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COMING NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 2 * NOVEMBER 12, 2020 - NOVEMBER 18, 2020

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BIDEN & HARRIS WIN HISTORIC ELECTION

*Joe Biden Set to Become Oldest U.S. President
Kamala Harris Set to Become First Madam Vice President*



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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Joseph Biden is our elected president, declared by the current results of the Electoral College and all the major media. This was a close election. As per the rules, the election is not fully certified until December 14, 2020 by all the state election boards. The only other way it could be official before then is if Donald Trump concedes. I do not think he will. We'll have to wait and watch the developments for a month, and after things become official, then Biden will officially be the President-Elect.

President Donald Trump has challenged the results and is suing in some of the states to investigate fraud. In the legal court system, Trump must produce evidence of fraud; otherwise, the cases will be dismissed. In the

meantime, we have no other alternative but to wait and watch.

Biden has already started the typical transition procedures, which includes appointing his transition team. Under normal conditions, the incoming president and vice president would get money for the expenses incurred for forming a transition team. However, Biden is not getting any money, as Trump has not conceded. So, Biden is collecting donations for the expenses, and he has already started to form transition teams for each department to make sure the transition is smooth for him to take over the helm of the country.

We, as Americans, must accept the judgment of the majority. Let's think about the future and leave the past behind. Biden announced on Nov. 10 his transition team leaders. This includes: Kiran Ahuja, Office of Personnel Management, Andrea Flores, Department of Homeland Security, Rahul Gupta, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Michelle Howard, Department of Defense, Justin Jackson, CIA. Monique King-Viehland, De-

partment of Housing and Urban Development, Chris Lu, Department of Labor, Pamela Melroy, NASA, Geoffrey Roth, Department of Health and Human Services, Shawn Skelly, Department of Defense, Ellen Stofan, NASA, Karen Tamley, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Department of State, Kevin Washburn, Department of Interior, Geovette Washington, Department of Commerce.

Nowadays, everyone talks about COVID, but is not using the word coronavirus much. COVID is spreading like a second wave of coronavirus. In the United States, it is over 10 million cases with a little over 241,000 deaths per the latest Johns Hopkins University count as of press time. Out of that, 10% are only in Texas, which is over 1 million cases. Texas has one death to 45 recoveries, and the second highest number of cases are in California, with a little under 1 million cases. Their death to recovery ratio is one to 28. Florida has over 850,000 cases, with a death to recovery ratio of one to 35. New York has the

fourth highest case count, at around 574,000 cases with a death to recovery ratio of one to 12.90. New Jersey is #10 with over 260,000 cases and a death to recovery ratio of one to 11.56.

How come the recovery rates in New York and New Jersey are slower than the other states? Also, in August and September, New York used to have about 400 to 500 cases a day, and New Jersey used to have about 250 to 350 cases a day. Suddenly it jumped to 3,955 and 4,251 respectively as of Nov. 11. We all must take care of ourselves and make sure we use face coverings, wash our hands frequently and keeping social distancing as necessary. Also, make sure you go out only if it is necessary. Please follow the directives of our city and state officials.

Due to the presidential election, we will publish our year in review newspaper next week on November 19, 2020.

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>
Rain Showers	Morning Rain	Clouds and Sun	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
HI 63 LO 47	HI 55 LO 41	HI 54 LO 38	HI 60 LO 47	HI 55 LO 37	HI 48 LO 32	HI 45 LO 34

BIDEN & HARRIS WIN HISTORIC ELECTION

Biden to Serve as Oldest Elected President

Harris to Serve as First Madam Vice President

(Pending any last-minute legal Hail Mary from the Trump Administration)

After days of leads, shifts, counts, and more, former Vice President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. and California Senator Kamala Devi Harris have been tentatively elected as the 46th President of the United States and 49th Vice President respectively.

Biden, who served as VP to the first African American President Barack Obama, will become only the fifth former VP to ascend to the top job. Upon his inauguration, he will be the oldest President, stepping into the Oval Office at 78 years of age.

Harris will not only become the first woman to serve as Vice President, but will also be the first person of Black / Indian / Asian / Jamaican descent to fill that post, regardless of gender. Upon her inauguration, Harris will be the highest ranked woman in the history of the U.S. Government.

Despite the apparent loss, President Donald Trump has still not conceded the election, and has launched several legal challenges, alleging fraud in the election. The lawsuits range from overseer proximity in Pennsylvania, to signature inaccuracies, improper votes from people who left a state, votes from dead people, and more.

Vice President Mike Pence has been mostly mum on the matter. However, many in Trump's inner circle, among other Republicans, have urged the President to throw in the towel and begin the traditional transition of power.

While there are many reasons for the likely Trump defeat, the

(Continued on page 13)

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NEWARK - PLEASE TAKE COVID-19 SERIOUSLY

New Restrictions Ordered in City - Particularly in Three Zip Codes

By Thomas Ellis II

Over the past month, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been spreading in Newark. Because of the city's sharp rise in the numbers, Mayor Ras J. Baraka put in place some harder orders shutting down parts of the city.

This surge in numbers shows that one in four people tested positive in one week in the East Ward. It makes it look like Newark is failing during the COVID-19 Crisis.

There are several new restrictions that are being put in place. Initially, non-essential businesses could operate to some extent, and people were able to go to some restaurants and dine in. Now, restaurants are being ordered to close at 8 pm. Last but not least, curfews have been put in place for three area codes: 07104, 07105, and 07107. This is not just for businesses, but for the residents. Everyone in those

areas must be in the house by 9 pm, unless they are coming from work.

Barbershops, salons, and similar businesses in the city are no longer allowed to have people waiting on the premises. All patrons must now have an appointment, with the business cleaning up and sanitizing after each customer. This rule applies to gyms, who must sanitize every hour on the hour before letting people use the facilities.

Newark has five wards - North, South, East, West, and Central - but it's been said that Newark is one city, not split as such. Basically, what effects one ward affects the whole city, and the residents of Newark needs to recognize that.

With Newark being the largest city in the state of New Jersey people all over are watching Newark to see how they handle this pandemic. In the beginning months, the city was shut down for several months; that included

businesses, churches, doctors' offices, and the schools. Here we are seven months later, and it looks like Newark is going backwards with the numbers going up daily.

If more people in the city would adhere to the COVID-19 prevention measures, that would help to bring the numbers down. Now, it looks like we have to flatten the curve in certain sections of the city.

Here are a few tips on how to be safe during this COVID-19 Pandemic: Wear your mask when in large crowds or shopping; Make sure your mask is clean. You cannot wear your mask for a week or two weeks without washing it - or just put on a new mask.

Try to avoid large crowds if all possible, get tested every 30 days, if you have not been tested, go get tested ASAP, wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing, and most importantly, think about not only

your safety but the safety of others, including family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and especially the elderly.

We know that the elderly are more vulnerable than others because of age, and some health conditions. So, if you're around a lot of people and not practicing preventive measures, you're more apt to spread the virus to your grandparents and other relatives, as well as friends that might have a weak immune system.

The key for Newark is to take this pandemic seriously. That way, the numbers can go down and the city can open up to 50 or 75%.

As long as we are not taking this COVID-19 crisis seriously, people will become unemployed, businesses will fold, schools will never re-open for in-service learning, and the city will never get back to normal.

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 - Joseph McCallum's voting with the majority of his Municipal Council colleagues to entrust Invest Newark with the city's land bank here Nov. 5 turned more than a few heads.

The West Ward Councilman initially joined North Ward Councilman Anibal Ramos, Jr. and at-large councilmen Carlos Gonzalez and Luis Quintana in abstaining from the authorization vote.

McCallum, an hour later, replaced his abstention with a "Yes" vote - joining Council President Mildred Crump, South Ward Councilman John Sharpe James, Central Ward Councilwoman LaMonica McIver and At Large Councilman Eddie Osborne. (East Ward Councilman Augusto Amador was absent.)

That vote change solidly passed the ordinance whereby Invest Newark will oversee properties the city has accumulated for future sale or redevelopment. Many of these properties are vacant, abandoned and/or blighted.

McCallum, however, was the council's representative on Invest Newark's board of directors when it was the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation. He has since been succeeded by McIver.

The councilman has been accused of using his NCEDC board place to obtain and conceal contract bribes and kickbacks. He has been indicted Oct. 20 by a federal grand jury on wire fraud.

Public speaker Lisa Parker

asked the council Nov. 5 why Invest Newark should be made "to make them stewards over anything when clearly there've been indictments associated with this." Invest Newark CEO Bernel Hall had said that the agency is not associated with the accused wrongdoing and is cooperating with the U.S. Department of Justice.

IRVINGTON - Having at least one bus driver who knows township streets proved valuable for riders aboard NJTransit's northbound No. 90 route here Nov. 10.

A "Local Talk" reporter and six other riders who boarded NABI Bus No. 5946 at 10:33 a.m. Tuesday looked up when its driver kept going east on Springfield Avenue instead of turning north onto Grove Street/Essex County Road No. 509.

Those who looked northward on Grove then would have seen its northbound lane marked off by a presumptive telecommunication contractor. By "presumptive," a New Jersey State Police trooper and cruiser, usually dispatched to oversee fiber optical or copper cable work, were present.

"We're making a detour," announced the driver. "They usually tell me before leaving (the Hilton garage) but they didn't with this one. I called this in when I first saw it. I'm from the area."

The bus operator, who was starting his third round trip of the morning, turned north onto 22nd Street and west onto 19th Avenue before rejoining Grove Street. The diversion covered six blocks.

Details on the utility work, beyond that southbound Grove Street was unaffected, remains scarce. NJTransit.com did not have an alert on it as of Noon Nov. 10. A call was placed to the county Division of Roads and Bridges.

EAST ORANGE - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and city Public Safety Director Domingos Saldida said they have a suspect

under arrest Nov. 10 from a fatal Nov. 6 car crash here.

Christian Brown, 39, of West Orange, said Stephens and Saldida, was arrested and charged with vehicular homicide and operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license earlier that Tuesday.

Brown is accused of driving a car that ran into three others at Park Avenue and North 18th Street 6:30 a.m. Nov. 6.

The collisions left the driver of one car - John K. Williams, 59, of East Orange - entrapped. Williams, a close friend of Orange Councilman Weldon Monty Montague III, later died of his injuries.

Traffic, including NJTransit No. 41 buses, were detoured during the police rescue and field investigation.

Williams' funeral arrangements were not disclosed. Brown has reportedly been remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility.

ORANGE / BLOOMFIELD - City police officers found a vehicle reportedly involved in a shooting with Bloomfield police Nov. 9 - but not before the suspected driver had fled into Newark.

OPD officers said they had found a silver four door late model SUV abandoned on Scotland Road by Argyle Avenue, after 2:15 p.m. Monday The intersection was taped off, diverting NJTransit No. 92 buses and other traffic, while searching the area for its two occupants.

The SUV's description matched that of one reported as involved in an East Orange felony - and one which struck two Bloomfield police officers in front of a Bloomfield Avenue car dealership just after 1:49 p.m.

"At 1:46 p.m. our ALPR system alerted our PD of a wanted felony vehicle out of East Orange traveling west on Bloomfield Avenue from Ampere Parkway," said Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia Monday night. "Officers observed the vehicle stopped in traffic on Bloomfield Avenue at Orange Street. They

approached on foot and pleaded with the driver in the locked vehicle to exit."

The driver, said Venezia, began to accelerate first into a civilian car, then a police cruiser before turning onto the officers. Police fired on the SUV before it fled onto Orange Street. The five-shot shootout caused avenue traffic to be stopped and diverted; a police helicopter was deployed to trace the SUV.

A man - later identified as Jeffrey Sutton, 37 - had walked into Newark's University Hospital at 3:50 p.m. with an arm bleeding from a bullet wound. Authorities who caught up with Sutton has since arrested him in the hospital on aggravated assault, possession of a weapon and eluding police charges.

WEST ORANGE - The township's public school system remains in an all virtual learning mode while a second elementary school is being cleaned of COVID-19 and cases found in West Orange High School and a middle school are being traced.

The Kelly Elementary School, said WBOE Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. Scott Cascone, has been closed Nov. 9-23. It will remain closed until its sanitation has been completed but with continuing mobile food pickups in its parking lot.

The Pleasantdale section school had been closed after two COVID case had been confirmed.

Cascone, however on Sunday, announced a third positive Coronavirus test in the Kelly school - plus "one individual at Liberty Middle School and two individuals at WOHS."

WOBOE now has had four schools and five overall facilities temporarily shuttered for Coronavirus sanitation.

The Washington School, in the Tory Corner section, was closed for cleaning until Oct. 21. The district's entire Transportation Department was similarly closed until Oct. 23.

SOUTH ORANGE - Police detectives have been looking for

(Continued on page 14)

PFIZER & BIONTECH ANNOUNCE MAJOR COVID-19 VACCINE BREAKTHROUGH

NEW YORK & MAINZ, GERMANY - On Nov. 9, Pfizer Inc. (NYSE: PFE) and BioNTech SE (Nasdaq: BNTX) announced their mRNA-based vaccine candidate, BNT162b2, against SARS-CoV-2 has demonstrated evidence of efficacy against COVID-19 in participants without prior evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection, based on the first interim efficacy analysis conducted on November 8, 2020 by an external, independent Data Monitoring Committee (DMC) from the Phase 3 clinical study.

“Today is a great day for science and humanity. The first set of results from our Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine’s ability to prevent COVID-19,” said Dr. Albert Bourla, Pfizer Chairman and CEO. “We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most with infection rates setting new records, hospitals nearing overcapacity and economies struggling to reopen. With today’s news, we are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis. We look forward to sharing additional efficacy and safety data generated from thousands of participants in the coming weeks.”

After discussion with the FDA, the companies recently elected to drop the 32-case interim analysis and conduct the first interim analysis at a minimum of 62 cases. Upon the conclusion of those discussions, the evaluable

case count reached 94 and the DMC performed its first analysis on all cases. The case split between vaccinated individuals and those who received the placebo indicates a vaccine efficacy rate above 90%, at 7 days after the second dose.

This means that protection is achieved 28 days after the initiation of the vaccination, which consists of a 2-dose schedule. As the study continues, the final vaccine efficacy percentage may vary. The DMC has not reported any serious safety concerns and recommends that the study continue to collect additional safety and efficacy data as planned. The data will be discussed with regulatory authorities worldwide.

“I want to thank the thousands of people who volunteered to participate in the clinical trial, our academic collaborators and investigators at the study sites, and our colleagues and collaborators around the world who are dedicating their time to this crucial endeavor,” added Bourla. “We could not have come this far without the tremendous commitment of everyone involved.”

“The first interim analysis of our global Phase 3 study provides evidence that a vaccine may effectively prevent COVID-19. This is a victory for innovation, science and a global collaborative effort,” said Prof. Ugur Sahin, BioNTech co-founder and CEO. “When we embarked on this journey 10 months ago this is what we aspired to achieve. Especially today, while we are all in the midst of a second wave and many of us in lockdown, we appreciate even more how important this milestone is on our



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path towards ending this pandemic and for all of us to regain a sense of normality. We will continue to collect further data as the trial continues to enroll for a final analysis planned when a total of 164 confirmed COVID-19 cases have accrued. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to make this important achievement possible.”

The Phase 3 clinical trial of BNT162b2 began on July 27 and has enrolled 43,538 participants to date, 38,955 of whom have received a second dose of the vaccine candidate as of November 8, 2020. Approximately 42% of global participants and 30% of U.S. participants have racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. The trial is continuing to enroll and is expected to continue through the final analysis when a total of 164 confirmed COVID-19 cases have accrued. The study also will evaluate the potential for the vaccine candidate to provide protection against COVID-19 in those who have had prior exposure to SARS-CoV-2, as well as vaccine prevention against severe COVID-19 disease.

In addition to the primary efficacy endpoints evaluating confirmed COVID-19 cases accruing from 7 days after the second dose, the final analysis now will include, with the approval of the FDA, new secondary endpoints evaluating efficacy based on cases accruing 14 days after the second dose as well. The

companies believe that the addition of these secondary endpoints will help align data across all COVID-19 vaccine studies and allow for cross-trial learnings and comparisons between these novel vaccine platforms. The companies have posted an updated version of the study protocol at <https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus>.

Pfizer and BioNTech are continuing to accumulate safety data and currently estimate that a median of two months of safety data following the second (and final) dose of the vaccine candidate - the amount of safety data specified by the FDA in its guidance for potential Emergency Use Authorization - will be available by the third week of November. Additionally, participants will continue to be monitored for long-term protection and safety for an additional two years after their second dose.

Along with the efficacy data generated from the clinical trial, Pfizer and BioNTech are working to prepare the necessary safety and manufacturing data to submit to the FDA to demonstrate the safety and quality of the vaccine product produced.

Based on current projections we expect to produce globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021.

Pfizer and BioNTech plan to submit data from the full Phase 3 trial for scientific peer-review publication.



UNITED STATES

IRS Issues Scam Warning

The Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and the tax industry today warned of a new text scam created by thieves that trick people into disclosing bank account information under the guise of receiving the \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment.

The IRS, states and industry, working together as the Security Summit, remind taxpayers that neither the IRS nor state agencies will ever text taxpayers asking for bank account information so that an EIP deposit may be made.

"Criminals are relentlessly using COVID-19 and Economic Impact Payments as cover to try to trick taxpayers out of their money or identities," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "This scam is a new twist on those we've been seeing much of this year. We urge people to remain alert to these types of scams."

The scam text message states: "You have received a direct deposit of \$1,200 from COVID-19 TREAS FUND. Further action is required to accept this payment into your account. Continue here to accept this payment..." The text includes a link to a fake phishing web address.

This fake phishing URL, which appears to come from a state agency or relief organization, takes recipients to a fraudulent website that impersonates the IRS.gov Get My Payment website. Individuals who visit the fraudulent website and then enter their personal and financial account information will have their information collected by these scammers.

People who receive this text scam should take a screen shot of the text message that they received and then include the

screenshot in an email to phishing@irs.gov with the following information:

- Date/Time/Timezone that they received the text message
- The number that appeared on their Caller ID
- The number that received the text message

The IRS does not send unsolicited texts or emails. The IRS does not call people with threats of jail or lawsuits, nor does it demand tax payments on gift cards.

People who believe they are eligible for the Economic Impact Payment should go directly to IRS.gov. People who do not have a filing requirement but who are eligible for EIP can use a non-filers tool on IRS.gov until November 21 to claim their payment.

EUROPE

Tracking Stolen Cars

An international operation supported by INTERPOL has highlighted the scale of motor vehicle crime in Europe, including the smuggling of stolen vehicles, spare parts and document fraud.

The two-week (October 12 - 23) Operation Mobile 3 was undertaken in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), as part of the Joint Action Day (JAD) Mobile initiative led by Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

Experts from INTERPOL's Stolen Motor Vehicle unit were deployed to the Coordination Centre at Frontex headquarters in Warsaw, Poland, to help officers from participating countries exchange, analyze and act on operational data.

INTERPOL supported the operation by crosschecking in real time the information collected in the field against its international databases, with Europol also supporting the operation remotely.

Involving checks at border

crossing points and in-land activities in 16 EU countries and five countries in the Balkan region, the international operation resulted in the following:

- 44,000 checks against motor vehicles, with the authorities detecting 352 stolen vehicles and 1,077 stolen vehicle parts on lorries and in chop shops, leading to new investigations against criminal gangs involved in car crime.
- The arrest of 17 suspected people smugglers. The smugglers were allegedly transporting the migrants via land routes in trailers, as well on small boats, often stolen ones, via the Adriatic Sea.
- Dozens of forged or falsified ID documents and vehicles documents were also discovered.
- The seizure of illegal drugs and arrests of suspected drug smugglers. In Portugal, Policia de Seguranca Publica arrested six people with a ton of Marijuana and 10 kg of heroin. Spain's Guardia Civil seized 666 kg of hashish and arrested 22 suspected drug smugglers. Latvian authorities also detected 400,000 illegal cigarettes during the operation.
- In Greece, the police seized 15 rental cars which suspected criminals attempted to smuggle out of the European Union.

The operation facilitated crucial information-gathering and analysis, in order to detect potential links to transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and migrant smuggling.

It also allowed European officers to establish a stronger law enforcement network and to familiarize themselves with INTERPOL's Stolen Motor Vehicles database, which contains 7.4 million records.

"Organized crime groups use stolen vehicles to generate profits and facilitate other crimes such as people smuggling and drug trafficking," said Matthias Marth, Criminal Intelligence Officer with INTERPOL's Stolen Motor Vehicle unit.

"INTERPOL's involvement in this initiative underlines our continuous commitment to supporting our European partners in their actions."

AFRICA

Another Contentious Election

"The United States is not the only nation on the planet dealing with a tense and unruly election.

In a statement, High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said that she had been disturbed by reports of continued intimidation and harassment against leaders and members of the opposition.

She also called for the immediate release of those detained for exercising their human rights.

"The tense situation in the country will not be defused by silencing those who challenge the outcome of the elections, but rather through a participatory dialogue", Ms. Bachelet said, before urging the Tanzanian authorities "to respect and facilitate exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly."

Ms. Bachelet highlighted reports that following vote-casting in the east African nation last month, at least 150 opposition leaders and members had been arrested in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

While most have been subsequently released, at least 18 reportedly remain in custody, the UN rights chief said.

Ms. Bachelet also noted that ahead of the arrests, police officials announced that they would not allow protests to go ahead. They cited allegation of "plans to cause chaos", the High Commissioner said, adding that they threatened to use force and detain anyone taking part in demonstrations.

Under international law, there is a presumption in favor of considering assemblies to be peaceful, the High Commissioner stressed.

She called on the Government of Tanzania to ensure that

(Continued on page 7)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

security forces and law enforcement officials act according to the rule of law and human rights norms and standards.

The developments follow reported pre-election intimidation and harassment of civil society organizations and journalists, as well as allegations of police brutality against opposition members and their supporters on the day of the election.

Ms. Bachelet also called for prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of human rights violations before, during and after the polls.

In particular, she urged action to investigate the killing of at least 10 people and the injuries sustained by more than 50 others in Zanzibar on October 26 - two days before the vote.

The High Commissioner also expressed concern at internet restrictions - including the blocking of social media and messaging platforms - and the censoring of election-related content.

ASIA

Activist in Dire Straits

The deteriorating health of Saudi women's rights activist Loujain Al-Hathloul is "deeply alarming," UN-appointed rights experts said on Nov. 4, calling for her release along with "all other women human rights defenders in detention."

In a statement underscoring the need for Ms. Al-Hathloul's urgent release, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) stressed the importance of all women human rights defenders, saying that they "bring voices from the ground and invaluable insights."

Ms. Al-Hathloul had, for several years, been promoting women's rights in her country, including campaigns calling for women to be allowed to drive and an end to male guardianship.

In February 2018, during its

periodic reports on Saudi Arabia, she shared valuable input with CEDAW.

That May, the Saudi activist was arrested and detained on national security grounds, reportedly in circumstances that amounted to arbitrary arrest and detention. Her charges were in part based on her testimony to the Committee.

Although the Kingdom assured CEDAW in February 2020 that Ms. Al-Hathloul's trial hearing would take place in March, it has been postponed several times and has yet to take place.

Against this backdrop, on the second anniversary of her detention, the UN rights experts recalled its statement of 27 February calling on Saudi Arabia "to ensure her right to a fair trial without further delay, with full respect for the procedural guarantees established by international human rights law, and free from gender bias."

CEDAW also expressed alarm over the conditions of Ms. Al-Hathloul's prolonged detention, which had prompted her on October 26 to start a hunger strike in protest.

Unlike other detainees, and contrary to the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners, the Saudi activist is "not allowed to have regular contact with her family nor to exercise activities, according to reports received," they flagged.

"We, the Committee experts, are gravely concerned about Ms. Al-Hathloul's physical and mental health and well-being particularly in light of her hunger strike," they spelled out.

The Committee appealed to His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to use his royal prerogative powers to Ms. Loujain Al-Hathloul from detention, who "has been unduly prolonged."

"We urge the Saudi authorities to protect her rights to life, health, and liberty and security of person at all times, while fully respecting her freedoms of conscience and expression, including by going on hunger strike," the statement concluded.

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As our Community is impacted by another wave of COVID-19, the Heart Center of the Oranges is here to safely assist our patients. We encourage patients to take advantage of our Telemedicine visits to prevent the spread of the virus. We encourage everyone to come in for the flu shot as soon as possible – *Dr. Rajiyah*



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From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Running The Race

The nearly completed election cycle here in the United States, as many individuals would say, has been a hard-fought race. In the varied levels of the race, a great number of individuals entered. Some lost out on the first round in the primaries, but others persisted a while longer.

Thirty presidential hopefuls entered the race on the Democratic side, but only President-Elect Biden got to the finish line. He selected Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, one of his competitors in the primary, as his running mate. Together, they could be declared victorious.

Of note is that apart from President Trump and Vice President Biden, 1,214 other candidates ran for president. They ran outside the representation of the two major parties. While the current president and the president-elect ran as party standard-bearers and recited what is contained in their party platforms, many others ran on their interests. Some ran on a single issue; they wanted to get legalization of cannabis. Others were against abortion, while others were interested in a single aspect of social justice.

In contrast, others ran just for the sake of running. Some ran to get the attention, making it clear to their neighbors that they could run. One person registered in two states and asked that people would write her name in 38 states. From the analysis given, some who ran came by some extra money and used it to run. Some ran to say, "I ran." They ran just for the sake of running - To say to the neighbors, "I ran" - Just getting a little community attention.

The cost estimates of the amount of money spent in this 2020 election cycle are between \$11 billion and \$14 billion. It is not over as yet. In thinking of the amount of money spent, the words of the prophet Ezekiel

come to mind. "They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be treated as a thing unclean. Their silver and gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath. It will not satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs, for it has caused them to stumble into sin." (Ezekiel 7:19 NIV)

The amount of money spent in the elections did not always correspond with whether one won or lost. I wish I could linger, further, on the significance of what is being said by the prophet, but let's keep the focus on the election race, a little while, yet.

For example, the coronavirus upended the model of the election race. It made it nearly impossible for people to gather in large groups, at least on the one side. While President-Elect Joe Biden was hunkered down in his house or a hotel room in Delaware, there was a different reality from the other side. The critique might be very harsh, but it is being said, the stubbornness, recklessness, and recalcitrance of President Donald Trump allowed him to hold "super spreader rallies" throughout various states.

Now the country is facing a cruel reality of an upsurge in the COVID-19 cases and deaths, which are in part due to the rallies. The issue here is not whether Mr. Biden won or Mr. Trump lost; the point takes note of the fact that the discipline and care that was taken on the one side was not observed on the other side. In terms of the spread of the coronavirus and its relationship to the race, the whole country is suffering losses.

Yes, winning and losing is part of the game of elections. Polls, ratings, caucuses, primaries, facts, fiction, are all used to motivate people to go out and vote. After the polls closed on election day, the votes were counted, and a winner has been declared. As is being played out before our eyes, accepting defeat and bowing out gracefully is not satisfactory to everyone. As President Trump and many of his supporters are declaring, the results need to be contested in the courts. The honesty of many election supervisors is being questioned by Mr. Trump and some who support him.

Apart from the above, there

are many practical lessons that we might learn from watching the election race. Here are seven things that I mention:

1. Keeping focused - What is the purpose of running? With all of the conspiracy theories that were being peddled, it was easy to get distracted.
2. There is a high cost of getting distracted. While in the race, Mr. Cunningham of North Carolina permitted his mind and fingers to wonder, by sexting. A race that he probably could have won spiraled in the other direction. He lost.
3. Perseverance pays.
4. Patience wins.
5. Determination leads to success - Mr. Biden lost three state primaries before won the first in South Carolina. From there, it was the victory of capturing the presidency.
6. Dedication makes for effectiveness - Those who won or lost - the sacrifices they made, the times spent on the road, the loss of sleep, go to their credit.
7. Discipline - The most significant difference in some of the campaigns between winning and losing was discipline. Could campaigners stay on message? Could they get their staff not to stick by the script? Could they hunker down when they needed to? A variety of questions might be asked here.

You might find where I now turn a surprise, but my interest is not to speak so much of the race concerning the election, as much, I want to ask you to reflect, as the biblical authors have done, on the race that is set before every person born on the planet. We are all in a race. Are you aware?

This is what the authors in First and Second Testaments have said. In biblical times, people would run as they carried messages from city to city. Some of the prophets would run around the cities as they warned about the threats of danger or the coming disasters. Then, there were competitive races for maintaining health, most prominently reflected in the Greek Marathon. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul encouraged Christians to

learn a lesson from the Marathon runners.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, he says: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

In writing to the Galatians, the same apostle states: "You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?" (Galatians 5:7)

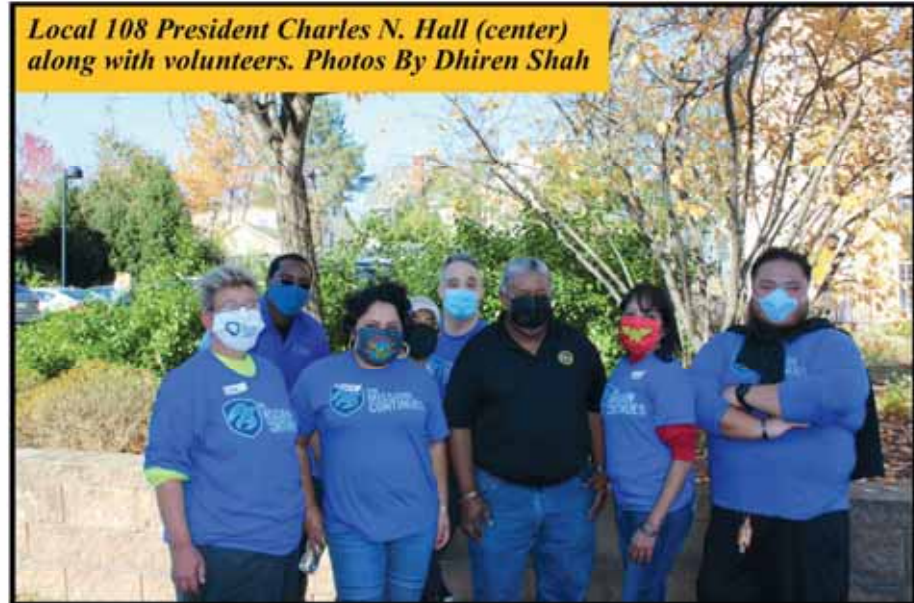
In the book of Hebrews 12:1, which some Bible scholars attribute to the same apostle, we find the following: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

I am arguing that we can learn a lot of lessons from the election race or the marathon race or any regular race for our spiritual journey. All in all, it is about winning. On our earthly pilgrimage, we want to win, which is the sign of success. Of course, sometimes we lose, and we need to learn many lessons from losing. Among them is the need to accept our losses with humility and grace. But we should not want to lose on our spiritual journey.

We need to understand that on the spiritual journey, we all have a chance to win. It is up to us whether we are willing to do due diligence. As the apostle James says, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)

I hope that you will enter the race, stay in the race, and win.

AAHPO, LOCAL 108 RWDSU, LOCAL TALK & MORE PARTNERS TEAM UP TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY



Local 108 President Charles N. Hall (center) along with volunteers. Photos By Dhiren Shah



Resources like free flu shots were also available to the public.

By Walter Elliott

MAPLEWOOD - Local 108 Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Local Talk, and 25 other partners have more than held their second food distribution here at 1574-76 Springfield Ave. Nov. 7.

Those who had been at the

tests. Eye and glaucoma exams were also available there.

Two people were waiting in folding chairs by the tents across the lot for COVID/antibody tests - courtesy of Salerno Medical - and "while they last" flu shots from Walgreens.

There were also Essex County personnel who gave out em-

Members of Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 53, of Rutherford, brought fresh-baked bread. Bimbo Bakeries USA brought an additional 400 loaves from their South Kearny plant.

The groceries, instead Saturday, were found on three tables in the union's front lot. Some 300

One gained access to the bags 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday by being given a numbered ticket by one volunteer - and surrendering that ticket to another volunteer by the food bag table.

That second volunteer was there for more to make sure recipients get the two bags limit. That person provided an extra set



first grocery distribution here on May 20 and who came back for the "Harvest Essential Grocery Giveaway" here 11 a.m. Saturday could see the difference almost a block away.

The Maplewood Police Department had placed traffic cones to close some nearby parking lots so "drive-in" recipients can park their cars in other adjacent lots.

"Local Talk" noticed four tents on Local 108's own east side lot.

One tent, staffed by University Hospital personnel, were conducting "while you wait" voluntary blood pressure and glucose

employment and training information.

The lots and union building teemed with 55 adult volunteers, including members from Mu Sigma Upsilon's Aretias and Brother chapters, Newark's Humanity Baptist Church, "Veterans Organization Mission Continues" of Bloomfield and Local 108 RWDSU. Some brought their children to assist.

The tents replaced May 20's two tables where Local 108 officials and volunteers received tickets and gave out open carton boxes of food.



reusable Shop-Rite bags populating those tables with another 200 in reserve.

"Local Talk" saw some of those bags being filled by 13 union members and volunteers within the Local's offices late Nov. 5. 200 of those bags, already filled, occupied every table, desk and flat surface.

"Local Talk" also saw the tents going up on the east lot Friday. The cars normally found parked there and up front had been redirected onto the adjacent Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' eastern and western lots.

of arms, if needed, to help carrying bags to their cars and/or repackaging them for their shopping arts or for walking to the nearest bus stop.

Those who have become jaded by government cheese blocks, "off-brand" goods and food whose marketing have failed would have been pleasantly surprised with the bags' contents.

Recipients received brand-named canned and packaged goods, bagged or canned grain and cooking oil. Fresh fruit and vegetables, received overnight, were in smaller plastic bags.

(Cont. on Page 15)

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

COVID-19: What Schools In New Jersey And Around The World Are Doing

It's been what, eight, nine months now? Of course, I'm talking about the pandemic. The one that has led to the death of close to 1.3 million people, with about over 238,000 of them coming from the United States (as of this writing).

The coronavirus has shut down the world. And you know that's not an exaggeration. The virus has affected virtually everyone on the planet in one way or the other. The economy of nations took, and is still taking, a hit, travel plans were binned, sports came to a standstill, and our focus today, education, has changed over the last few months.

It started with total lockdown, then governments of nations all over the world became more flexible and eased lockdown restrictions, causing many schools to reach some sort of middle ground between operating remotely and in-person. Eventually, schools opened fully in many parts of the world, and, of course, on the premise that students follow COVID-19 guidelines.

The tricky part about reopening schools is how easy the virus can be transmitted among kids and teenagers. I mean, have you ever been to a kindergarten class before? There are lots of spitting and runny noses. In simple terms, bodily fluids

aren't particularly hard to find in schools, especially in lower grades. However, no one knows the exact time a cure will be developed, and schools cannot just remain shut. Speaking of which, there's good news. A coronavirus vaccine, developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, has proven to be 90% effective. In fact, that's not just good news; it's great news. Sorry for the digression, but I just had to mention it.

Back to what we were discussing. Education officers and health officials also know how problematic an outbreak of the coronavirus will be in schools, so reopening guidelines are understandably strict. Many countries in the world have reopened for in-person learning. Majority of the countries to fully reopen schools have a relatively low number of daily coronavirus cases. The infection rate has also steadied and reduced in many of those countries, unlike in the US where... you know what, I'd rather not dampen your mood with the US now. We'll get there later.

Many Asian countries, like South Korea and Vietnam, reopened schools as far back as May. Others, like Sri Lanka, followed suit in July. Right now, schools in many Asian countries are open in some sort of way. Countries like The Philippines are open but only for remote learning. Everything is done virtually there. Even though India is one of the hotspots of the virus, some schools are still open, albeit from 9 am to 12 pm. Students in open schools have to wear masks, socially distance, and follow other coronavirus guidelines.

Across Europe, many schools have already reopened. Schools in countries like Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Russia, Spain, Hungary, Italy, etc. are open. It is worth noting, though, that in many regions of these countries, learning is remote. There are certainly plenty of online lectures in European countries. And in some countries, like the UK, where cases keep increasing, nationwide restrictions have also affected schools reopening.

The cases in Africa are far less than in other parts of the world. Take, for example, Nigeria, with a population of about 200 million. The average daily cases over the last week is 166. That's the daily COVID-19 deaths in some countries. Some scientists attribute the age and climate of African countries to low cases. With that said, it comes as very little surprise that many African countries have reopened schools.

Like Brazil, many South American countries are very careful about reopening schools because the situation there is also very delicate. Many high school classes in Argentina take place outdoors in large open spaces, with students socially distanced and masked.

Now, to the US. Well, what can I say? The US was once the epicenter of the virus. We have close to 240,000 deaths. And the numbers just keep increasing. Like, we are nine months into the pandemic, and we are recording record daily cases and deaths. That's disheartening. New Jersey, some days ago, hit a six-month high in cases.

This comes as very bad news because many schools were already open or planning to resume fully. Now, many counties and districts, like Cherry Hill, Westfield, Keyport, Phillipsburg, Passaic County, have shelved reopening plans for the time being. Some schools have gone virtual, while some are operating in some sort of hybrid model, where learning is not entirely virtual.

For schools that have not gone virtual, NJ has banned interstate sporting events. Schools within the state are still free to play each other, but not from other states. Other interstate tournaments and events between schools, especially around Thanksgiving and Christmas, have also been banned. NJ schools are obviously trying their best to control the virus and, at the same time, continue normal school activities. According to a poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University, 68% of people that participated in the poll believed the schools have done a good or very good job.

Let's hope the coronavirus vaccine is ready soon. However, pending that time, let's wear a mask, socially distance, and wash our hands regularly. The finish line is near. For the first time in nine months, I can say we are close. We are very close. Stay safe.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.

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BIDEN & HARRIS WIN HISTORIC ELECTION

(Continued from page 3)

biggest one had to be his handling of the coronavirus. In addition to the President, First Lady Melania, and son Barron, news has now come that White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Trump Cabinet member Ben Carson have also tested positive for COVID-19.

The final tallies are not in yet, but what is known is that the Biden-Harris ticket has amassed more vote than any other in history, at close to 76 million as of this posting. That is over 50% of the popular vote, compared to Trump and Pence's roughly 71 million, or 47%. Biden and Harris also have well over the minimum 270 electoral votes needed for election with at least 290, with the potential to end up with 306, mirroring the total garnered by the Trump-Pence ticket in 2016.

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from Nov. 4 - Nov. 11, 2020

Municipality	11-4-2020	Deaths	11-11-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1480	67	1630	68
Bloomfield	1509	69	1651	70
Caldwell	162	11	173	11
Cedar Grove	538	114	559	114
East Orange	2341	233	2504	234
Essex Fells	46	2	50	2
Fairfield	220	17	244	18
Glen Ridge	59	9	65	9
Irvington	1808	162	1882	165
Livingston	657	71	702	72
Maplewood	416	27	443	27
Millburn	208	6	230	6
Montclair	622	52	690	52
Newark	11404	672	12726	680
North Caldwell	86	4	89	4
Nutley	715	36	773	36
Orange	1271	93	1352	93
Roseland	128	14	136	14
South Orange	166	5	183	5
Verona	215	14	234	14
West Caldwell	344	49	358	50
West Orange	1633	186	1754	188
Total	26028	1913	28428	1932

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 11-11-2020)

NJ: 263,495 cases / 14,676 deaths (Plus 1,800 probable)

United States (approx.): 10.36 Million / 241,000 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 51.92 Million / 1.28 Million deaths

Due to a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases, several measures have been implemented. In Newark, nonessential businesses will be required to close at 8 pm, and a curfew has been enacted in zip codes 07104, 07105, and 07107, with a few exceptions which include the airport.

In New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy has ordered that all restaurants and bars close at 10 pm.

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

This week in the sports world, the good news is that New York football teams are undefeated against teams without names. The bad news is they're winless against everyone else.

The New York Giants went on the road and slipped by the Washington Football Team 23-20, winning the season series. For the first time, QB Daniel Jones did not turn over the ball. East Orange native Jabrill Peppers was a key player on defense, shutting down Washington's offense. Big Blue will play the Eagles this weekend, still with a shot to win the woeful NFC East.

On the other hand, the New York Jets are still winless, losing at home to the New England Patriots 30-27. Former Jet kicker Nick Folk was the difference, hitting a 51-yard FG as time expired.

In college football action, the Rutgers Scarlet Knights took a tough 49-27 loss at #3 Ohio State. Still, this is far better than previous performances against the Buckeyes. Also, #4 Notre Dame beat #1 Clemson in a 47-40 double overtime classic. Now, Alabama sits atop the rankings.

The abbreviated New Jersey High School Football Season is winding down. West Side High School defeated Shabazz 54-14. Davion Sheppard went 9-14 passing for 146 yards in the win. The Orange Tornadoes defeated Belleville 23-14.

In other Essex County action, the East Orange Jaguars are now 4-2 on the season, coming off a tough loss to Ramapo 27-6. Irvington defeated Montclair 37-0, improving to 5-1 on the season. Finally, West Orange who won a conference championship this past weekend, with a 49-0 rout over Barringer. The Mountaineers are now 5-1 on the season.

There is a special playoff system to cap off the high school football season. However, that is up in the air due to spread of COVID-19. At the moment, the games have not been cancelled. However, NJ Governor Phil Murphy has put a halt on all to indoor interstate sports for Elementary Middle and High School students - but not college or professional sports or outdoor youth sports. Also, sports in Newark schools are on hold, as Mayor Ras Baraka has expanded restrictions due to the virus.

TOWN WATCH*(Continued from page 4)*

the driver for an officer hit-and-run since Oct. 22.

Police Chief Kyle Kroll said that one of his officers was patrolling Sloan Street when he noticed "a stolen vehicle parked and unoccupied," at about 3 p.m. Then the officer approached after watching a man enter the car's driver's side.

"The driver abruptly put the car into reverse," said Kroll, "narrowly striking the officer and smashing into the marked patrol unit" and "fled the scene."

SOPD detectives found the suspect's image on a street camera before he entered the car. He is shown as an African or African-American man who wears a goatee, white ear buds, a blue jean jacket and a white t-shirt. He was holding a personal electronic device in the picture.

MAPLEWOOD - A township resident has been back home here since answering charges of cyberstalking and harassment lodged against him in a Brooklyn federal court Oct. 22.

Ken Kurson, 52, had pleaded not guilty to the charges and paid a \$10,000 bail bond after surrendering to authorities. U.S. Magistrate Judge Ramos Reyes issued a no contact order between Kurson and the three complainants.

The 17-page U.S. Department of Justice complaint accuses Kurson of a harassment campaign against a Mount Sinai Hospital doctor and two others November-December 2017.

The campaign included installing spyware to trace one victim's keystrokes, filing false Yelp reviews and misconduct charges against the doctor and hanging up when a victim answers his phone calls.

Federal prosecutors said that Kurson had filed the false reports as "Eddie Train" or "Jayden Wagner." They said Kurson targeted the three after he and his wife had divorced.

Complaints against Kurson surfaced during a 2018 background check. He had been of-

ferred by President Donald Trump's administration a job with the National Endowment of the Humanities; Kurson withdrew himself from consideration.

Kurson was the "New York Observer" editor January 2013-May 2017 under Jared Kushner's ownership. Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, owned the newspaper and website from 2003 until he put it into a trust over the 2016-17 winter. Kurson also ran for State Assemblyman in the 34th District, while as a Montclair resident and a Republican, in 2008.

MONTCLAIR - Montclair High School's next principal, a familiar face in the district, may be a Nov. 16 Board of Education confirmation from securing his next job.

Montclair Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jonathon Ponds has so appointed Edgemont Montessori School Principal Jeffrey Freeman Nov. 10. Freeman's appointment and pending BOE confirmation allows the latest interim principal, Eileen Gilbert, to return to her Assistant Principal position.

Freeman, before he was made Edgemont principal June 30, 2019, was last in MHS 2013-18. He was the Center for Social Justice Small Learning Community's lead teacher. Freeman's work with the Restorative Justice Initiative was recognized with a promotion to MHS Assistant Principal.

The Montclair State University double bachelor in English and secondary education was first brought to MHS as an English teacher in 1999. He attained, in between, an education administration master's degree from the University of Scranton.

Freeman would become MHS' second principal since James Earle ended his longtime tenure in 2018. Anthony Grasso left July 1 to become Cedar Grove's superintendent. Terry Trigg-Scales was interim principal until her contract expired Oct. 30.

COVID Closes School

Dr. Ponds announced, on Nov. 9, that the Nishuane School will be closed for COVID sanitation this week, with a projected Nov. 16 reopening. The closure and cleaning were due to a staff member testing positive late last week.

"Close contacts within the school have been notified and are in quarantine," said Ponds. "This period will be over before schools are scheduled for hybrid opening Nov. 16."

GLEN RIDGE - A borough resident recently told reporters that she had received a call from Joseph R. Biden.

Alice Roberts told CNN "New Day" host John Brennan Oct. 22 that she had received the call from then-Democratic Presidential Candidate Biden. Roberts is the widow of GRPD Sgt. Charles "Rob" Roberts, 45, who had lost his battle against COVID-19 complications here May 11.

"There's not a lot of highlights in my days," said Roberts, "and that was definitely a highlight. He is the kind, caring guy . . . and that's what we need right now in the White House."

The now-presumptive President-Elect, said Roberts, had called her at 11 p.m. local time. Their conversation had lasted 20 minutes.

"It was, honestly, like talking with a friend," said Roberts.

Roberts may have attracted Biden and New Day after she had a guest editorial published in a statewide publication Oct. 20. Her column complained of President Donald J. Trump of "ignoring (the pandemic), downplaying it and pointing fingers."

BELLEVILLE - A rise in COVID cases have more than closed two of the township's public schools. Indeed, it may affect how the Township Council conducts its public meetings for at least the near future.

Belleville Public Schools Superintendent Richard Tomko announced here Nov. 9 that both Belleville High School and

School 7 will be closed and will not reopen until Nov. 16. (Details on the cases were not made available as of Nov. 10.)

Closing BHS left the Township Councils and officials with no choice but canceling its scheduled 6 p.m. Nov. 10 public meeting in its auditorium.

"The closing of the school does not leave the township with enough time to properly publish a change of venue notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act or move it to a virtual meeting," declared a Monday township website notice. "There's also not enough time to legally notice a rescheduling notice before the next regularly scheduled meeting."

Belleville Township Council's next scheduled meeting, including the put off Nov. 10 agenda, is set for 6 p.m. Nov. 24. That meeting, for the first time since the public was welcomed back to the council chamber gallery or BHS auditorium last month, may become virtual-only again.

"Belleville Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo is recommending that all meetings, going forward," concluded the township statement, "should be held via virtual technology for the health and safety of all residents and meeting participants."

NUTLEY - Township public high and middle school students and parents are to cross off Nov. 16 as the return to in-person learning. Students in Grades 7-12 are to continue the hybrid learning schedule until Nov. 30, when they are to switch to all-virtual learning.

That is the announcement Nutley Public Schools Interim Superintendent Dr. Julie Glazer posted here Nov. 10. Glazer's word came after a special Board of Education meeting held the night before.

The board arrived at the postponement in light of increasing COVID infection rates statewide.

Wednesday community meal distribution from the Lincoln School lot was scheduled to resume 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nov. 11.



Local 108 President Charles N. Hall (right) and his team, who worked for weeks to put the event together. Photos Courtesy Local 108

LOCAL 108 RWDSU, LOCAL TALK AND PARTNERS TEAM UP TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 11)

Each bag included a \$10 City Supermarkets voucher for eggs and/or dairy products.

The food quality is another indication of the professionalism Local 108 RWDSU President Charles N. Hall, Jr. and the part-

Development Corporation, PEP-SICO's warehouse, Salerno, United Freedom Baptist Church of Newark and several Essex County social service agencies. Pepsi donated water and soft drinks.

Nov. 7's sponsors grew in the last month to include: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Humanity Baptist Church, Investor's Bank, Massy Agency

cer and organ donation. Those who had children with them also received bags of school supplies, toys and treats.

"As the concern over COVID remains high, we believe that relief of groceries as well as medical relief went well together," said Hall. "We wanted the community to have the opportunity to test for COVID, have flu shots, eye examinations and

demical's wide arc of food insecurity.

The pandemic is also a factor in increasing the safety of those serving and being served Saturday. Hall told "Local Talk" that more Personal Protection Equipment was provided for those on either side of the tables.

While Saturday's distribution encouraged driver service, walkups, unlike in other events, were not discouraged.

The partnership's lessons learned, as applied here Saturday, came from the May 20 and June 21.

The latter "Local 108 and Company" event was part of a Juneteenth celebration at Union Chapel AME. Hall said more than 500 hot meals and groceries, PPE masks and hand sanitizers were provided along with voter registration opportunities at the Newark church.

Although Saturday's goal of distributing 500 grocery bags was reached before its scheduled 3 p.m. closing, Hall and partners kept giving out bags afterwards into breaking down the tents. No one was turned away; those who arrived after all the bags were



ners brought to Saturday's event. "Our goal was to provide some relief to people that were in need," said Hall. "This event and others like it go a long way for those in need. We must look out for our neighbors and communities."

Returning for Saturday's event were May 20 partners African-American Heritage Parade Organization and Committee, City Supermarkets, PSE&G, Shop-Rite of Newark, Local Talk News, New Visions Community

Insurance, North Jersey Artias Chapter, Public Service Electric & Gas, Supremo Supermarkets, Union Chapel AME of Newark, University Hospital and Walgreens. Those who have each received the two Shop-Rite bags had the option to go to the medical service tents, which were marked by lawn signs.

Those who came to the University Hospital tent left with a third bag - holding hand cream, reusable lunch containers and handbills on diabetes, colon can-

more in order to provide more rounded relief. Medical care seems more urgent due to COVID and allowed for us to provide more for the community."

The COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus, which broke out here in March, remains the reason for the food distributions. Hall and Local 108 officials first assembled and gave out food bags to members in the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania area - but soon became aware of the pan-

given rain checks and put on a list.

MPD officers also stayed after "closing time" for traffic direction. Longtime Township Commissioner and former Mayor Victor De Luca also represented Maplewood by appearing at the start; leaving impressed after Hall gave him a tour.

"I came to support this," said De Luca. "It's something that's needed."

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