

ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE ON FRONT LINE IN FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

When Essex County began its rollout of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to public healthcare employees, first responders and essential workers the last week of December, it chose Essex County College (ECC) as one of its locations.

According to Dr. Gale Gage, Chair of the College's Department of Nursing, it made perfect sense to choose ECC.

"Newark has experienced a high number of COVID-19 infections and with our resources, we are the ideal location. We are also the only urban location in the county currently administering the vaccine," she said.

Dr. Gage also had the distinction of administering the first vaccine shots at the College on December 26. The ini-

(Continued on page 5)



Nursing Department Chair Dr. Gale Gage, at right, with ECC Nursing student volunteers

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NOW, THE REAL TEST BEGINS... CAN THEY REALLY UNITE AMERICA?

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. sworn in as 46th United States President

Kamala D. Harris sworn in as First Madam / Black / Indian / Jamaican Vice President

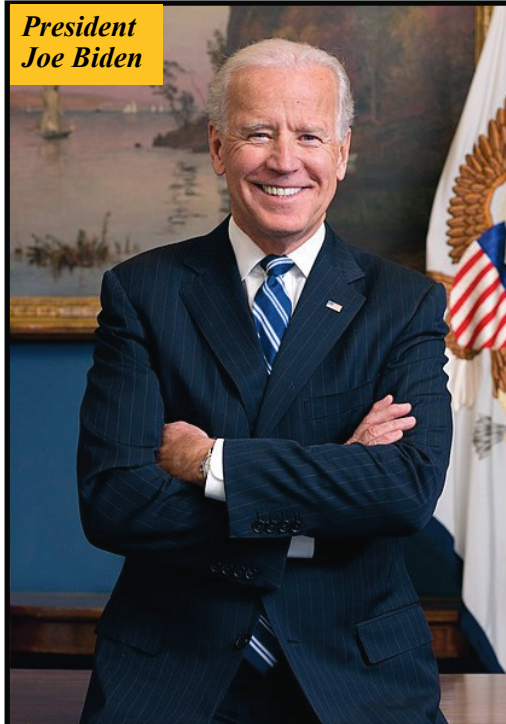
WASHINGTON, D.C. - They ran with the objective of uniting a broken country ... now, they have their chance.

On Jan. 20, 2021, the United States of America welcomed its 46th Com-

mander-in-Chief and 49th Second-in-Command. The inauguration was much different than in years past. There was no sea of thousands of supporters welcoming the new administration. The reason being two-fold; one, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has forced the need to refrain from large gatherings, and two, the Capitol Hill siege from two weeks prior that forced the need for immense security protocols.

First, Vice President Kamala Devi Harris was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Born on Oct. 20,

President Joe Biden



Vice President Kamala Harris



1964, the former California U.S. Senator is now the first woman and minority to ever serve as Vice President, and has also become the highest ranking female in the United States Government. Her husband, Doug Emhoff, has the distinction of being America's first "second gentleman."

Then, President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. was sworn in by Chief Jus-

tice of the Supreme Court John Roberts on the steps of the Capitol at 11:49 a.m. A former Vice President under Barack H. Obama, Biden now owns the distinction of being the oldest President ever sworn into office, at the age of 78, born on Nov. 20, 1942. His wife, Jill Biden, will serve as the First Lady of the United States - all

(Continued on page 15)



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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Congratulations to Joseph R. Biden, our 46th President of the United States of America and Kamala D. Harris, the first Madam Vice President of the United States of America. Biden has one good thing in mind, and that is unity. He spoke well before a moment of silence for unity and about our future. However, he has not mentioned how he will implement that unity. He talked about unity, and at the same time he talked about white supremacists, but did not mention Antifa. Also, he did not mention about how he, the head of the Democratic Party, and his colleagues will pursue impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump, or if they should just let it go.

Biden talked about how everyone is equal and how he will treat everyone equally, but he will have an uphill battle in achieving his goals. Even within the party, leftists like Bernie Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez team want some progressive members to be included in the Cabinet. Biden offered a post to Sanders, but Sanders did not accept it. So far, Biden has picked a nice team, but he forgot some of those who helped him to be president.

People were thinking that Stacey Abrams would be included. However, Abrams may want to jump into the next gubernatorial election in 2022. She has lost to Brian Kemp by about 55,000 votes (Kemp 1,978,408 vs. Abrams 1,923,685) in 2018. In a republican state, the way Abrams ran her campaign, she deserves to win the next election.

It is a new beginning. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy rightly said, "Now here we are, preparing to watch these two

extraordinary leaders take office and start bringing our country together and into a brighter future."

On the very first day Biden sought to sign 17 executive orders.

1. A 100 day masking request during his first 100 days (very good).
2. Rejoining the World Health Organization (very good).
3. Created a COVID-19 response Coordinator Position (very good).
4. Extending the eviction and foreclosure moratorium until March 31 (very good).
5. Extending the pause on interest and principal payments for direct federal loans until at least Sept. 30 (Okay, but it will not reduce the students' debt, but instead increase the interest for another 9 months).
6. Rejoining the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (good).
7. Revoking the Keystone XL pipeline permit (not good, as prices of oil will go higher).
8. A Racial Equity law, reversing Trump's 1776 Commission (very good).
9. Inclusion of non-citizens in the census and apportionment (as long as they are green cardholders, it's good).
10. Halting construction of the border wall by terminating the national emergency declaration used to fund it (not good).
11. Preventing workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, (very good).
12. Fortifying DACA after Trump's efforts to undo protections for undocumented people brought into the country as children (very good).
13. Reversing the Trump administration's restrictions on US entry for passport holders from seven Muslim-majority countries (good).
14. Undoing Trump's expansion

(Continued on page 8)

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<p>THURSDAY Partly Cloudy</p> <p>HI 43 LO 31</p>	<p>FRIDAY Mostly Sunny</p> <p>HI 43 LO 25</p>	<p>SATURDAY Mostly Sunny / Windy</p> <p>HI 32 LO 21</p>	<p>SUNDAY Mostly Sunny</p> <p>HI 35 LO 27</p>	<p>MONDAY PM Snow</p> <p>HI 37 LO 26</p>	<p>TUESDAY AM Snow</p> <p>HI 36 LO 22</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY Sunny & Cold</p> <p>HI 37 LO 19</p>
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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

This past week saw the Divisional Round of the NFL Playoffs. One game saw the Buffalo Bills completely shut down the Baltimore Ravens 17-3. Bills QB Josh Allen finished 14-24 for 206 yards and one touchdown. The win marked the eighth straight Buffalo.

They will go on to Kansas City and play the Chiefs in the AFC Title Game, who barely got by the Cleveland Browns 22-17. During the game, chiefs star QB Patrick Mahomes was knocked out the game with a concussion. Despite that, back up Chad Henne entered the game and was able to secure the win on a short 4th down pass to Tyreek Hill.

In the NFC, the Green Bay Packers had no issue with the Los Angeles Rams, winning 32-18. They will now host Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in that conference's title game. The Bucs went to New Orleans and beat the Saints 30-20. Drew Brees, in what could

be his last game, threw three interceptions.

In Women's College Basketball, the Seton Hall women's team is 6-3 on the season, and leading in the Big East standings at 4-2 in conference play. Recently, the Lady Pirates defeated Butler 83-68 in South Orange. Andra Espinoza-Hunter led the Hall with 24 points, while Desiree Elmore added 18 points off the bench.

Finally, in other sports news, former NBA MVP James Harden was traded from the Houston Rockets to the Nets in a four-team deal that has Caris Levert headed to Indiana, Jarrett Allen on his way to Cleveland, and Victor Oladipo and a bunch of draft picks going to Houston. In NFL news, the New York Jets have hired former San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh as their new head coach. And, in MLB news, The New York Mets have fired General Manager Jared Porter amid reports that he sent lewd and harassing messages to a female journalist.

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TRUMP'S LAST FORMAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION AS PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON - While the legacy of President Donald J. Trump is a contentious one to say the least, in an effort to be nonpartisan to his more than you would expect supporters in our readership area, here now are excerpts from his final formal address to the nation:

Former President Trump: "My fellow Americans: Four years ago, we launched a great national effort to rebuild our country, to renew its spirit, and to restore the allegiance of this government to its citizens. In short, we embarked on a mission to make America great again - for all Americans.

"As I conclude my term as the 45th President of the United States, I stand before you truly proud of what we have achieved together. We did what we came here to do - and so much more.

"This week, we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also

want them to have luck - a very important word.

"I'd like to begin by thanking just a few of the amazing people who made our remarkable journey possible.

"First, let me express my overwhelming gratitude for the love and support of our spectacular First Lady, Melania. Let me also share my deepest appreciation to my daughter Ivanka, my son-in-law Jared, and to Barron, Don, Eric, Tiffany, and Lara. You fill my world with light and with joy.

"I also want to thank Vice President Mike Pence, his wonderful wife Karen, and the entire Pence family.

"Thank you as well to my Chief of Staff, Mark Meadows; the dedicated members of the White House Staff and the Cabinet; and all the incredible people across our administration who poured out their heart and soul to fight for America.

"I also want to take a moment to thank a truly exceptional

group of people: the United States Secret Service. My family and I will forever be in your debt. My profound gratitude as well to everyone in the White House Military Office, the teams of Marine One and Air Force One, every member of the Armed Forces, and state and local law enforcement all across our country.

"Most of all, I want to thank the American people. To serve as your President has been an honor beyond description. Thank you for this extraordinary privilege. And that's what it is - a great privilege and a great honor.

"We must never forget that while Americans will always have our disagreements, we are a nation of incredible, decent, faithful, and peace-loving citizens who all want our country to thrive and flourish and be very, very successful and good. We are a truly magnificent nation.

"All Americans were horrified by the assault on our Capitol. Political violence is an attack

on everything we cherish as Americans. It can never be tolerated.

"Now more than ever, we must unify around our shared values and rise above the partisan rancor, and forge our common destiny.

"Four years ago, I came to Washington as the only true outsider ever to win the presidency. I had not spent my career as a politician, but as a builder looking at open skylines and imagining infinite possibilities. I ran for President because I knew there were towering new summits for America just waiting to be scaled. I knew the potential for our nation was boundless as long as we put America first.

"So I left behind my former life and stepped into a very difficult arena, but an arena nevertheless, with all sorts of potential if properly done. America had given me so much, and I wanted to give something back.

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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 - A police Funeral Mass has been scheduled for Sgt. Hector Moya here at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart 10:30 a.m. Saturday. The Mass is to be preceded by 6-8 p.m. Jan. 22 and 9-9:30 a.m. Jan. 23 visitations at the nearby Alvarez Funeral Home.

Moya, 55, of Jersey City, died Jan. 13 at Summit's Overlook Hospital. He is the seventh Newark Police Division officer to die from COVID-19 complications. Police colleagues escorted Moya's body from Overlook to Alvarez, at 240 Mt. Prospect Ave., that Wednesday afternoon.

Moya, who was born Nov. 23, 1965, joined the then-Newark Police Division in March 1998. Ptl. Moya, who would be promoted to sergeant, was assigned to the Fugitive Apprehension Unit, Auto Crimes Division and Special Victims Division among the 2nd, 4th and 5th precincts.

"The City deeply grieves the loss of this beloved 22-year police veteran," said Mayor Ras Baraka. "We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to Sgt. Moya's family."

"Sgt. Moya was a highly respected NPD member," added Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose. "He always had a kind word on his lips and a bright smile on his face. He

fought a valiant fight against the virus and will be sorely missed."

IRVINGTON - A DPW crew found themselves completing on Jan. 9 what a contracted backhoe operator inadvertently started on a South Ward house.

Irvington Deputy Fire Director John Brown had confirmed that Sunday that 73-75 Welland Ave, which was built in 1892, was levelled. The demolition came 10 days after township firefighters and police had fielded a house collapse report there 3:47 p.m. New Year's Eve.

The first fire and police units had arrived to find the 2.5 story wood frame house's front porch having fallen into its basement. They also found the backhoe operator standing nearby.

First responders found no one else in the house - it had been vacant for renovations - and had called PSE&G to cut all electric and gas supplies there at 5:03 p.m. IFD and Building Construction Department investigators found the backhoe operator uninjured.

"The preliminary investigation appears to be operator error," added Brown. "There was a single worker on the scene using the backhoe without a permit. The owners have been issued violation summonses and a \$4,000 fine."

Township and county property records Jamie Huerta and Martha E. Dutan bought 73-75 Welland for \$110,000 July 30, 2018. The property had been sold in the county sheriff's 2008 and 1999 tax foreclosure auctions.

"Local Talk" found 73-75 Welland's front fence and a cavity where the house had stood Jan. 19. A newly-constructed garage, a new western basement wall and a construction apparatus also remained on-site.

EAST ORANGE - Relatives and friends of the late Richard

Turner, Jr. have had to postpone their formal mourning and life celebration for nearly a month after his fatal accident.

They postponed making funeral arrangements until their GoFundMe.com page had exceeded its goal set on Dec. 28 - the day after Turner, 20, and his passenger, Laiken Nicole Salyers, 23, were found in an Athens, Ohio creek.

A passer-by altered the Ohio Highway Patrol that a 2103 Chevrolet Cruze was partially submerged in the creek early that Monday. OHP detectives believed that the Turner-Salyers vehicle had lost control on an ice-covered Dairy Lane bend and had rolled over. Both Turner and Salyers were Ohio State University-Athens students at that time.

Turner's city neighbors may best remember him as a St. Joseph (elementary) School graduate and an East Orange Pop Warner Wildcats and Jaguars football player. "Pudge" applied his scholastic athleticism at Paramus Catholic High School, where he was part of the Paladins' 2017 NJSIAA Non Public Group 4 State Championship team, and with the OSU Bobcats.

Turner, PCHS Class of 2019, was the oldest of four children raised by Iraqi war veteran Richard Sr. and Angela Turner. Brother Malcolm and sisters Amelia and Amirah are also among his survivors.

ORANGE - Some who remember Joyce Dwyer, 87, who died in Caldwell Jan. 13, may recall her longtime residency here and as a person who was destined to dance.

It came to no surprise to those who remembered her growing up here and in West Orange that she was a Radio City Music Hall Rockette for 38 years.

The former Joyce Madeline Hector, WOHS Class of 1951,

was written up in that year's "West-O-Rama" yearbook as ready with a wink, a smile, and to dance. Hector, in her WOHS senior year, had also begun to give dancing lessons to younger people. Her dancing got her a mention in the 1948 yearbook while still a freshman.

Her 1951 yearbook credits included working on the junior prom's floor and decorations, being a student council alternate and being awarded the class' best female brunette.

Hector, although born in Newark Aug. 20, 1933, grew up in West Orange with parents Edward and Gertrude. The newly-graduated WOHS "Cowgirl" (The school's mascots were the Cowboys) moved to Orange, married a Mr. Dwyer and made the Rockettes audition.

Dwyer, who also lived in Spring Lake, is survived by nephews John and Michael Weinhofer, Robert and James Merriam and Carlo Corvaja and nieces Cecile Corvaja and Jodie Weinhofer.

Dwyer's burial, arranged by Codey & Jones Funeral Home of Caldwell, was held at East Hanover's Gate of Heaven Cemetery. memorial donations may be made to your choice of charity.

WEST ORANGE - The West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, on Jan. 13, has postponed their 2021 march down Main Street to a later, to be announced date.

"In consultation with the township, the committee has decided to postpone the 2021 parade in March due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation," said chairman Kevin Brennan in his open letter. "We're currently evaluating other options for holding events in 2021 when the current situation and restrictions improve."

Brennan's announcement raises the possibility that
(Continued on page 7)

Standing, from left, Nursing Department Chair Dr. Gale Gage, ECC Nursing Professor Majuvy Sulse and ECC Interim President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye. Seated is Nursing student Rose



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

(Continued from page 1)

tial vaccine administered by Dr. Gage was to one of her former students who is now a public health nurse.

The ECC site has been administering between 150 and 250 injections a day, said Sharon Guerrero of the Essex County Health Department. "There's been amazing interest by the public to get vaccinated," said Ms. Guerrero standing in the hallway of the College's Gym as a steady stream of residents came to receive the shot.

The second dose is given 28 days after the initial shot.

Dr. Gage also put out a request for volunteers among the College's Nursing students. She said eight students volunteered almost immediately. Each day four or five of the volunteers assisting are ECC students. Nursing Department faculty members Majuvy Sulse and Myrna Scott also have been assisting in the effort.

"It's important to be here and it's providing me good experience," said Nursing major Roseli Araujo. Among Roseli's duties is ensuring people receiving the shot remain on site for 15 minutes before leaving. Roseli added as soon as she heard about the call for volunteers, she was ready to help.

Fellow Nursing student Maddie Sutton was busy checking in residents and issuing them proof of vaccination cards. "It's such a good feeling helping out on something as important

as this," she said. Maddie comes to the Gym for about five hours three days a week. She hopes to continue once a week when classes start on January 19.

"This is such a fantastic learning experience for our students to see how public health workers battle a global pandemic. They are a part of history. It is especially our responsibility to educate our Black and Brown communities on the importance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine," said ECC Interim President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

"As our Newark college community continues to struggle with many underlying health conditions that exacerbate the risks associated with COVID-19, we must rely on the science that the vaccination is safe," said Alfred Bundy, a member of the College's Coronavirus Alert Taskforce. "It's also good to see the College playing a key role in combatting COVID-19 in Newark," added Mr. Bundy, who is also Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at ECC.

Even as the vaccine is being administered, it remains imperative that people still adhere to all CDC health and safety guidelines, which are in place at the College. These guidelines include frequent hand washing, properly wearing a face mask, maintaining social distancing of 6 feet apart, and staying home when you feel ill. It is also important to get tested frequently. Visit the College website, essex.edu, for information on additional safeguards.

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FORMER NEWARK POLICE COP GETS NINE YEARS IN PRISON

NEWARK - A former Newark police officer was sentenced Jan. 7 to 108 months in prison for conspiring to defraud the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation (NWDC) and giving kickbacks to its former executive director, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Janell Robinson, 45, of Newark, was previously convicted of one count of conspiracy to defraud the NWDC facilitated by use of mails and wire transmissions, two counts of mail fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right affecting interstate commerce, following a jury trial before U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton. Judge Wigenton imposed the sentence today in Newark federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and the evidence at trial: Between March 2010 and May 2013, while Robinson was a Newark police officer, she controlled Protected and Secured Services LLC (P&S), a company that purported to provide security consulting services to its only client, the NWDC.

Robinson conspired with Linda Watkins Brashear of West Orange, the former executive director of the NWDC, to pay

Brashear a stream of concealed and undisclosed kickbacks from the proceeds that P&S received from the NWDC. In exchange for Brashear's assistance with securing P&S a contract with the NWDC and approving completely fraudulent or inflated invoices that Robinson submitted, Robinson paid Brashear cash kickbacks from the proceeds of the fraud.

The NWDC paid P&S approximately \$289,000 during the scheme, approximately \$50,000 of which was used by Robinson used to pay Brashear kickbacks.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Wigenton sentenced Robinson to three years supervised release and ordered her to pay restitution of \$288,950 to the NWDC.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge George M. Crouch in Newark, and special agents of IRS - Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Montanez, with the investigation leading to the sentencing.

The government is represented by Senior Trial Counsel Leslie F. Schwartz of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division.



UNITED STATES

11 Cops Hurt in Black Lives Matter Protest

In a scene that echoed the chaos at the Capitol from two weeks ago, a day honoring a legend of peace was marred by violence.

On the evening of Jan. 18, the date of this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance, there was a march from Brooklyn, NY to City Hall in Manhattan. Upon arriving at their destination, the protestors then started throwing objects and disrupting traffic. In all, 29 people were arrested in the incident, with 11 officers injured trying to calm the crowd.

This incident came just days after New York Attorney General Leticia "Tish" James sued the New York Police Department over how it handled the George Floyd protests in the city last year. More than 2,000 people were arrested during those demonstrations.

Nine Charged in Flint Water Crisis

Developments in the state of Michigan have piqued the interest of some residents in Newark, New Jersey.

On Jan. 14, Michigan Solicitor General Fadwa Hammoud and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy announced that after 12 months of grand jury proceedings nine individuals have been indicted on a total of 42 counts related to a series of alleged actions and inactions that created the historic injustice of the Flint Water Crisis.

The Chief Judge of the Seventh Circuit in Genesee County appointed Judge David Newblatt to act as a one-man grand jury to investigate crimes related to the crisis. Indictments were issued after the grand juror listened to and evaluated the evidence presented.

The following defendants were charged by Solicitor General Hammoud and Prosecutor Worthy as part of the criminal investigation into the Flint Water Crisis:

- Jarrod Agen - Former Director of Communications and Former Chief of Staff, Executive Office of Gov. Rick Snyder
 - ◆ One count of perjury - a 15-year felony
- Gerald Ambrose - Former City of Flint Emergency Manager
 - ◆ Four counts of misconduct in office - each a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
- Richard Baird - Former Transformation Manager and Senior Adviser, Executive Office of Gov. Snyder
 - ◆ One count of perjury - a 15-year felony
 - ◆ One count of official misconduct in office - a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
 - ◆ One count of obstruction of justice - a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
 - ◆ One count of extortion - a 20-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
- Howard Croft - Former Director of the City of Flint Department of Public Works
 - ◆ Two counts of willful neglect of duty - each a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine
- Darnell Earley - Former City of Flint Emergency Manager
 - ◆ Three counts of misconduct in office - each a

- ◆ five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
- Nicolas Lyon - Former Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - ◆ Nine counts of involuntary manslaughter - each a 15-year felony and/or \$7,500 fine
 - ◆ One count of willful neglect of duty - a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine
- Nancy Peeler - Current Early Childhood Health Section Manager, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - ◆ Two counts of misconduct in office - each a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
 - ◆ One count of willful neglect of duty - a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine
- Richard Snyder - Former Governor of Michigan
 - ◆ Two counts of willful neglect of duty - each a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine
- Eden Wells - Former Chief Medical Executive, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - ◆ Nine counts of involuntary manslaughter - each a 15-year felony and/or \$7,500 fine
 - ◆ Two counts of misconduct in office - each a five-year felony and/or \$10,000 fine
 - ◆ One count of willful neglect of duty - a one-year misdemeanor and/or \$1,000 fine

The defendants turned themselves in and were arraigned before Judge Elizabeth A. Kelly for the Seventh Circuit Court and Chief Judge Christopher Odette for the 67th District Court. Details on their arraignments and subsequent court

dates will be forthcoming.

"When an entire city is victimized by the negligence and indifference of those in power, it deserves an uncompromising investigation that holds to account anyone who is criminally culpable. That is what all residents in this state are entitled to, regardless of their ZIP code. And that is what this prosecution team did. Our approach was simple - where we believed the evidence would prove a criminal charge, we sought and obtained indictments for those crimes," said Solicitor General Hammoud.

"We must remember that the Flint Water Crisis is not some relic of the past. At this very moment, the people of Flint continue to suffer from the categorical failure of public officials at all levels of government, who trampled upon their trust, and evaded accountability for far too long. We understand that our work is not done and although the criminal justice system alone cannot remedy all the suffering that every person endured, we took our part seriously. We hope others will do the same to ensure this never, ever happens again."

With news of the charges in this case, many in the Brick City are pondering if such action will be taken against city leaders who oversaw the Newark Water Crisis.

EUROPE

A Good Time to Swipe Left

INTERPOL has issued a Purple Notice to its 194 member countries outlining a specific modus operandi on dating applications. The threat involves taking advantage of people's vulnerabilities as they look for potential matches, and luring them into a sophisticated fraud scheme.

In the initial stages, an artificial romance is established via a

(Continued on page 8)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 4)

what would have been West Orange's 69th parade may not step off for the second straight year.

The committee, township and participating organizations had first postponed the 2020 edition from March 15 to August in the face of the pandemic and its resulting shutdowns. All parties, after unable to find a way to maintain social distancing, canceled that year's parade Aug. 5.

2020's Grand Marshall Melen Dangler and her deputy marshals John Demars, Patrick Giblin, Bobby Lamb and Robert Swenson will have to wait later into 2021 or '22 to lead marchers from Our Lady of Lourdes Church to the West Orange Municipal Building.

The Committee, said Brennan, had held mask and food distributions and donated 230 coats to Holy Trinity Church in the interim. They were joined by the likes of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Women of Irish Heritage in the committee's "off season" events.

"Remember, we will march again," finished Brennan. "Stay Strong. Stay Safe. Stay Irish."

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - There are a lot of parties within and from outside the South Orange-Maplewood School District who are monitoring its hybrid learning model since its Jan. 19 launch.

All Kindergarten-Second Grade, Grades 6-9, special education and English language learners, since Tuesday morning, have the option to be taught in classrooms. The entire SOMSD student body, their parents and teachers have had virtual or remote learning since the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-March.

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Robert Taylor, on Jan. 12, is keeping all Grades 3-5 and 10-12 students on-line only until at least next month. Taylor had based that postponement on local and Essex County COVID transmission rates. School nurses are reporting their daily findings to South Orange and Maplewood health officers.

Members and officers of the South Orange-Maplewood Education Association are also on the hybrid learning and COVID watches.

SOMEA President Rocio Lopez, on Jan. 8, had asked for a further postponement until all of his teaching members, who are in Tier 1B, get their vaccinations and all 11 building's ventilation systems have been completed.

MONTCLAIR - Mikie Sherrill (D-Montclair) is not the only Congress member who wants to know which of her colleagues gave guided tours of the Capitol on Jan. 5 - the day before its invasion by extreme supporters of then-President Donald J. Trump.

Sherrill sent a letter to the acting U.S. Capitol police chief and acting Congressional sergeants-at-arms Jan. 13 calling for "an immediate investigation and access given to Capitol Complex visitors Jan. 5." Her letter was co-signed by 33 Congressional colleagues - including Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-Newark), Albio Sires (D-W. New York) and three other New Jersey delegation members.

Sherrill, in her letter and Jan. 12 social media video, said she had noticed "extremely high number of outside groups in the complex" and had reported it to the then-House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms that Tuesday.

She and her letter co-signees said that what they saw that day was an "unusual, noticeable and concerning departure" on at least three levels. The first is that

(Continued on page 15)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
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NEWARK TAX PREPARER ADMITS TO MESSING WITH TAX RETURNS

NEWARK - A Pennsylvania man who worked as a tax preparer in Newark admitted Jan. 20 to helping his clients file falsified tax returns that generated larger refunds, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Sylvain Dienhoue, 53, of Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton to an indictment charging him with three counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax returns.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Dienhoue worked as a tax preparer at Cadi's Multi Services in Newark. He knowingly and willfully aided and assisted in the preparation of 44 fraudulent tax returns on behalf of clients for the tax

years 2014 through 2016. Dienhoue used fabricated and inflated figures, including expenses and itemized deductions, in order to generate inflated refunds.

Each count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax returns carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentencing is scheduled for May 24, 2021.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents from IRS - Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Montanez in Newark, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Samantha C. Fasanello of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Criminal Division in Newark.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

dating app. Once communication becomes regular and a certain level of trust is established, criminals share investment tips with their victims and encourage them to join a scheme.

Victims download a trading app and open an account, buy various financial products and work their way up a so-called investment chain, all under the watchful eye of their new "friend." They are made to believe they can reach Gold or VIP status.

As is often the case with such fraud schemes, everything is made to look legitimate. Screenshots are provided, domain names are eerily similar to real websites, and customer service agents pretend to help victims choose the right products.

One day, however, all contact stops, and victims are locked out of the account. They're left confused, hurt, and worried that they'll never see their money again.

INTERPOL's Financial Crimes unit has received reports from around the world of this scam and is encouraging dating app users to be vigilant, be skeptical and be safe when entering into online relationships. This has become especially important as people turn to online interactions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are some tips to make sure online dating remains fun and doesn't empty your bank account:

- Always be vigilant when you are approached by someone you don't know, especially if it leads to a request for money
- Be skeptical: online investments with promises of fast, amazing returns are often too good to be true
- Think twice before transfer-

ring money, however genuine the request might seem

- Do your research: check reviews, double check the app, the domain name, the email address, etc.
- Don't disclose personal/confidential information
- If you realize you've been the victim of a fraud, report it.

ASIA

India's Massive Vaccine Campaign

In a major milestone in the fight against deadly diseases, United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners announced on Jan. 12, the establishment of a global Ebola vaccine stockpile, to help control future epidemics by ensuring timely access to vaccines for populations at risk, during outbreaks.

India has begun what is the world's biggest COVID vaccination campaign so far, deploying hundreds of thousands of health workers, with the training and support of the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

On Jan. 16, the first day of the campaign, 207,229 vaccine shots were given across the country, one of the worst-hit by COVID-19, with over 10 million COVID-19 infections and 150,000 deaths.

"(We) provided technical assistance to the Government of India for the development of operational guidelines and other training materials for state and district program managers and vaccinators, and establishing tracking and accountability frameworks," Roderico H. Ofrin, WHO Rep. in India said.

"WHO field officers have facilitated the highest-level oversight through regular task force meetings at state and district levels, which are chaired by the Principal Secretaries (Health) at

(Continued on page 11)

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from January 13 - 20, 2021

Municipality	1-13-2021	Deaths	1-20-2021	Deaths
Belleville	3445	86	3591	89
Bloomfield	3326	92	3479	92
Caldwell	338	12	365	12
Cedar Grove	1004	119	1054	119
East Orange	4230	254	4467	257
Essex Fells	126	2	131	2
Fairfield	537	25	556	25
Glen Ridge	202	10	213	11
Irvington	2870	179	3002	185
Livingston	1158	79	1217	79
Maplewood	736	31	770	31
Millburn	496	8	534	8
Montclair	1321	60	1385	60
Newark	23769	787	25282	799
North Caldwell	268	6	285	6
Nutley	1683	48	1764	49
Orange	2138	108	2252	109
Roseland	297	15	326	15
South Orange	445	10	482	10
Verona	556	15	588	16
West Caldwell	642	50	670	50
West Orange	2934	206	3101	206
Total	52521	2202	55514	2230

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of Jan. 20, 2021)

NJ: 576,720 cases / 18,543 deaths (Plus 2,121 probable)

United States (approx.): 24.33 Million / 405,000 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 96.56 Million / 2.07 Million deaths

U.S. President Joseph R. Biden has announced he will issue an Executive Order requiring face coverings to be worn by anyone on Federal property during the pandemic.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 2)

of immigration enforcement within the United States (not good).

15. Directing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) director to develop recommendations to modernize regulatory review and undoing Trump's regulatory approval process. (it might be good).

16. Extending deferrals of deportation and work authorizations for Liberians with a safe haven in the United States until June 30, 2022 (good).

17. Requiring Executive Branch appointees to sign an ethics pledge barring them from acting in person-

al interest and requiring them to uphold the independence of the Department of Justice (very good).

A Californian man (Indian American), Aditya Udai Singh, 33 who was "scared to go home because of Covid" lived undetected in Chicago's O'Hare Airport for three months, according to multiple reports. This shows how bad our security is; a person was able to stay day and night for 3 months in a sensitive security area like an airport. He was finally detected when two employees asked for his ID.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

My Experience With The Pfizer Vaccine



It's no longer news that the FDA has approved the Pfizer vaccine for public use. Of course, it will take a while for everyone to get it, but at least there's progress. This comes as a huge relief, considering we were seemingly stuck in one spot for months.

We have topped the first step to ridding the planet of this deadly virus with the creation of a safe and effective vaccine. The next step, and perhaps the most important, is rolling out the vaccine. Right now, the public's perception is of the vaccine is generally good, which is another piece of good news. Look at that, two favorable news in one article, we're on a roll!

However, our death rate hasn't improved; it's worsening. We

are recording record cases and deaths every other week. That is bad news. I know the vaccine is available, but it's not an excuse to neglect COVID protocols, particularly if you've not been fully vaccinated.

Talking of full vaccination, I got my second Pfizer dose some time back, 21 days after the first. I think it's safe to say I have ~95% immunity now. My symptoms were simply arm soreness, and a headache. The second time around some chills. But it was nothing Tylenol couldn't take care of. I was back to work the next day, taking care of COVID patients. And I am relieved. I have been working on the frontlines taking care of COVID patients since the beginning, always afraid whether I had caught COVID or not. Now, I am more comfortable seeing patients. Don't get me wrong, I will continue to wear full PPE. My colleagues and I feel a sense of relief!

I noticed many people are skeptical about the vaccine because they are unsure of the side effects and long-term effects. And I can confidently say you have nothing to worry about on both fronts. People that bring up the uncertainty of the long-term effects of the vaccine are more driven by emotions rather than data and figures.

There is no indication whatsoever that the vaccine can be potentially dangerous to us in the long run. None at all. And this is coming after several tests and studies before the vaccine got FDA approval. If the results of past vaccines are also anything to go by, you have nothing to worry about on this front. Vaccines help to end diseases, not

start new ones.

Then to the immediate side effects of the vaccine. Luckily, there is little to worry about here too. There are little to no side effects at all in many people. It's saying a lot when the commonest side effect is pain around the injection site. Don't get it twisted; the vaccine itself does not cause the pain. It's just your body reacting to a needle breaking into your skin. About 85% of people that took the vaccine reported this. But not to worry, it goes away in a few days or even hours in some people. I didn't have any real injection site reactions.

Other symptoms people experience are headache, fatigue, and body pain. These are the less common symptoms. I had some fatigue and headaches, but when you work more than 200 hours a month treating COVID patients, you can't pin that to a vaccine.

These symptoms, just like the reaction to the injection site, also pass in a few days at most. You can accelerate this by using an analgesic, like Tylenol. That's it. You see, there's nothing to fear.

However, it would help if you also took some precautions to make your experience very smooth. First, take the vaccine on your free day or after work hours. While the headache is usually minor, if any at all at that, you can aggravate it by stressing yourself after. The same applies to fatigue and body pain.

You should also be prepared for slightly worse reactions to the second dose. This makes sense when you think of it. After the first dose, your body is already familiar with the vaccine,

generating some immune response. Taking the second dose will see your body exhibit a stronger immune response to the vaccine because it already has the immunological knowledge and 'tools' to fight the virus. That's obviously an oversimplification, but it should do the trick.

Finally, remember you aren't completely safe until you take the second dose. You may still get the virus if exposed in the 21 days between the first and second dose. So, again, you shouldn't neglect COVID guidelines because you have taken a dose of the vaccine. 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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WORLD NEWS FLASH (Continued from page 8)

the state level, and District Magistrates at the district level," he added.

According to media reports, an estimated 10 million health workers are targeted to be vaccinated in the first round, followed by other front-line workers such as police, security forces and municipal staff, with plans to inoculate 300 million people by August.

Prior to the start of the campaign, UN agencies help with detailed preparations.

For its part, WHO participated in dry-run simulations and provided feedback on management of vaccines, registration of beneficiaries, as well as reporting on vaccination coverage and adverse events following immunization.

It also worked with the Government and the UN Development Program (UNDP) on real-time reporting and problem-solving when issues arose at the vaccination sites, according to Dr. Ofrin.

At the provincial level, WHO also supported implementation and monitoring of health policy, such as developing standard operating procedures, preparing technical briefs, and providing best practices from other parts of the India as well as other countries.

CARIBBEAN

Political Unrest in Haiti

Increasing political tensions in Haiti coupled with insecurity and structural inequalities could result in protests followed by violent crackdowns by authorities, the United Nations human rights office (OHCHR) warned on Jan 19.

According to the office, criminal activities, such as kidnappings, gang fights and widespread insecurity have increased, with "almost total" impunity.

Added to the volatile mix is resurging political tensions over the timing and scope of elections and a constitutional referendum proposed by the Government, OHCHR spokesperson Marta Hurtado told journalists at a regular briefing in Geneva.

"Calls for mass protests have been growing. This in turn raises concerns of renewed human rights violations by security forces during the policing of protests as seen during the months-long protests in 2018 and 2019, as well as during demonstrations in October and November of last year," Hurtado said.



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By: Hyatt, Steven-Michael

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We, the undersigned, did witness the living man, known to us as Steven Michael Hyatt, place their thumb print hereon in agreement with the facts stated herein; We have seen no evidence to dispute that said thumb print represents the living man known to us as Steven Michael Hyatt, and believe that none exists; We, the undersigned, do hereby affirm the foregoing to be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as we know it to be; By our own free will, act, and deed; our hand and seal do hereby establish the facts,

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According to an OHCHR report on the unrest, protests started relatively peacefully in July 2018 but became increasingly violent over time, with many violations and abuses of the rights to life, security of the person and effective remedy.

The OHCHR spokesperson called on Haitian authorities to take "immediate action" to avoid repetition of such violations and abuses by ensuring that law enforcement officers abide by international norms and

standards regarding the use of force when dealing with protests; as well as ensuring that gangs do not interfere with people's right to demonstrate peacefully.

She also urged the Government to guarantee accountability for past violations and abuses, ensuring justice, truth, and reparations. Alongside, Haiti should take steps to address people's grievances and the root causes that fueled the protests, she added.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Prayer Reformation

After the Capitol Hill riot on January 6, 2020, people have been sharing the powerful words prayed by Dr. Barry Black, the Chaplain of the Senate.

In the prayer, he asked the Sovereign Lord to help all who saw or shared in the seditious actions to recognize the deplorable nature of the actions in desecrating the Capitol building, the shedding of innocent blood, the loss of life, and “the quagmire of dysfunction that threaten our democracy.” Then, for leaders to repent for the tragedy of the words that led to the actions, to resolve to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies domestic as well as foreign, and to lead the way in bringing about healing and unity to the hurting and divided nation and world. It was a powerful prayer indeed.

After a few days when I saw new clips of the seditionists in the Capitol, I could not believe my ears, that they were praying. After they had beaten up some of the police officers and killed one, and desecrated the chambers, one stood with his bull horn and prayed quite a long prayer, directed to who he called the Almighty God and closed the prayer in the name of Jesus.

After turning away from the clip for a moment, I had to ask the Lord to help me understand his mercy. How can my God listen to prostituting prayers? Then my mind turned to a scene from centuries ago, on a mountain

called, in the land of Israel, Carmel.

As the story is told, in 1 Kings 18:16-45, the prophet of God, Elijah confronted some 400 prophets of king Ahab and queen Jezebel of Israel in one of the greatest contests of all times. The prophet Elijah brought the challenge because the people of Israel had been led astray with a lot of falsehood, into the worship of the fertility god called Baal, by king Ahab and Jezebel.

In the worship of Baal, the people were still believing that they were worshiping the God of Heaven. So, prophet Elijah invited them to a contest on Mount Carmel to prove who was the true God, the one who could stop the rain or allow it to fall. The worshippers of Baal accepted the invitation, and on the Mountain, they built their altar, offered their sacrifice and prayed from morning till evening to Baal. When Baal did not answer, they shouted and in their frustrations cut themselves, but they never got an answer.

Then evening came and Elijah repaired the altar of God that had been dedicated to God years before but now broken down. He got his two bulls and offered his sacrifice and prayed. Before long fire came down from God and burned up his sacrifice. And the people who were standing around watching the contest began to shout, “The Lord, he is God.”

The rest of the story is of interest but the point of importance for us here is that a period of reformation began in Israel. Of course, in a month the reformation followed a trajectory of rebellion and the prophets and other servants of God in Israel had to constantly call for reform. Read the history in Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel,

and Malachi where you can hear and see the prayers of reform that were prayed. At a point, the nation became so idolatrous that it was subjected to captivity from other nations.

Yes, I am calling for prayer reform before it is too late, because from what I am noting, I would argue that for all the prayers that are being prayed during this time of crisis, not all the prayers seem to be prayed to the Sovereign of heaven. In fact, for a while I have been trying to reconcile what has been happening to the prayers at the National Prayer Breakfast, which seemed to denigrate into political rhetoric rather than prayers.

Further, I have been wondering whether our National Day of Prayer, which has been celebrated by Americans of many persuasions, including Christians of many denominations, and Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, and Jews, has lost its meaning.

This day of prayer held on the first Thursday of May each year, when many Americans assemble in front of courthouses, as well as in houses of worship, such as churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples, and hold luncheons, picnics, and music performances revolving around praying for the nation seem has been trivialized, to the extent many are asking what is the use.

What I am trying to say is this. If we want the prayers, being offered in the congress, and at our prayer breakfasts, in our centers of faith, our prayer groups and prayer closets, to have significance we are going to need prayer reform. We are going to need clarity on who we are praying to, whether it is the God of heaven, or the Baal or (mammon) money, or some personages that we are holding dear, in the place of the God of

heaven.

I hear a lot of people tossing around the section of king Solomon's prayer in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that call us to repentance, “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (ESV), but I need say, if we are saying the words, we need to mean them.

Hope that I am not being too harsh in judging anyone's lack of sincerity, although I know that sincerity has nothing to do with truth. What I am emphasizing is that we cannot be serving God while corrupting his name with our ideas or ideological practices that contradict what his righteousness demands. As the great preacher R. A. Torrey, of a couple generations ago, said, “We have to be clear on who and what our service needs to be. If we have sin in our hearts it makes it impossible for God to answer our prayers, even though the thing for which we are praying is entirely according to His will.”

The purpose of this reflection is not to discourage our prayers, but to ask that we examine who we are praying to, what we are praying for, and how we are praying. The prophet Isaiah says “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation, between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he does not hear.” Isaiah 59:1-2 (ESV)

May God help us to reform our prayer lives, so that the hand of God might help and heal us.

TRUMP'S LAST ADDRESS (Continued from page 3)

“Together with millions of hardworking patriots across this land, we built the greatest political movement in the history of our country. We also built the greatest economy in the history of the world. It was about ‘America First’ because we all wanted to make America great again. We restored the principle that a nation exists to serve its citizens. Our agenda was not about right or left, it wasn’t about Republican or Democrat, but about the good of a nation, and that means the whole nation.

“With the support and prayers of the American people, we achieved more than anyone thought possible. Nobody thought we could even come close.

“We passed the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history. We slashed more job-killing regulations than any administration had ever done before. We fixed our broken trade deals, withdrew from the horrible Trans-Pacific Partnership and the impossible Paris Climate Accord, renegotiated the one-sided South Korea deal, and we replaced NAFTA with the groundbreaking USMCA - that’s Mexico and Canada - a deal that’s worked out very, very well.

“Also, and very importantly, we imposed historic and monumental tariffs on China; made a great new deal with China. But before the ink was even dry, we and the whole world got hit with the China virus. Our trade relationship was rapidly changing, billions and billions of dollars were pouring into the U.S., but the virus forced us to go in a different direction.

“The whole world suffered, but America outperformed other countries economically because of our incredible economy and the economy that we built. Without the foundations and footings, it wouldn’t have worked out this way. We wouldn’t have some of the best numbers we’ve ever had.

“We also unlocked our energy resources and became the world’s number-one producer of oil and natural gas by far. Powered by these policies, we built the greatest economy in the history of the world. We reignited America’s job creation and achieved record-low unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, women - almost everyone.

“Incomes soared, wages boomed, the American Dream was restored, and millions were lifted from poverty in just a few short years. It was a miracle. The stock market set one record after another, with 148 stock market highs during this short period of time, and boosted the retirements and pensions of hardworking citizens all across our nation. 401(k)s are at a level they’ve never been at before. We’ve never seen numbers like we’ve seen, and that’s before the pandemic and after the pandemic...

“...When our nation was hit with the terrible pandemic, we produced not one, but two vaccines with record-breaking speed, and more will quickly follow. They said it couldn’t be done but we did it. They call it a ‘medical miracle,’ and that’s what they’re calling it right now: a ‘medical miracle.’

“Another administration would have taken 3,

PLANNING BOARD
THE CITY OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

TAKE NOTICE that on the 3rd day of February, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. a hearing will be held before the East Orange Planning Board in City Council Chambers, 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, New Jersey 07019 regarding the appeal or application for Conversion from a two family home to a three family home

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.
 When: Feb 3, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 Topic: Planning Board Hearing February 3, 2021 at 7:00pm
 Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/95461794408?pwd=TitDdlQSDJnR255SU1FS1Z2ejNaQT09>
 Passcode: 067703 Dial-In (Audio Only): (301) 715-8592 or (312) 626-6799
 Webinar ID: 954 6179 4408
 Passcode: 067703
 Applicant: 467 Park Ave East Orange NJ LLC
 Owner: 467 Park Ave East Orange NJ LLC
 Project Address: 467 Park Ave East Orange NJ
 Application No: PB-747-20
 Description of Proposed Development:
 The applicant has filed for preliminary and site plan approval seeking approval for conversion from a two family home to a three family home

on the premises located at 467 Park ave East Orange NJ 07017

and designated as Block 551.01, and Lot 35 on the East Orange Tax Map.

Due to City Hall in East Orange being closed to the Public as a result of the COVID-19, all documents related to this application will be available for inspection in the law offices of Peter Pena, Esq in One Lee Place Paterson, NJ. Please email adsoldit@gmail.com to make an appointment.

Rosa Rodriguez
 (Name of Applicant)

4, 5, maybe even up to 10 years to develop a vaccine. We did in nine months.

“We grieve for every life lost, and we pledge in their memory to wipe out this horrible pandemic once and for all.

“When the virus took its brutal toll on the world’s economy, we launched the fastest economic recovery our country has ever seen. We passed nearly \$4 trillion in economic relief, saved or supported over 50 million jobs, and slashed the unemployment rate in half. These are numbers that our country has never seen before.

“We created choice and transparency in healthcare, stood up to big pharma in so many ways, but especially in our effort to get favored-nations clauses added, which will give us the lowest prescription drug prices anywhere in the world.

“We passed VA Choice, VA Accountability, Right to Try, and landmark criminal justice reform.

“We confirmed three new justices of the United States Supreme Court. We appointed nearly 300 federal judges to interpret our Constitution as written.

“For years, the American people pleaded with Washington to finally secure the nation’s borders. I am pleased to say we answered that plea and achieved the most secure border in U.S. history. We have given our brave border agents and heroic ICE officers the tools they need to do their jobs better than they have ever done before, and to enforce our laws and

keep America safe.

“We proudly leave the next administration with the strongest and most robust border security measures ever put into place. This includes historic agreements with Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, along with more than 450 miles of powerful new wall.

“We restored American strength at home and American leadership abroad. The world respects us again. Please don’t lose that respect.

“We reclaimed our sovereignty by standing up for America at the United Nations and withdrawing from the one-sided global deals that never served our interests. And NATO countries are now paying hundreds of billions of dollars more than when I arrived just a few years ago. It was very unfair. We were paying the cost for the world. Now the world is helping us.

“And perhaps most importantly of all, with nearly \$3 trillion, we fully rebuilt the American military - all made in the USA. We launched the first new branch of the United States Armed Forces in 75 years: the Space Force. And last spring, I stood at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and watched as American astronauts returned to space on American rockets for the first time in many, many years...

“...As a result of our bold diplomacy and principled realism, we achieved a series of historic peace deals in the Middle

(Continued on page 14)

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

How Did This Happen? ... What Can We Do?

How, Dear God, did we get here? We always worked. We sent her to a good school. We live in a nice home. She had decent clothes. We went to church. We did everything we could to protect her. My daughter is a drug addict!

Over the years, I have worked with many families who called me to get their teen released from a detention center for the second, third or fourth time because he or she had been picked up yet again for possession and distribution of a controlled, dangerous substance which the kid had amply used.

I recall Alice, a mother of a

teen I had previously represented - twice - called me one Monday morning to say, "They picked up our boy again." Knowing exactly who "they" were, I immediately responded, "I can be downtown in an hour." Her response was, "Go ahead. He turned 18 yesterday, and I am done!" I was left with a couple of thoughts that I share with you.

First, know this. Authorities like the National Institute on Drug Abuse advise that addiction really is a disease. It occurs because of the way the brain responds to intoxicating drugs. Addiction in the medical community is considered a "chronic disease" akin to diabetes, or other diseases that involve cycles of relapse and recovery and requires continuous monitoring in order to manage the disease.

To break the arrest/jail cycle, parents must confront the disease. Parents must accept that addiction is not just the teen's problem, but may have broader implications about the entire family, for example, how family members deal with feelings, or express emotions.

- MYTH: My child is an addict because she lacks willpower and self-control.
- FACT: Addiction happens due to chemical changes in

- the brain caused by the drug.
- MYTH: Only children who are low IQ, have no talents, are academically challenged become addicted.
- FACT: Substance abuse affects smart kids, dumb kids, rich kids, and kids from all sectors of the community.

In children and teens, drug abuse may point to an underlying psychological disorder. Some of the common co-occurring mental health conditions found with substance abuse in kids include: depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), bipolar disorder and generalized anxiety disorder.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration states that in 2014, 2.8 million teens between 12 and 17 had an episode of major depression. The symptoms of mental illness and addiction can be so similar that parents may overlook one or the other: Self-isolation, feelings of hopelessness or worthlessness, false beliefs or delusional thinking.

Alice's kid was sick. He wasn't really a criminal. I liked him, but to arrest him and not address the cause of the problem is a recipe for the problem to resurface and repeat itself.

He was a nice guy! So why

is a lawyer worried about teen drug use? Because what lawyers help their clients do is SOLVE THE PROBLEM. While the lawyer's initial issue may be getting the teen released from detention, a secondary issue is to help parents understand how not to need you again for the same issue. This means telling them what resources they need while there remains time.

We need to pay closer attention to teen behaviors so that they can be addressed while the teen is a juvenile and the policy is "rehabilitation." Once a teen turns 18 and is considered an "adult," the criminal justice system's only interest is punishment.

Second, the thought made me thank all that is holy that New Jersey has become more enlightened in its approach to criminal justice reform. But we need to do more. We need to expand treatment for juveniles. It really does little good to get the teen released and have them return to the same place, doing, or not doing the same things. It's sort of like the classic definition of insanity.

We need to make sure all police know that there are alternatives to arrest and conviction. We need juvenile drug courts, and we need to expand mental health services for our children.

TRUMP'S LAST ADDRESS

(Continued from page 13)

East. Nobody believed it could happen. The Abraham Accords opened the doors to a future of peace and harmony, not violence and bloodshed. It is the dawn of a new Middle East, and we are bringing our soldiers home.

"I am especially proud to be the first President in decades who has started no new wars.

"Above all, we have reasserted the sacred idea that, in America, the government answers to the people. Our guiding light, our North Star, our unwavering conviction has been that we are here to serve the noble everyday citizens of America. Our allegiance is not to the special interests, corporations, or global enti-

ties; it's to our children, our citizens, and to our nation itself.

"As President, my top priority, my constant concern, has always been the best interests of American workers and American families. I did not seek the easiest course; by far, it was actually the most difficult. I did not seek the path that would get the least criticism.

"I took on the tough battles, the hardest fights, the most difficult choices because that's what you elected me to do. Your needs were my first and last unyielding focus.

"This, I hope, will be our greatest legacy: Together, we put the American people back in charge of our country. We restored self-government. We restored the idea that in America

no one is forgotten, because everyone matters and everyone has a voice. We fought for the principle that every citizen is entitled to equal dignity, equal treatment, and equal rights because we are all made equal by God.

"Everyone is entitled to be treated with respect, to have their voice heard, and to have their government listen. You are loyal to your country, and my administration was always loyal to you...

"...Now, as I prepare to hand power over to a new administration at noon on Wednesday, I want you to know that the movement we started is only just beginning. There's never been anything like it. The belief that a nation must serve its citizens will not dwindle but instead only

grow stronger by the day.

"As long as the American people hold in their hearts deep and devoted love of country, then there is nothing that this nation cannot achieve. Our communities will flourish. Our people will be prosperous. Our traditions will be cherished. Our faith will be strong. And our future will be brighter than ever before.

"I go from this majestic place with a loyal and joyful heart, an optimistic spirit, and a supreme confidence that for our country and for our children, the best is yet to come.

"Thank you, and farewell. God bless you. God bless the United States of America."

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 7)

public tours had ended last march due to the COVID pandemic.

Second, Sherrill, a former USAF helicopter pilot, is among those Congress members and staff who "have served in the military and are trained to recognize suspicious activity. Some of the same Congress members and staff, on Jan. 6 noticed that "members of the group that attacked the Capitol seemed to have an unusually detailed knowledge of the complex's layout."

"I intend to see that those members of Congress who had groups coming through the Capitol that I saw on Jan 5," said Sherrill Jan. 12, "be held accountable and, if necessary, ensure that they don't serve in Congress."

Sherrill and her 33 colleague's call for an investigation is in addition on why some U.S. Capitol police fraternized with the insurrectionists Jan. 6 and how and why the USCPD and related law enforcement had underprepared in the face of pre-Jan. 6 social media chatter and in comparison, to the BLM protests. Both Congressional sergeants at arms and Capitol police chief had resigned soon after Jan. 6.

BLOOMFIELD - Township Administrator Matthew Watkins may introduce legislation at the Township Council's Jan. 25 Zoom meeting that would affect the Oakeside Cultural Center's future operation.

Watkins, on behalf of Michael Venezia, is to introduce an ordinance that would create a "Bloomfield Arts Utility," that, if passed, would oust the Oakeside Cultural Center's Board of Trustees.

Oakeside's trustees had been running the 1895 Oakes mansion here at 240 Belleville Ave. on the township's behalf since the lease was passed by Township Council resolution, under Mayor John W. Kinder's administration in 1982. The OCC was then established as an independent 501(c) (3) corporation.

The mansion was once owned by the Oakes family, who ran their textile mill across the avenue until its last descendant, Jean Oakes, 92, died here in 1980.

The self-sufficient OCC board had held tours and special events into the pandemic's start. The mansion, carriage house and grounds are on the na-

tional and state historic places registerers.

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio told OCC Executive Director Kim Reilly last summer, however, that the township will assume Oakeside control Oct. 1 - 12 years ahead of the lease's expiration.

Parlavecchio cited that Bloomfield's elders should have accepted the lease as an ordinance and not as a resolution. "Bloomfield's top lawyer" further claimed that the carriage house should never have been rented out.

NUTLEY / BELLEVILLE - Last rites for Vincent LoCurcio III, 64, co-owner of the Nutley Park and new Belleville ShopRite supermarkets, were held here at the Biondi Funeral Home Jan. 13 and at Bloomfield's Glendale Cemetery Jan. 14.

LoCurcio had died here at home in the company of relatives Jan. 9. His cause of death was not disclosed. "Vince," except for his Passaic birth and bachelor's degree from Midland, Mich.'s Northwood University, was a lifelong Nutleyite.

The Nutley High School Class of 1974 graduate was the third of four generations of LoCurcios and Infusinos who own and operate the Nutley Park ShopRite. Grandfather/Park Foods founder Vincent LoCurcio, Sr. and butcher Thomas Infusino joined forces in 1953. Father Vincent, Jr. assumed the helm after they joined Wakefern Foods/ShopRite in 1954.

Vince and co-owner David Infusino bought the former PathMark at 726 Washington Ave after parent A&P's 2012 liquidation. They reopened the mini-mall's remodeled anchor store in 2013. (It is not immediately known if they had any connection with the 1950s ShopRite at 165-83 Washington Ave.)

LoCurcio and Infusino received the Nutley Irish-American Association's 2019 Dr. Virginus D. Mattia Award. The longtime Nutley Chamber of Commerce President was on the Wakefern and Nutley Family Service Bureau's board of directors.

Wife Carol, mother Antoinette, sons Luke LoCurcio and Joseph Frusteri, daughter Michelle Yasso, Vincent LoCurcio IV and four other grandsons, granddaughter Eilla and sisters Ann Bator, Jeanne Clark and Carole Casale are among his survivors.

NOW, THE REAL TEST BEGINS...

CAN THEY REALLY UNITE AMERICA?

(Continued from page 1)


while maintaining her position as an educator.

In his first address to the nation as Commander-in-Chief, President Biden stressed his mission of unity, asking for Americans to lower the temperature and, "without unity, there is no peace." Biden also sought to impress the importance of ending systemic racism, addressing the climate crisis, fighting the pandemic, and safeguarding the truth, which seemed to reference the recent denials of the election results.

Among those in attendance were former Vice President Mike Pence, as well as former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton along with their wives. Former POTUS Jimmy Carter and his wife did not attend for safety reasons.

Of course, the most glaring absence was that of former President Donald Trump, who flew with former First Lady Melania Trump to Florida on Air Force One right before Biden was sworn into office. Trump became the first president in over 150 years not to attend the inauguration of his successor.

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<small>(currently closed for renovations)</small>		