing, and they will have several different areas for entrance and exit for the children, with facemasks worn while in school. The building will be cleaned before and after school for safety precautions to protect the children and parents.

All children that will be attending in-person service have to be COVID-19 tested before they can attend school on September 8, with proof from parents that they were tested, and have negative results.

The 6th Precinct hosted its Third Annual Back to School Event on September 1 for children, parents and the communi-

ty. Everyone was wearing masks, and this was great to help everyone in the community during these trying times in the middle of the pandemic. In attendance for this event was the 6th Precinct's new Captain Aloma Wright-Johnson.

Remote learning has become the new norm for many of the 2020 students. They will have to be able to access a computer to log in, and depending on the age of the child, they possibly will need a parent or guardian to assist them with the daily learning process.

New Jersey has stated that all schools will have remote learning availability for the first quarter of the school year which will end in November, but if the virus continues to spread and the numbers increase there is a chance that

schools will have remote learning for the remainder of the year.

One of the questions parents have is, "How do I stay at home and teach my child remotely, but I have to be at work in the mornings?" Another question is, "If I don't have a laptop or Wi-Fi access, how can I do remote learning?" Finally, "If I have three public school age children, and one Pre-K age child, how do I teach each child at the same time?"

As you can see, this year's school reopening will be very different in all phases, and can be very challenging for the teachers, teachers' assistants, and parents. So, let's hope that the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic gets under control so that the children can go back to in-person classes and learn the traditional way.

# 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** - A three-car collision in a downtown intersection here Sunday night has left three people dead, five others injured and authorities searching for its cause.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore Stephens II and Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose said that a Mazda with five people aboard was traveling south on Broad Street/Kenneth Gibson Boulevard when it collided with a northbound Honda at the Central Avenue and Fulton Street intersection at 7:10 p.m. Aug. 30.

The impact sent the upright black Mazda onto Fulton Street - and the Honda into the path of a red Toyota with three aboard. First responders found the Honda upside down and partially atop the Toyota.

Emergency personnel immediately closed the intersection and used "Jaws of Life" extractors to free occupants. Eight people, including six sent to University Hospital, rushed them to nearby medical centers.

Three of the more severely injured, however, died overnight. Mazda driver Rosa Lojalema, 35, and Honda passengers Elba Galatrza, 77, of Glen Ridge, and Clarise Pizcha, 11, died by 1:20 a.m. Aug. 31.

The remaining five injured people were still hospitalized as of Sept. 1. The Toyota driver and its two passengers were physically uninjured. No charges have been filed as of Tuesday.

**IRVINGTON** - Township po-

lice, fire and contracted EMS found themselves almost simultaneously responding to a pair of car collisions a block apart Aug. 23.

The first group of responders arrived at 15th and Oak avenues 11:10 a.m. that Sunday - and found a car there with front end damage. The driver and witnesses said that the other car involved in the head-on crash, and another car, had just fled east.

They looked east - and saw a three-car collision at 15th Avenue and Grove Street. The vehicles there, all suffering front end damage, were a maroon Ford Explorer, a GMC SUV and a silver SUV. Photos from the scene included a white four-door Lexus with front end damage.

While no serious injuries had resulted, which cars were pursuing, fleeing or victims were not immediately known. Irvington fire and police took up northbound Grove Street, prompting NJTransit No. 90 buses and other traffic to alternately pass on the southbound lane. No charges have yet been filed.

**EAST ORANGE** - The mid-August arrest of two city brothers, said Passaic County authorities, led to the arrest of the triggerman in an Aug. 9 shooting of a Newark man in Paterson.

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valez and Paterson Police Chief Ibrahim Boycor said they had arrested Keyshawn Wright, 20, and Delshawn Wright, 22, Aug. 18. They arrested Christian Patterson, 29, of Paterson Aug. 20.

Valez and Boycor said that the Wrights were accomplices to Patterson, who shot the Newark man three times at Park Avenue and East 23rd Street 11:30 p.m. Aug. 9. The otherwise unidentified victim, said St. Joseph Regional Medical Center staff, arrived in a private car to their emergency ward. The man was released after treatment and a PPD interview.

All three are being held in Paterson's Passaic County Jail on attempted murder, aggravated assault and weapons charges. D. Wright and Patterson have also

been charged as convicted felons possessing weapons.

**ORANGE** - Orange Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II have been making live Zoom presentations last month, explaining that the district's starting the school year Sept. 8 with all-remote learning is the first of a four-phase reopening process into Jan. 4.

Orange Public Schools' transition to remote synchronous phase two, said Fitzhugh, is earmarked for Oct. 2-5. Teachers are to hold virtual instruction from designated classrooms two days a week. School principals will assign the classrooms for phases two through four.

The phase three soft launch is set for after Nov. 25. Designated classrooms will open for in-person instruction for English as a second language and special needs students as audited March 17-June 24. Occupation will be set at 25 percent of building capacity plus full-tome mask wearing, temperature checks and other social distancing measures.

"Phase Four is our full re-entry (on) Jan. 4," said Fitzhugh. "Students will be on site with staggered schedules: you have your morning session with one group of kids and your afternoon session with another group of kids. On-site schooling will be Monday and Tuesday, cleaning day Wednesday (and) a different group of kids on-site Thursday and Friday."

Each phase's starting date is dependent on the state's COVID-19 infection, hospitalization and death rates.

**WEST ORANGE** - Those who want to attend the 18th annual Essex County September 11th Observance here at the Eagle Rock Reservation will have to do so on Livestream.

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo announced Monday that the 2020 commemoration will be held there that Friday live but to an on-line-only audience. The reservation will be closed to the public for all use 5-10 a.m. that Friday.

Invited relatives of that day's terrorist attack victims, clergy,

law enforcement, civic officials and string quartet musicians will be present to recollect, lay decorations and play reverent selections starting at 8 a.m.

Everyone else, said DiVincenzo (D-Roseland) may watch on a link provided by essex-countynj.org and Facebook on the county executive's name.

The measures here and at most other Sept. 11 commemorations this year are due to COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus pandemic-related social distancing restrictions.

Similar conditions may be found at Our Lady of Lourdes Church's 6:30 p.m. Rosary that Friday and a mass to invite and honor first responders 5:30 p.m. Sept. 12.

Check with your local Sept. 11 memorial service organizers on their social distancing precautions.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church's leadership here may have decided on whether to allow more parishioners into their sanctuary, starting with their Sept. 6-7 Masses, by when you read this.

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, as Newark Archbishop, announced on Sept. 1 that OLOS and the other 211 parishes across Essex, Bergen, Hudson and Union counties can allow in up to 150 people or 25 percent of the sanctuary's capacity - whichever is lower - for services.

Those services include Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals and other public liturgies. The Archdiocese's parishes will continue masks, mask wearing social distancing and post-service cleaning of pews and other high touch areas.

Tobin, who continues to give dispensation to parishioners who are unable to make Masses, has made the capacity increase voluntary.

OLOS have streamed Sunday Masses for later airing on YouTube. It is among 18 parishes in eight area towns who offer services on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and/or Instagram.

(Continued on page 10)



# NJ HUMAN SERVICES ANNOUNCES \$40.3 MILLION MORE IN ADDITIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

*Many NJ SNAP Recipients Will Receive Enhanced Benefits*

**TRENTON** - Many New Jerseyans who receive food assistance through the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) will receive additional benefits in September to help address critical food needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

An additional estimated \$40.3 million will be provided to about 236,000 New Jersey households for September.

SNAP supplemental payments were included in the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Human Services has already provided about \$219 million in additional NJ SNAP benefits total in March, April, May, June, July and August to New Jerseyans to help purchase groceries.

"It continues to be critical to provide as much food assistance as possible to eligible New Jersey households," Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson said. "I thank our state's Congressional delegation for their ongoing work to protect residents as we respond to this pandemic. These additional food assistance benefits make a difference."

"I am fully supportive of any initiative to combat food insecurity and help more New Jerseyans feed their families," Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-Middlesex) said. "Sadly, too many families in New Jersey have to choose between paying their bills and eating a nutritious meal and this problem has only been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, we must seek ways to continue to address the rising number of young children affected by hunger and the increasing trend of hunger surfacing at our colleges as students begin returning to

campus. I am pleased that we're enhancing benefits for SNAP recipients at a time it's needed most."

The supplemental benefits will be directly loaded to NJ SNAP recipients' Families First EBT cards as part of their regular monthly payment.

NJ SNAP provides food assistance to families with low incomes to help them buy groceries through a benefit card accepted in most food retail stores and farmer's markets. Families can now also use their cards at select online grocery retailers to help maintain social distancing during the pandemic.

The program serves about 735,000 New Jerseyans in about 376,000 households, with the monthly SNAP benefit based on household size and income.

"Additional food assistance remains more important than ever to families and individuals facing this economic and health crisis," Human Services Deputy Commissioner Elisa Neira said. "We continue to be pleased to provide this continued help when it's needed most."

"We encourage residents who need food assistance to visit and apply for SNAP online at [www.NJHelps.org](http://www.NJHelps.org)," said Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who directs Human Services' Division of Family Development and oversees the SNAP program. "I also thank the county Boards of Social Services staff who have worked tirelessly through this public health crisis to get vital assistance to households."

Human Services has also taken the following steps to help New Jerseyans access affordable food during the emergency:

- Providing \$226 million in special food assistance benefits to more than 544,000 New Jersey children who otherwise would have re-

*(Continued on page 12)*



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## EIGHT RWJBARNABAS HEALTH FACILITIES EARN RE-DESIGNATION AS "LEADERS IN LGBTQ HEALTHCARE EQUALITY" BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

**West Orange: August 31, 2020**

- Eight RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) facilities have been recognized and re-designated as "Leaders in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

The HRC Foundation envisions a world where LGBTQ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community. The facilities recognized include Clara Maass Medical Center, Community Medical Center, Jersey City Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset and Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The distinguished honor of being selected as "Healthcare Equality Leaders" was based on an annual comprehensive assessment identifying healthcare institutions that are leaders in efforts to offer equitable care to LGBTQ patients by evaluating inclusive policies and practices related to LGBTQ patients, visi-

tors and employees.

"RWJBarnabas Health is committed to treating everyone with respect and dignity while appreciating and embracing the differences as well as the similarities that exist among us," said Trina Parks, MHA, FACHE, Senior Vice President, Corporate Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, RWJBarnabas Health. "We want all patients to feel welcomed and be able to get the care that they need at all stages of their life. We are proud to be leading the way in New Jersey in providing health care services for the LGBTQIA community and to be recognized by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as Leaders in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality."

The eight RWJBarnabas Health facilities were among only a few hospitals in the state that earned top marks in meeting non-discrimination and training criteria that demonstrate a commitment to equitable, inclusive, and compassionate care for LGBTQ patients and their families, who often face significant challenges in securing the medical care they need and deserve.

For more information about the Healthcare Equality Index, visit [hrc.org/hei](http://hrc.org/hei).





## **UNITED STATES**

### **Chadwick Boseman: 1976-2020**

One of the best actors of his generation, with a vast amount of potential to do even more, has had his life tragically cut short.

Boseman passed away on Aug. 28 from colon cancer, a disease he kept secret for four years. He was born on Nov. 29, 1976 in South Carolina, and went on to study at Howard University, where he earned a BFA in Directing. Actress Phylicia Rashad, who served as one of his instructors, convinced Denzel Washington to pay for Boseman and others to attend the Oxford Mid-Summer Program of the British American Drama Academy in London.

The date of Boseman's death was sadly ironic, as it came 75 years to the day that Jackie Robinson spoke with Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey about breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Boseman portrayed Robinson in the movie, "42." The Aug. 28 date was also the 57th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legendary "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In attendance for that event was none other than Jackie Robinson, as well as the late John Lewis.

In addition to Robinson, Boseman was quite apt at portraying great African Americans. He also played James Brown in "Get On Up" and Thurgood Marshall in "Marshall."

Of course, the role that made him legendary was that of T'Challa - aka the "Black Panther" - in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. After making his debut in "Captain America: Civil War" Boseman would take the lead - and throne as King T'Challa of fictional Wakanda -

in the film "Black Panther" - the first Marvel superhero film with a Black person and Black cast as the featured stars. The movie was both a cultural and financial hit, making over \$200 million in its opening weekend in the U.S. and grossing over \$1 billion worldwide in its theatrical run.

Upon his death, condolences came from all over; from Marvel co-stars like "Black Panther" actors Michael B. Jordan, Forest Whitaker, Lupita Nyong'o, Letitia Wright and core "Avengers" Robert Downey, Jr. Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, and Jeremy Renner to political figures like former President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and fellow Howard alumnus Kamala Harris, who received praise from Boseman in a post on Twitter - the last one of his life. A post made by his family announcing his death became the most liked post in the history of that platform.

Before his passing, Boseman married longtime girlfriend Taylor Simone Ledward in a secret ceremony.

It has been a hard time lately for fans of notable African Americans, as just in the past week alone, legendary Georgetown head coach John Thompson, Jr. - the first Black coach to win a National Championship - and former NBA all-star Cliff Robinson died at 78 and 53 respectively.

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **Beirut Still Reeling From Explosion**

Risk of waterborne diseases is rising in Beirut, in the aftermath of the devastating explosion in early August, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned, calling for urgent action to ensure families and responders have access to safe water and sanitation.

Rising cases of COVID-19 is complicating an already difficult situation, according to the head of the UNICEF office in Lebanon.

"As COVID-19 cases continue to surge, it is more critical than ever to ensure that children

and families whose lives were turned upside down by the explosion have access to safe water and sanitation," said Yukie Mokuo, UNICEF Lebanon Representative.

"When communities don't have access to this critical necessity, the risk of water-borne diseases, as well as COVID-19, can skyrocket," she added.

The situation is particularly distressing for some 300,000 people - including around 100,000 children - whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the blast.

Though public water sustained only minor damage and remains mostly functional, the explosion cut off more than one hundred buildings from the water supply network and damaged the water systems in over 500 others. This compounded an already precarious situation in terms of access to safe water and sanitation in the greater Beirut area.

In the immediate aftermath of the Aug. 4 explosion, UNICEF along with partners and water authorities assessed the damage to water infrastructure and began responding to pressing needs, supporting repairs where needed.

UNICEF and partners also reconnected over one hundred buildings to the public water system and installed 570 water tanks in damaged ones, trucked water for households, provided water to first responders, and distributed over 4,300 hygiene and 620 baby kits to affected families.

UNICEF is also providing training and resources to equip thousands of young people across Lebanon with the skills they need to help rebuild their country, including training on repairs and maintenance of critical water and sanitation infrastructure.

## **ASIA**

### **Company Admits to Violating Sanctions**

Yang Ban Corporation, a company established in the British Virgin Islands in 2014 that operated in South East Asia

pleaded guilty today to conspiring to launder monetary instruments in connection with evading sanctions on North Korea and deceiving correspondent banks into processing U.S. dollar transactions. The company will pay a financial penalty totaling \$673,714.04.

In pleading guilty, Yang Ban admitted and accepted responsibility for its criminal conduct. Yang Ban also agreed to implement rigorous internal controls and to cooperate fully with the Justice Department, including by reporting any criminal conduct by an employee.

"Evasion of U.S. sanctions laws allows North Korea to continue its dangerous and persistent proliferation activities and to develop weapons of mass destruction," said John C. Demers, Assistant Attorney General for National Security. "This defendant utilized dual invoicing practices and provided false statements to conceal the ultimate destination of commodities it purchased for North Korea, duping U.S. correspondent banks into processing U.S. dollar transactions that they would not otherwise have authorized. The disruption of this activity demonstrates that the Justice Department will leverage its significant investigative assets to uncover and punish North Korean efforts to engage in fraud, money laundering, and sanctions violations all to bolster its oppressive regime."

"Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is committed to working with our law enforcement partners to protect the integrity of the U.S. financial system, leveraging investigative assets in our combined efforts to expose the North Korean regime's attempt to evade U.S. sanctions," said Raymond Villanueva, Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) HSI Washington, D.C.

U.S. sanctions and banking regulations prevented correspondent banks in the United States from processing wire transfers on behalf of customers located in North Korea. Accord-

*(Continued on page 7)*



**WORLD NEWS FLASH**

(Continued from page 6)

ing to admissions and court documents, beginning in at least February 2017 and continuing until at least May 2018, Yang Ban deceived banks in the U.S. into processing transactions for North Korean customers of Yang Ban. Yang Ban and its co-conspirators utilized financial cutouts and front companies to conceal the North Korean nexus.

Yang Ban specifically admitted to conspiring with other, including SINSMS, a subsequently designated company, to falsify shipping records. For example, in May 2017, a North Korean co-conspirator notified Yang Ban and its co-conspirators of a company which would ship to Nampo, North Korea, but would require two separate sets of shipping documents. One set of documents would be free of any indication that the shipment was going to North Korea, and a second set of documents would contain the North Korea details for internal record keeping.

Yang Ban admitted that it was aware that it needed to distance itself from North Korean front companies in order to protect it from additional scrutiny from banks that process U.S. dollar transactions. For example, in September 2016, Yang Ban caused an employee to inform a North Korean customer that Yang Ban was unable to use a related company for further business with North Korea due to bank restrictions on such transactions.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI's Minneapolis Field Office with support from HSI's Washington D.C. Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Zia M. Faruqui and Trial Attorney David Recker of the National Security Division's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section are prosecuting the case with assistance from Paralegal Specialist Brian Rickers, Legal Assistant Jessica McCormick, and Records Examiner Angela De Falco.

**EUROPE  
Action Urged For  
Stranded Migrants**

Hundreds of rescued migrants and refugees currently on board three vessels in the Central Mediterranean, some of whom have been stuck at sea for weeks, must be brought to shore immediately, two UN agencies said on Aug. 29.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, also underlined the need for regional agreement on safe disembarkation amid the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced search and rescue capacity.

"The humanitarian imperative of saving lives should not be penalized or stigmatized, especially in the absence of dedicated state-led efforts," they said in a joint statement.

The agencies reported that some 200 refugees and migrants were in urgent need of transfer and disembarkation from the Louise Michel, a search and rescue vessel operated by a German non-governmental organization (NGO) and funded by the reclusive British artist Banksy.

The boat had assisted in a rescue early on Saturday and was overcrowded. "Any delays could jeopardize the safety of all people onboard, including its crew members," the agencies warned.

Following calls for assistance, 49 people were later evacuated by the Italian coastguard, according to media reports.

Meanwhile, some 27 people who had departed from Libya have been aboard a commercial vessel since being rescued more than three weeks ago. Those on the Maersk Etienne include a pregnant woman and children.

Describing the situation as "unacceptable," the UN agencies stressed that a commercial tanker "cannot be considered a suitable place to keep people in need of humanitarian assistance or those who may need international protection," adding that "appropriate COVID-19 prevention measures can be imple-

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mented once they reach dry land."

A further 200 migrants and refugees are on board another NGO rescue vessel, the Sea Watch 4.

Both IOM and UNHCR have long called for regional agreement on a mechanism for disembarkation of people rescued at sea.

"The lack of agreement...is not an excuse to deny vulnerable people a port of safety and the

assistance they need, as required under international law," they said, calling for stalled talks to be resumed and for other European Union (EU) states to step up support to Mediterranean countries on the frontline of the issue.

The UN agencies also expressed concern about what they described as the continued absence of dedicated EU-led search and rescue capacity in the Central Mediterranean.



# INDOOR DINING & MOVIE THEATERS TO RESUME LABOR DAY WEEKEND

**TRENTON** - On Sept. 1, NJ Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 183, which establishes rules for the resumption of indoor dining on Friday, Sept. 4 at 6:00 a.m., provided businesses comply with the health and safety standards issued by the Department of Health.

The Governor's Executive Order also contains requirements for movie theaters and other indoor entertainment businesses, where the number of patrons for a performance will be limited to 25 percent capacity, up to a maximum of 150 people. The Governor's Order also increases the limits for indoor gatherings that are religious services or celebrations, political activities, wedding ceremonies, funerals, or memorial services to 25 percent capacity with a maximum of 150 people, an increase from the current limit of 25 percent capacity with a maximum of 100 people. Other indoor gatherings, including house parties, remain at the limit of 25 percent capacity with a maximum of 25 people.

"Given the progress we continue to see statewide, and with the proper precautions and limitations in place, I am proud that we can take this step today to allow our restaurants to once again welcome patrons back for indoor dining services," said Governor Murphy. "Our job now is to ensure that this resumption only leads to future expansions of indoor capacity limits, and that we do not have to take a step backward."

"Sitting at a table inside a favorite restaurant and enjoying a good meal with family and friends has been a shared missed experience for New Jerseyans," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "The measures outlined in this directive will help ensure that restaurant-goers and staff alike remain healthy and protected from the spread of COVID-19."

Under the Department of Health's Health and Safety Standards, food or beverage establishments offering in-person service must adhere to the following protocols, among others:

1. Limit the number of patrons in indoor areas to 25 percent of the food or beverage establishment's indoor capacity, excluding the food or beverage establishment's employees.
2. Limit seating to a maximum of eight (8) customers per table (unless they are from a family from the same household) and arrange seating to achieve a minimum distance of six feet (6 ft) between parties.
3. Require customers to only consume food or beverages while seated.
4. Require patrons to wear face coverings while inside the indoor premises of the food or beverage establishment, except when eating or drinking at their table.
5. Food or beverage establishments with table service must require that customers be seated in order to place orders.
6. Food or beverage establishments with table service must require that wait staff bring food or beverages to seated customers.



## NJ TRANSIT INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with Section 5 of P.L. 1984 c.578 of SCDRTAP, The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) is conducting a public hearing in order to gather information and receive comments from interested parties concerning programs developed pursuant to the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program (SCDRTAP) Act. Due to COVID-19, this year's hearing will be conducted virtually in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. This virtual informational hearing will have three sessions which will cover the southern, central, and northern regions of New Jersey.

The Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program funds capital, operating, and/or administrative expenses for locally coordinated paratransit services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The program also funds accessibility improvements to NJ TRANSIT's fixed route bus and rail system, the provision of technical assistance to the counties, and the administration of the statewide program.

All materials to be reviewed at this hearing are available in accessible formats upon request. Closed captioning is available for hearing impaired individuals. Individuals requesting language support should contact Customer Service at 973-275-5555 at least ten (10) business days prior to the hearing date. **If you plan to speak at this virtual hearing, please contact [erestaino@njtransit.com](mailto:erestaino@njtransit.com) or leave your contact information via voicemail at 973-491-7372 by September 25, 2020.**

The public is invited to the **October** hearing below at which time they will have a full opportunity to express their views regarding the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program. In order to assure that all members of the public are given an opportunity to be heard, comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. **Written comments for the record may be sent to Public Hearing Comments 2020, NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Community Transportation, One Penn Plaza East, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246, or via email at [publichearings@njtransit.com](mailto:publichearings@njtransit.com) by October 23, 2020.**

### SENIOR CITIZENS & DISABLED RESIDENTS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING

**DATE: Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

- Session 1: 5:00 pm – Southern Region**
- Session 2: 6:00 pm – Central Region**
- Session 3: 7:00 pm – Northern Region**

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For those who **have** access to E-mail, please contact [erestaino@njtransit.com](mailto:erestaino@njtransit.com) by **September 25, 2020** and you will be emailed the link to join the meeting via video teleconference. For those who do **not** have access to a PC, Laptop, I-pad, Tablet, or Smart Phone with E-mail, please use the telephone number and conference ID access code listed above to call in via telephone.

With this annual notice we also invite the public to review and comment on the State Management Plans (SMPs) for the following Federal grant programs administered by NJ TRANSIT.

- FTA Section 5310 The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
- FTA Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area Formula Program for Rural Areas

These are available for review and comment on the S-Rides website at <https://s-rides.njtransit.com>. (Click on the *Documents* link). Copies of the state management plans are also available upon request by calling 973-491-7372 or writing to NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Minibus Support Department, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105-2246. All comments can be submitted via the address above or by sending an email to [SRIDES@njtransit.com](mailto:SRIDES@njtransit.com).

**An Access Link paratransit update will NOT be provided at this hearing. Access Link holds separate Customer Forums. If you have any questions regarding Access Link forums or service, please email [adaservices@njtransit.com](mailto:adaservices@njtransit.com) or call Access Link at 1-800-955-2321, choose option #5 for Customer Service, or call TT 1- 800-955-6765.**

**To obtain a translated copy of this notice, contact Customer Service at 973-275-5555.**

**Title VI: NJ TRANSIT's Notice to Beneficiaries:** NJ TRANSIT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, or wishing to obtain additional information regarding NJ TRANSIT's Title VI obligations, may contact NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at 973-275-5555. A complaint or inquiry may also be filed by writing to NJ TRANSIT Customer Service – Title VI, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105. A complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

7. Keep doors and windows open where possible and utilize fans to improve ventilation.
  1. Any particular showing is limited to 25 percent capacity with a maximum of 150 people.
  2. Groups that buy tickets together can sit together, but must be at least 6 feet apart from all other groups.
  3. Individuals must wear masks, unless they are removing them to eat or drink concessions.

The Governor's Executive Order includes requirements for theaters and indoor performance venues to reopen to the public on Friday, September 4, which include:





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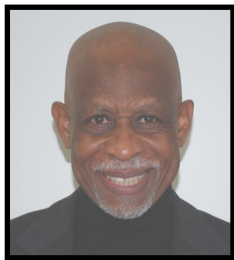


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<b>Newark:</b>	202 Stuyvesant Ave.	Tel. 973-374-8807
<b>West Orange:</b>	77 Main Street *	Tel. 973-324-2090
<b>West Orange:</b>	92 Old Northfield Road *	Tel. 973-736-5552
<b>West Orange:</b>	95 Main Street *	Tel. 973-736-5552





*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Taking Responsibility**

As another election campaign is on the way, and it is becoming more apparent that many politicians on opposite sides are doing the thing most familiar to us human beings, namely refusing to accept blame and shifting their failures to others.

I do not wish to point to any one person, but at the moment, it appears as if the president of the United States is very astute at shifting the blame. There seems to be hardly a time in an interview when he cannot find a way to blame others for his most shocking actions. He calls the pandemic the "China virus." He names governors and mayors for not following his orders to contain the virus, when in reality, those who have followed his orders have messed up. He imputes blame on others who called the virus a "hoax." He implies that the scientists in his employ are responsible for giving the wrong information to the public to fight the virus.

The shortage of PPE, the job losses, and so many other things he attributes to those about him or the administrations preceding his. The ongoing unrest, protests, and violence that are happening alongside the pandemic are the fault of some oppositional forces. He has nothing to do with all the negative things that are happening. There are social media

platforms and news outlets that are pushing the line of blame, shifting. There is very little for which the president will take any responsibility.

Please understand that this reflection is not an attack on the president of the United States. But his actions are profoundly illustrative of how the game of blame-shifting works. What he is doing has been part of humanity's culture since the beginning of time. Remember the archetypal biblical story of what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Some persons might say it is a simple way to explain the fall of humanity. However, it is, it seems quite applicable to the way we go about passing the blame, even in our contemporary life.

The short version of the biblical story is that Eve went for a walk in the Garden of Eden, away from her husband's side. She was passing by a tree in the middle of the Garden when she saw a most specular display of a serpent. She stopped to admire, and the serpent began to speak to her. The serpent asked, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Eve quickly got into a dialogue with the serpent. This is how she answered, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

Well said the serpent, "You will not certainly die, For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Eve was so curious and excited that she took the

fruit that the serpent offered her and shared it with her husband. They ate together and quickly realized that they had fallen from their innocence and purity. God saw their situation and came by to asked them what had happened. In their dialogue that followed, it was one of the superb exercises in shifting the blame. Adam told God that he did what he did because of Eve, the woman he had given to him Adam. Eve told God that it was the serpent who seduced her. And the serpent, who did he blame? Many commentators have argued that he turned the blame on God (Read the story in Genesis 3). It is profoundly interesting in terms of shaming, blaming, and shifting responsibility.

I was reading John Calipari's book subtitled, "The Art of Coaching Extreme Talent," in which he noted that playing the blame game is one of the most significant character flaws that can destroy an individual. He quotes Nathaniel Fast, a management professor at the University of Southern California who argues that "Playing the blame game never works...people who blame others for their mistakes lose status, learn less, and perform worse relative to those who own up to their mistakes... Groups and organizations with a rampant culture of blame have a serious disadvantage when it comes to creativity, learning, innovation, and productive risk-taking."

Calipari further points out that blame-shifting is "contagious like a virus." It might start with one person, then soon a few, and subsequently, a whole group or organization or team gets it, and it destroys rela-

tionships, breaks systems, and kills talent and production.

Yes, shifting blame is dangerous. Just imagine if God had not confronted Adam and Eve and allow them to take responsibility, they would have destroyed each other. But God gave them a way out so that they would own their guilt, learn how to confess and repent, and start their lives free of the blame and the shame.

Here are some ways in which an individual can avoid blame-shifting:

1. Build a moral character.
2. Solve problems.
3. Build better relationships.
4. Establish trust with others.
5. Be a more effective decision-maker.
6. Show compassion towards others.
7. Be more self-confident.
8. Take successful risks.
9. Have the courage to change.
10. Grow their talents or gifts.
11. Stop worrying about hurting others.
12. Stop developing a victim mentality
13. Stop being a complainer.
14. Become a useful role model.

It truly pays to be responsible. Be careful of falling in the game of the day, "Shifting the blame." Be honest. Admit your mistakes when you make them. Say like David, "I have sinned." (2 Samuel 12:13). Or with Daniel, "We have sinned." "We have broken your laws and your covenant." (cf. Daniel 9). Don't spend time blaming everyone else, not even the president of the United States. Responsibility is personal, so become responsible.

**TOWN WATCH** (Cont. from pg 4)

**MAPLEWOOD** - Columbia High School Principal Frank Sanchez has been making the schools guidance counselors and social worker available to the two-town student body Sept. 2-3 if they wanted to talk about the sudden death of classmate Omar Hutchinson.

Hutchinson, who was to be among CHS's graduating Class

of 2021, said Sanchez, "tragically passed away in a swimming accident on Aug. 28."

Circumstances surrounding the rising CHS senior's death, nor his obituary and funeral arrangements, have been made public as of 11 a.m. Sept. 2.

"Our community stands with Omar's family while they grieve this incomprehensible loss," said Sanchez Tuesday. "At this time, the family asks for privacy while

they seek solace from each other. They know the Columbia family of students, faculty and staff can be called upon when asked."

**BLOOMFIELD** - There are township elders and neighbors of the old South Junior High School who are hoping that the third redevelopment proposal now before the Bloomfield Planning Board will be the charm for

the Art Deco building on Sept. 15.

Developer South Junior High School Urban Renewal LLC and its technical partners will continue its presentation for "Bloomfield Lofts" from its initial Aug. 18 hearing. The planning board, depending on developer and public testimony, may decide on the project via Zoom before 11 p.m. Sept. 15.

(Continued on page 12)



# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Why America Needs Price Transparency Now More Than Ever

If it is a function of the amount of money a country spends on its healthcare, then the United States of America should have the best healthcare sector in the whole world. But you and I know that is as far away from the case as possible. Like as far away as anything you can imagine.

The United States spends almost 18 percent of its GDP on healthcare, corresponding to over \$10,500 per person. For context, the UK spends below \$4,000 per person. There are many ways to look at this, and in every single one of them, it's ridiculous. Seriously, I'm sure no one would bat an eye if the massive amount of money spent on healthcare actually correlated to a better healthcare system. Like a system where insurance companies don't exploit people, where primary healthcare isn't crazily overpriced, a system where the average American can confidently say they are getting their money's worth of healthcare services, I can go on and on.

One question you may be dying to know is why exactly the U.S. spends so much on healthcare, and there's no one answer to that question. It is generally through the combined effects of high service prices, higher administrative fees, and high utilization of these services.

Then comes the next ques-

tion, how can the United States reduce the total amount of money it spends. And again, there is no one answer to this question. In fact, there is no one answer that you can find seven out of ten people agreeing to. But a step in the right direction is price transparency.

So, what is price transparency then? Allow me to state it out in the simplest possible way - a system where a consumer knows what a particular service is going to cost before paying for it. It's that simple. You can look at it as a system where all about the pricing of healthcare is going to be known by the people that are paying for healthcare.

This system will require hospitals and insurance companies to offer full disclosure of all that goes into the financial aspect of any healthcare service. This will mean consumers can eventually get to know exactly what it is they are paying for. Price transparency can serve to increase both the productivity of healthcare workers and the quality of health care too. Let's be honest; it sounds nice. Very nice.

What then is the problem? Well, take a wild guess. You just guess the group of people that have a problem with this setting. Go on. I'll wait.

Of course, it's the hospitals and insurance companies. They are the ones kicking out against price transparency, and why they are doing this is not hard to see. It is because this current system benefits them. This current system where healthcare is overpriced, this current system where they can be shrouded in secrecy when exploiting consumers, this current system where there is little to no competitive pricing in the healthcare sector. So, of course, they kick out against it.

Under a price transparency system, insurance companies will have to disclose the rates they negotiate with hospitals, medical groups, and other independent providers, and they don't want that. Why is that exactly? Why don't they want a system that will benefit the people they claim they are insuring? Because that system will mean less money to their pockets. It is estimated that insurance companies charge over 40 percent of the prices that should actually be paid for a healthcare service.

Yes, 40%.

It gets worse. In 2016, according to a survey of 40 hospitals by the Pioneer Institute, it was found that the price of an MRI of the knee without contrast varied across different hospitals. It stood at \$400 at Huntington Hospital in Los Angeles and a ridiculous \$4,544 at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. Just look at that. That is the state of the healthcare sector in America.

If the prices of healthcare services are available beforehand, then it will offer some form of competitive pricing system because people tend to shop for cheaper options. The quality of healthcare does not always correspond to higher prices. This competition is much needed in the healthcare sector that is slowly transforming into a monopolistic system in many areas.

It can also help to reduce operating costs. If workers in a hospital are fully aware of the costs involved in managing their various departments, they can make smarter financial decisions. See it this way. It will be easier for an operating room workforce to lower the costs of maintaining an operating room when they know what individual resources in the operating room cost, as compared to when they have no idea of the cost of individual resources.

It is truly saddening that the healthcare sector of the United States has drifted away from producing quality healthcare to just making money. Many providers don't run their hospitals like hospitals; they run them like business ventures. And what at what cost? The health of Americans.

Am I disappointed? Yes, very much. Am I surprised? Not in the slightest. It is what the state of the healthcare sector has fallen to in the United States. Many times, we keep asking ourselves why our healthcare sector isn't getting better, why prices just seem to always be on the rise, and the answer is usually right in front of us. The people that are concerned with administering this healthcare see it as a money-making scheme.

Well, there is some good news, at least. The Trump Administration is seeking to pass out a Price Transparency Act

that will be effective from January 2021. Then there's more bad news. Not long after news of this Act broke out, major hospitals and insurance companies threatened litigation. This implies that it may be several years before this Act becomes relevant, that is if it becomes relevant at all.

You know, the more I think of it, the more angered I become. Isn't it only right for patients to know the full prices of the services they are paying for? Many people say that price transparency may, in fact, lead to increased prices, but that is just baseless. There is not one sector in the United States that has higher prices because they release pricing information. Not one. So, what then is the debate about?

We are all aware of the economic impact of the Coronavirus. Many people have lost their source of income; many businesses have and are still tanking; the government is also affected by the pandemic economy-wise, and these are just the most notable ones. What the healthcare sector will look like post-pandemic if high prices of healthcare persist is scary. And this is precisely why we need the price transparency system now more than ever. I only hope insurance companies and hospitals see it this way too. I am not banking on it, though. .

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# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

The sports world shut down last week, as the NBA, WNBA and even the NHL postponed games due to the shooting of 25-year-old Black man Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, who was left paralyzed by a White cop in a police shooting. The call for social justice also led to postponements in Major League Baseball.

After returning to the court, the Milwaukee Bucks, who started the protest that shut down sports, quickly finished off the Orlando Magic. However, they would go on to lose Game 1 of their series with the Miami Heat 115-110.

While basketball, hockey, and baseball have resumed, much of the remaining sports world is still on pause due to COVID-19. However, there was a college football played on TV. Austin Peay defeated Central Arkansas 24-17, on a day that saw no major conferences take to the field due to pandemic concerns.

Despite Wimbledon being scrapped (they had pandemic insurance), the U.S. Open is being played, for the first time

with no fans in attendance. While Coco Gauff took a tough loss against Anastasija Sevastova, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 in the women's draw, men's favorite Novak Djokovic took an easy win over Damir Dzumhur, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1. Women's favorite and former U.S. Open champion Naomi Osaka made a social justice statement by wearing a Breonna Taylor mask.

In NFL news, Chiefs head coach Andy Reid and general manager Brett Veach are on the verge of signing six-year contract extensions to remain with the defending Super Bowl champions. Also, in stunning news, the Jacksonville Jaguars have released star running back Leonard Fournette.

Finally, former Georgetown University head basketball coach John Thompson passed away on Aug. 31 at the age of 78. Thompson, who was the first African American head coach to win an NCAA title, mentored the likes of Hall of Famers like Patrick Ewing, Alonzo Mourning, and Allen Iverson. This news came two days after former NBA All-Star Cliff "Uncle Cliffy" Robinson died at the age of 53.

"South," in 1986. One redevelopment, approved in 2006, failed to break ground.

SJHS opened as Bloomfield's magnet school of the arts and taught three grades - first Sixth, Seventh and Eighth, then Seventh, Eighth and Ninth - until June 30, 1986. Bloomfield Public Schools closed "South" and consolidated its students into the 1960s-built North Junior/Bloomfield Middle School.

There are no plans for the 1912-built Essex County Vocational-Technical High School building to SJHS's west next door. The building was used as a temporary West Essex Vo-Tech 2020-21; "Bloomfield Tech" was closed in 2017 and was folded into the county's Donald M. Payne, Sr. Technology HS in Newark.

## TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

"Bloomfield Lofts" calls for redeveloping the 14,500-square foot 1939 four story building at 177 Franklin Ave. and adding a 20,368 sq. ft. addition for 122 apartment units. Space will be renovated or made for an art studio/gallery, a performing arts auditorium, community events and 171 parking spaces. Construction is projected to take a year and \$30.8 million.

The Township Council prepared for Bloomfield Lofts' way by granting a long term tax exemption in exchange for 9,900 sq. ft. for a community auditorium, Oct. 30, 2019. They also authorized a site easement in May.

This is the third proposal since the Bloomfield Board of Education closed SJHS, or

# ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Statistics available as of September 2, 2020

Municipality	9-1-2020	9-2-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1,011	1,009	63
Bloomfield	1,163	1,172	65
Caldwell	126	127	11
Cedar Grove	513	515	115
East Orange	2,055	2,050	230
Essex Fells	32	33	2
Fairfield	153	154	17
Glen Ridge	46	50	9
Irvington	1,485	1,485	159
Livingston	561	557	72
Maplewood	350	348	27
Millburn	175	179	7
Montclair	495	496	53
Newark	8,374	<b>8,382</b>	<b>649</b>
North Caldwell	45	44	4
Nutley	536	542	35
Orange	1,027	1,033	89
Roseland	87	88	12
South Orange	126	127	6
Verona	145	146	13
West Caldwell	300	298	43
West Orange	1,324	1,316	186
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,129</b>	<b>20,151</b>	<b>1,867</b>
<b>Negative tests</b>	<b>148,191</b>	<b>148,607</b>	

## OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 9-2-2020)

**New Jersey: 192,595 cases / 14,181 deaths (Plus 1,783 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 6.088 Million / 184,800 deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 25.836 Million / 858,400 deaths**

**NJ Governor Phil Murphy has announced the state will provide CARES Act funding for the reopening of 26 Sheltered Workshop programs throughout the state.**

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

(Continued from page 5)

- Received free or reduced-price school meals if not for COVID-19 school closures.
- Launched online grocery ordering for SNAP recipients through Amazon, Walmart, ShopRite and The Fresh Grocer.
- Made it easier to apply for SNAP by waiving the normally required interview and the hard copy signature on applications to reduce the need for face-to-face interactions.
- Through a new online tool, available on NJOneApp, made it possible for SNAP applicants to upload the documentation needed for applications electronically instead of mailing or dropping off

documents to the county enrollment offices.

- Ensured that everyone whose benefits were up for renewal in March, April, May, June, July and August were extended for six months.
- Updated our online system to make it easier for SNAP applicants to track their application.
- Developed a guide to educate immigrant families on what benefits are impacted by the federal public charge rule to combat misinformation.
- Presented in various virtual forums to update service providers on these critical changes to help get the word out to families in need of food assistance.



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**NEWARK OFFICER LAID TO REST** (Continued from page 3)

sports, earning him Stand Out status in basketball and as an All-Around athlete.

Callender's extended family was in home and away game stands, cheering him on, throughout his scholar-athlete high school career. He returned the favor as an adult by attending as many Bulldogs games as he could.

The Class of 1995 graduate started attending Montclair State University, where he traded in his "No. 5" for the Red Hawk No. 24. The 6-ft., 1-in., 205 lbs. linebacker continued to star on the NCAA Division III school's gridiron into his sophomore year.

The greatest thing Callender got from MSU, however, may have been the future Melissa Callender. They met on campus in 1998, which led to their marriage on July 15, 2005 and the birth of sons Irving IV and Carmen.

Callender was also a loving father to his son, the late Kindel Fleming, and niece Kimani Thomas.

"Nothing was more important to him than his wife and children," described the Pinton-Curry Funeral Home's obituary. "Irving was a dad who spent quality time not only teaching them sports but instilling life-long lessons they will carry with them forever. He was always standing proud, front and center...a role model to them first

and prided himself with leading by at example."

Father Irving never missed his sons' games, including at Franklin High School. Irving IV is starting his sophomore year as a Red Hawk basketball player.

Callender's 23 overall years' service to Newark began when he was appointed as an aide to Mayor Sharpe James June 1, 1998. He was drawn to police work, however, graduating from the Essex County Police Academy and being sworn in as a Newark Police Officer July 15, 2005.

Ptl. Callender, after a standard probation period, was first assigned to NPD's Fifth Precinct in March 2006. He worked his way through the Second Precinct and Street Crimes Unit, gaining

promotions along the way.

Det. Callender became part of the Executive Protection Unit when Baraka was sworn in as mayor July 1, 2014.

"Det. Callender has been assigned to my office, serving faithfully and with an unwavering commitment to excellence," said Baraka. "He was a lifelong Newarker who loved his city, loved his family and gave his life for both. The entire city is shaken and all of us will collectively mourn his loss."

"This is an incredibly sad day for Det. Callender's family, the Newark Police Division and Mayor Baraka's office," said Ambrose. "We have lost a great man and a tremendous colleague. Our hearts are broken."

## Legally Speaking



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

### **My Boss is Harassing Me! I've Had ENOUGH!**

I often speak with people who think that their employers continue to “harass” them for one reason or another. They are sick and tired of the abuse, so they want to file a discrimination suit. Here’s what you need to know. . .

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforces Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which makes it unlawful to discriminate in all aspects of employment including hiring, firing, layoffs, promotions, job assignments and benefits when the decision is based on color, race, religion, sex or national origin. The U.S. Supreme Court has extended this right to cover LGBTQ workers from discrimination because of their sexual orientation.

Other laws that protect workers include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which says that employers can’t refuse to hire you or penalize a person because she has a disability, simply because she has a disability. The Equal pay act guarantees equal pay between men and women. New Jersey also has anti-discrimination laws which afford you significant protections against discrimination in the workplace. We refer to the New Jersey discrimination statute as NJLAD.

**What exactly does it mean, to discriminate?**

One kind of discrimination is called “disparate treatment. I often hear statements like, “The only reason I got called into the office was because I am Black. So what? I was late a couple of times,” Mary (who is White) never gets called on the carpet because she arrives a couple minutes late, and she’s late more than I.”

Disparate treatment is when one person is treated differently from others in the same position. Disparate treatment can show itself in other ways, perhaps before you even get to the job. For example, during the recruitment process, the hiring manager excludes all of the applications a those with names like “Omar Muhammad,” or “Khadijah Ali” because he believes that those persons are likely to be Muslim, or African American.

Or, discrimination can occur after you get the job, when, the employer pays equally qualified employees in the same position different salaries. It is hard to know if you have been subjected to this kind of discrimination because people don’t usually discuss their salaries or see paychecks as they are distributed.

Another way an employer can discriminate against you is when assigning disability leave, maternity leave or retirement options to different employees, or when assigning special projects which will contribute to you rising in the company. You have to be vigilant in the workplace. You are not required to be thankful that you have a job. The conditions of your employment are important too.

Another form of disparate treatment occurs when an employer establishes a rule or a policy that seems to be fair at the start, but at the end of the day, has a disparate impact on one group or the other. For example, if the employer says that we will terminate all employees who are under 5’5”, and when they do, only Blacks get fired. The policy has a disparate impact on Blacks. Or, for example, if the fire department’s hiring criteria mandates that all employees be able to lift and carry 200 pounds,

resulting in no women qualifying for a fireman’s position. That’s a disparate impact.

Harassment is a form of discrimination. Broadly speaking, harassment is unwelcomed behavior by a co-worker, manager, client, or anyone else in the workplace that is based on race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, nationality age (over 40) or disability.

There are various forms of harassment. Offensive conduct may include, but is not limited to, offensive jokes, like “what did the Jewish guy say to . . .” Slurs like referring to all Hispanics as Jose; epithets or name calling, insults, or put-downs, or mockery like calling an employee “a slow poke” or a “dumb head,” or referring to an employee’s anatomy calling her “big boobs;” physical assaults like trying to kiss another employee; or threats, and intimidation. Showing objects or pictures, offensive conduct. Sexual harassment may occur when your co-worker, supervisor or client conditions your promotion on dating her, or worse yet, conditions your continued employment on allowing yourself to be groped by your boss in his office.

The caveat to a discrimination suit is what I call the “but for.” The unwanted behavior is only actionable as discrimination if it occurred because you are a member of a protected class: race, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or religion. So if your employer is able to show that you were disciplined because you were actually late which is against company policy, and not just because you were Black, or because you were gay, he wins the argument and the lawsuit. The action is only offensive and contrary to the law if “but for” the fact.

You should know also that petty slights, annoyances, and isolated incidents (unless extremely serious) will not rise to the level of illegality. Unlawful harassment may occur without economic injury to, or discharge of, the victim. Often times, harassment leads to a hostile work environment. A hostile work environment is created when no

reasonable person would be expected to work under those conditions either because of harassment or discrimination.

So, what do you do if you feel that you have been discriminated against or harassed? First of all, don’t tolerate the treatment. Speak up. Create a record. Notify your bosses’ boss IN WRITING! Remember, people forget the content of telephone calls. You call HR, they say, “We’ll make a note of it,” and you could never hear from them again. Write your complaint and even if the HR manager forgets, you have documentation. Send it via registered mail so you have documentation that HR actually received your mail. Better yet, go to HR, notify them of your concerns.

Most large employers have an employee manual that details the steps you need to take to file a discrimination claim. Get the company manual. Make sure you follow each of the steps. Gather your evidence. Keep copies of e-mails, memos and letters or other documents that support your claim. Make a note of time and date of events as they occur in a journal making certain to name others who may have witnessed the events. Look to see if there are others who have sued your employer on similar grounds.

Any employee who believes that she has been subjected to workplace discrimination can file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, commonly referred to as the EEOC; but remember you have 180 days from the date of the discrimination to file your complaint with the EEOC. You can file with the EEOC either by visiting the EEOC office, but the better route is to write EEOC a letter which contains your contact information (name, address, cell, work, home phone number, e-mail address) and all of the facts as you currently understand them about the incident(s) about which you are complaining.

In the event you do not get satisfaction after filing with EEOC, you can find a lawyer and prosecute your claim. Discrimination is illegal. Don’t allow it to happen to you!



**AN INTERVIEW WITH ESSEX COUNTY CLERK CHRIS DURKIN**

*(Continued from page 1)*

reau of Investigation testified to Congress recently that there were no reports of organized voter fraud with vote by mail ballots. When a voter votes a vote by mail ballot, that voter signs a certificate envelope that contains their voted ballot. Before that ballot is approved, the signature must be verified and matched against the registered signature of that voter on file. There are two Republicans and two Democrats that vote to approve or disapprove any questionable ballots.

**DS:** Besides mail-in voting, some in person locations will be open. What do those voters need to know before coming to the polls?

**CD:** If a voter decides to go to the polls, they can vote on a provisional paper ballot. The provisional paper ballot will be returned to the County Election Offices and if that voter did not vote on a vote by mail ballot and is qualified to voter, then that vote will be counted. A disabled voter can vote at the polling site by utilizing the audio component of the voting machine which reads the ballot to the voter. Also, a voter can deliver their vote by mail ballot to a board worker at their polling place on Election Day.

**DS:** Can post person throw the ballots? How can we stop the leakage?

**CD:** (place response here)

**DS:** Do you think the post office can deliver the mail-in-ballots in time?

**CD:** I trust the men and women of the U.S. Post Office to deliver the ballots to voters and return voted ballots to the County Board of Elections to be counted. There have been cuts in overtime and we've seen a slowdown of mail service, but we are mailing ballots to voters 35 days before Election Day, which should be plenty of time for the Post Office to deliver ballots to voters. There will be 25 secure ballot boxes located throughout Essex County that voters can drop their voted ballots in so that they can have their ballots back to the Board of Elections in a timely manner.

**DS:** What steps are being taken to protect

poll workers from COVID-19?

**CD:** The polling sites that have been selected by the Board of Elections are larger sites, where board workers can practice social distancing. There will be many tables set up to maintain 6 feet of distance between board workers and voters. There are both masks and gloves provided to poll workers. There is mandatory cleaning throughout the day of surfaces after each voter has voted.

**DS:** In addition to the voting process, how has COVID-19 affected other services provided by the County Clerk's office (passports and other services you offer to the community)?

**CD:** COVID-19 halted all of our services besides Election services. We have continued vault services by mail only. We have been providing swearing-in services to Notary Public applicants since June by appointment only. We just began accepting U.S. Passport applications by appointment every Wednesday. We also issue County Identification cards by appointment only.

**DS:** Do you have any advice for administrators who are battling the coronavirus?

**CD:** Put the safety of employees first, while still maintaining excellent service. Elections are essential, and I am so proud of Essex County's election workers who have experienced so many challenges during this pandemic, and they've gone above and beyond in their duties; working nights and weekends, and delivering ballots by hand.

**DS:** Due to the nature of this year's election, it may take some time before the results are known. If there is an issue with the presidential vote, what is likely to happen?

**CD:** Because of the increase of vote by mail, most of the votes are cast earlier and the results take longer to tally because every vote is a paper ballot vote. Also, there is more time allowed for ballots to come in through the mail and still be counted if the ballot is postmarked Election Day or prior.

**DS:** Thank you very much for your time.

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