

# Local Talk

FEATURING THE ANNUAL  
YEAR IN REVIEW

## 20th Anniversary Special Edition

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 2 \* NOVEMBER 19, 2020 - NOVEMBER 25, 2020

"LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

# LOCAL TALK



25¢

Newark • Irvington • East Orange • Orange • West Orange • South Orange • Maplewood • Bloomfield • Montclair and more

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF: ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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## LOCAL TALK HONORS LEADERS FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Newark Beth Israel President and CEO Darrell K. Terry, Sr. accepting an award for running an "A" list hospital



African American Heritage Parade Organization President Charles N. Hall, Jr. accepting an award for his tireless community service



PAGE 18

Dr. Gitendra Rajiyah, accepting an award for his work treating local residents



Assemblyman Thomas Giblin accepting an award for his long-time service on the political level



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group  
**THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES**

**MOVED**

**to 60 Evergreen Place  
East Orange, NJ 07018**

To a **LARGER FACILITY**  
to **SERVE YOU BETTER**  
For Your Comfort in Mind

Turn to  
**PAGE 11**



**Editorial**  
 Dhiren Shah  
 Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

Local Talk Newspaper began printing on November 1, 2000. I saw that the quality of life had not been improved due to lack of news, or one-sided information and negativity in the news. So, to make it different, I called my friend Dr. Margaret Lucas. She responded and came to my office within 30 minutes. Due to my printing business, I was ready to spend \$500 per month. Our efforts were successful; people responded well and within a little over a year, Local Talk shifted from monthly to weekly. We have tried our best to uplift the quality of life.

However, I am not happy. Quality of life has improved a

little in the past 20 years, but it should have been improved drastically. My assumption is that due to politics, quality of life is not improving. I am not blaming anyone particularly, but the fault lies at both sides. The politicians are playing politics to have control, instill nepotism, and lock in their own future gains. People are so naive that they are voting for the same people over and over again.

On behalf of Local Talk's staff and myself, I would like to thank the readers who have supported us, and the advertisers who have supported our finances, a few politicians and elected officials who have supported us for giving us the news that people love to read, volunteers who donated their valuable time, Local Talk's staff who work tirelessly to improve the quality of the newspaper, my family members who have supported me for my entrepreneurship, and last but not least, my wife, who took care of me during those ups and

downs.

I hope people do not follow the power, but follow the leaders who are doing good for the people. These leaders hold their position without following contractors and large businesspeople, but rather follow the people who voted for them. We state that we are the boss of the mayors, but, in reality, they work as a boss, not you. A good mayor manages and improves the quality of life for the people.

The mayors of Newark, East Orange, Irvington, and Orange have stated that there will be a 24-hour shutdown or maybe even a 3 day shutdown for all 4 cities due to the coronavirus. They have not laid out their complete plan, so some people I spoke with are wondering what will come from such a shutdown.

The shutdown of the stores at night did not work. COVID-19 cases are skyrocketing. Essex County has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the state, and every day it is going up.

From November 16 to November 17, there were 357 cases in Essex County. The numbers are increasing, but the recovery rate is not increasing. It is good that they are trying to do something. But, temporarily closing or shutting down may not be the solution. When they are open, people do not follow CDC guidelines.

Georgia's Senatorial runoff election is very important. If both seats go to the Democrats, there 46 seats will become 48 and with 2 independents. Since the independents vote with the Democrats, it will be 50 votes to each party. In the event of any ties, the deciding vote go to the Vice President, which would be Kamala Harris. If the Republican wins one or both seats, they will keep the majority. So, this race will be critical for the future of our country.

*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>
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Periods of Rain	Sunny with Clouds	Sunny (Rain Possible)
HI 50 LO 38	HI 65 LO 46	HI 60 LO 40	HI 52 LO 49	HI 58 LO 36	HI 48 LO 38	HI 52 LO 41

# ELECTION NIGHT 2019 YIELDS FASCINATING RESULTS



Assembly members Tom Giblin & Britnee Timberlake (right) easily won re-election



11-7-19

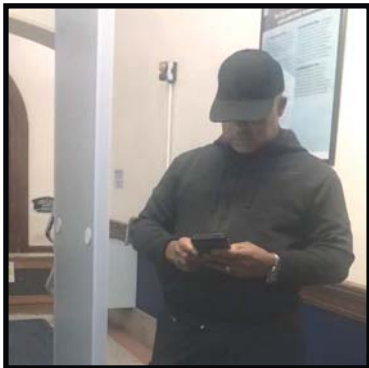


11-14-19

# HOSPITAL RATINGS: BETH ISRAEL AND ST. MICHAEL'S EXCEL UNIVERSITY AND EOGH NEED WORK



# WHY WAS MUNIRAH BOMANI HARASSED AT CITY HALL?



**NEWARK** - After serving a 60-day suspension from speaking at Newark City Council meetings, activist Munirah Bomani got an unwelcome surprise upon a recent visit to City Hall.

On the night of Nov. 18, Ms. Bomani went to a city council meeting at City Hall. However, she was stopped at the metal detector and denied entry...

This gentleman, going by the moniker "242" initially barred Munirah Bomani from entering Newark City Hall according to what he was instructed to do....



11-21-19



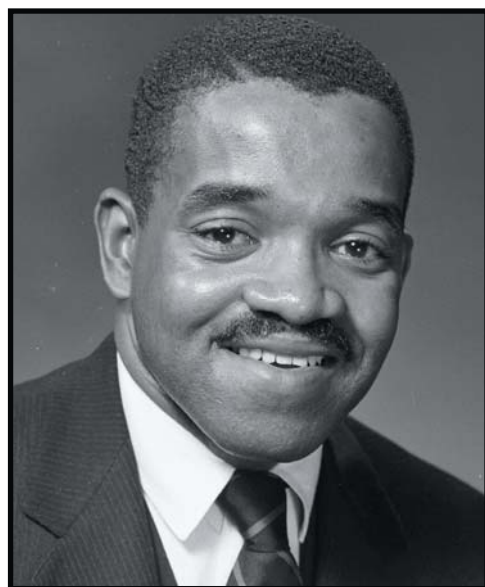
11-28-19

# WATER TESTER SPELLS OUT FILTER RESULTS



**NEWARK** - The water filter reliability test data that was more than first hinted here Oct. 4 have come out to the public in a 102 page report Nov. 22.

The report, whose preliminary results prompted city officials to curtail widespread free water bottle and case distribution Oct. 8, confirmed what Mayor Ras Baraka declared four days earlier, namely that the faucet filters are 97.5 to 99.5 percent effective in reducing lead content to 10 parts...



# PIONEER CALVIN WEST: 1932-2019

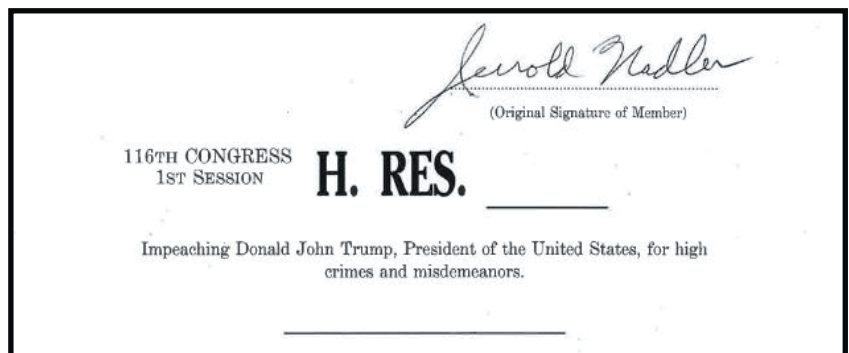


12-5-19



12-12-19

# ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT INTRODUCED AGAINST TRUMP



Several officers organizing to act against the assailants. Photo Courtesy Twitter



# CHAOS IN JERSEY CITY SHOOTOUT



12-12-19



12-19-19

## Editorial

Dhiren Shah



Hello Readers,  
Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all our readers. As usual, we will not print Local Talk Newspaper during the holidays. We will resume distribution on January 3, 2020. Enjoy the holiday season.

India is where I was born. I still follow cricket games in India. I was supporting Prime Minister Modi, as he is from my city and my state. He speaks the same language I learned first. However, that does not give Modi or any other person the right to forget about humanity. First, Modi messed up in the huge plan of demonetizing. Now, I think he has made his second blunder. Muslims are human, like you and me. A terrorist can be from any religion. Yes, Hinduism does not teach fanaticism. However, some leaders still preach it, and that can happen to any religion...

## WATER CONTRACTORS GET \$78 MILLION FROM NEWARK COUNCIL

**NEWARK** - The 2019-20 change of year may be an opportunity for those involved with the Newark Water Supply to reflect on the city's water crisis resolution process as well as to press forward with its Lead Service Line Replacement Program.



That progress, since its late summer Essex County loan-fueled

acceleration, includes contractors Roman E&G, of Newark and Montana Construction Corporation, of Lodi continuing their parts of the LSLRP in various city neighborhoods.



◀◀◀  
01-02-20

▶▶▶  
01-09-20

## HISTORY MADE ON SCHOOL BOARD

**ORANGE** - The Orange Board of Education, with the inauguration of its three latest voter-elected members Jan. 6, crossed into new and unknown territory.

Newcomers Guadalupe Cabido, Sueann Gravesande and Shawneque Johnson - like the four other OBOE members who were elected since March 14, 2018 and previous mayoral appointees - were each sworn in the Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium ...



## CORY BOOKER ENDS PRESIDENTIAL RUN



*Booker at a hometown kickoff back in April 2019  
Photo By Kristopher Seals*



◀◀◀  
01-16-20

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01-23-20

## JONATHAN HOLLOWAY NAMED AS FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

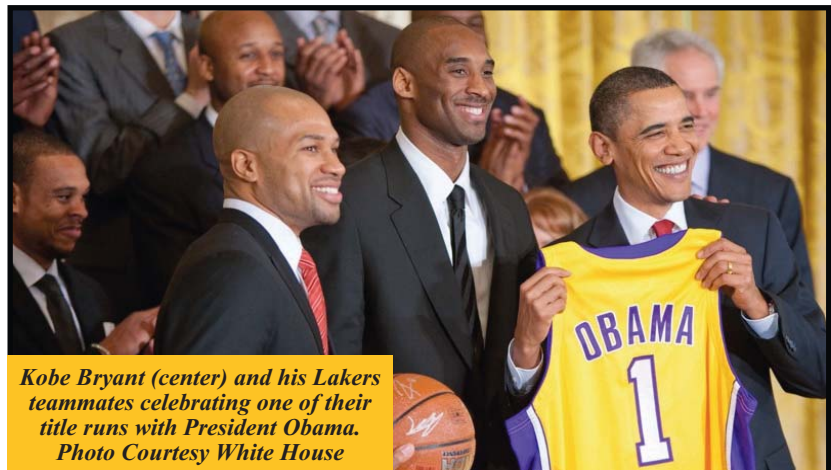


**RUTGERS** - Jonathan Holloway, provost of Northwestern University and an eminent historian, has been appointed the 21st President of Rutgers, The State University.

The Rutgers Board of Governors, with the advice and consent of the Rutgers Board of Trustees, approved Holloway's appointment at a joint meeting of the two boards Jan. 21. The Board of Governors also appointed Holloway as a University Professor and Distinguished Professor.

Holloway will begin serving as president on July 1, 2020, succeeding President Robert Barchi, who began his tenure in September 2012.

## KOBE BRYANT: 1978-2020



*Kobe Bryant (center) and his Lakers teammates celebrating one of their title runs with President Obama.  
Photo Courtesy White House*



◀◀◀  
01-30-20

▶▶▶  
02-06-20

## THE RIP HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD



*At the end of President Trump's State of the Union Address, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tore up her copy in a strange protest. Photo Courtesy White House*



## FOUR SHABAZZ PLAYERS SUSPENDED AFTER ASSAULTING COACH

**NEWARK** - The four city high school basketball players who have been indefinitely suspended after assaulting their coach here after their Feb. 4 game may be facing criminal charges...



◀◀◀  
02-13-20

▶▶▶  
02-20-20

## Children's Hospital of New Jersey (CHoNJ) at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Gets Grant



# TRUMP VISITS INDIA

## US & INDIA STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP



02-27-20

03-05-20

# NEWARK BETH ISRAEL HOSTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

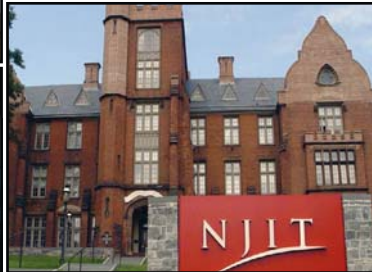


Darrell K. Terry, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey, congratulated all who participated in this year's Black History Month Celebration Ceremony.

# COLLEGES TAKING DRASTIC MEASURES



## AGAINST CORONAVIRUS



03-12-20

03-19-20

# HOW CORONAVIRUS IS AFFECTING KIDS AND THEIR PARENTS



A parent and her children pick up school lunch in a bag and a teaching packet to work on as Newark's schools are closed during the COVID-19 crisis. Photo By Thomas Ellis II

# A MESSAGE FROM LOCAL TALK

Right now, we are living in difficult times. The staff at Local Talk are doing their best to bring you the most up-to-date news with everything that is happening.

However, because of safety concerns and lack of resources, please understand that it may become increasingly difficult to facilitate this news to you in our print format, which we have done since November 2000.

Therefore, it is possible that at some point during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we may be forced to move our operations to online only for a while.

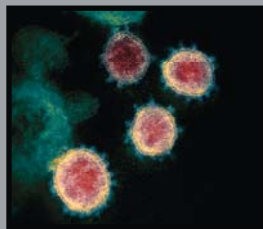
Our Web site, [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.com), will be updated as much as possible, to disseminate news to our readers just in case the worst case scenario occurs.

So, if you notice that a print edition of Local Talk is unavailable in the coming weeks, sadly, this is the case.

With that in mind, we will do everything in our power to produce a physical paper for you to hold and read.

Also, we do believe in a future where COVID-19 is not wreaking havoc on our lives. Therefore, we are offering a special deal on advertising for new customers only. Right now, all advertising is 50% off. That way, you can reserve an ad - not to use right now - but to run in the future, at an amazing discount.

Act quickly, because this will expire as soon as we reach capacity or when we defeat COVID-19. #StayHome



03-26-20

07-02-20

# INTERVIEW WITH UNION PRESIDENT CHARLES N. HALL



**Dhiren Shah:** Hello Mr. Hall. You are a Union President in Essex County; would you tell our readers about yourself and your union?

**Charles Hall:** Well, the first thing I would ask is that you refer to me as Charles. I am the president of Local 108 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union, UFCW, AFL-CIO-CLC. Our inter...

# WILLIS EDWARDS III INDICTED



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



07-09-20

April 2020 - June 2020

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** we published our newspaper in a digital format from April 2020 to June 2020. Our print edition resumed on July 2, 2020. We got a good response and encouragement, as well as new ideas. Our heartfelt thanks to the community.

## TWO COMPANIES ON "FAST TRACK" FOR COVID-19 VACCINE

*If Approved, Vaccine Can Be Ready For Mass Production by Year's End*

On July 13, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) designated two experimental vaccines as "fast-tracked" from pharmaceutical companies German based BioNTech and American-based Pfizer. Both companies join Moderna on the fast track list, as that company was approved back in May to find a vaccine for COVID-19, which is medically known as Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.



07-16-20

07-23-20

## TOM GIBLIN INTERVIEW



**Dhiren Shah:** Welcome...In your opinion, how does the governor taking steps to control the pandemic.

**Thomas Giblin:** I salute the governor for his leadership. With a lot of leading programs, he has developed safeguards. He has done a remarkable job to control the coronavirus spread. He is trying to meet challenges.

## HACKETT FAMILY ACCUSES MONTCLAIR SCHOOL OF BULLYING



**MONTCLAIR** - A mother and daughter are facing a precarious dilemma as the latter has allegedly been targeted by bullies.

Natalie Hackett, the mother of the child, filed a tort claim against the Montclair School District. The daughter was initially pulled from class, but faced the possibility of being held back if she did not return.



07-30-20

08-06-20



## CAN BARAKA STOP THE VIOLENCE?

*Newark Suffers 30 Shootings in the Blink of an Eye*

*By Thomas Ellis II*

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

Not only have the shootings and violence increased, but several victims of the shootings were women. In a climate where people all over are saying "Black Lives Matter" ...

## BIDEN PICKS RUNNING MATE



*First Woman of Color to Appear on a Presidential Ticket*



08-13-20

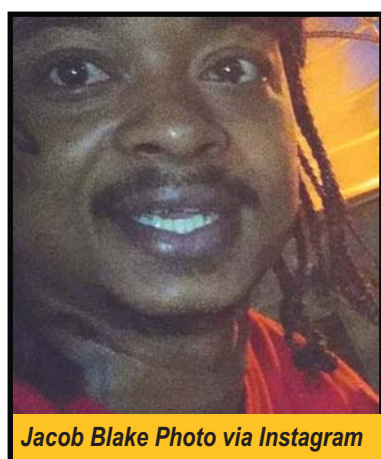
08-20-20

## MURPHY AND TRUMP CLASH OVER VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS



**TRENTON** - Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Phil Murphy signed on Aug. 14 an executive order to create a modified vote-by-mail

(VBM) election for the November 3rd General Election.



*Jacob Blake Photo via Instagram*

## ANOTHER UNARMED BLACK MAN SHOT BY A WHITE COP

*NBA players boycott playoff games in support of victim and social justice*

**Kenosha, WI** - Despite the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and too many others to count, a group of white police officers have once again threatened the life of an unarmed black person.



08-27-20

09-03-20

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ESSEX COUNTY CLERK CHRIS DURKIN



**Dhiren Shah:** Is it possible for some party to mess with mail-in voting, and how do officials like yourself prevent it?

**Chris Durkin:** Preventing voter fraud is of the utmost importance. Voter fraud is extremely rare. The Federal Bureau of Investigation testified to Congress recently that there were no reports of organized voter fraud with vote by mail ballots...

# INTERVIEW WITH NEW ECC PRESIDENT AUGUSTINE BOAKYE



**Dhiren Shah:** Please tell our readers a little about yourself.

**Augustine Boakye:** Thank you. My name is Augustine Boakye, I was born and educated in Ghana and continued my masters and PhD education in Great Britain. I have been a member of the Essex County College (ECC) family for more than a decade. I joined the College as an instructor of Economics...



09-10-20

09-17-20

# ROCK THE VOTE AT THE ROCK



# SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG "RBG" (1933-2020)

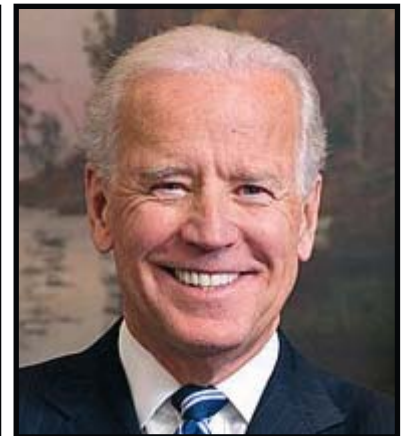
*Before Becoming "The Notorious RBG" Ginsburg Taught in Newark*



09-24-20

10-01-20

# HOW TO RUIN A DEBATE



# PRESIDENT TRUMP: COVID-19 AFTERMATH

WASHINGTON - The most powerful man on the planet is now recovering from the most powerful force of 2020.

U.S. President Donald Trump, along with First Lady Melania Trump and White House adviser Hope Hicks,

have all tested positive for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Contact tracing has already begun for all those in the President's inner circle...



10-08-20

10-15-20

# THE GOOD SIDE OF HUMAN NATURE



## Woman Saves Turtle in its Time of Need

**ALL INNOCENT LIVES MATTER - EVEN ANIMALS**

Approx. 12:53 140 S. Grove Street, Bloomfield NJ. I just got off the Bus # 90. I crossed the street, directly on the corner side-walk. I noticed that there was a turtle laying down...



# STEPHEN N. ADUBATO, SR. "A WINNER NEVER QUILTS, A QUITTER NEVER WINS" (1932 - 2020)

## NEWARK BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL'S \$100 MILLION EXPANSION



NEWARK - October 20th, 2020 will be a day to remember in Newark's history....



10-22-20

10-29-20

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



**Dhiren Shah:** 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.

# 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 Nov. 10 Vatican report on how its leadership had handled sexual abuse reports of former Newark Archbishop and Washington, D.C. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick has since had the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops talking amongst themselves and Pope Francis vowing to eradicate such abuse.

"Lust, greed, gluttony, wrath, sloth, envy, pride - the report pretty much covers all of them (seven deadly sins)," said Tyler, Texas Joseph E. Strickland Bishop before the USCCB livestream presided over by Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez. Monday. "We, as pastors, really need to acknowledge that we're all sinners but there's still a tendency in the world and in the church to turn a blind eye to many of these sins."

The 449-page report, which was received by Francis and made public Nov. 10, chronicled the train of sexual misconduct incidents over the decades of former New York priest, Metuchen Bishop, Newark Archbishop and Cardinal of Washington, D.C. McCarrick. The internal investigation, without making recommendations, also recounted how attempts to bring those incidents up to the bishop and papal levels were muted or thwarted until Francis eventually defrocked McCarrick post-trial last year.

The report, for example, recounted how three now-deceased bishops submitted their report of McCarrick's abuse to Pope John Paul II. The bishops, however, watered down their language.

John Paul believed then-Archbishop McCarrick's word that no abuse was going on - and named him Cardinal of Washington, D.C.

"I renew my closeness to victims of any abuse," said Francis at the end of his Nov. 10 public audience at The Vatican, "and commitment of the church to eradicate this evil."

"The Archdiocese hopes that the report will provide insights that'll help us to further strengthen our programs aimed to protect our faithful," said Newark Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, who posted the report as an rcan.com link Nov. 10. "The report provides a significant and powerful step in advancing accountability and transparency regarding sexual abuse."

Strickland added that McCarrick, 90 and in failing health, had recently left a Kansas friary for whereabouts unknown.

**IRVINGTON** - Investigators from the Irvington Fire Department and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Arson Squad have traced the Nov. 10 house fire near Civic Square to a hot comb left on a second floor bed.

The two-alarm fire here at 1233 Clinton Ave/2 Drakes Lane. that Tuesday afternoon injured four people, displaced six adults and brought mutual aid from five neighboring departments.

Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss said the first units from Civic Square arrived at the corner of Clinton and Drakes to find heavy smoke coming out from the three story wood frame house's front at 4:05 p.m. Smoke and flames, however, soon spread to the building's third floor. and through its roof.

The avenue around the building was quickly blocked off, due in part for having Irvington High School nearby. (No classes were being held there then.) A second alarm summoned units from East Orange, Newark, Maplewood, Orange and West Orange.

Although the blaze was brought under control within 60 minutes, rush hour Clinton Avenue traffic, including buses on NJTransit's No. 37, 94 and 107 routes, were diverted between

Orange Street and Stuyvesant Avenue.

Vauss said one resident was treated by local EMS for smoke inhalation at the scene and released. While one of the three injured firefighters was also treated and released on-site, the other two were taken to Livingston's RWJBarnabas Health Medical Center: None of the four injured suffered life-threatening injuries.

1233 Clinton/2 Drakes was a commercial/residential mixed use building that was used by Reid Financial Services and Friendly Driving School. The corner was last in the news when it was named in honor of Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Cullen Jones in 2013.

**EAST ORANGE** - The city's Department of Health and Human Services, here at 143 New St., needed only to go around the block to find one of East Orange's latest COVID-19 "hot spots" -- 44 City Hall Plaza.

That is the address of East Orange City Hall, where the Coronavirus has spread to employees in four of its departments - despite the building being closed to the in-person public since March.

City Hall employees affected are from Code Enforcement, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Policy, Planning and Development and the Public Safety Department's Fire Division.

"As per guidance from the CDC and NJ Health and Human Services, the individuals have been advised to self-quarantine" said East Orange Health Director Monique Griffith Nov. 10. "The (East Orange) DHHS is closely monitoring all documented COVID-19 exposures and infections within City Hall as well as the city at large. The Department is also tasked with managing contact tracing efforts when an individual is reported to have direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19."

**EOSD Stays "Remote" through Jan. 19**

The rise of a Coronavirus

"second wave" and the impending year-end holiday season of travel and family gatherings have prompted the East Orange School District to postpone a switch to virtual/in-person hybrid learning until at least Jan. 19.

Superintendent of Schools AbdulSaleem Hasan announced the postponement of EOSD "Student Re-Entry Plan Phase II" Nov. 4, after meeting with the East Orange Pandemic Response Team. That team includes Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green, city health director Griffith, Health Officer Victory Kuteyi and members of the district's Board of Education.

"This decision was based on the advisory concerning holiday travel (and the) influenza season coupled with the upswing of COVID-19 cases in New Jersey, more specifically (in) Essex County," said Hasan. "Though this' a difficult decision to make, it's necessary to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff."

**ORANGE** - The family of a former Orange Public Schools assistant principal and Hackensack University Medical Center have settled a malpractice lawsuit for \$5.5 million as of Nov. 10.

Roseland attorney Davis Mazie, who represents the fiancée and daughter of the late Dr. Derrick Nelson, said that Tuesday that he and HUMC have agreed to the settlement in exchange for dropping the 15-month-old suit.

Sharonda Baker and Mazie - of Mazie, Slater Katz & Freeman - are also dropping their suit against named HUMC co-respondents John Theurer Cancer Center, Hackensack Anesthesiology Associates and anesthesiologist Dr. Jerry M. Barrata, of Hackensack.

Nelson, 44, who was assistant principal here at the Rosa M. Parks Community and Park Avenue Elementary schools 2009-11, had died in HUMC April 8, 2019 of hypoxic brain injury.

That injury came from Nelson's Feb. 19 bone marrow transplant donation surgery. Baker and Mazie asserted that HUMC

(Continued on page 14)



# FIVE LOCAL ELECTION RACES STILL "TOO CLOSE TO CALL"

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - While "to be counted" ballots and the clock are winding down on the Nov. 3 General and Board of Education Elections, there are five "Local Talk News" area contests, as of 12:43 p.m. Nov. 11, that may be too close to call.

That time and date - 12:43 p.m., Nov. 11 "Veteran's Day" - is the latest unofficial election day results posted by Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin's Elections Division.

The rankings of all 26 federal, Essex County, municipal and boards of education elections "winners and runners-up" that registered voters had been deciding on remain unchanged.

Only the vote tallies, reflecting the continuing counting of Vote By Mail Ballots by the clerk's elections division staff, have changed.

There is one municipal and four boards of education races, however, where the last candidate who "attained" the last office seat and the top "also-ran" are within up to 372 votes of each other. The final, certified vote counts will determine who gets the last council or school board seat and who does not.

The Nov. 3 elections, however, does not have, and never had, percentages reports of voting districts. While each municipality was required to have at least one voting machine 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. that Tuesday, 97 percent of statewide voting was done with Vote By Mail Ballots. This permutation was in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

"Local Talk," as an alternative, formulated a one percent plurality margin as its criteria for determining how close an election race is. By one percent, "Local Talk" used one percent of the overall votes a municipality or school district have received as counted 12:43 p.m. Nov. 11.

This one percent margin is like an Indycar or stock car driver drafting behind the car ahead

of him on her. The approaching driver gets so close that he or she picks up the negative pressure generated by the lead car. The lead car is suddenly towing the following car until either the latter attempts a slingshot pass - or the towing car shakes off his or her pursuer.

In the WEST ORANGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL election, H. William "Bill Rutherford" still has the third and last seat with 8,531 votes. Fourth-placed candidate Monica Perkowski, however, has 8,259 votes. Rutherford's plurality on Perkowski is 372 votes - within 521 votes or the one percent of so-far votes counted range.

In the ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION race, current Board President Tyrone J. Tarver holds 1,820 votes or 94 markers ahead of current board member Jeff Wingfield's 1,726. The 94 vote margin falls within this contest's one percent of 140 votes.

The SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD BOE contest for its third and last seat, Elissa Maplespina has 8,284 votes or 123 ahead of Deborah Engel's 8,161. Their 123 vote gap falls within the 438 one-percent margin.

In a BLOOMFIELD BOE battle for the third and last seat, Kasey Dudley, at 6,648, has 142 votes over Ellen Rogers' 6,506. Their gap falls within the 389 one percent margin.

The bids for BELLEVILLE BOE TRUSTEES has Fernando A. Acevedo Jr.'s 3,046 tally is 78 votes over Lissa Missaggia's 2,968. Those 78 votes are within Belleville's 168 one-percent margin.

The Acevedo-Missaggia joust, however, may be moot should the BOE Trustee ahead of them decide to resign before their Jan. 1 inauguration. Incumbent Trustee Erica Jacho, who is in line for her second three-year term, may be asked to step down in light of her Oct. 20-21 DWI arrest.

(Continued on page 13)

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## SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

To the surprise of many, the New York Giants are on a two game winning streak. A 27-17 win over the Philadelphia Eagles has Big Blue tied for the most wins in the lousy NFC East. QB Daniel Jones reeled off a 34 yard TD, and most importantly, no turnovers.

While the team celebrated the big win, kicker Graham Gano experienced the highs and lows of the year in a two day span. One day, he got a contract extension, but the next, tested positive for COVID-19. He will be under quarantine until he is cleared.

As for college football, the Rutgers football program lost another tough game at home game. Illinois beat the Scarlet Knights 23-20 after coming back from 10 points down and scoring a game winning field goal as time expired. RU did not help its cause with several turnovers.

In New Jersey high school football, the Orange Tornadoes

defeated the Bloomfield Bengals 28-6. Montez Boswell ran for 254 yards and four touchdowns. Freshman quarterback Maurice Williams lead Orange with 111 yards in the air. The Tornadoes will finish the season Friday night at Livingston. Also, the East Orange Jaguars mauled Clifton 36-0.

In some other news, star guard Chris Paul is likely on his way to the Phoenix Suns after a trade from the Oklahoma City Thunder. Also, curse breaking front office guru Theo Epstein has given notice to the Chicago Cubs that he will be leaving the team effective Nov. 20. He was in charge of building the team that won the 2016 World Series - the first for that franchise since 2016.

**BREAKING NEWS: Mets second baseman Robinson Cano has been suspended for the 2021 MLB season due to another positive PED test. He will forfeit his \$24 million salary.**

**Best Wishes on your 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary...**



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**34<sup>th</sup> District Assemblyman**  
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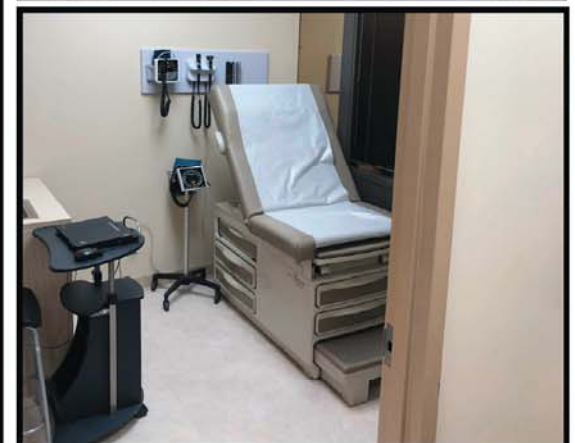
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<b>Newark:</b> 202 Stuyvesant Ave.	Tel. 973-374-8807
<b>West Orange:</b> 77 Main Street	Tel. 973-324-2090
<b>West Orange:</b> 95 Main Street	Tel. 973-736-5552
<b>West Orange:</b> 92 Old Northfield Road <small>(currently closed for renovations)</small>	Tel. 973-736-5552



## UNITED STATES

### **Phony COVID-19 Treatment**

The United States filed suit to halt the sale by a New Jersey entity of an unapproved “nano silver” product previously touted as a COVID-19 treatment, the Department of Justice announced Nov. 16.

In a civil complaint for permanent injunction filed Nov. 13, 2020 in U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, the United States alleged that Natural Solutions Foundation, Dr. Rima Laibow, and Ralph Fucetola sold and distributed a nano silver product that the defendants claim will cure, mitigate, treat, or prevent COVID-19. Defendants’ nano silver product purportedly contains silver particles in a solution. According to the government’s complaint, nano silver is not generally recognized as safe and effective by qualified experts for the use promoted by the defendants.

“The Department of Justice will not allow individuals to take advantage of the ongoing public health emergency by peddling unproven, unapproved drugs,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Bossert Clark of the Justice Department’s Civil Division. “We will continue to work closely with the Food and Drug Administration to halt the illegal sale of such

The complaint alleges that the defendants introduced an unapproved new drug into interstate commerce, and that the disease claims defendants make lack support from well-controlled clinical studies or other credible scientific substantiation. Additionally, the complaint asserts that, because defendants’ product does not have adequate directions for lay users, the product is misbranded.

On May 19, FDA issued a

joint Warning Letter with the Federal Trade Commission notifying the defendants that they violated the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act by, among other things, distributing unapproved new drugs and misbranded drugs in interstate commerce. According to the complaint, the defendants removed certain claims regarding the nano silver product from their public-facing websites but failed to remove others.

In two other recent actions, the Department of Justice worked with FDA and other partners to halt the sale of silver products touted as COVID-19 treatments. In May, a federal court in the Eastern District of Oklahoma entered a temporary restraining order and then a preliminary injunction against Xephyr LLC, doing business as N-Ergetics, and its owners to stop the distribution of a colloidal silver product the defendants claimed would cure, mitigate, or treat COVID-19.

In July, prosecutors obtained an indictment against Utah resident Gordon H. Pedersen alleging that he posed as a doctor to promote an ingestible silver-based product as a COVID-19 cure. In a related case, the company Pedersen previously co-owned, My Doctor Suggests LLC, agreed to plead guilty to a one-count criminal information.

The enforcement action is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Brianna M. Gardner of the Department of Justice Civil Division’s Consumer Protection Branch, and Deputy Chief of the Government Fraud Section David Dauheimer of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey, with assistance from Associate Chief Counsel for Enforcement Jaelyn Martínez Resly of the FDA, Office of General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services.

The claims made in the complaint are allegations that, if the case were to proceed to trial, the government must prove to receive a permanent injunction against the defendants.

Additional information about the Consumer Protection Branch and its enforcement efforts may be found at <https://www.justice.gov/civil/consumer-protection-branch>.

For more information about the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey, visit its website at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj>. For information about the Department of Justice’s efforts to stop illegal COVID-19-related activity, visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>. For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, consumers may visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and WHO websites.

The public is urged to report suspected fraud schemes related to COVID-19 (the Coronavirus) by calling the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) hotline (1-866-720-5721) or by emailing the NCDF at [disaster@leo.gov](mailto:disaster@leo.gov).

## CENTRAL AMERICA

### **Hurricanes Taking Their Toll**

The United Nations warned of catastrophic consequences from Hurricane Iota, the second major tropical cyclone to hit Central America this month.

“We’re running out of superlatives for this Atlantic hurricane season. It’s record breaking in every sense of the word. We are currently, with Iota, on the 30th named tropical storm,” Clare Nullis, spokesperson for the World Meteorological Organization, told a regular UN news briefing in Geneva.

“Iota made landfall less than two weeks after Hurricane Eta, which was also a very strong category four hurricane, made landfall just 25 kilometers apart. So we’re having these huge impacts hitting basically the same area. Nicaragua, Honduras, other parts of Central America have not recovered from Hurricane Eta, and now they’re being slammed by this new terrific powerful hurricane,” Nullis said.

Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said aid workers in Central America were still discovering the extent of damage from Eta and were now preparing to deal

with a second potentially catastrophic impact.

“Iota, with its strong winds and very heavy rainfall, can cause life-threatening flash flooding, river flooding and landslides, not least because the soil is already saturated by Eta.”

Estimates of damage from Eta were still going up as officials and local authorities gradually got access to the most affected areas, Laerke said.

“So, for example, Honduras, authorities now report that 3 million people are affected. That’s 1 million more than the figures that they reported last week. In Guatemala, we are talking about more than 900,000 people directly affected by Eta. That’s nearly triple the figure from the previous weeks. So this is very much still developing emergency on top of which now slams another emergency with potentially catastrophic consequences.”

## CARIBBEAN

### **Over \$1 Million in Cocaine Seized**

Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle (WPC-1133) transferred custody of four suspected smugglers and 50 kilograms of seized cocaine to Caribbean Corridor Strike Force federal agents at Sector San Juan Nov. 13, following the interdiction of a drug smuggling go-fast vessel in the Caribbean Sea.

The interdiction was the result of multi-agency efforts in support of U.S. Southern Command’s enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program and the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force (CCSF). The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Puerto Rico is leading the prosecution for this case.

Estimated wholesale value of the seized cocaine is more than \$1.4 million.

“The performance of the Coast Guard units involved in this case along with the close collaboration of our local and federal law enforcement partners

(Continued on page 18)

# ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from Nov. 11 - Nov. 18, 2020

Municipality	11-11-2020	Deaths	11-18-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1630	68	1868	70
Bloomfield	1651	70	1814	74
Caldwell	173	11	181	11
Cedar Grove	559	114	590	114
East Orange	2504	234	2679	235
Essex Fells	50	2	54	2
Fairfield	244	18	275	18
Glen Ridge	65	9	72	9
Irvington	1882	165	2009	167
Livingston	702	72	750	73
Maplewood	443	27	478	27
Millburn	230	6	275	6
Montclair	690	52	776	52
Newark	12726	680	14062	693
North Caldwell	89	4	102	5
Nutley	773	36	839	36
Orange	1352	93	1432	94
Roseland	136	14	150	14
South Orange	183	5	214	5
Verona	234	14	252	14
West Caldwell	358	50	378	50
West Orange	1754	188	1893	189
<b>Total</b>	<b>28428</b>	<b>1932</b>	<b>31143</b>	<b>1958</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 11-18-2020)**

**NJ: 289,562 cases / 14,843 deaths (Plus 1,812 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 11.4 Million / 249,200 deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 55.92 Million / 1.34 Million deaths**

The Mayors of Newark, East Orange, Orange, and Irvington are contemplating enhanced lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19.

NJ Governor Phil Murphy has ordered that indoor capacity limits be reduced from 25 persons to 10. Outdoor capacity has been reduced to 150 persons.

Due to a high COVID-19 rate, New York City public schools will switch to remote learning only until after Thanksgiving break.

Moderna, Pfrizer and BioNTech have announced vaccines that are at least 94.5% effective against COVID-19.

**FIVE LOCAL ELECTION RACES STILL "TOO CLOSE TO CALL"**

(Continued from page 9)

There are also several other variables that questioning candidates can avail of themselves - but whose deadlines are fast approaching.

Candidates who want a recount must file for one to the Essex County Board of Elections, here at the Hall of Records, before 4 p.m. Nov. 20. A conducted recount may postpone Clerk Durkin's certifica-

tion of that election's results another two weeks.

Candidates may also file legal challenges of the results here on or before Dec. 5. Such challenges start with a vote recount.

Unrecounted or unchallenged election results are otherwise posed for Durkin's certification as early as Nov. 24.

(An extra week was added to allow the United States Postal Service to deliver postmarked VBMBs on or before Nov. 10.)

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## A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT SAINT MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL



By Michele Lowe, East Orange, NJ

**BLACK LIVES MATTER,  
ALL LIVES MATTER,  
ANIMALS LIVES MATTER**

What a great election I had; we must always remember to vote. With freedom of speech, and voicing our opinions to the top, we will win. Let's look towards the new year. Let's make some positive changes. We only live once, so do the right thing. A fresh new start, reaching your goals,

Live a happier life. Don't give up everyone. Keep pushing, striving and achieving. What is there for you, take advantage of opportunities.

We have all been wondering about this COVID-19 virus. Folks, if you didn't know, wake up - this has spread across the whole United States. So please, people wear your mask. Don't spread germs. Take care of yourselves. Your health is important, and it's less work on your hands. Do the right thing. Wear a mask. Our hospitals have a lot to work with already, so please mask up.

Hospitals are full, as a lot of people have been hospitalized lately.

I recently had some bad chest pains. I went first to the hospital, and it was overpacked. I asked how long it would take before I got seen. They told me, "Honest truth, ma'am, it will take a while." I said, "Okay."

As to exactly how long, I was told 2-3 hours, I said. "Okay." Well, I sat for at least one hour, I said, "Never mind, I got to go." So the next day, I went to Saint Michael's Hospital in Newark in the a.m. shift. A great experience. The staff was right on time. Right from my arrival they processed me. I was told afterwards to have a seat in the waiting area. I said, "Thank you," and sat there. In only 15 minutes, my name was called. I was so happy.

I went to the back, and the hospital was busy as any other hospital. There was another waiting area there, but no matter how busy they were, they managed it very well and were on time. I received all my service from the waiting room in the back, because they were busy, so no rooms were available. Everything I needed was done right in the back-waiting area. They took care of me expeditiously.

I recommend Saint Michael's Hospital to everyone. The service was awesome. They work hard and get the job done. Great teamwork. Thank you to all Bruno, Kirstein, and the rest of the team and staff. I would give them 10 out of 10 points.



*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**In Everything Give Thanks**

One member of our prayer group was asked to pray, a prayer of thanksgiving. As he entered into the prayer, I took note of what I call his preface, as he went on to name:

- The onset of winter - the bleakly cold that he noted was on its way to lead us into the flu season.
- The lack of normalcy that has resulted from the election season with seemingly no end.
- The ravaging COVID-19 virus affecting more than 11 Million persons in the United States, and nearly 260,000 dead.
- Other illnesses, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, kidney disease, and cancer, now being treated as normal in the face of the pandemic.

After the preface, he gave his thanksgiving list. In his list, he recounted the following blessings:

- Family and friends
- Food to eat
- Freedom to worship
- A church family
- A group in which to pray
- Bodily healing
- Etc.

Though his prayer was short, his list was quite comprehensive. I was so enraptured with his prayer that I have now forgotten some of the items he named. I am very appreciative that he found good reasons to pray

with such exuberance amid our dark times, giving thanks to God.

There is a text in the Bible that says, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV). I have been meditating on the text and asking how people **can say thanks for everything** in our present hurt and pain? I have friends who have lost loved ones over the last few weeks, either through COVID-19 or through heart attacks, or strokes, cancer, or other illnesses.

In this pandemic, I know of people who are not even aware of the cause of their loved ones' death. At best, all they are doing is just guessing at it. In some places, the morgues are overfilled, so trailers are used as refrigerators for dead bodies. Families are standing around the trailers crying, waiting to get the bodies of their loved ones. The volume of dead people is so high that autopsies are not being performed. Yes, the anguish is deep; people are struggling. People are hurting.

The announcement that vaccines are coming cannot bring back the loss of loved ones. As a pastor, when I call families who have lost loved ones, I have to listen for a long time. At times, some individuals I call want to tell me the whole story of how the death occurred and so on. I consider myself a good listener, but I am learning more and more, during this pandemic, to listen without saying much.

At other times, people want to be silent, so I must be sensitive to the need. So if allowed, I say a short prayer and allow them to know that I appreciate their need for silence at the moment. For others who do not wish to speak, I send a text or flowers to show my support level. To each, I make the point that their real source of comfort is in God, no matter what I might say. I do not know that it is easy to formulate a suitable answer for everyone. I cannot tell people to give thanks in their moment of grief. But I hope that someday they will be able to see that "Back of the clouds there is a silver lining."

The Scriptural passage, I noted earlier, is that one cannot become agnostic or atheistic

in the face of darkness; one has to find a way to make meaning. If one loses meaning, then life will end in suicide. To find meaning in life, one has to have faith. One has to hold on to hope in God. Hope means a positive look at the future. I mean, for only in God is there the possibility of ending all the evil we face.

We need to be thankful for the scientific developments of the hour. But in the long term, the best vaccines will not keep us living forever. We have to look beyond the temporal, and find reasons in these times of darkness, to say thanks be to God for his providential hand that is showing glimpses of eternity.

Before his death, the great Gospel singer Andrae Crouch raised a question and found a way to answer. His song is appropriately called *My Tribute*:

*How can I say thanks  
For the things You have done for me?  
Things so undeserved  
Yet You gave to prove Your love for me;  
The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude  
All that I am and ever hope to be  
I owe it all to Thee.*

*With His blood, He has saved me.  
With His power, He has raised me;  
To God be the glory  
For the things, He has done.  
[Bridge:]  
Just let me live my life  
Let it pleasing, Lord to Thee  
And if I gain any praise  
Let it go to Calvary.*

This means that amid all our pain, we are being invited to make a list of the sunny moments and all the things and persons that have brought happiness to our souls, and give thanks to God for them. As the chorus of one of our Christian hymns says, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." Also remember, "It is God who works in you to will and do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13).

**TOWN WATCH** (Cont. from pg 8)

and its co-respondents had failed to take into account the then-Westfield High School principal's sleep apnea and weight before taking him under.

Nelson - who was born Jan. 29, 1975 and was living in Plainfield Feb. 19, 2019 - came to OPS after being a Plainfield schoolteacher. The SHU doctorate in education administration and 20-year U.S. Army reservist then moved onto Westfield Public Schools.

**WEST ORANGE** - A majority

of registered Arizona voters, as of Nov. 3, have given township favorite son Mark Kelly a new title: U.S. Senator-Elect.

Kelly (D-Tuscon, Ariz.) received 1,715,816 votes with 99 percent of Grand Canyon State districts reporting in the special election Nov. 4. He received 51.2 percent of the vote against incumbent Sen. Martha McSally (R-Sun City West, Ariz.) who drew 1,637,454 or 48.8 percent.

Kelly's election is seen as an upset in the election to eventually succeed the late Sen. John McCain. McSally, who conceded to Kelly Nov. 13, was ap-

pointed to the Senate, after McCain's death, in January 2019.

Kelly, who was born with twin brother Scott in Orange's St. Mary's Hospital Feb. 21, 1964, had mentioned his West Orange upbringing to a pair of police officer parents in his campaign ads. He had moved to Tucson after marrying future Congresswoman Gabby Giffords in 2007.

It was Giffords' near-fatal Jan. 6, 2011 shooting that eventually prompted M. Kelly's retirement from NASA and, in 2019, to launch his senatorial

campaign. Giffords, while making a nearly-full recovery, resigned from Congress in 2012.

Mark and Scott Kelly share previous titles, including as Mountain High School graduates and as retired U.S. Navy pilots and NASA astronauts.

Kelly is to formally start his six-year term, alongside fellow Democratic Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, on Capitol Hill Jan. 8.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Rising COVID cases have prompted Seton Hall University President Dr. Joseph E. Nyre Nov. 12 to  
*(Continued on page 17)*

# NJ NATIVE & NETS STAR KYRIE IRVING HELPS NEEDY FAMILIES IN HILLSIDE



Left to Right: Hillside School Board Vice President, Laquana Best, Tyki Irving, Executive Director of the KAI Foundation, Community Participant, Nets Basketball Star Kyrie Irving, Hillside School Board Members Calvin Lofton, Kimberly Cook, President, Eleanor Worrill

## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OBSERVES U.S. ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK

TRENTON - The New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) this week joins agencies and organizations throughout the country in observing U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week. The week, which runs November 18-24, 2020, is intended to educate the public about proper antibiotic use and the prevention of antibiotic-resistant infections.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which spearheads U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week, up to one-half of antibiotic use is either unnecessary or inappropriate. This creates additional health risks by increasing the chances that a patient will experience adverse drug reactions. More than 2.8 million infections from bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics occur and over than 35,000 people die as a direct result in the United States.

“Antibiotics are powerful medicines used to combat life-threatening bacterial diseases, however, overuse leads to an immunity against these drugs and poses significant public health threats,” New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli said. “That is why we urge patients to take every precaution to reduce the chances of developing antibiotic-resistant infections.”

Antibiotic overuse increases the development of drug-resistant germs and drives up the cost and complexity of treating simple infections. As a result,

bacteria stop responding to drugs designed to kill them, increasing the risk of serious illness and death when these infections cannot be treated.

To minimize the impact of antibiotic resistance, New Jerseyans should:

- Only take antibiotics prescribed to you, and take them as recommended
- Implement proper hand hygiene as part of their daily routine and receive recommended vaccinations to prevent infections that might require antibiotic treatment
- Discuss concerns about antibiotic resistance with your health care provider

Join the conversation by following the Twitter handle @CDCgov and @CDC\_NCEZID and using the hashtag #AntibioticResistance. DOH will also be using the following hashtags throughout the week: #NJAntibioticsAware #BeAntibioticsAware #USAAW19

For more information about U.S. Antibiotics Awareness Week visit <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/week/index.html>.

Education materials about antibiotic awareness, including resources for patients, parents, and schools teaches and athletes, can be found on DOH’s website at <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/njantibioticsaware.shtml>.

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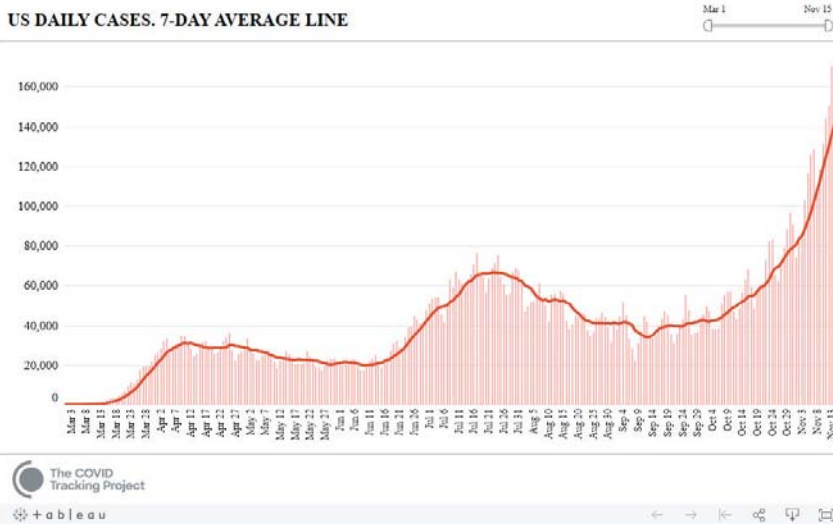
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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Is It Safe To Travel For Thanksgiving And Christmas?



Source: The COVID Tracking Project

Now, look at this picture above, it's the average daily cases in the United States. See a resemblance? They numbers are exploding.

cluding the flu, common cold, etc. The flu itself is responsible for the death of thousands of Americans annually. When you combine that with what the coronavirus can do, it is looking very bleak.

After all I've said, you'll think the answer to the topic question would be a very straightforward one, but no. It is not nearly as straightforward as you think. I can't just say yes or no, although I am leaning heavily towards no. Very heavily towards no.

Let's examine it from both sides. From the 'no' side first. Thanksgiving and Christmas are two of the most celebrated festivals globally. And it makes sense, because what's there not to love about them? Is it the love, the candles, the sharing, getting to see loved ones? Everything about these festivals is magical. So, it comes as very little surprise that many are prepared to risk their safety and travel to see loved ones.

However, before making such a decision, you need to ask yourself this 'is it worth it?' I know that is an extremely sadist question to ask, but it's one I need to ask nonetheless. These festivals mean a lot, yes, I know that, but only the living can celebrate them. If you and your relatives' safety are going to be at risk, which they will be, you need to ask yourself if the risk is worth taking.

There will always be Thanksgiving next year and the year after, but there are 250,485 dead people and counting, from the coronavirus who will not be celebrating it. Airports and pub-

lic transport stations are always busiest during the holidays, and we know how much the coronavirus loves large gatherings in confined spaces for very long periods. It is almost certain that there will be an infected person in the large crowds at airports and other public transport stations. Because of the nature of the coronavirus's spread, it may be difficult to protect oneself, even with the necessary precautions totally.

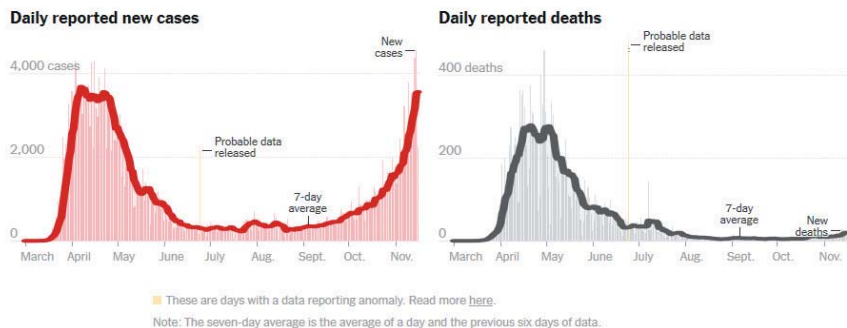
You may not think too highly of the coronavirus because of how strong you believe your immune system to be, but what about your family members and relatives on the other side? Note how I'm asking lots of questions because you need to thoroughly question yourself and assess the answers before making any decision. It is not just about your safety now; there is also the safety of the people you are going to meet, especially if they are high-risk people. By high-risk, I mean above 65 and with underlying medical conditions.

If the people you are traveling to meet fall into the high-risk category, you shouldn't travel. At least not by public transport. And that is even if you will be able to travel at all because we may well be heading for another lockdown with the way things are going.

You also have to consider the locations involved. Where are you traveling from, and where are you going to? Look online for the coronavirus situation in both areas and if the cases are out of control, like here in New Jersey, then traveling is a bad idea.

Another factor to consider is the state of you and your relatives' health. If anyone on either side has the virus or is awaiting a result, you should not travel under any circumstance. Don't even entertain that idea. The CDC has rolled out guidelines regarding traveling, and I must tell you this - there are a lot of them. So many that it becomes difficult to keep track of them. There are two options here. The first is to follow these guidelines religiously if you decide to travel, and did I mention that there

(Continued on page 12)



Daily case and death reports show the severity of the pandemic over time. The picture can be put into further context by considering the number of tests performed and people hospitalized.



New Jersey. Source: New York Times

Look at the picture above and tell me if you think it's safe to travel for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I could end this article right here.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words; well, the picture above is worth an average of 281,493 coronavirus cases, in New Jersey alone. The picture is quite self-explanatory, I'd say.

Do I need to comment on it? No. Am I going to comment on it? Hell yes!

We are only seventeen days into November, and we are seeing record coronavirus cases almost every day. I mean, look at that disheartening picture. Forgive me for my fixation on the picture but do I have any other choice? And that wasn't meant as a rhetorical question - I don't have any other choice. It saddens me as a medical doctor to see that many cases, which mean the chances of more deaths.

And that is not even the saddest part. We are gradually settling into winter, which means many more viruses and other infections are going around, in-



**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

*(Continued from page 11)*

are a lot of them? And the other option, which I prefer, is not to travel at all.

Now, to the other side - the 'yes' side. I understand what the lockdown and the pandemic have done to the mental health of many. A lot has happened in the country since the first coronavirus case. Many have been locked away from their families for months now and have started slipping into depression. As a medical doctor, that is not something I'm comfortable with. In such instances, then you have the 'ok' to travel. However, you have to follow the CDC guidelines religiously. I feel like I've said this before, yes? Anyway, it is crucial. Prioritize private transport. I mean, if possible, go in your vehicle. However, the 'ok' to travel does not apply to coronavirus-positive patients. If you have the virus, then please, don't travel. I am begging you.

To summarize, the more advisable option is not to travel. But if you have to, please follow the CDC traveling guidelines. And irrespective of your decision, don't neglect the standard coronavirus guidelines. Wash your hands regular-

ly, maintain social distancing, and, of course, wear a mask. 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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**TOWN WATCH** *(Continued from page 14)*

switch all three campuses to all-remote remote learning 13 days ahead of schedule.

SHU's main campus here, its law school in Newark and its medical school in Nutley-Clifton are operating with limited services for the time being. Food services, for example, have gone to "grab and go" mode since Nov. 14.

Residence halls will remain open until the start of its Thanksgiving break Nov. 23. Students are being "strongly" urged to get tested by SHU Health Services before heading home.

Some "Christmas at The Hall" events, like Nov. 19's Dove toy wrapping and "Elf" movie screening, have been cancelled. Some others, like Dec. 12's "Pancakes with Santa and The Pirate," are still on.

"All three campuses will pivot to all-remote teaching and learning," said Nyre Nov. 12. "On Tuesday (Nov. 10), the University saw its highest daily case count of the semester - recording 13 new student and three employee cases of the virus for a total of 48 in the last two weeks."

SHU, on Nov. 13, detected 22 more cases through "symptomatic testing and contact tracing protocols." Three of the cases were reported off-campus according to SHU.edu's dashboard and the "Setonian" Friday, and the other 19 among its residential halls.

*(Continued on page 19)*



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# LOCAL TALK HONORS LEADERS FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE

From November 1, 2000 to November 1, 2020, "Local Talk Newspaper" has now made history over 20 years. Starting out as a monthly publication to help the community, it switched to a weekly format on February 22, 2002. Since then, Local Talk has become a household name.

On or about November 1, 2019 we talked about how to make our 20th anniversary a special occasion. We thought about having a dinner event, selling some tickets to raise some funds, something that we certainly need. Then, the coronavirus changed life as we know it. Things like masks and social distancing became a part of everyday living.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we decided not to have any dinner or other risky event. Instead, we decided to celebrate our mission to serve the community by selecting and recognizing people who are exemplary and shining examples of that very mission. The key to the selection

of the awardees was a true connection with the community, along with their dedication and work.

After a lengthy process, we have selected five persons in our opinion who best suit the criterion for the award.

In no particular order, here now are our awardees, all equal and deserving.

- **Darrell K. Terry, Sr. President and CEO of Newark Beth Israel Hospital and Children's Hospital of New Jersey.**

Under his leadership, Newark Beth Israel Hospital was awarded as one of the best hospitals - not just locally but in the nation - two years in a row. Also, he oversaw the recent groundbreaking of a \$100 million expansion plan of the hospital, which the community deserves and is truly needed to serve them even better.

- **Charles N. Hall, Jr. President of the African American Heritage Parade Organization.**

He successfully resurrected and organized the African American Heritage Parade. Although the parade was not held in 2020 due to the coronavirus, that did not stop his community service. He successfully distributed hundreds of groceries in free giveaways to the needy, as well as medical services to the community. He is also President of the Local 108 RWDSU Union.

- **Dr. Gitendra Rajiyah, President of The Heart Center of The Oranges.**

In this pandemic, nothing is more sorely needed than healthcare, and Dr. "Raj" maintains 7 clinics in our community. Despite the conditions, the clinics have not closed during the worst times of COVID-19, and serve the community every

weekday, including Saturdays. Doctors and Nurses should definitely be recognized at the same time for their dedication of work without fear. Even in better times, Dr. Raj has made many innovations to the field of community healthcare.

- **New Jersey Assemblyman Thomas Giblin.**

He has served the community tirelessly, attending most of the community events, and not just showing up during "election time." Assemblyman Giblin has worked with the community as an Assemblyman since 2006. He has also worked as a New Jersey State Democratic Party Chairman, and is an officer of the Local 68 Union.

A fifth person has also been selected as one of our awardees. However, due to the pandemic, this has been delayed. Nonetheless, we plan to reveal this worthy selection in the future.

## WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 12)

resulted in a successful interdiction," said Cmdr. Beau Powers, Sector San Juan chief of response. "This contraband will never reach the streets due to our strong partnerships and shared resolve are crucial to safeguarding the nation's southernmost maritime border and protecting our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Island from this threat."

The bust occurred during the early morning hours of Oct. 17, 2020, after the aircrew of a Coast Guard HC-144 Ocean Sentry aircraft from Air Station Miami detected a suspicious 25-foot go-fast vessel northwest of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

Coast Guard Cutter Charles David Jr. (WPC-1107) responded to the sighting and interdicted the go-fast vessel with the assistance of the cutter's small boat. After the interdiction, the Coast Guard boarding team located and recovered one bale of suspected contraband, which tested posi-

tive for cocaine.

The crew of the cutter Charles David Jr. embarked the seized contraband and the four men from the go-fast vessel, all of whom claimed Dominican Republic nationality. The Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle (WPC-1133) later embarked and transported the seized contraband and suspected smugglers to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where Caribbean Corridor Strike Force federal law enforcement agents received custody.

Cutters Charles David Jr. and Joseph Doyle are 154-foot fast response cutters respectively homeported in Key West Fla. and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## EUROPE / AFRICA

### Boosting Police Reform

The European Union (EU) is maintaining its commitment to the security of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by earmarking €20 million (euros) from the 11th European Development Fund for

the Police Reform Support Program over five years. This brings EU support for police reform up to a total of €60 million.

European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, said: "There can be no development and sustainable growth without a more peaceful environment. That is why the European Union is stepping up its support for security, peace and stability in the DRC. We are therefore backing the DRC's government in its determination to continue the security, defense and justice reforms now under way, with full respect for human rights."

The resumption of police reform is of paramount importance to increasing public confidence in the security forces and supporting the rule of law throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This new European aid program is aimed at improving governance, protection for human rights and efforts to combat impunity and corruption. It has four specific objectives: improving

the implementation of reforms and the accountability of the police; increasing the professionalism of the police and the criminal justice chain; improving human resource management; and, lastly, getting community policing up and running in order to restore public confidence.

Given the importance of recognizing the equality of men and women and combating gender-based violence, including sexual violence, particular attention will be paid to gender issues.

The EU support for security in the country follows on from the EUPOL DRC mission carried out from 2007 to 2014 as part of the common security and defense policy (CSDP), the first and second phases of the police reform support programs financed by the EDF (€35 million) and the Congolese National Police reform support program implemented from 2006 to 2020 with funding from the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (€5 million).

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 17)

There have been 100 cases reported since Labor Day, including 90 since Nov. 3.

Nyre had intended to start shifting from the current "HyFlex" model to all-remote learning Nov. 25. Students would have been staying home and going all-online for the rest of the semester Nov. 30.

"We fully support this decision by Seton Hall," said Village President Sheena Collum. "They told us they would be taking this step. They explained that, with all recent trends on campus, the county and state, it'd be best to go to their all-remote learning plan."

**MAPLEWOOD / BELLEVILLE** - Wawa customers who have been hard pressed to find stores open for their hoagie and coffee fixes since Nov. 6 may be relieved to know that the Maplewood and Belleville outlets are to fully reopen the week of Nov. 19-24.

Although the two "Local Talk" Wawa have been open since 2016 and Aug. 26, they are among several stores in New Jersey and the Delaware Valley that its headquarters had closed for sanitizing either as a precaution or because one of its staff had tested positive for COVID-19.

"Local Talk" visited the Belleville Wawa at 11 So. Franklin Ave. 8 a.m. Nov. 16 to find its filling station open but its food store closed. One front door sign stated that the store would fully reopen Noon Nov. 19.

A second sign explained that the store had closed since Nov. 6 after one of its employees had tested positive the day before. The employee, who last worked there Nov. 4, has been quarantined. That employee's contacts, with Belleville Health Department assistance, were being traced, tested, and if found positive, quarantined.

The Maplewood Wawa, at 1515 Springfield Ave. 9 a.m. Nov. 15, had a sign stating that the store would partially open Nov. 19 and fully "open for sandwiches and coffee service Nov. 24."

"Local Talk" first noticed the entire store closed and taped off 9 a.m. Nov. 11. Half of the fuel station islands had reopened as of Nov. 13; all were reopened Sunday.

"The Wawa closed on their own volition," said Maplewood Health Officer Candice Davenport to "Local Talk" Nov. 17. "They told the township that one of their associates had tested positive. The Health Division have been answering businesses' questions. We trace contacts and test those employees who also live in the township."

**MONTCLAIR** - The township's detec-

tive bureau reached out to Newark Penn Station Nov. 9 to extradite a man suspected of beating a 17-year-old girl unconscious during an Oct. 19 home burglary.

Montclair police officers and detectives first got a call from the girl, who called them from a neighbor's place after 4 p.m. Oct. 19. She said she had regained consciousness, freed herself and left her Hillside Avenue apartment closet via a bathroom window.

The girl said a stranger had confronted her while she was alone at 3:26 p.m. The man, who had entered through an unlocked window, demanded money. When she said she had not any, he beat her about the face and head until she lost consciousness.

When the victim came to, she noticed that he had tied her up with bedsheets. Police found that the man had taken electronics and jewelry before leaving. The girl was taken to local hospital for non life-threatening injuries.

The victim's description led MPD detectives to Penn Station Nov. 9, where New Jersey Transit Police, working on a statewide alert, said they had Anthony L. Harper, 30, of Newark in custody. Harper, after being taken to MPD headquarters for identification, was remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Center Nov. 12.

Harper is being held on nine counts, including: burglary, aggravated assault, making terroristic threats, unlawful restraint, kidnapping and robbery.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Mayor Michael Venezia and the Township Council may be considering, as early as their Dec. 7 conference meeting, a planning board recommendation that may change the look of 84-90 Broad St.

All nine Planning Board members present at their Nov. 10 virtual meeting recommended planning expert Paul Phillips report on The Bloomfield Recreation Center at 84 Broad St. and the Bloomfield Public Library complex at 90 Broad St.

Phillips recommended that the three buildings on the combined 2.03 acre lot be labeled "a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment." The township-hired expert, in his 30-page report, had found that the 1957 rec building and the conjoined 1927 and 1966 library buildings need a lot of work.

The said three buildings have collectively suffered from water infiltration, lack of ADA compliance, outdated HVAC and electrical systems, floor tiles that may contain asbestos and a poorly-kept rear parking lot. Phillips concluded that the three buildings are in conditions "detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare of the community."

The non-condemnation AINOR, if adopted by the council, may lead to replacing all three structures. While no plans have been filed with the planning board, a unified library-recreation center may include senior citizen housing and a parking garage.

Whatever is built at 84-90 Broad will be facing the Bloomfield Green Historic District.

**NUTLEY** - The Nutley High School Maroon Raiders varsity football squad, thanks to the positive COVID-19 test of "an individual associated with the team," had to cancel its Nov. 14 game against Montclair and Nov. 20's visit to Oradell's River Dell Golden Hawks Nov. 13.

Nutley Schools Superintendent Dr. Nancy Glazer and Athletic Director Joseph Piro found themselves calling Montclair counterparts Dr. Jonathan Ponds and Rob Chesney Noon Friday that they canceled their football game about 24 hours before the scheduled kickoff. Similar calls were made to Oradell.

"Unfortunately, the contact was found to be broad and far-reaching due to the nature of the sport," said Glazer in a community open letter. "Because of the close contacts with the positive case, we've no choice but to cancel games with Montclair and River Dell. These games cannot be rescheduled."

Saturday's match against the 3-4 Montclair Mounties, while a conference game, will not affect Nutley's bid to the playoffs. The 5-0 Raiders have clinched the sectional first place seed after their Nov. 6 26-14 of the Columbia Cougars.

Nov. 20's match against 6-1 Oradell was a non-conference game. Montclair was able to schedule a non-league game with 2-2 Belleville Saturday - where they beat the Buccaneers 48-20.

The NHS Maroon Raiders are scheduled to end their regular season against visiting Belleville Nov. 27. They and those associated with the team are meanwhile having their contacts traced, taking COVID tests and, if found positive or exposed, quarantined.



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# Let's congratulate Darrell K. Terry, Sr., together.

President and Chief Executive Officer of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey and winner of *Local Talk's* Community Health Award.

RWJBarnabas Health congratulates Darrell K. Terry, Sr., for being recognized in this 20-year anniversary issue of *Local Talk*, for his tireless commitment to the health and well-being of Newark residents.



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