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VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 4 * NOVEMBER 26, 2020 - DECEMBER 2, 2020

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LOCAL TALK



25¢

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AN INTERVIEW WITH "DR. RAJ" GITENDRA RAJIYAH



During this difficult time, we have to take every opportunity to thank our dedicated healthcare workforce for working through this pandemic in order to support the needs of the community. To get a better understanding of how COVID-19 impacted some of our local medical practices, I decided to sit with Dr. Gitendra Rajiyah, President of the Heart Center of the Oranges, better known by his loyal patients as "Dr. Raj." Dr. Raj and the Heart Center have been serving the community for over 25 years.

Dhiren Shah: Welcome and thank you Dr. Raj for taking the time to sit with me. I would like to start by asking you how COVID-19 impacted your practice, and did you have to close down completely at any point of the pandemic?

Dr. Raj: Just like many others our practice was very much affected by COVID-19. The Heart Center of the Oranges is composed of 8 separate locations serving the areas of East orange, South Orange, West Orange, Maplewood and Bloomfield. Initially no one really knew how this virus was going to affect our lives from a long term perspective. Most of us thought that after a couple of weeks everything would return to normal. As we now know, this was not the case and I very quickly had to make some serious decisions. Abandoning the community was never an option and after meeting with

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NEWARK UNDER LOCKDOWN "ADVISORY"

East Orange, Orange, & Irvington May Follow

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Those who live, work, worship, dine, shop and/or travel through New Jersey's largest city will be experiencing Mayor Ras Baraka's lockdown "advisory" Nov. 25-Dec. 4 - if some have not faced it earlier.

Those who live outside of Newark should not consider themselves "out of bounds." The mayors of East Orange, Irvington and Orange are consulting with Mayor Baraka and may implement similar restrictions.

"We want to see how the

(Continued on page 3)



FORMER CITY OF NEWARK OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH SCHEMING WITH TWO NEWARK BUSINESSMEN TO OBTAIN BRIBES

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Turn to
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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

How are you holding up in this pandemic? I wish all of you and your families the best of health. Happy Thanksgiving to all. I hope everyone follows the CDC guidelines, so you will not be impacted by coronavirus. When you are not infected by the virus, you may not realize how tough life becomes after the virus. Some people are only asymptomatic; they have enough antibodies to fight the virus. But some are not so strong. I wish everyone the best of health again.

The vaccines are coming out soon. Pfizer has already applied for FDA approval. They have one big problem though. It must be stored at -70 degrees temperature. All of the hospitals do not have facilities to store material at -70

degrees. Also, they cannot bring the patients near the storage facility. So, they have to take the vaccine out. Pfizer's vaccine can only stay good for 24 hours in the refrigerator. So, they must use dry ice, and it is very difficult to reach to the masses.

On December 10th, the FDA board will meet and decide for a speedy approval. Usually, it takes about 6 to 9 months for the FDA to approve any vaccine. Pfizer, based out of New York NY and BioNTech, a German company, have already applied for emergency use. Hopefully it will be approved for both companies. They are ready to produce millions of vaccine doses. BioNTech's CEO has already said that their vaccine has finished Phase 3 testing and is about 95% effective.

Another vaccine, from Moderna in Massachusetts, has almost finished the third phase and their result is about 94.5%. However, while Pfizer's vaccine requires -70 Fahrenheit temperature to store, Moderna has stated that their vaccine can stay in a regular refrigerator for 30 days.

BioNTech's vaccine can stay in a regular refrigerator for 3 months and at room temperature for 24 hours.

Finally, AstraZeneca, located in Cambridge UK, has a vaccine with a 90% effective rate in its third phase. It will will require two shots. The BioNTech vaccine is like a flu vaccine and requires taking shots every year, as like the actual flu right now. The United Kingdom will approve the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine in a week, before the United State's FDA approval. Many news channels have asked why the FDA is meeting on December 10th instead of immediately. Hopefully, with the vaccines, we can start living our regular lives by next spring.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka tried to lockdown the city of Newark for 10 days. People are taking this pandemic too easy and are not keeping up with social distancing when they go to restaurants and bars. The CDC guidelines are for you. New Jersey, and especially Essex County and Newark, have been heavily impacted by the coronavirus. I

think a lockdown is necessary, but not like a dictatorship. You have to act like a leader and convince people to stay home.

The businesses are closed at 8 pm every day. People usually follow the leader, and their statement is good enough. However, the leader has to follow the system as well. As seen in a Facebook video, there were a fundraiser on October 20th, in support of Mayor Baraka, called the Ras Baraka Cigar and Sip Campaign Fund Raiser. We saw someone who looks like Mayor Baraka or his brother, but I am not positive that the Mayor himself was there. Local Talk sent a request to the Press Office to comment on the matter, but as of deadline, we have not received a reply yet. Either way, whoever was responsible for this event, which was held in the COVID-19 stricken East Ward, should be ashamed of themselves.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Occasional Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny with Clouds	Rain	Sunny (Rain Possible)	Partly Cloudy
HI 60	HI 60	HI 56	HI 54	HI 55	HI 45	HI 43
LO 50	LO 43	LO 38	LO 41	LO 40	LO 30	LO 30

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

Another week, another loss for the New York Jets. It was a close 34-28 to the Los Angeles Chargers, but LA always gets stuck in close games, so there is nothing to be proud of here. Leading the Chargers was Rookie of the Year candidate Justin Herbert, who threw for three touchdowns and a career high 366 yards. Receiver Keenan Allen had double-digit catches in the first half alone. Jets QB Joe Flacco was only 15-30 for 205 yards. The next game for the 0-10 Jets will be at home against the Miami Dolphins.

Also, after a bye week, the Giants will be playing the Cincinnati Bengals. However, Cincy will be without their #1 overall draft pick Joe Burrow, who suffered a brutal season ending knee injury. Ironically, Burrow played against Alex Smith, who himself had a nasty knee injury a few years ago.

In college football action, the Rutgers Scarlet Knights took a tough loss at home against Michigan in three overtimes, 48-42. Rutgers jumped out to a 17-0 lead in the game, and was led by Cade McNamara's 260 yards and four touchdowns. Unfortunately, they weren't able to finish the job. Still, this was a far better performance than the 78-0 beatdown they took a few years back.

The final week of the high school regular season saw many New Jersey teams upended by COVID-19. The Orange Tornadoes traveled up I-280 and finished off a four-game winning streak, at the expense of the Livingston Lancers 19-15. Leading Orange once more was senior Montez Boswell with 222 yards and three touchdowns. In other action, the West Orange Mountaineers defeated Clifton 27-14, Irvington beat Passaic Tech 35-14, and Montclair handled Paterson Eastside 28-8.

NEWARK PLACED UNDER LOCKDOWN "ADVISORY"

(Continued from page 1)

(COVID) numbers go," said Irvington Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss Nov. 18. "We don't want Newark to have an 8 o'clock shutdown, which has people coming into Irvington, East Orange and Orange after 8. Whatever we do, we want to do it collectively."

Baraka, in an effort to rein in recent COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus infection and death rates that are more than double New Jersey's statewide rates, announced his latest round of temporary restrictions Nov. 18.

Newark's 270,000 or so residents are being asked to stay off the streets after 9 p.m. daily. Police may ask individuals found outside if they are on their way home, to or from work or are engaged in essential travel like for food or medicine.

All citywide non-essential

businesses are to close 8 p.m. daily, including all indoor dining. Outdoor dining and takeout are to cease at 9 p.m.

Some businesses - like barbershops, nail salons and hairdressers - are to operate by appointment only.

Newarkers are being urged to shelter-in-place through these 10 days, going out only for food, medicine and other essential travel. That includes limiting Thanksgiving dinner celebrations to 10 people, including close family members and friends - and those did not travel far.

"The Mayor of Orange and his family always travel for Thanksgiving," said Dwayne Warren, while putting himself in the third person, Nov. 16. "This time, we're not going to do it. Please test, quarantine and have your private Thanksgiving dinner."

Meetings covered by the U.S. Constitution, like public government hearing and worship

services, are exempt - but all must wear masks and seat no more than 25 percent of capacity.

Three East and North Ward neighborhoods, defined by their zip codes and "COVID-19 Hotspots," are facing tighter restrictions.

People in the respective 07105, 104 and 107 zip codes are to be off the streets 9 p.m. weekdays and 10 p.m. weekends.

Police may ask for identification proving that those found outside 9 or 10 p.m.-3 a.m. live in those zones or have proof "that an essential need is being addressed." Those who cannot so prove will be either kept out or told to take the next car, bus or train out.

Some people have noticed and have been stopped by police whose cruisers have been stationed on key 07105 streets. 8 p.m. - 3 a.m. Nov. 20-22.

The above restrictions are atop those Baraka had placed

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Nov. 10 and Oct. 27 in the face of COVID-19's global "second wave." Essex County has been lately leading the state in infections and deaths - and Newark has been leading the county.

"The numbers are real; COVID's still here," said East Orange Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green Nov. 16. "We need to do everything we can to make sure that we implement policies and regulations in our communities."

"Local Talk" has noticed people standing in lines in downtown Newark for COVID tests and/or season flu shots standing 70 to 110 deep to clinics' front doors. Fewer people seem to be riding local transit the last week.

The mayor, indeed, had held emergency live-on-Zoom or Facebook Newark People's Assemblies with those in the North and East Wards Nov. 13-14. He first talked about the new measures towards the end of a live Urban Mayors United Against COVID-19 Nov. 16 Facebook conference

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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 - Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura is hoping that posting a \$10,000 CrimeStoppers reward here Nov. 17 will help dispel the mystery surrounding the Aug. 6 death of a lifelong Ironbound man.

Antonio "Tony" DeAlmeida, 65, was found 5 p.m. Aug. 6 lying prone by Micelli Motors auto body shop at 251 Malvern St - a half-mile east of his home office.

Authorities have not said whether DeAlmeida's fatal injuries were from an accident or from foul play.

DeAlmeida, who was born here Dec. 26, 1954, was president of C&S Foundations, of Waretown and 51 Delancey St., the last 48 years. His funeral was arranged here by Buyus Funeral Home.

Wife Denise, son Antonio, daughters Andrea Azevedo and Noelene Mendes, brother Eugene, sisters Rosemarie Gajda and Dolores DeAlmeida, four grandsons and two granddaughters are among his survivors.

A limited Funeral Mass was held here at Our Lady of Fatima Church Nov. 13, followed by a private entombment; Memorial donations may be made to the Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Cancer Research, www.lustgarten.org.

IRVINGTON - The Irvington Fire Department and some of its mutual aid neighbors are hoping that they have made their final call to 744-48 Springfield Ave. here Nov. 15.

The first responding IFD units found the two-story brick building on the northwest corner of the avenue and 22nd Street engulfed in flames at 7:35 p.m.

that Monday.

The incident commander promptly blocked the Springfield and Avon avenues and 22nd Street intersection and called in a second alarm. Fire units from Newark and East Orange plus Irvington police cruisers arrived to assist. Buses on NJTransit's No. 25 and 70 routes were among the detoured traffic.

Officials said that the fire took until 9:45 p.m. to be brought under control partially due to previous fires having compromised 744-48's first and second floors. There were no serious firefighter injuries reported; the building was supposedly vacant at the time.

The 4A commercial building had previously caught fire some six months earlier. Although the building had long borne a to-be-demolished sign, its formerly boarded up windows were left open. Squatters reopened doors to the vacated day care center and tax preparation offices.

Property tax records for Block 137, Lot 1 has its owner living either across Springfield Avenue or on Argyle Terrace. The building remains open and unsecured as of Nov. 22.

EAST ORANGE - The ECPO Homicide and Major Crimes Task Force detectives have been looking for the person who shot a city man here Oct. 27.

East Orange Public Safety Director Domingos Saldida said that some of his officers had gone out to the 100 block of Lincoln Street in response to gunfire calls made to police headquarters 9:35 p.m. that Tuesday.

They found a man, later identified as Damier Nelson, 22, unconscious, unresponsive and lying along the block with severe gunshot injuries. Nelson was later declared there at the scene.

Witnesses told EOPD officers and county detectives that the shooter had immediately left the scene.

Nelson's funeral arrangements have not been announced as of Nov. 24. He had been a Beech Street resident in 2016.

ORANGE - County and city law enforcers are looking for the person who fatally shot an Orange man here along Main Street Nov. 20.

Orange Public Safety Director Todd Warren said that Wis-

guen Marc, 25, was found with a gunshot wound to the chest around 193 Main St. 9:15 p.m. Friday. The first OPD officers had responded to reports of shots fired in that area.

Although local EMS rushed Marc to Newark's University Hospital, he was pronounced dead there 9:53 p.m.

Main Street traffic - including NJTransit 21, 71 and 73 buses and CoachUSA's 24 A and B buses - were detoured while the ECPO Homicide Task Force conducted a field investigation. Their canvassing yielded several shell casings.

Memorial arrangements for the former Orange High School student have not been announced as of Nov. 24. ECPO detectives remain on the case.

WEST ORANGE - All the holiday decorative lights passing motorists will see here at the Turtle Back Zoo this season will be the ones at its Northfield Avenue entrance.

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, citing rising COVID cases, had canceled the 2020 Holiday Lights Spectacular Nov. 12.

The cancellation includes the lights spectacular's food donation drive. DiVincenzo (D-Roseland) suggests taking those donations to a local food pantry.

No Nov. 26-27

Community Coach 77 Service

Community Coach 77 will not be running on Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day and the Nov. 27 day after. The CoachUSA-Paramus rush hour commuter service will resume Monday Nov. 30.

SOUTH ORANGE - About all that is left of David Burke's restaurant here at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club are the ads still posted on NJ Transit's South Orange Station as of Nov. 21.

OLTC management closed David Burke at Orange Lawn and Drifthouse after he served his last customer here Oct. 26. The club allowed Burke to make the announcement Oct. 19, ending their 19-month collaboration.

Both club members - and the general public - had enjoyed Burke's creations like clothesline bacon, lobster dumplings and salt-aged steaks for a \$10 fixed

price. Gov. Phil Murphy's then-standing executive order to limit indoor dining to 25 percent capacity, however, prompted the club's call.

Burke at Orange Lawn opened May 14, 2019 after OLTC finished a \$4 million renovation of their 139-year-old clubhouse here in the Newstead section. Initial results included a boost in club membership and good restaurant reviews.

"I'm a little disappointed but not heartbroken," said Burke at his Fort Lee restaurant. "In some ways, we're a casualty of this pandemic. They didn't think it'd be worth running with 25 percent capacity indoors."

Burke and the club initially closed the restaurant when the pandemic broke out in March. It reopened June 16 for takeout orders and, for the summer, dining in an outdoor "Garden Terrace" tent.

"If we have one casualty, it's okay," said Burke, referring to his 12 other restaurants in four states and Washington, D.C. OLTC has meanwhile succeeded Burke with Anthony "Tony" Villanueva as its executive chef.

MAPLEWOOD - The Maplewood Auxiliary Police, if or when it resumes its service, will do so without firearms.

The Maplewood Township Committee, in a 3-1-1 split vote Oct. 20, disarmed the MAP and kept it on indefinite suspension. That suspension may end when the COVID-19 pandemic recedes.

The all-volunteer auxiliary, who had carried firearms for training certification and in emergencies, had been suspended since July while the committee, Police Chief Jimmy DeVaul and Auxiliary Chief Joseph Yacenda discussed the group's use and future.

While both DeVaul and Yacenda said the auxiliary trains alongside MPD officers to the same standards, Maplewood's "Top Cop" added, "if a civilian can do this job without a gun, then certainly our reserves can do it without a gun."

Mayor Frank McGehee plus Committeemen Victor DeLuca, and Dean Dafis, after listening to 20 public speakers, voted to disarm and to continue suspending the auxiliary.

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ANOTHER COMPANY WORKING ON ITS OWN COVID-19 VACCINE

AstraZeneca's two different dosing regimens demonstrated efficacy with one showing a better profile

No hospitalizations or severe cases of COVID-19 in participants treated with AZD1222

Positive high-level results from an interim analysis of clinical trials of AZD1222 in the UK and Brazil showed the vaccine was highly effective in preventing COVID-19, the primary endpoint, and no hospitalizations or severe cases of the disease were reported in participants receiving the vaccine. There were a total of 131 COVID-19 cases in the interim analysis.

One dosing regimen (n=2,741) showed vaccine efficacy of 90% when AZD1222 was given as a half dose, followed by a full dose at least one month apart, and another dosing regimen (n=8,895) showed 62% efficacy when given as two full doses at least one month apart. The combined analysis from both dosing regimens (n=11,636) resulted in an average efficacy of 70%. All results were statistically significant (p<=0.0001). More data will continue to accumulate, and additional analysis will be conducted, refining the efficacy reading and establishing the duration of protection.

An independent Data Safety Monitoring Board determined that the analysis met its primary endpoint showing protection from COVID-19 occurring 14 days or more after receiving two doses of the vaccine. No serious safety events related to the vaccine have been confirmed. AZD1222 was well tolerated across both dosing regimens.

AstraZeneca will now immediately prepare regulatory submission of the data to authorities around the world that have a framework in place for conditional or early approval. The Company will seek an Emergen-

cy Use Listing from the World Health Organization for an accelerated pathway to vaccine availability in low-income countries. In parallel, the full analysis of the interim results is being submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Professor Andrew Pollard, Chief Investigator of the Oxford Vaccine Trial at Oxford, said, "These findings show that we have an effective vaccine that will save many lives. Excitingly, we've found that one of our dosing regimens may be around 90% effective and if this dosing regime is used, more people could be vaccinated with planned vaccine supply. Today's announcement is only possible thanks to the many volunteers in our trial, and the hard working and talented team of researchers based around the world."

Pascal Soriot, Chief Executive Officer, said: "Today marks an important milestone in our fight against the pandemic. This vaccine's efficacy and safety confirm that it will be highly effective against COVID-19 and will have an immediate impact on this public health emergency. Furthermore, the vaccine's simple supply chain and our no-profit pledge and commitment to broad, equitable and timely access means it will be affordable and globally available, supplying hundreds of millions of doses on approval."

The pooled analysis included data from the COV002 Phase II/III trial in the UK and COV003 Phase III trial in Brazil. Over 23,000 participants are being assessed following two doses of either a half-dose/full-dose regimen or a regimen of two full doses of AZD1222 or a comparator, meningococcal conjugate vaccine called Men-ACWY or saline. The global trials are evaluating participants aged 18 years or over from diverse racial and geographic groups who are healthy or have stable underlying medical conditions.

Clinical trials are also being conducted in the US, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Kenya and

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ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from Nov. 18 - Nov. 24, 2020

Municipality	11-18-2020	Deaths	11-24-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1868	70	2064	74
Bloomfield	1814	74	1968	78
Caldwell	181	11	194	11
Cedar Grove	590	114	615	115
East Orange	2679	235	2819	236
Essex Fells	54	2	62	2
Fairfield	275	18	301	19
Glen Ridge	72	9	82	9
Irvington	2009	167	2092	167
Livingston	750	73	798	72
Maplewood	478	27	508	27
Millburn	275	6	295	6
Montclair	776	52	836	52
Newark	14062	693	15134	700
North Caldwell	102	5	114	5
Nutley	839	36	931	37
Orange	1432	94	1507	96
Roseland	150	14	163	14
South Orange	214	5	248	5
Verona	252	14	276	15
West Caldwell	378	50	402	50
West Orange	1893	189	2030	191
Total	31143	1958	33439	1981

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 11-24-2020)

NJ: 309,588 cases / 14,960 deaths (Plus 1,812 probable)

United States (approx.): 12.45 Million / 260,000 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 60 Million / 1.4 Million deaths

Latin America with planned trials in other European and Asian countries. In total, the Company expects to enroll up to 60,000 participants globally.

The Company is making rapid progress in manufacturing with a capacity of up to 3 billion doses of the vaccine in 2021 on a rolling basis, pending regulatory approval. The vaccine can be stored, transported and handled

at normal refrigerated conditions (2-8 degrees Celsius/ 36-46 degrees Fahrenheit) for at least six months and administered within existing healthcare settings.

AstraZeneca continues to engage with governments, multilateral organizations and collaborators around the world to ensure broad and equitable access to the vaccine at no profit for the duration of the pandemic.



UNITED STATES

David Dinkins (1927-2020)

A trailblazer in the world of politics has joined many of the icons who have passed away in 2020.

Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins died Nov. 23 at the age of 93 due to natural causes. In 1990, Dinkins was sworn into that position as the city's 106th mayor. What made his election to that office historic was his status as NYC's first - and to this day only - African American Mayor.

Among Dinkins's accomplishments was a major reduction in crime. He also negotiated a lease deal with the USTA National Tennis Center, which yields more money toward the city than NY mainstays like the Yankees, Mets, Knicks and Rangers combined. However, the progress was not good enough for the majority of New Yorkers. In 1993, Rudy Giuliani was elected to replace him.

Dinkins' death came just weeks after the passing of his wife Joyce, who died on Oct. 11 at the age of 89. They had two children.

EUROPE

Twin Brothers Wanted in Bank Hit

At the request of German authorities, INTERPOL has issued Red Notices for twin brothers suspected of involvement in the Dresden Green Vault robbery.

International wanted persons alerts for Mohamed and Abdul Majed Remmo, who are believed to be part of a criminal family network, have now been circulated to all 194 member countries.

The 21-year-olds are wanted for aggravated gang robbery and

arson following the heist in the early hours of Nov. 25, 2019 when more than a dozen diamond-encrusted items were stolen.

Thieves broke into the museum after setting a fire at a nearby electrical junction box, causing a power outage. Two suspects were caught on CCTV footage smashing the display case that housed the jewels, with the robbers fleeing in a car which was later found burnt out.

The INTERPOL notices were issued following a series of raids in Berlin on Nov. 17, 2020 in which three people suspected of involvement in the jewel theft were taken into custody.

Shortly after the robbery, INTERPOL published a special poster to highlight the theft of the 18th-century jewels, details of which were also added to the INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art Database.

Anyone with information about the location of these individuals, or the stolen items, is advised to contact the Bundeskriminalamt (German Federal Criminal Police) or INTERPOL's Fugitives unit.

AFRICA

A Swarm of Locusts

The Desert Locust crisis which struck the greater Horn of Africa region earlier this year threatening food supplies for millions, could re-escalate as recent strong winds carried mature swarmlets from southern Somalia into eastern and northeastern Kenya, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Nov. 24.

Although some of the swarmlets that reached Kenya may have already laid eggs before their arrival, there remains a risk of further egg-laying in sandy areas that saw recent rainfalls, according to FAO.

"In this case, hatching and hopper band formation can be expected in early December," said the agency.

Breeding also continues in central Somalia and eastern Ethiopia where bands of hoppers - non-flying, nymphal stage locust

- are present, and a new generation of immature swarms could start forming by the end of November.

Swarm formation is expected to continue throughout December due to widespread hatching and band formation that occurred mid-November. From the second week of December, several waves of numerous swarms can be expected to move south in Somalia and Ethiopia, reaching northern Kenya, FAO added.

A resurgence of the swarms could aggravate food security in the region, where almost 25 million people are already suffering from severe acute food insecurity. Desert Locusts are considered the most destructive migratory pest in the world, devouring large areas of crops and grasses meant for people and livestock.

FAO is supporting authorities in Somalia to scale up anti-locust measures, focusing on areas at high risk.

"Survey and control operations, by ground and by air, have been scaled-up and are ongoing," said Etienne Peterschmitt, FAO Representative in Somalia.

"These resources include aircrafts, vehicles, equipment, biopesticides, insect growth regulators and staff that have been strategically positioned in various parts of the country," he added.

In addition to the measures to reduce breeding and swarms, FAO and partners are also supporting farmers in the affected areas. Supplies have been delivered and pre-positioned to assist food-insecure households that are at risk of locust invasion, including planting and replanting packages, supplementary feed and integrated cash assistance and livelihood support.

ASIA

New Trade Alliance Set to Make Moves

A new trade bloc covering a huge swathe of the Asia-Pacific region will play an important role in developing poorer economies and in post-pandemic stimulus, according to a report pub-

lished on Monday by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement (RCEP) was signed on Sunday by 15 countries including China, Japan, Australia, Vietnam and South Korea, jointly covering a total population of more than 2.3 billion people - five times the size of the European Union.

"The agreement could help revive post-COVID economic growth, boost intra-regional trade and investment links at a time of global trade tensions, and provide a framework for further regional cooperation," the report said.

Asia is already a major destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) and it has fared relatively well as an investment target during the global pandemic, but RCEP could give its members extra support and a stimulus as the pandemic subsides, the report said.

There is significant scope for RCEP members to invest more in each other, especially in the ASEAN group of countries, it notes. After the pandemic, investors would be looking for infrastructure, clean energy and healthcare projects, while multinational companies might seek to build more resilient supply chains by buying and developing assets within the RCEP bloc.

"RCEP could stimulate investment for development," the UNCTAD report said.

The RCEP bloc includes three least developed countries: Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao People's Democratic Republic. They already get the bulk of their FDI from other RCEP members, but the creation of the trade agreement could lead to them play a stronger role in global value chains (GVC) that supply markets around the world.

The birth of RCEP could also encourage firms to start up new projects within the bloc as they switch away from producing in China - an ongoing trend thanks to rising costs and the trade tensions of the past four years, noted the trade body analysis.

AN INTERVIEW WITH "DR. RAJ"

GITENDRA RAJIYAH

(Continued from page 1)

my team we decided that we were going to consolidate and close some of the offices during the most critical months of the pandemic. Due to staffing shortages, a decision was made to maintain the West Orange, the Bloomfield and East Orange offices open and temporarily close the remainder of the HCO locations.

DS: How did your patient population access medical care and advice during this time?

Dr. Raj: Initially patients were very skeptical about accessing care in person which caused our volume to decrease significantly. We immediately transitioned to telemedicine providing the patients with remote access to their providers. This is something that we still provide to our patient population as needed. This applies to patients that are concerned about going out of their homes as well as patients that may be symptomatic.

DS: How did the pandemic impact your staff and how did you handle it?

Dr. Raj: Just like it did with the rest of the country, the pandemic greatly affected our staff from medical assistants to physicians creating a shortage in workforce. This was mainly caused by the struggles due to lack of adequate childcare because our organization only experienced a hand full of COVID cases within our staff out of almost 100 employees. One of the things that was very important to me during the early stages of the pandemic was to protect my staff and our patients. I immediately arranged for vast supplies of Personal Protective Equip-

ment (PPE) which is still being supplied to our staff on a weekly basis.

DS: It's now almost 7 months since COVID-19 changed our lives, how is the Heart Center of the Oranges being impacted today?

Dr. Raj: I'm pleased to say that all of our offices are now open providing safe care at all locations. During the time we were closed, we made some changes to our waiting rooms and expanded the number of exam rooms at two of our locations so we could accommodate social distancing. We also make sure that in order to enter our facility patients must wear masks at all times and we encourage them to use hand sanitizer during the time they spend in the office.

DS: What are some of the things that patients should be doing to help with the spread of the virus, and what are your recommendations?

Dr. Raj: As we have all been made aware an individual can spread COVID-19 even without having any symptoms so my advice to everyone is to keep wearing masks, washing hands frequently and maintaining social distancing because you never know when you come into contact with someone carrying the virus. Our offices will remain open and available both in person and via televisit the later for symptomatic patients and for those who are concerned about going out.

DS: Thank you for your time Dr. Raj, and also thank you and your staff for making all your efforts to continue to stay open in order to provide the much needed support to our community.

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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

Trust Building

Trust is a learned phenomenon. Relationships are built on trust. Trust and love work together. If trust breaks down, love breaks down, and vice versa. Love and trust are interdependent.

Part of a popular song that Frank Sinatra used to sing says:

*Love and marriage, love and marriage
They go together like a horse and carriage
This I tell you, brother
You can't have one without the other*

I cannot repeat all of the horrific stories of the broken marriages that I have seen and heard of over the years, but I know them by what the individuals who are involved in them say. For example, "I can't trust him/her anymore." "He/she is wicked." "He/she is a liar." "I knew it before I was married, but I hoped he/she would change." "He is a (words I cannot say here)." You can fill in the blanks. You have heard them too.

What I know is that the pain is so severe, the couples are so hurt that they are suspicious of and angry at a lot of people. Some even go on to say, "I don't trust anybody." And such persons pass on the cycle of mis-

trust to their children. They also perpetuate the cycle of distrust in their families, their churches, and their communities.

It is hard to say, but many people go into marriage with persons they don't trust. Their relationships begin on distrust and blossom into a life of mistrust. Others might start out their journey with a little trust, but they do not nurture and grow that trust. Soon, the breaks begin, until someday they find themselves changing into the kind of persons that I describe in the following ways:

1. **Miserable** – that is very unhappy – sad and depressed – most, if not, all the time, wretched and dejected.
2. **Anxious** – experiencing worry, uneasiness, nervousness, continually thinking that they are in the midst of imminent danger, and not being sure of the outcome.
3. **Fearful** – ever thinking that there is a threat around from others and around every corner.
4. **Frustrated** – feeling distressed and annoyed, primarily because of the inability to change or achieve the goal that was first set forth.
5. **Burdened** – feeling like one is in the dumps, there is a heavy load on the shoulder or in the heart.
6. **Sick** – always under physical, psychological, and emotional distress. Chest pain, back pain, and headaches are just a few samples of the kinds of sickness that one might feel under the loss of trust.
7. **Lack of a sense of safety** – when most persons walk away from a relationship, it is because they do not feel

safe.

On the other hand, when one is in a trusting relationship, one will feel:

1. **Peace** – quietness in the heart, mind, and soul, not easily agitated.
2. **Happiness** – a sense of well-being, joy, or contentment. Might not always be smiling but comfortable.
3. **Restfulness** – The sense of tranquility, relaxation, quietness, and calmness in the heart
4. **Respected and respectful** – having a sense of honor, showing deference, and appreciation one toward the other.
5. **Confidence** – there is no need to question a partner's or friend's motives. One accepts that "what you see is what you get." The one with whom you relate is genuine and authentic.
6. **Sense of vulnerability** - One can be open, trusting the other with his/her secrets and flaws.
7. **Freedom** – In a trusting relationship, there is no sense of oppression.

Yes, we might have had a life that has left us distrusting and find it hard to trust anyone. So, let's find out what are some of the things that can help us to (re-) build our trust. I offer, the seven following keys:

1. **Integrity** – character alignment. What is on the outside must be aligned with what is on the inside.
2. **Honesty** – Whatever comes out of our souls, must be truth.
3. **Consistency** – it means that

we can be trusted in the light, as well as in the dark. One does not have to guess whether a person is in game-play with you. What is said is what is meant. What is done is what is in the heart. There is no pretense.

4. **Faithfulness** – the total commitment of the heart through the loyalty, constancy, and fidelity by which one lives.
5. **Accountability** – understanding that you are answerable to someone. That someone might be you, a partner, and many others as well. The accountable person is a responsible person. If a person will say, what I do is my business, and I do not care, such a person is not accountable and cannot be trusted.
6. **Correct expectations** – too many persons start out with false expectations on life. All of us are guilty of this at some time. Those who enter into marriage thinking they are marrying "Mr. or Mrs. Right, do not admit that we all have faults and flaws. Such relationships are built out or weakness and forgiveness.
7. **Hard work** – Trust building demands hard work. When trust is lost, it requires hard work to rebuild it.

Most importantly, we have to remember that trust is a choice. I choose to trust, and I work hard to make it useful. If I am negligent, I run the risk of destroying my trust and your trust. Ask yourself whether you have overcome the pain, the suspicion, and the hurt so that you can trust again. Ask yourself what you are doing today to build trust in your relationship.

NEWARK PLACED UNDER LOCKDOWN "ADVISORY"

(Continued from page 3)

with Orange's Warren, Irvington's Vauss and East Orange's Green.

"We're going to lock the city down," said Baraka during WBGO-FM's "Newark Today" program Nov. 19. "We want the people to shelter-in-place for 10 days - that's the period the CDC

(U.S. Centers for Disease Control) gives us for people to isolate or quarantine themselves. We want folks to come out only for essential purposes."

Baraka, however, had stopped short of issuing the above as an executive order. That may translate to police and health officers not issuing violation summonses like they had in April and May.

Baraka had been talking with Gov. Phil Murphy and his offic-

ers to make sure that the mayor's directives mesh with Murphy's executive orders.

"They're up against it and I can't blame them for trying to turn over every stone," said Murphy during his own Nov. 17 Coronavirus Briefing. "We can't have a patchwork; we continue to work with them."

"We can't go back to where we were in April or May," said Baraka Nov. 20. "We urge everyone to be responsible, cautious

and think of the greater good."

The East Ward's Ironbound orange-and-yellow "Hot Spot," for the record, is bounded by Raymond Boulevard, Stockton Street, US 1-9, Delancy Street and Route 21-McCarter Highway. That zone, affecting 63 streets, is within the 07105 zip code that extends to the Passaic River.

The North Ward is split between the 07104 and 107 zip (Continued on page 14)

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

The Coronavirus Vaccine: Distribution, Immunity, And Herd Immunity



Coronavirus this, the coronavirus that... if you got a penny for every time you've heard about the coronavirus this year, you'd probably have more money than cases we've had. That's what you're thinking. Don't ask me how I know, though! But seriously, this year has been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic, and over a quarter of a million Americans have lost their lives.

It gets even scarier. In many countries, the peak of the virus has long passed. This is not to say they have fully recovered, no, far from it, but cases and deaths have reduced drastically compared to when the virus first peaked. That's the case in many countries, but not here. Not even remotely close. Like, we can't even dare say that about the great United States of America. We have had a first wave, a sec-

ond wave, and, wait for it, a third and even more terrible wave.

The cases are not petering out; they are increasing. And rapidly at that. Just last week, there was a day with over 190,000 cases. 190,000 cases in a day. Our neighbors are recording 4,000 cases a day and crying 'crisis,' but here we are sitting at the top, blazing all the competition, outdoing ourselves, with 190,000 cases.

I'll interrupt this sweet story right here and say - please, wear a mask. I say it like that, but I mean it like this - PLEASE, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, JUST WEAR A MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING! Whew... where were we? Oh, yes, cases are increasing in record numbers, and we are approaching the holidays. Three weeks ago, it wasn't looking very promising at all.

But then came our knights in shining armor, Pfizer and Moderna, announcing that their vaccines were over 94% effective in Phase III trials. For those who don't understand its significance, Phase III is the final stage of clinical trials and having a vaccine with 95% efficacy is great news. For the first time in eight months, I have hope.

Let me try to guess your thoughts again... 'the vaccines are ready, great! Then let's start giving them to people.' Well, it's not nearly as straightforward as 'let's just give it out.' There are a lot of factors and logistics that come into play before everyone can get the vaccine. In fact, many experts believe that getting the vaccine up to 95% efficacy is the very easy part. And that's saying something.

Consider it this way, if you want to build muscles and train your body, signing up in the gym is the easy part. That's like the 95% effective vaccines we have now. You still have to put in months and years of hard training before you can get a

truly ripped body. Likewise, it will take a lot of time before we can get total immunity in the country. We can't accurately predict when that will be because the vaccines have not even rolled out yet. We don't know how our society will react to it. However, let's take it one step at a time.

One of the most important factors in vaccination is distribution. As I said, it's not nearly as easy as just giving the vaccines out to everyone who wants them. There are a lot of other and, rather, complex factors involved, like who will get the vaccine first, who gives the vaccines, how are large quantities of vaccines going to be safely transported, how will the vaccines be distributed among states, and the list goes on and on.

The CDC is working with all the states to develop plans on how the vaccines will be distributed, but it's not exactly going at rocket speed because states are at different planning stages. How do I mean? Some states had commenced planning for distribution long before the vaccines were ready, while some states are only just starting. Again, it is up to each state to determine the priority populations that get the vaccine first. States have to complete planning before general decisions can be made and enforced.

From the information at hand now, vaccines will be rationed according to population. That seems like the logical thing to do, but again, it's not that straightforward. The priority populations are usually healthcare workers, essential workers, and high-risk individuals. Speaking of healthcare workers, hospitals in some states are more short-staffed than others. And this becomes important because it is healthcare workers that serve as providers to administer the vaccine. You can probably see

where this is going. States with very short-staffed healthcare facilities may end up with surplus vaccines, while states with adequate staff may end up with deficits.

There is also the issue of transporting the vaccines. Pfizer's model has to be stored at -70 degrees. This will make storage very difficult as the vaccines have to be stored in deep freezers. This is not reasonable as only big facilities will have storage capacities. Smaller facilities will not be able to store the vaccine, and you can't blame them because no drug in history has had to be stored at that low a temperature. Pfizer plans to give out storage devices involving dry ice, but it remains to be seen how well those will work during distribution.

It is currently estimated that 40 million vaccines can be available for the priority population if the FDA approves the vaccine. Both Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines require two shots, so we're looking at about twenty million vaccinated people. Yes, I almost forgot - the FDA still has to approve the vaccine. We should expect a statement from them in the second week of December.

Then there's the topic of herd immunity. Let me be very clear - that is not feasible right now. We are thousands of miles from herd immunity. Here's why. The concept of herd immunity involves enough of the population getting immune to an infection. Then the immune people protect the vulnerable fraction of the population by effectively killing the chances of transmission. The measurement metric of the infectiousness of an infection is the reproduction number, denoted as R0. The R0 of the coronavirus is between 2 and 3.2, although believed to be closer to 3.2 than it is to 2.

At that R0, between 50 and 67 percent of the population has

(Continued on page 12)

GIBLIN & TIMBERLAKE ORGANIZE HOLIDAY TOY AND BOOK DRIVE FOR AREA CHILDREN

34th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT - Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin and Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake have called on residents, businesses and organizations in the 34th legislative district to support their 2020 Holiday Toy and Book Drive, which last year handed out hundreds of toys and books to kids ages 3 to 15.

"We want to extend a helping hand to families who may face tough times during this coming holiday season," said Timberlake (D-Essex/Passaic). "I am pleased to participate in this drive and hope that we will be able to reach even more boys and girls."

"The holidays are a wonderful time, but for families that may be struggling, they can also be stressful," said Giblin (D-Essex/Passaic). "This drive hopes to ease some of that burden and allow families to enjoy the holidays, without worrying whether they will be able to afford gifts for their children."

This is the Eleventh holiday toy and book drive organized by Giblin and the third year Assemblywoman Timberlake will be participating. Last year's drive

collected over 300 items.

Donations of new toys and new books will be accepted from Monday, November 16 through Thursday, December 10th, 2020. All donations must be new, for children ages 3 to 15, and should be unwrapped.

Toys and books collected will be distributed to local organizations including the New Hope Village 4 Veterans, Inc., East Orange/Orange Community Development Corp., Montclair Child Development Corp/Head Start Program, The Boys and Girls Club of Clifton, Moving Orange Forward, St. Peters Haven, and United Way of Northern New Jersey.

Donations may be dropped at:

Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin's District Office,

855 Valley Road, Suite 104, Clifton, NJ.

Drop off hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact Lolita Cruz at 973.779.3125.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 11)

to be immune to the virus for herd immunity to work. To achieve 65% immunity in the United States, 213.2 million people have to be immune to the virus. Right now, over 12 million have been infected, and if we assume that they are all immune, which they aren't, that's about 3.14%. See, a long way.

It will take time before we can get herd immunity or total vaccination. Or before we reach reasonable immunity levels. However, pending that time, please wear a mask and practice social distancing. 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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MAPLEWOOD MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ASSUMING IDENTITY OF ACCOUNT HOLDER AND USING FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED DEBIT CARD TO STEAL OVER \$67,000

TRENTON - Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced that an Essex County man was sentenced to prison Nov. 19 for stealing the identity of a bank account holder and using a fraudulently obtained debit card to make over \$67,000 in purchases and withdrawals.

Corey N. Blanton, 28, of Maplewood, was sentenced to three years in state prison by Superior Court Judge Robert A. Kirsch in Union County. Blanton pleaded guilty on Jan. 22, 2019 to third-degree charges of impersonation/theft of identity and theft by deception. He must pay full restitution. Blanton previously failed to appear in court multiple times for sentencing,

but was recently detained in the Union County Jail on a bench warrant issued by Judge Kirsch.

Deputy Attorney General Thomas Huynh and former Deputy Attorney General Joseph Remy prosecuted Blanton, and Deputy Attorney General Huynh represented the Division of Criminal Justice Financial and Cyber Crimes Bureau at the sentencing hearing.

Blanton was indicted in an investigation by the New Jersey State Police and the Division of Criminal Justice that began when an investigator for Bank of America contacted the State Police about thefts involving the fraudulently obtained debit card. The investigation revealed that

Blanton obtained personal information about the account holder that enabled him to order a new debit card and have it mailed to an address in Georgia.

Once Blanton received the debit card, he used it to make more than \$67,000 in purchases and withdrawals in New Jersey and Georgia. Investigators identified Blanton as the man using the debit card and had a warrant issued for his arrest. Blanton was arrested in April 2017 by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Georgia.

"Identity theft and credit card fraud cause billions of dollars in losses each year to financial institutions and consumers,"

said Attorney General Grewal. "We're working with all levels of law enforcement and the financial industry to protect consumers from these costly and disruptive crimes and bring identity thieves like Blanton to justice."

"Our Financial and Cyber Crimes Bureau aggressively investigates identity theft, financial fraud, and other types of white collar crime in collaboration with the New Jersey State Police, other law enforcement partners, and impacted financial institutions," said Director Veronica Allende of the Division of Criminal Justice. "This case il-

(Continued on page 14)

FORMER CITY OF NEWARK OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH SCHEMING WITH TWO NEWARK BUSINESSMEN TO OBTAIN BRIBES

NEWARK - A former City of Newark official and officer of the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation (NCEDC) and two business owners were charged today for their roles in a bribery scheme, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced.

Carmelo G. Garcia, 45, of Hoboken; Frank Valvano Jr., 52, of Florham Park; and Irwin Sablosky, 60, of Springfield, are each charged by complaint with one count of conspiracy to commit bribery in connection with the business and transactions of a federally funded local government and organization. Garcia was a high-level Newark official, and prior to that, an executive officer of the NCEDC (now known as "Invest Newark"). Valvano and Sablosky are co-owners of a New Jersey-based pawnbroker and jewelry business. The defendants will appear in federal court on a date to be determined.

According to documents filed in the case and statements made in court: From 2017 through April 2019, Garcia sought and received significant monetary payments and other benefits from Valvano, Sablosky, and others in exchange for Garcia's use of his official positions and influence to assist Valvano and Sablosky with securing redevelopment agreements (RDAs) with the City of Newark to purchase and acquire various city-owned properties for redevelopment, including obtaining preliminary designated developer status, and to ensure that Garcia did not act against their interests. In addition to money, Garcia also received jewelry from the pawnbroker and jewelry business that Valvano and Sablosky co-own.

Phone records and text messages obtained by law enforcement document extensive communications among Garcia, Val-

vano, Sablosky, and others about the bribery scheme, including text messages in which Garcia arranged to personally collect cash provided by Valvano and Sablosky. In one instance, in June 2018, Garcia, then acting deputy mayor and director of the city's Department of Economic and Housing Development (EHD Department), received an envelope containing \$25,000 in cash, supplied by Valvano through an intermediary, in the restroom of a New Jersey restaurant.

Text messages obtained by law enforcement show that Garcia used his personal cellular phone to coordinate the location and timing of the meeting. Approximately five days later, the EHD Department issued letters granting preliminary designated developer status for several properties to two limited liability companies controlled by Valvano and Sablosky. Garcia, whose name and official title were also prominently displayed on the letterhead, was copied on both letters.

In text messages, Valvano and Sablosky discussed additional payments of money and jewelry the two had made to Garcia, and also to an associate of Garcia (Individual 1), as well as their ongoing efforts to obtain RDAs with the city to acquire and redevelop additional properties. For instance, on March 31, 2019, Valvano texted Sablosky to complain that Garcia's associate, who sometimes served as an intermediary between Garcia and Sablosky and Valvano, was "already looking for [more] money." After observing that "We've done nothing but spend tons of money and give away jewelry," Sablosky noted that "Carmelo [Garcia] wants more too. We can't afford it . . . We're a [expletive] money well for these guys to keep coming back to."

(Continued on page 15)

THANKSGIVING 2020



Photo By Walter Elliott

By Kristopher Seals

NOTE: THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN RETIRED LAST YEAR, BUT 2020 IS SO RIDICULOUS I HAD TO.

Question: Why did the turkey stand in the middle of the road?

Answer #1: Two words: Social Distancing.

Answer #2: It's dancing in the street because you-know-who lost the election.

Answer #3: It's running from either Murder Hornets or Carole Baskin's tiger.

Answer #4: Guess what? It's STILL trying to find the mythical algorithm Cami Anderson used to place students in Newark's schools. (NEVER. DROPPING. THIS.)

Answer #5: It got kicked off a Zoom call for being naked.

Answer #6: It's going to the Giants camp to audition for the starting QB job.

You: But Kris, that turkey doesn't have hands. How's it gonna hold on to the football?

Me: How's that any different from right now?

Answer #7: It's going to the Jets camp to audition for the head coaching job.

You: But Kris, that turkey doesn't have a clue. How's it gonna coach the team?

Me: HOW'S THAT ANY DIFFERENT FROM RIGHT NOW?!

Answer #8: It's got ejected from the "Among Us" ship for being "sus".

Answer #9: Looking at the ground, it recently rained. Well then, it's pretty obvious that this turkey loves some Wet As...Phalt.

Answer #10: It's reminding people that no matter how absurd, heart-breaking and painful 2020 is, life will go on. Happy Thanksgiving.

LEGISLATION SIGNED TO BRING CHANGES TO THE USE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS BY NEW JERSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT

TRENTON - Acting on a commitment to further promote transparency in policing and build trust between police officers and the communities they serve, Governor Phil Murphy signed two pieces of legislation (S1163 and A4312) on Nov. 24, which concern the use of body worn cameras by members of law enforcement.

The Governor also signed executive Order No. 201, which establishes a 14-member Inter-agency Working Group to provide recommendations to the Governor's Office and Attorney General regarding technology solutions to facilitate the statewide implementation of body worn cameras in law enforcement agencies. The Working Group will work to identify barriers to adopting body worn cameras and recommend technology solutions to facilitate their implementation.

"We've made it clear that New Jersey will be second-to-none in enacting vital reforms to promote transparency and boost public confidence in law enforcement," said Governor Murphy. "Body worn cameras are a wise all-around investment in public safety that not only redouble our commitment to transparency and accountability, but also ensure that members of law enforcement are equipped with an

important tool to help them carry out their sworn duties. Today represents another step down what we know is a long road to full understanding and lasting trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve."

"New Jersey has made great strides to promote a greater degree of professionalism, accountability, and transparency within our law enforcement agencies, and our state is committed to ensuring that our officers feel supported when they are in the line of duty," said Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. "This legislation being signed today is about developing greater accountability and establishing trust between police officers and the people who rely on them every day to keep our communities safe."

The bill was sponsored by Senators Shirley Turner and Linda Greenstein, and Assemblymembers Herb Conaway and Cleopatra Tucker.

"Police body cameras have become an essential part of community policing today," said Assemblymembers Cleopatra Tucker, Herb Conaway, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, and Shavonda Sumter, in a joint statement. "They aim to ensure accountabil-

ity for any actions which take place during a police stop, whether it is by the officer or a resident. Tensions surrounding community policing escalated after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The distrust between communities of color and law enforcement was once again highlighted in the national spotlight. A body camera is only one way of ensuring greater transparency and accountability for law enforcement, and to rebuilding community relations; however, it will be a uniquely powerful tool in getting there."

A4312 regulates the use of body worn cameras by law enforcement officers. Under the bill, officers would be required to keep the camera activated when responding to a call for service or when initiating a law enforcement or investigative encounter. When immediate activation of the camera is impossible or dangerous, an officer would be required to activate the camera at the first reasonable opportunity to do so.

Officers would be required to notify subjects that the camera is activated and, under certain conditions, may deactivate a camera upon the subject's request. To protect the privacy of civilians in sensitive situations, the bill limits the use of body worn cameras while officers are

on school property, in medical facilities, and in houses of worship.

The bill was sponsored by Assemblymembers Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Shavonda Sumter, and Cleopatra Tucker, and Senators Nia Gill and Shirley Turner.

"As we work to improve policing in New Jersey, setting clear guidelines for body camera usage is crucial for transparency, accountability and public confidence, safeguarding both citizens and law enforcement officers," said Senator Gill. "These regulations will provide clear guidelines for how these body cameras are used allowing for consistency and reliability when footage is needed and pulled."

"In recent years, body cameras have become a valuable tool for transparency, exposing instances of police misconduct and helping to hold officers accountable," said Senator Turner. "They also protect officers against false accusations and reduce the legal costs associated with use-of-force lawsuits, which are ultimately paid for by taxpayers. Body cameras will help to create safer communities, and both officers and civilians will benefit greatly from rebuilding trust between police officers and the communities they have sworn to serve and protect."

MAPLEWOOD MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON

(Continued from page 12)

illustrates our determination to hold these criminals accountable."

"Victims of identity theft not only suffer from financial loss, but are also traumatized by the invasion of their privacy," said Colo-

nel Patrick Callahan of the New Jersey State Police. "We will continue to aggressively pursue and arrest criminals like Blanton, deterring others like him and hopefully offering some solace to their victims."

Deputy Attorneys General Huynh and Remy prosecuted the case for the Division of Criminal Justice Financial and Cyber Crimes

Bureau under the supervision of former Bureau Chief Julia S. Glass and Bureau Chief Jillian Carpenter.

Sgt. Robert Arnesen was the lead detective for the New Jersey State Police. Attorney General Grewal thanked Bank of America and U.S. Customs and Border Protection for their valuable assistance.

NEWARK PLACED UNDER LOCKDOWN "ADVISORY"

(Continued from page 10)

codes.

07104 is bounded by the Belleville border along Mill Street and the Second River, east along the Passaic River, south to Interstate 280 and back north along Lake Street and Branch

Brook Park Drive.

104's Hot Spot, encompassing 75 streets, is bounded by Second Avenue and Broadway, Broadway and Seventh Avenue, Seventh and Clifton Avenues and Clifton and Second avenues.

On its map is a second, less defined spot within Verona Avenue, Broadway, Ballentine Avenue and Degraw Avenue.

07107 is a sliver of the North

Ward's west side plus parts of the West Ward's Roseville and Fairmount Heights sections. Its boundary runs from Franklin Avenue and Mill Street east to Branch Brook Park Drive, south on the drive and Lake Street down to 12th Avenue, west on 12th Avenue and north on South 12th Street to Central Avenue and Central to go back up along the East Orange, Bloomfield and

Belleville lines.

107's Hot Spot, including 16 streets, is bordered by Berkeley Avenue and North Third Street, North Third and North 11th Street and North 11th back north to Berkeley.

The latest restrictions are subject to review on or before Dec. 4.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 4)

"I'm not in favor of making a change without (a) better cause than what we're presented with," said dissenting Committeeman and Public Safety Committee Chairman Greg Lembrich. "We've a dedicated force that's working and I don't want to fix what's not broken. We're going to have lower protection and lower presence at our events."

Committeewoman Nancy Davis, who wanted further discussion for a compromise resolution, abstained.

MONTCLAIR - The search for a Montclair High School senior, missing since Nov. 15, is being conducted - by the Woodbridge Police Department.

Janae Walker-Raab, 17, said her family, was last seen at home 2 p.m. that Monday. Her father said that she had left home without her cell phone.

The Walker-Raab family reported Janae as missing to Montclair High School, as confirmed by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jonathan Ponds Nov. 18.

Janae's family then filed a missing person's report with the Woodbridge police and not Montclair's police. MPD Sgt. Terence Turner, on Nov. 18, said that they were aware of "a missing juvenile from MHS" but received the bulletin from Woodbridge.

"She and her family do not reside in Montclair," said Turner. "The student was reported missing by her family to the law enforcement agency where the family resides - and they (WPD) are handling the investigation."

It is not clear whether Janae Walker-Raab is a tuition student or if she and her family had recently moved to the Middlesex County township.

BLOOMFIELD - The loss of township resident Judah Ibeh-Bartley, 20, who died in a New Providence car crash Nov. 8, was swiftly and keenly felt by the William Paterson University community as well as here.

Radio Station WPSC- 88.7 FM, Wayne, aired a tribute to the sports management sophomore Nov. 9. WPU President Richard J. Helldobler issued the following tribute Nov. 10.

"Judah was a visible and active presence on campus, Friends describe him as 'a beautiful human,' who could light up a room with his presence. It's clear that he touched many lives with his caring and kindness."

Those at Bloomfield High and Middle schools remember Ibeh-Bartley as a 6-ft., 6-in., 215 lb. Bengals basketball and football player who was polite and liked cafeteria cookies.

A GoFundMe page, as of Nov. 18, has raised funds to allow the family to arrange the BHS Class of 2018 graduate and part-

time FedEx worker's funeral.

New Providence police, responding to a resident's call of an accident with injuries, found Ibeh-Bartley and his 2012 Nissan Altima on a Union Avenue front lawn by Hilary Place 12:06 a.m. Nov. 8.

A preliminary NPPD and Union County Fatal Accident Unit investigation found that the northbound Ibeh-Bartley had just passed the NJTransit Morris & Essex Line grade crossing when he had lost control. There were no immediate M&E Gladstone Branch trains in the area.

BELLEVILLE - Locally rising COVID-19 positive cases have put the Belleville Public Schools onto an all remote learning model for the time being since Monday.

BPS Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Tomko announced the switch in a Nov. 19 open letter to the community. The letter heralds the indefinite suspension of the district's hybrid learning model.

"In less than one week, the township has realized 88 new positive cases of COVID-19," said Tomko. "Our current district numbers identify approximately five percent of our hybrid in-person population of students and staff currently testing positive or having to quarantine due to being in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19."

Tomko added that all BPS buildings will be closed to all staff and students for additional sanitizing. It is not clear where teachers have gone to continue their Zoom instruction.

Assemblywoman Teresa Ruiz (D-Newark) was scheduled to hold a food distribution Nov. 23 from Belleville High School's parking lot. The district's food service and Champion Aftercare programs will continue.

NUTLEY - Belleville police officers found a 66-year-old Nutley woman, who was reported as missing, at one of their township's eateries Nov. 11.

Patrolling BPD officers were paying a visit to the Wendy's at 333 Franklin Ave., at about 1 p.m. Veteran's Day when they noticed a person who matched a description of a missing person that was posted earlier that Wednesday.

Nutley police, at the request of a family member, had issued an all points bulletin earlier that morning. The relative said that the woman had left home at 3 a.m. and had not returned.

That APB was broadcasted to surrounding police departments, area hospitals and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police.

The said woman was taken to a local hospital and her name removed from the missing persons list.

FORMER CITY OF NEWARK OFFICIAL CHARGED

WITH SCHEMING WITH TWO NEWARK

BUSINESSMEN TO OBTAIN BRIBES

(Continued from page 13)

On April 13, 2019, Sablosky also sent text messages to Valvano regarding a meeting he had with Garcia the previous day and his giving Garcia an additional payment of \$5,000. Sablosky noted that Garcia had "showed up [at] 5pm last night" to discuss another "RDA" he and Valvano were attempting to obtain from the city. When Valvano asked whether there was "Any mention of \$\$," Sablosky responded, "He [Garcia] didn't just come to visit!! Lol. He got another 5," referencing the \$5,000 payment. Sablosky also told Valvano, "When you get back we have to add everything and sit down with him [Garcia]. I want to get these RDAs through before we start rocking the boat."

The count of conspiracy to commit bribery carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss from the offense.

U.S. Attorney Carpenito credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge George M. Crouch Jr. in Newark; special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Montanez; and special agents of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christina Scaringi, with the investigation leading to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeffrey J. Manis, Elaine K. Lou, and Jihee G. Suh of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Special Prosecutions Division.

The charge and allegations contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



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HEALTH

Let's be healthy together.



We've taken every precaution to keep you safe. So if you've put off any medical care due to COVID-19, please don't delay it any longer.