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**INTERVIEW WITH
NJ 10th DISTRICT
CONGRESSMAN
DONALD PAYNE, JR.**



Dhiren Shah: Good afternoon, and welcome to this socially distanced interview with Congressman Payne, Jr. How are you and your family coping with the pandemic?

Donald M. Payne, Jr.: I'm well. Thank you. Like millions of Americans, it is not easy for us to adjust to the new normal. But we have learned to accept it and do whatever it takes to keep us and our neighbors safe. We wear masks and socially distance to be responsible and considerate of our health and the health of everyone around us. It is the best way to stay safe until we find the proper treatments for this disease.

DS: What safety measures are you and your staff employing to keep yourselves and others safe from COVID-19?

Rep. Payne, Jr.: I wear a mask constantly when I am out in public and social distance as much as possible. As far as my office, we are following the recommendations of health experts in every way. Right now, most of my staff works remotely. But I wanted to make my office available to constituents because I

(Continued on page 3)

**NEWARK ENFORCING HARDER
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

Non-essential businesses must close at 8 p.m., restaurants must end indoor service at same time;

Beauty salons, nail salons, and barbershops open by appointment only

NEWARK - On October 26, Mayor Ras J. Baraka announced that the Administration is taking strong measures to address the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Newark, after reporting on Sunday that the City had more cases than all other municipalities in Essex County combined.

These measures include the closing of non-essential businesses nightly at 8 p.m., requiring restaurants and eateries to end dining-in at the same time, requiring beauty salons, nail salons, and barbershops to be open by appointment only, and gyms and health clubs to close for half an hour each hour for sanitizing.

The measures will begin



Tuesday, October 27. The City will then re-assess the situation after Tuesday, November 10, to determine the next steps.

Mayor Baraka shared that Newark will gain help from the State with access to rapid testing and more contact tracers, as well as a space for people to safely quarantine.

"This is not the first time COVID-19 has threatened our city and its residents at this magnitude and once again, we will meet this challenge with deter-

(Continued on page 5)



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PAGE 9



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The election is right around the corner, and everyone is talking about it. The Hunter Biden deals are going up on the networks and social media rapidly. Tony Bobulinski, a former business partner of Hunter Biden, spoke on the Tucker Carlson Tonight show for about 45 minutes. If the information he gave is true, then Joe Biden has knowledge of the dealings with Ukraine and China. That is horrible for the country, taking advantage of a father's position as Vice President of the United States of America.

Meanwhile, Biden said before that he will announce what he would do about the Supreme Court right after the vote to confirm Amy Coney Barrett as a Justice. Biden has denied the idea of packing the court in the primaries. According to the New York

Times, a full supporter of Biden, "Joseph R. Biden Jr., who for weeks has declined to clarify his position on progressive activists' calls to expand the Supreme Court to add liberal justices, said in a new interview that if elected, he would establish a bipartisan commission of scholars to study possible ways to overhaul the judicial branch."

For the first time, I think many democrats will vote for Trump, even though they don't like his tweeting, speeches, and him as a person even. Right now, Trump is trailing behind an average 7.1 percent points according to realeclearpolitics.com. According to two very reliable polls, Emerson has Biden leading by 5 points and Rasmussen reports Trump leading by 1 point.

At some places, people are waiting in line 3 or 3.5 hours long to cast a ballot; that includes New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. According to the law, voters should not wait more than half an hour. The board of elections has placed a few polling places, which are very mismanaged. Many in New Jersey are complaining that they do not trust the mail system and the majority of them are trying to go

to the ballot boxes and drop off their votes. I do have some faith in the mail system, so I dropped mine off at the post office.

According to AP News: "Officers were called to the Cobbs Creek neighborhood and encountered the man, later identified as Walter Wallace, who was holding a knife, Little (police spokesperson Tanya Little) said. Officers ordered Wallace to drop the knife, but he instead 'advanced towards' them. Both officers then fired 'several times,' Little said." Then, a violent protest injured 30 officers and led to dozens of arrests.

The violent protesting spread out to Brooklyn, New York. Kris Seals told me that, "When it

comes to police and the use of force, it should be as a following reaction, not an initial action." I agree with him. I understand that being a police officer is not an easy job, especially with the tensions of the "Black Lives Matter" movement and COVID-19.

There must be protocols and training for the police officers. At the same time, there must be a message to the community to not initiate violence. Those who spread out money to incite violence must get at least 10-year automatic jail terms, without parole, in my opinion.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Trop. Storm Rain	Rain and Windy	Mostly Sunny	Sn and Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
HI 53	HI 46	HI 47	HI 61	HI 46	HI 48	HI 58
LO 42	LO 32	LO 41	LO 37	LO 31	LO 40	LO 44

**INTERVIEW WITH
CONGRESSMAN
DONALD PAYNE, JR.**

(Continued from page 1)

knew people would need our help during this public health crisis. So, I have staff members who take turns coming into the office to answer phones and e-mails to make sure constituents get the help they need. When they are in the office, everyone must wear a mask and socially distance. In addition, we have a very strict policy of wiping down door handles and common areas with cleansers and disinfectants to keep everything clean and safe.

DS: *The Democrats and Republicans are locked in a stalemate about stimulus funding. Of all the issues on the table, what is one thing you **must** have, and one thing you can put to the side for now?*

Rep. Payne, Jr.: I think we **must** have it all. Where do you cut? Americans are suffering. The states are struggling and there are several industries that are critical to the American economy that need immediate, emergency aid.

For example, our entire travel industry has been battered during this global pandemic. We need to provide aid to airline and rail workers to protect our transportation and make sure it will run smoothly when we reopen society safely and completely. I have written letters to House leadership and President Trump to focus on relief to the thousands of airline workers so they can stay on the job. In addition, I have joined several efforts to support NJ Transit and Amtrak for the same reason.

Another example is the food service industry. Hundreds of restaurants have closed for good and thousands of food service employees have lost their jobs. Also, our childcare industry is on life support. We must keep those facilities open, so working parents can work to put food on the table and pay for housing. When it comes to coronavirus aid, it is

not one of those issues where you can simply pick and choose priorities. If you do that, Americans will suffer. Studies have shown that we need to support all these issues if we want to recover fully from this economic crisis.

DS: *Since you became Congressman in 2012, has the quality of life in the 10th Congressional District improved?*

Rep. Payne, Jr.: Yes, I really think it has improved. Granted, the coronavirus has affected it, but there are several positive trends that show improvement. For example, there are several new housing projects throughout the district with numerous affordable apartment dwellings. New schools have been constructed and opened in the district, which is a great sign of the health and vitality of a community.

I am always looking to help improve the quality of life in the Tenth District. This year, I have helped secure more than \$220 million in federal grants for the district to help that improvement and support hospitals, colleges, and other district needs. When I am in the district, I see significant development in the Newark Downtown District as well as in other municipalities. In addition, there are quite a few initiatives to grow and develop small businesses across the area.

Recently, I visited a small business incubator in Jersey City called the Container Village. It is an old shipping container that has been cut it up to create small store fronts for start-up businesses. I was so impressed that I want to promote similar efforts throughout the district and the country. In addition, I visited a very well-run store that sold plants in a small business cooperative in Maplewood. These are all signs of growth in our district. So yes, I do think the quality of life in the Tenth District has improved and will continue to improve once we get a national policy to contain and cure the coronavirus.

DS: *What is the most essential*

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thing that New Jersey needs from Congress right now?

Rep. Payne, Jr.: The most essential thing New Jersey needs from Congress is more coronavirus aid. In the House, we passed the Heroes Act in May to provide more than \$3 trillion to American states, businesses, and citizens to help the economy recover. The Senate refused to vote on it.

So, we passed a modified version of it in early October that would still provide \$2.2 trillion to help the country, \$8.7 billion to New Jersey, and almost \$660 million to the Tenth District. The Senate has yet to vote on that one either. The bill has that money for communities as well as aid for schools, childcare, coronavirus testing, housing assistance, and another round of payments for American workers and families. It would help New Jersey and the country tremendously. I really hope the Senate votes on it soon to help the American

public during this difficult time.

DS: *Once life returns to normal, what is the first piece of legislation you would like to work on?*

Rep. Payne, Jr.: It is a difficult question to answer because I want to get the country back to normal first. Right now, the only legislative priority must be coronavirus aid and assistance to all Americans. In addition, we must provide more health protections to our communities of color. African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans are far more likely to get infected and die from this coronavirus than white Americans.

Legislation that protects the health, safety and economic security is the only thing that my House Democratic colleagues and I are working on right now. We must lower infection rates, lower death rates to zero, and reopen the economy fully. Once we do that, then I want to push

(Continued on page 13)

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 city department head has been apologizing to the Municipal Council and North Ward residents since allegedly making derogatory comments about the area during the council's Oct. 21 virtual meeting.

The Rev. Patrick Council, as Director of Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Senior Services, had sent the following apology, through Mayor Ras Baraka's Office of Public Information Oct. 22, for making an offensive remark while on Zoom:

"During the Zoom meeting, an employee brought to my attention that there was not a scheduled stop in the North Ward (for the Mars Wrigley Halloween Truck Tour). At which time, I was dealing with two major issues developing at the 2 Nevada (St.) Senior Building and the Club House on Spruce Street which were more important at the time. What you heard was the latter part of my frustration."

What Dtr. Council said on air was, "I don't give a F___ about no North Ward. That's what M&M (Mars Wrigley) said."

Council's two sentences, made while apparently distracted on Zoom, brought immediate rebuke from Newark's elders.

"We shouldn't be having that kind of language, man," responded At-Large Councilman and North Ward resident Luis Quintana. "It's not appropriate for elected officials, for no one. I take offense when people use that kind of terminology."

"And to say 'F' about a certain ward of the city," added North Ward Councilman Anibal Ramos, Jr., "I'm sure the Business Administrator (Eric Pennington) will address this."

Council said he has since had

Mars Wrigley add candy tour stops in the North and South wards. Although the meeting was aired live on NWK TV78 and other cable television channels, a recorded copy was not available that Friday.

IRVINGTON - Dr. Angelica L. Allen-McMillan, in just over three years and two positions in between, have gone from Irvington Public Schools' Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction to designated New Jersey Commissioner of Education.

Gov. Phil Murphy announced his appointing Allen-McMillan, 51, of Montclair, as his next education commissioner Oct. 21. Allen-McMillan's appointment is subject to confirmation by the State Senate Education Committee later this year.

Allen-McMillan would succeed Dr. Lamont Repollet, who left July 1 to become Kean University's latest president. Interim Superintendent Kevin Dehmer will resume his post as assistant commissioner/CFO.

Allen-McMillan, pending confirmation, is leaving her job as Interim Morris County Executive Superintendent. She had been commuting from Montclair to Morristown since 2018. Allen-McMillan had left Irvington in April 2017 for a similar assistant superintendent's post in Newark Public Schools.

The Cornell Class of 1991 labor and industrial relations graduate started her 25-year career as a substitute teacher. The future Seton Hall University masters and doctorate holder in educational administration was a Life and Physical Science teacher in the East Orange School District.

Allen-McMillan worked in two of South Orange-Maplewood School District's buildings. She was an assistant principal in Maplewood's Clinton School and Principal at South Orange's Marshall School.

"A product of New Jersey's public schools," said Murphy, "Angelica has worked in all levels of education and knows exactly what our teachers and students need to succeed."

EAST ORANGE - The man accused of running a stolen bakery truck into the Planned Parenthood Clinic here in 2018

has pleaded guilty Oct. 22 - signing onto a likely state prison term and a deportation ticket.

Marckles Alcius, 34, of Lowell, Mass., said Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II that Thursday, has pleaded to the following three counts: using a stolen vehicle as a weapon, aggravated assault and causing or risking widespread injury or damage.

Alcius confessed to taking the bread van and deliberately running it into Planned Parenthood's waiting room here at 560 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Feb. 14, 2018. The impact injured two patients and a staff member. Alcius, at that time, told arriving police that he was willing to die in the crash.

By agreeing to the plea bargain, Alcius will have to serve at least 85 percent of his state prison sentence - a sentence that may be up to 10 years, starting on Jan. 7. Alcius, as a Haitian native, will then be deported at the end of his sentence.

Alcius, who had entered the country legally, had been facing first-degree terrorism charges prior to Friday's plea bargain - which could have jailed him for up to 30 years.

ORANGE - What will likely be the first Orange Planning Board public hearing on replacing the Orange Commons Shopping Plaza with a Wawa convenience store and service station was set to be held outdoors in the City Hall parking lot 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28, weather permitting.

That hearing, barring the unexpected, is to continue for another date in November. At least two sessions are anticipated to hear 164 Main LLC's proposal and experts and for OPB members and the audience to ask questions.

Replacing Orange Commons with a Wawa at 150-164 Main St. was first broached by the developers in a public information session at the nearby Church of the Epiphany in 2018. The meeting, hosted by Councilwoman Donna K. Williams and Epiphany, saw some 20 members of the public appear.

The developers, on Wawa's behalf, answered questions ranging from lighting and landscaping to employment and community support. 164 Main LLC, back then, said they were willing

to help fund the likes of restoring Grace's auditorium/gymnasium.

The developers want to replace the 20-store, 24,000 square-foot building on the 1.39-acre lot with a 5,051 sq. ft. Wawa. The store and fueling island are a size comparable to one open since Dec. 16, 2016 at 1511 Springfield Ave. in Maplewood. Its 50 parking spaces would be reduced to 44.

164 Main, of Chatham Borough, has owned Orange Commons S.P. since 2017. The Commons was built in 1976 to replace a burned out main line church. Its Rent-A-Center anchor store was consolidated with East Orange's Brick Church Shopping Plaza outlet and moved to 349 Main St. in 2019.

WEST ORANGE - A contract, pending approval by West Orange PBA Local 25 and the Superior Officers Association, will change how the township handles health benefits among its retired employees.

The Township Council approved a memorandum of agreement with the two unions, on a 3-2 vote here Oct. 6, ending its part of three years' negotiation. The three-year pact will actually run retroactively from 2018 until Jan. 1, 2022; the expired contract was honored during township-union bargaining.

The agreement will end the township paying PBA and SOA members' health benefits upon their retirement. This will affect new WOPD hires after Jan. 1; the present retirement health plan will be grandfathered in with the current employees.

Mayor Robert Parisi, who voted for the MOA, Township Administrator Jack Sayers and CFO John Gross, at the Oct. 6 meeting, said that the township will yield savings some 25 to 30 years ahead, when the new hires retire.

Councilman John Krakoviak and Councilwoman Cindy Matute-Brown, citing that the savings will not be realized until at least 2045, voted against the MOA.

PBA Local 25 President Larry Dominguez and SOA President Michael Cassidy said that the administration had been steadfast about not negotiating on retirees' health benefits since 2018. Cassidy expressed concern that

(Continued on page 5)

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg 4)

prospective police officers will go to other towns first after comparing benefits.

SOUTH ORANGE - The paths of the South Orange Performing Arts Center and its Executive Director, Craig Sumberg, have parted as of Oct. 23.

Paul Bartick, SOPAC's Board of Governors Chairman, announced Friday that Sumberg was "relieved of his duties" due to "budgetary cutbacks brought on by COVID-19."

Sumberg was brought on Jan. 1 - 10 weeks before the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus pandemic prompted closing most art and entertainment venues.

"We're sorry to see Craig go," said Bartick. "We're grateful for the steady presence he brought to SOPAC as we faced the pandemic's impact."

MAPLEWOOD - There is something in how the air flows through the South Orange-Maplewood School District buildings that has given Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Taylor pause since Oct. 22.

Taylor is now asking the SOMSD community to add "tentative" to Nov. 12's intended in-person learning reopening while he and contractors resolve any air circulating and/or heating issues. The delay has postponed his two Columbia High School and elementary school virtual town hall meetings until an unspecified later date.

"It was brought to our attention (Oct. 21) that a detailed walkthrough of our buildings has yielded warranted concerns around ventilation work needed to safely welcome back the return of our staff and students," said Taylor Oct. 22. "We're in close contact with our vendor and our Facilities Department began re-auditing the work performed in all of our district school buildings."

MONTCLAIR - Whether Cuban Pete's Restaurant here has re-opened by press time, or remains padlocked until a Nov. 19 court hearing in Trenton, may be a moot point when you read this.

ECPO attorneys, Essex County Sheriff's officers and Montclair police, enforcing a court order from State Superior Court-Trenton, padlocked 428

Bloomfield Ave 5:20 a.m. Oct. 26. They came in long before owner Dominick Restaino and his 48 employees could start their workday.

"There were no warnings, nothing," said Restaino, of Den-ville, Monday afternoon. "It's a bad dream - I'm out of business."

That lockdown was ordered by the New Jersey Department of Health and Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli. Persichilli cited the three Executive Order violations issued to Restaino and seven warnings from Montclair's police and health departments June 23 - Oct. 4 for the shutdown.

The three order violations were observed and Restaino ticketed for Aug. 7 and 23 and on Oct. 3. The first two were over having any diners indoors; the third for having exceeded the 25-percent indoor dining capacity limit.

The lockdown order was initially issued from Mercer County-based court Oct. 9. MPD and MHD officers who visited Cuban Peter's Oct. 10-12, however, found the 292-seat eatery, including its 73-seat EO-directed indoor capacity "fully operational." Restaino told the officers Oct. 10 that he was complying with the orders.

It is not clear why it took from Oct. 9 to 26 to execute the padlocking. Restaino told one reporter that he will be challenging the closure at the Nov. 19 hearing.

BLOOMFIELD - The ECPO Arson Squad and Bloomfield Fire Department inspectors are continuing their investigation of 14 Evelyn Place here while friends and relatives continue to mourn the loss of Warren Froehlich,

Froehlich, 85, was found by BFD personnel in his first floor apartment with serious injuries during a fire there on Oct. 7. Bloomfield Volunteer Emergency Squad personnel, after firefighters pulled him out, performed CPR while rushing him to Mountainside Hospital. Froehlich was pronounced dead there at 12:57 p.m.

Fire Chief Louis Venezia said the first responding BFD units came to the three-story Tudor-style apartment building at 7:25 a.m. They found heavy smoke coming from the first floor - and

(Continued on page 6)



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COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

mination and guided by data," Mayor Baraka said. "We are Newark strong and can get through this together. We did it once before and we can do it again."

The following will be strictly enforced without exception:

- All stores except supermarkets, pharmacies, and gas stations will close at 8 p.m. every day. They will be allowed to deliver and take out with no indoor ordering or lines.
- All restaurants, bars, etc. must close their indoor service at 8 p.m. and outdoor service at 11 p.m. They must also take temperatures of all patrons coming inside and ask them have they been in touch with anyone with COVID-19.
- All barbershops, beauty parlors, nail salons, and related establishments must have appointments only and no waiting inside.
- All gyms must clean and sanitize for the first 30 minutes of each hour. During that time, people can stay inside or return after the cleaning. Everyone must wear masks.
- All indoor establishments must have sanitizer available.
- City Hall will be open by appointment only.
- The City will close all recreation centers to everything but school-related programs for essential employees.
- All sports activities and open

park practices and games in the East Ward are canceled.

- The City is encouraging all employees to be tested immediately and periodically thereafter.
- Newark is discouraging all parties, indoor and outdoor festivals, and large family gatherings until further notice.

"Until, and even after, a vaccine is made available to every Newarker, the most potent immunization we will have available is a decision to take personal responsibility to obey and model the recommendations that keep us all safe," said Dr. Mark Wade, Director of Health and Community Wellness for the City of Newark. "All of us will need each other to get us through as individuals, neighborhoods, communities and a city, and to save the lives of those we love the most, each other!"

The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Newark as of Friday, October 23, was 10,041, with 673 deaths.

On Sunday, October 18, Newark reported a test positivity rate of 11.2 %, using a three-day rolling average, in comparison to New Jersey's test positivity rate of 5.28%.

Based on testing information for Newark from October 11 to October 17, which counts each test, the city's positivity rate is 11.8% and the highest rate has been determined to be in the East Ward (25.3% in zip code 07105). The city's positivity rate has not been this high since the week ending May 23.



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TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg 5)

almost all of the residents taking the fire escape.

Montclair firefighters and Bloomfield police also arrived at the scene. Belleville and West Caldwell units provided coverage from BFD's headquarters.

Venezia added that the county arson squad is investigating as a standard operating procedure. All of the building's fire and smoke detectors were working. Flames and smoke, however, kept firefighters from reaching Froehlich sooner. The blaze was brought under control by 8:05 a.m.

Services for Froehlich were held at the Fallon Funeral Home Oct. 14 in Jersey City - the city where he was born Dec. 20, 1934. The U.S. Navy veteran was also a self-employed carpenter for 50 years before retiring in 1997.

The body of Froehlich, who had been a resident here since 1980, was interred here at Glendale Cemetery Oct. 15. Wife Mary, daughter Florence Harmon, brother Walter, cousin Juanita Cooper, niece Selena

Poysaw "and many other family members" are among his survivors.

GLEN RIDGE - The school day start and dismissal routine here at Bloomfield and Ridgewood avenues have not been the same since the Sept. 14 passing of Glen Ridge School Crossing Guard Robert Temmler.

"Robert was hired as a crossing guard April 2, 2012," said Police Chief Sheila Byron-Lagattuta Sept. 16. "After completing training, he remained at the same post, Bloomfield/Ridgewood avenues, west side, until his untimely passing. If anyone wants to send condolences, please send them to GRPD and they'll be forwarded to his family."

Robert Diem Temmler's life both began Feb. 21, 1941 and ended Sept. 16 in East Orange. He was raised in Keansburg and lived most of his adult life in Montclair before moving to Bloomfield in 2007.

That Temmler, 79, was proudest while serving as a GRPD Crossing Guard is significant given his other life experi-

ences and achievements.

Temmler was a Green Beret paratrooper during the Vietnam War era 1965-68 before earning a bachelor's degree at Drew University and an MBA from Michigan State University. He worked as a program analyst for several institutions before his 2012 retirement.

Wife Eugene, son Brendan Tendrich, daughters Claire Hundley, Lauren Temmler, Ailias Groves and Corrine Brewster, sister Charlotte Kiewiet, three grandsons and three granddaughters are among his survivors.

Temmler's funeral, arranged by Verona's Prout Funeral Home, is to be announced. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice. The GRPD, between Temmler's death and the Oct. 9, 2019 retirement of East Orange's Valentine Jackson after 20 years, is looking for more guards.

BELLEVILLE - Incumbent Belleville Board of Education Trustee remains in the running for re-election, as of press time, despite her reported Oct. 20 arrest for driving while intoxicat-

ed.

Patrolling BPD officers, said Lt. John McAloon Oct. 21, found a car parked outside of Michael's Roscommon House, 531 Joralemon St., at 12:50 a.m. that Tuesday. The vehicle was found with its engine running, partially blocking the street's eastbound lane - and its driver asleep behind the steering wheel.

The vehicle was also across the street from Belleville Public School No. 7.

When officers awoke the driver, her documents identified her as Erika Jacho, 41. Jacho, said officers, refused to submit to a Blood Alcohol Content test.

Jacho was arrested and released 6:20 a.m. Oct. 20. She was charged with DWI, DWI within 1,000 feet of a school, refusing to take a BAC test and parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.

Jacho, who was first elected in 2017, is running with newcomer Fernando Acevedo, Jr. on "Building Belleville's Future" team They are among eight candidates, including two other incumbents, in the Nov. 3 nonpartisan election.

COVID-19 FORCES ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE TO MAKE BUDGET CUTS

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

ESSEX - Like every other school, Essex County College (ECC) has been affected by the COVID-19 - caused decrease in students. This, on the top of a fiscal exigency announced back in March 2017, has caused ECC to make cuts to its administration. A 5% cut in salaries across the board was also made.

According to the Public Meeting Agenda of September 22, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting, the cutbacks affected positions from the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer down to mailroom clerk and Public Safety Officers. Several members of the staff saw themselves either reassigned or given additional duties.

Separation

Those who have been separated from Essex County College fall into three categories. For some, separation is effective October 22. A second group of people have their separation effective November 21. Lastly, a third group of people, presumably with many more years at school than others, have their separation on December 21.

Into the first group of people fall Senior Compliance Associate, Compliance; Assistant to the Dean, STEM and Health Sciences; Director of Purchasing; Administrative Assistant, STEM and Health Sciences; and two Public Safety officers.

The second group of employees being separated include members of the Support Staff Association. These are three secretaries, one custodian, and a mailroom clerk.

A third group includes members of the Administrative Association. These include the associate director of Custodial Facilities Management; the Clinical Director of Student Wellness Center; the director of Enrollment Management Services; the associate director of Business Services and Workforce Training, Training Inc.

The list continues with the manager of Student Services and Retention, Enrollment Management; Assistant Director SAASAT - Athletics; Coordinator of Admission Services at West Essex Campus; Coordinator of Non-Credit Enrollment Services, Community and Extension Programs; the supervisor of Physical Education Building Operations; an administrative assistant; technical support specialist; and the coordinator of Student Wellness Center.

At the October 20 Board of Trustees meeting, held via telephone, the Board approved memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the Administrative Association, the Faculty Association, the Professional Association, the Security Association, and the Support Staff Association. The five memorandums deal with furlough or pay reduction for college employees. All five memorandums, according to a Request for Board Action, are dated October 16, 2020. These memorandums put in writing what was decided at the emergency September 22, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

It is unknown whether these being separated will be rehired once the fiscal exigency ends.

October 20 Board of Trustees Meeting

Approved at the October 20 meeting was payment of \$16,045 for emergency installation of glass barriers and partitions. N.C.F Glazing & Erecting, Inc., of Kearny, N.J. has received the contract. It is COVID-19 Funded - operating expense.

Another \$54,523.26 was authorized to purchase equipment for sanitation and supplies for reopening. The totals were \$3,816 for American Paper Towel Co., LLC, of Carlstadt, NJ; about \$23,667 to Bio-Shine, Inc., of Spotswood, NJ; \$14,341 for Imperial Bag & Paper Co.,

(Continued on page 10)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
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*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

A Time Of Decision

When I was a boy, my greatest delight was to listen to Evangelist Billy Graham preaching on his live weekly radio broadcast program called the *Hour of Decision*. The first broadcast of the program took place in 1950, and it continued until 2014 when it was renamed *Peace with God* by Bill Miller, one of Billy's assistants, but the latter only continued for two years into 2016 when the broadcast ended.

By referencing the *Hour of Decision*, in this reflection, I am intending to point to **the urgency** that Billy Graham was seeking to communicate to America and the world concerning the Second Coming of Christ. Graham was saying people needed to prepare for the imminent coming. Christ did not come in the time frame that Graham was likely contemplating.

Before the passion could be fulfilled, Graham went the way for all humanity; he grew old, became sick, and died in 2018, but as far as we understand he maintained the hope in the return of Jesus Christ. It is not far fetched to believe that as his days of labor were coming to a close, that he might have become frightened to see how those about him were losing the passion for speaking of the imminent the coming.

Whether the subject concerns the imminence of "the coming" or not, there are critical moments in human history when the proclamation needs to be made, that this is **the hour of decision**. Within the contemporary political frame, we hear that we **face**

the most momentous decision ever in American political history. Such comments might have been made before, but as I think of my time on earth, I have never heard it spoken with such passion, from one side, as well as the other.

I do not know how you are reading the political conditions today, but the coronavirus and other socio-economic conditions cause people to think more critically that this is a serious time of decision. There is much anxiety in the air, and it is quite a reminder to me of times of crucial decisions recorded in Biblical history. I cannot name all the powerful stories, but I name three.

1. I think of the time when Moses was called by God to go visit with Pharaoh to tell him what God had said, "Let my people go." It was a challenge to Moses. He went through moments of deep consideration, but as he struggled with his safety and the survival of his people oppressed in the Egyptian kilns, he accepted the commission and stood up to Pharaoh until he let the people go (cf. Exodus 3-15).
2. I also think of Queen Esther, who, when she was confronted with the genocide of her people in Persia, went into the king Ahasuerus to plead for the life of her people. At first, her comfort in the palace seemed to have shielded her from knowing or understanding what was happening to her people. But messages were sent to her from her cousin, Mordecai, which led her to understand the crisis better. She thought of the danger of breaking palace protocols to go into the king without an invitation. Mordecai impressed on her that there was more to think of than her on safety. It was a moment of decision. So Mor-

decai sent her the final message, "Do not think that because you are in the king's house, you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-16). On hearing this message, at the threat of her life, Esther went in to see King Ahasuerus and was able to save her life and that of her people. Today, when Jews celebrate Purim (Lots), they think of the critical decision that Esther made to give up her life if such were needed, for her people's salvation.

3. I also think of the crucifixion of Jesus, not just the decision that Jesus made to go to the cross when he had other options out John 13:1-2), but I am thinking of the moment Jesus stood before Pilate in the Praetorium. Pilate offered the choice of Jesus Barabbas or Jesus, the Christ. Yes, Pilate had a deep heart struggle. Throughout the trial, he sensed that Jesus was an innocent man. After going to bed during the trial and after having a dream that Jesus was an innocent man, Pilate's wife sent a message to Pilate, telling him not to have anything negative to do with Jesus (Cf. Matthew 27:19). Pilate was persuaded (for a moment), but he was a weakling; he considered his political appointment. The people knew how vacillating Pilate was, and they shouted at him to the point that he stifled his conscience. In a last-ditch effort to offer the people what he called a choice, he said to the people, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Jesus Barab-

bas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" (Matthew 27:17). The people responded, "Crucify him. Give us Jesus Christ." Pilate relented and gave up Jesus. Pilate must have known before he went home that he had made the most destructive decisions of his life, but it was too late to change.

As I think of these critical moments of decisions, I have often asked, "what was it that made the difference between Moses, Esther, and that of Pilate?" And I have concluded that one critical decision demands at least nine things, namely:

1. A critical sense of judgment - Evaluating the facts
2. Courage to know the difference
3. Awareness of the temptation to stay in the valley of indecision
4. Understanding the anxiety to make the wrong decision
5. Losing the opportunity to make the right decision
6. Faith - the willingness to take the risk of decision
7. Prayer for the wisdom to choose aright
8. Responding to the pressure of the crowd
9. Understanding the consequences, not just for the immediate, but the long term

I will not deliberate on any of the nine things, but it is vital for you who read to ask yourself: How am I facing this moment of decision within the political sphere? How am I making my decision for how my children and I might live in the United States of America? How am I making my decision concerning the kingdom of God?

There are moments of decision between truth and falsehood in every life, right and wrong, and the question is: How do we make or decisions?

COVID-19 FORCES ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE TO MAKE BUDGET CUTS

(Continued from page 7)

LLC, Bayonne, NJ; and \$12,700 for Scoles Floorshine, Ind., of

Farmingdale, N.J. In addition, a bid for concrete sidewalk repair in the amount of \$237,000 was awarded to Pharos Enterprises, LLC, of South Amboy, NJ.

A contract for Architectural Services in the amount of \$23,800 was awarded to Arcari & Iovino Architects, PC, Little

Ferry, NJ.

According to the Request for Board Action, at the October 20 meeting, the Board accepted funding from the Essex County Division of Training and Employment to provide Basic Skills/HSE Prep to 25 Out of School clients in the amount of

\$28,323.50 for the period beginning September 28, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. Also approved were dual enrollment with the Irvington Board of Education and an updated memorandum of understanding with the New Jersey City University - Alternate Route Certificate.

HOW ORANGE'S SCHOOL BOARD RACE BECAME PARTISAN

By Walter Elliott

ORANGE - Board of education elections statewide are nonpartisan - except apparently here in Orange for Nov. 3.

"Local Talk " has noticed how the formerly known "Good to Great" team of E. Lydell Carter, Fatimah Turner and Jeff Wingfield have been increasingly calling themselves "Orange Board of Education Democratic Team" on their printed materials since Oct. 1.

A "Local Talk" delivery crew first noticed Carter/Turner/Wingfield banners placed at key city intersections Oct. 15.

The banners are headlined "Orange Board of Education," immediately followed below by "Democratic Team." Its third line has a "Biden Harris 2020" logo, followed by head shots and ballot locations of Wingfield, Turner and Carter.

Those banners also bear an "Orange Kids Matter" slogan and orange outlined raised fist logo. There is also another, pre-existing OKM slate - Sharon Forde and Marsha Escalliere's "Our Kids Matter" team.

The same crew, on their Oct. 22 deliveries, saw similar configured signs on some city front lawns - and, in the Orange Post Office's lobby, a stack of "Orange Board of Education Democratic Team Official Democratic Voter Guide."

The guides are double-sided 12-in. by 10-in. palm cards whose front has a configuration similar to the said banners and lawn signs. By front, there is a "Local Postal Customer" address, a USPS EDDM Retail postage paid square and a 528 Nassau St. return address.

Turning the guide card to its back side, there is a copy of two mail-in ballot lines - Line A for Democratic Party candidates from President to 3rd District County Freeholder and Line I for Orange's members of the Board of Education.

Line I has Wingfield, Turner and Carter's ballot places highlighted in yellow in the midst of the other six OBOE candidate's names and slogans blurred out. Right below these three candidates' names and "Good to Great" slogans, however, each have "Democratic Party" names.

Line A, looking back up, also has yellow highlighting for the team's preferred candidates - and the superimposed "Democratic Party" labels.

"To: Orange Residents, Parents and Students," reads a blue-backgrounded portion, "Support Biden-Harris 2020 & The Orange Board of Education Democratic Team."

The team's campaign materials have "Local Talk," and maybe you, asking, "How did a nonpartisan board of education election become politically partisan?"

"Local Talk," before continuing, would question the Republican Party or any other party in any other of our towns' BOE elections on this matter.

Orange, indeed, is having its fifth board of education election Nov. 3 - and third straight on the November General Election ballot - since a majority of city voters approved switching the formerly mayor-appointed board to voter-elected in 2017.

The team's materials, which mention "Democratic" or "Democrat" up to seven times on a side, are not designed out of ignorance or accident.

Wingfield, who is running for re-election, and Carter, who is looking to return to the board, were originally appointed by Mayor Dwayne D. Warren. Warren, who won his third straight term in last May's nonpartisan election, is a member of the Orange Democratic Committee.

"Local Talk" called Clifford Ross - the city's Democratic Committee Chairman and newly-elected Councilman-at-Large - with the same number given by two sources 7 p.m. Oct. 27.

"Local Talk" will not learn of the committee's consent to having the BOE candidates use the Democratic name or of the committee's involvement in the campaign. "I cannot talk now. Wrong number," was the received text message.

Meanwhile, "Local Talk" turned to the New Jersey School Boards Association. The NJSBA had been advocating for non-partisan school board elections since before 80 percent of public school districts, including Orange, moved their elections from April to join the



General Election ballot.

It was the NJSBA who helped design your Vote By Mail Ballot to keep the BOE elections separate from the rest of the General Election ballot. County boards of elections and clerks, at the organization's urging, have the school board candidates on the second, or back page.

The NJSBA referred "Local Talk" to a link onto its 56-page 2020 School Board Election Guide. This guide, in turn, references NJSBA 19:60-1. That statute declares that "no political party designation may appear on the school board election ballot."

The state statute citation is in reply to the guide's Question No. 43: Can candidates be endorsed by a political party? That paragraph noted that "the Commissioner of Education has traditionally frowned upon political party endorsements of school board members, as school elections should be non partisan."

NJSBA, in its correspondence to "Local Talk," noted that they have noticed "increasing endorsement of school board candidates by party officials."

So, the "Orange BOE Demo-

cratic Team," by keeping "Good to Great" on the ballot, is adhering to the letter of NJSBA 19:60-1.

But will we be seeing more BOE Democratic - or Republican - or, say, Garden Party Team in our future? Will we wind up voting for school board members on the basis of their party affiliation?

Part of what the State Education Commissioner and the NJSBA has dreaded has happened in the wake of the 2011-18 massive school board election shift to November.

Some political party elected officials and/or candidates have endorsed school board candidates. There have been some teams running for Newark Public School Board of Education seats who have had a constellation of officials endorsing them on their materials.

Some among the voting electorate have bemoaned how governance on the federal, state, county and/or municipal levels have been replaced by party politics. Will this trend enter the board of education level?

That is an answer only the registered voter can answer on or before 8 p.m. Nov. 3.



UNITED STATES

Amy Coney Barrett Appointed to Supreme Court

One of the most prestigious in the United States has been filled - and it literally took just one month.

On Sept. 26, 7th District Court of Appeals Judge Amy Coney Barrett was nominated by President Donald Trump to take a seat on the Supreme Court, which was vacated by the heartbreaking death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. One month later, on Oct. 26, she was confirmed by a 52-48 near-party line vote, with Republicans sans Susan Collins (R-ME) making up the 52, and Democrats in full opposition at 48. That same night, Trump held a White House ceremony, where Barrett was sworn in by Justice Clarence Thomas. The next day, she was sworn-in again by Chief Justice John Roberts.

While practically all the Democrats have suggested that karma is coming for the GOP, who hastily rushed the confirmation process "just because they could," some Republicans feel that this action was karma for the Democrats, who impeached President Trump in 2018 "just because they could."

Barrett is a native of New Orleans, is married, and a mother to seven children - including two adopted children from Haiti. They currently live in South Bend, Indiana. She once served as a clerk under the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

NXIVM Founder Keith Raniere Gets 120 Years

On Oct. 27, Keith Raniere, the founder and leader of Nxivm, was sentenced to 120 years in prison by United States District Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis in federal court in Brooklyn. Raniere was convict-

ed by a federal jury in June 2019 of racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking, attempted sex trafficking, sex trafficking conspiracy, forced labor conspiracy and wire fraud conspiracy. The Court also imposed a fine of \$1,750,000.

At the sentencing hearing, the Court heard victim impact statements from 15 individuals, including "Camila," the victim who was sexually exploited by Raniere when she was 15 years old. A hearing on victim restitution will be held at a later date.

Seth D. DuCharme, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, William F. Sweeney, Jr., Assistant Director-in-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York Field Office (FBI), and Jonathan D. Larsen, Special Agent-in-Charge, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, New York Field Office (IRS-CI), announced the sentence.

"The 120-year sentence imposed on Keith Raniere today is a measure of his appalling crimes committed over a decade," stated Acting United States Attorney DuCharme. "Raniere exploited and abused his victims emotionally, physically and sexually for his personal gratification. It is my hope that today's sentence brings closure to the victims and their families."

Mr. DuCharme extended his grateful appreciation to the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, the New York State Police and the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York for their valuable assistance during the investigation and prosecution.

"Raniere's reign of control over the women he scarred, both physically and emotionally, is the making of a horror story. It is inconceivable to think of the sexual exploitation, abuse, seclusion, and mind control his victims suffered - at his direction. Today the judge has given him 120 years to think about whether or not the torture he inflicted on others for more than a decade, and the distress he brought to their families, was worth it in the end," stated FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Sweeney.

Raniere led a criminal racketeering enterprise and relied on an "inner circle" of co-

conspirators to carry out his orders. The purpose of the enterprise was to promote Raniere and to recruit individuals into purported self-help organizations that Raniere founded, including Nxivm and DOS ("Dominus Obsequious Sororium"). Raniere and his co-conspirators committed a wide range of criminal activity, including sex trafficking, forced labor, alien smuggling, wire fraud and obstruction of justice.

Specifically, Raniere sexually exploited "Camila," then a 15-year-old child, and took photographs of his abuse. At the time, Raniere was 45 years old. Raniere and his co-conspirators also trafficked "Daniela" for labor and services and confined her to a room for nearly two years in an attempt to force Daniela to do work for him. Daniela was told that if she left the room, she would be sent to Mexico without any identification documents.

Daniela went months without human contact and was denied prompt medical care. During this time, Daniela wrote hundreds of letters to Raniere pleading to be released from her confinement. Daniela testified at trial that while confined to the room, she contemplated suicide.

In late 2015, Raniere created and led DOS, a secret organization in which women were recruited under the false pretense of joining a women-only mentorship group, later discovering that they had taken "vows of obedience" to women who were "slaves" to Raniere. Prospective DOS victims were required to provide "collateral" - including damaging confessions about themselves and loved ones (truthful or not), rights to financial assets, and sexually explicit photographs and videos - to prevent them from leaving the group or disclosing its existence to others.

Raniere required DOS "slaves" to take nude photographs, perform labor, and in some cases, to engage in sex acts with him. As proved at trial, the victims "Nicole" and "Jay" were among the DOS victims directed to have sex with Raniere.

Each of Raniere's co-defendants previously pleaded guilty. In September 2020, Clare Bronfman was sentenced to 81 months' imprisonment after having been convicted of conspiracy

to conceal and harbor aliens for financial gain and fraudulent use of personal identification information. The remaining co-defendants are awaiting sentencing. On March 12, 2019, Nancy Salzman, Nxivm's president and co-founder, pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy. On March 25, 2019, Lauren Salzman, a first-line "master" in DOS, pleaded guilty to racketeering and racketeering conspiracy. On April 8, 2019, actress Allison Mack, another first-line "master" in DOS, pleaded guilty to racketeering and racketeering conspiracy. On April 19, 2019, Kathy Russell, a bookkeeper for Nxivm, pleaded guilty to visa fraud.

The government's case is being handled by the Office's Organized Crime and Gangs Section. Assistant United States Attorneys Tanya Hajjar, Mark J. Lesko and Kevin Trowel are in charge of the prosecution. Assistant United States Attorney Karin Orenstein of the Office's Civil Division is handling forfeiture matters.

EUROPE

COVID-19 Spread Draws Concerns

COVID-19 is now the fifth leading cause of death in Europe, where nearly 700,000 cases were reported this week: the highest weekly incidence since the pandemic began in March, the regional head of the UN World Health Organization (WHO) told journalists on Oct. 15.

Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge said the tightening up of restrictions by governments is "absolutely necessary" as the disease continues to surge, with "exponential increases" in cases and deaths.

"The evolving epidemiological situation in Europe raises great concern: daily numbers of cases are up, hospital admissions are up, COVID-19 is now the fifth leading cause of death and the bar of 1,000 deaths per day has now been reached," he reported.

Dr. Kluge said overall, Europe has recorded more than seven million cases of COVID-19, with the jump from six million taking just 10 days.

(Continued on page 14)

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

For the first time since 1988, the Los Angeles Dodgers are World Series champions. LA finished off the Tampa Bay Rays 3-1 in Game 6 of the Fall Classic, giving their city its second title in as many months, joining the Lakers. Dodgers star Corey Seager was named the MVP.

Pro football in this area is still a joke. First, the Giants held an 11-point at the Eagles, on Thursday Night Football, only to blow it and lose 22-21. The low-light of the game saw NY QB Daniel Jones reel off an 80 yard run, only to stumble over his own feet before scoring.

Meanwhile, the Jets were just as bad, if not worse. Despite not giving up a touchdown at home to the bills, Gang Green lost 18-10. One reason for the loss had to be the Jets putting up just 4 total yards of offense in the second half. Again, 4 yards.

In other NFL news, the Pittsburgh Steelers are now the league's only undefeated team at 6-0. Also, current Browns WR and former Giant Odell Beckham, Jr. is out for the season with a torn ACL. Finally, despite his suspension, the Buccaneers signed receiver Antonio Brown.

In Essex County high school football, the Orange Tornados and the Columbia Cougars clashed with latter winning 39-28. In East Orange, West Orange came in and upset the Jaguars 17-7. East Orange is now 3-1 on the season. The Irvington Blue Knights improved to 3-1 after a strong 49-22 win at North Bergen 49-22.

The second Greg Schiano era at Rutgers got off to a great start, with the Scarlet Knights winning at Michigan State 38-27. This marked RU breaking a 21 game losing streak in the Big Ten Conference.

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from Oct. 21 - Oct. 28, 2020

Municipality	10-21-2020	Deaths	10-28-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1273	67	1352	67
Bloomfield	1336	69	1403	69
Caldwell	147	11	152	11
Cedar Grove	518	114	528	114
East Orange	2202	232	2258	233
Essex Fells	39	2	42	2
Fairfield	206	17	209	17
Glen Ridge	55	9	59	9
Irvington	1680	162	1744	162
Livingston	605	71	631	71
Maplewood	386	27	398	27
Millburn	191	6	199	6
Montclair	567	52	589	52
Newark	9511	670	10520	672
North Caldwell	82	4	84	4
Nutley	631	36	666	36
Orange	1162	92	1214	93
Roseland	111	14	124	14
South Orange	147	5	164	5
Verona	188	14	204	14
West Caldwell	326	49	334	49
West Orange	1493	186	1558	186
Total	22856	1909	24432	1913

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 10-28-2020)

NJ: 232,997 cases / 14,531 deaths (Plus 1,793 probable)

United States (approx.): 8.838 Million / 227,500 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 44.31 Million / 1.17 Million deaths

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INTERVIEW WITH

CONGRESSMAN

DONALD PAYNE, JR.

(Continued from page 3)

legislation to protect the Affordable Care Act, improve our roads and bridges, grow our small businesses, and increase educational opportunities for all students.

DS: Do you think that the Democrats will control both the House and Senate after next month's election. If so, by how many seats?

Rep. Payne, Jr.: I do not like to speculate on elections. I know there are several polls that seem to indicate a strong showing for Democratic candidates in November, but they are just polls. Voters are the ones who determine elections. We will know the answer to that question after the votes are counted in November. I am much more focused on trying to get coronavirus resources and aid to the people and communities in New Jersey's Tenth Congressional District.

DS: At the end of 2018, the House voted to impeach President Donald Trump. If Trump is re-elected, should House Speaker Nancy Pelosi step down from her post?

Rep. Payne, Jr.: Again, that is a question for voters to decide because they determine the political power in the U.S. House of Representatives. Personally, I have a great relationship with

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and I think she has been a strong leader in the House as well as the Democratic Party.

DS: With all the election buzz going on right now, would you ever consider a run for the White House?

Rep. Payne, Jr.: No. I am a son of Newark and the Tenth Congressional District. I am proud to represent my hometown and district in Congress. I could not imagine a better or more rewarding job than the one I have right now.

DS: Do you have any message for your constituents?

Rep. Payne, Jr.: Yes, I want to tell them that we will defeat the coronavirus. But we need to be smart, considerate, and safe until that time. Please wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. I have read about possible increases in infection rates around the country. I do not want that to happen in New Jersey. So, when you vote, make sure you do it through the mail, drop it off at a ballot box, or practice safe behavior when you go to the polls. Again, we will get through this public health crisis.

DS: Thank you very much for your valuable time. Best of luck in the upcoming election.

Rep. Payne, Jr.: Thank you and let me know if you need anything else.

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

Don't Get Tangled Up In The Web Of Domestic Violence!

This is how the New Jersey Prevention of Domestic Violence Act works in New Jersey. One party, for our example, your girlfriend either shows up at the courthouse or at the local police station claiming that you two share a child and that you have abused her. The allegation is that you “grabbed her wrist” (simple assault) and “prevented her from leaving” (criminal restraint) after having followed her in your car for the past week (stalking) and sending her 300 text messages and leaving 100 voicemail messages during the week (harassment).

You finally caught up with her when you sneaked into her house from the deck, (criminal trespass) you stole her phone to prevent her from calling the police (criminal mischief) and you threatened to kill her if she refused to at least hear you out. (terroristic threats). She tells a judge about this sad sequence of events and he issues a temporary restraining order. So now what!

You say she's off her rocker because when she alleges that all

of these events were happening, you were home sick with a cold. You did not speak to anyone during the week, you were too sick to talk on the phone. You spent the week sipping hot tea and downing cough medicine. You don't have any witnesses.

She tells the judge about all of the other times when you harassed her or stalked her or took possession of her phone to make her bend to your will. She cries and if you didn't know better, you would have believed her.

The judge considers the six factors the statute requires: history of domestic violence, her immediate danger, the financial circumstances of the parties, and the best interest of the victim and the child. Thank goodness there are no prior restraining orders for him to consider.

At the end of the day, the judge believes her, particularly when she starts to cry and tell him how afraid she was when you threatened to kill her, and the judge issues a Final Restraining Order. We refer to the final restraining order as an “FRO”. You are 20, and she is 19 when all of this occurs. The baby is a year old.

The Penalties

Because she is “so very afraid of you,” the judge determines that to protect her and the child's safety, girlfriend and the baby are allowed to relocate to California to live with grandma. Because there is an FRO, you are not provided an address where your child is located, but you do get a cell phone number, the right to Facetime every day between 4 and 7 PST (7 PM and 10 PM eastern standard time) to see the baby and to speak with her. You get two weeks every summer and Christmas when the baby is three years old.

This is bad. This is really

bad. Your heart breaks. The judge could order a fine between \$50 and \$500, and because you have frightened girlfriend nearly to death, you get the high end. Your fine is \$500. You pay up, and try to hope summer comes early.

Three months after she moves to California, the grandmother dies, she gets a new cell phone, moves to another location, and you lose all contact with her (not such a big deal) and the baby! Your heart is broken. You miss your daughter. Your parents miss their grandchild!

You plough on. You finish Essex County College, and then go on to Rutgers where you earn a degree and you are on your way to being a teacher and a fine upstanding member of society. . . or so you think.

A conviction under the New Jersey Prevention of Domestic Violence Act results in some of the harshest penalties in the country. Not only could your contact with your children be restricted or loss completely, but entry into the National domestic violence registry could have a devastating impact on your life.

Once a final restraining order is issued, you will be fingerprinted, your DNA taken, and your name recorded in the NATIONAL domestic violence registry. Many employers will check the registry as the do the background check before you are offered employment. Unfortunately, if your name appears in the registry, you are not likely to get the job, and you certainly are not likely to get a teaching job in New Jersey. And, oh! Did I mention that the registry is a “national” registry? This means that even if you move to Texas, you could be denied employment in Texas because the Texas employer can check the registry as well.

Did I mention the part about if your name gets into the registry, it is virtually impossible to remove it? Did I mention that an FRO in New Jersey do not expire? An FRO issued in New Jersey is valid and enforceable forever, at least until you die, and the only way to vacate a FRO is for the “victim” to come into court and ask the judge to vacate the order. She has to testify that circumstances have changed, and she no longer fears you.

In our case, you have not seen the girlfriend (nor your child) in years. You have no idea where she is, and to complicate matters there are federal laws on the books that prevent the post office from revealing her address. The problem is further complicated by the fact that you can't even speak with her to see if she will vacate the order without violating the no contact order.

But you have indirectly heard from her when you got a notice from the court that girlfriend seeks child support, and the court orders you to pay \$125 per week for the support of the child. The fact that you have no parenting time, the fact that you have not seen the child in years, nor the fact that none of this is fair because the whole thing is based on a lie will justify not paying child support.

The Moral of the Story

You have to make hard choices. If you don't, the penalties can consume your entire life. The best time to fight a restraining order is at the beginning. Do not think that because she is lying, that the truth will come out, and the judge will see in an instant that this is all made up. It is a lot cheaper to put up a good legal fight early than to try to untangle the web later.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 12)

Within two weeks, daily case totals surpassed 120,000 for the first time, and on both Saturday and Sunday, reaching new records. However, he stressed that the region has not returned to the early days of the pandemic.

“Although we record two to

three times more cases per day compared to the April peak, we still observe five times fewer deaths. The doubling time in hospital admissions is still two to three times longer,” he said, adding “in the meantime, the virus has not changed; it has not become more nor less dangerous.”

Dr. Kluge explained that one reason for the higher case rates is increased COVID-19 testing,

including among younger people. This population also partly accounts for the decreased mortality rates.

“These figures say that the epidemiological curve rebound is so far higher, but the slope is lower and less fatal for now. But it has the realistic potential to worsen drastically if the disease spreads back into older age cohorts after more indoor social

contacts across generations,” he warned.

Looking ahead, Dr. Kluge admitted that projections are “not optimistic.”

Reliable epidemiological models indicate that prolonged relaxing of policies could result in mortality levels four to five times higher than in April, with results visible by January 2021.

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 14)

He stressed the importance of maintaining simple measures already in place, as the modelling shows how wearing masks, coupled with strict control of social gathering, may save up to 281,000 lives across the region by February.

This assumes a 95 percent rate for mask use, up from the current rate, which is less than 60 percent.

RUSSIA

Six Russian Hackers Charged with Using Highly Destructive Malware

On Oct. 15, a federal grand jury in Pittsburgh returned an indictment charging six computer hackers, all of whom were residents and nationals of the Russian Federation (Russia) and officers in Unit 74455 of the Russian Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU), a military intelligence agency of the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

These GRU hackers and their co-conspirators engaged in computer intrusions and attacks intended to support Russian government efforts to undermine, retaliate against, or otherwise destabilize: (1) Ukraine; (2) Georgia; (3) elections in France; (4) efforts to hold Russia accountable for its use of a weapons-grade nerve agent, Novichok, on foreign soil; and (5) the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games after Russian athletes were banned from participating under their nation's flag, as a consequence of Russian government-sponsored doping effort.

Their computer attacks used some of the world's most destructive malware to date, including: KillDisk and Industroyer, which each caused blackouts in Ukraine; NotPetya, which caused nearly \$1 billion in losses to the three victims identified in the indictment alone; and Olympic Destroyer, which disrupted thousands of computers used to support the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics. The indictment charges the defendants with conspiracy, computer hacking, wire fraud, aggravated identity theft, and false registration of a domain name.

According to the indictment, beginning in or around November 2015 and continuing until at least in or around October 2019, the defendants and their co-conspirators deployed destructive malware and took other disruptive actions, for the strategic benefit of Russia, through unauthorized access to victim computers (hacking).

Cybersecurity researchers have tracked the Conspirators and their malicious activity using the labels "Sandworm

Team," "Telebots," "Voodoo Bear," and "Iron Viking."

The charges were announced by Assistant Attorney General John C. Demers; FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich; U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania Scott W. Brady; and Special Agents in Charge of the FBI's Atlanta, Oklahoma City, and Pittsburgh Field Offices, J.C. "Chris" Hacker, Melissa R. Godbold, and Michael A. Christman, respectively.

The defendants and their co-conspirators caused damage and disruption to computer networks worldwide, including in France, Georgia, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

NotPetya malware, for example, spread worldwide, damaged computers used in critical infrastructure, and caused enormous financial losses. Those losses were only part of the harm, however. For example, the NotPetya malware impaired Heritage Valley's provision of critical medical services to citizens of the Western District of Pennsylvania through its two hospitals, 60 offices, and 18 community satellite facilities. The attack caused the unavailability of patient lists, patient history, physical examination files, and laboratory records.

Heritage Valley lost access to its mission-critical computer systems (such as those relating to cardiology, nuclear medicine, radiology, and surgery) for approximately one week and administrative computer systems for almost one month, thereby causing a threat to public health and safety.

The conspiracy to commit computer fraud and abuse carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison; conspiracy to commit wire fraud carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; the two counts of wire fraud carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; intentional damage to a protected computer carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison; and the two counts of aggravated identity theft carry a mandatory sentence of two years in prison.

The indictment also alleges false registration of domain names, which would increase the maximum sentence of imprisonment for wire fraud to 27 years in prison; the maximum sentence of imprisonment for intentional damage to a protected computer to 17 years in prison; and the mandatory sentence of imprisonment for aggravated identity theft to four years in prison.

These maximum potential sentences are prescribed by Congress, however, and are provided here for informational purposes only, as the assigned judge will determine any sentence of a defendant.

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