# **BOE PRESIDENT SAID WHAT?!**



# WATER LAWSUIT FINALLY SETTLED



VOLUME 21 ● ISSUE 13 \* FEBRUARY 4, 2021 - FEBRUARY 10, 2021

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

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# EAST ORANGE MOURNS PASSING OF CICELY TYSON

EAST ORANGE - On behalf of the City of East Orange, Mayor Ted R. Green and the East Orange City Council extend their deepest condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and loved ones of the legendary and award-winning actress Cicely L. Tyson who passed away at the age of 96 on January 28, 2021. The pioneering actress was a staple within the East Orange Community, frequently visiting and supporting students of the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts, located at 35 Winans Street in East Orange.

"Cicely Tyson was the finest example of elegance, honor, grace and humility. She will always be remembered for living her life boldly and uncompromisingly. Her spirit of love and compassion is one that she selflessly shared with all of us here in East Orange and we are forever honored to have been a part of her extraordinary life," said Mayor Green, who had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Tyson on several occasions over the past two decades.

In 1995, the East Orange Board of Education moved to rename Vernon L. Davey Junior High School located on Elmwood Ave. to Cicely Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts. Tyson, who is not from East Orange and grew up in Harlem, accepted the offer on the condition that she could participate in school decisions, meetings, graduations and other events.

"You would be able to find her in classrooms every other week. The kids were so used to

(Continued on page 8)



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OCAL®TALK

Hello Readers,

I have been living in the United States for the past 43 years. I have seen some snowstorms; one in 1982 about saw 20 inches of snow, and one in 1997 had about the same. But this time, there was over 30" of snow in Northwest New Jersey. In 1996, there was a snowstorm in New England with about 48". However, the snow melted fast as the weather was 70 Fahrenheit within a couple of days. This time, the weather forecast is not in our favor. For the next 10 days, it does not show warmer weather. As I am stuck in my

house and working from home, I did not have any news about how the cities and townships in Essex County cleared the main roads and other streets of snow.

Last week, we published the story about Ahmed Screven suing the Township of Irvington, NJ. Screven had been appointed by Mayor Tony Vauss as a chief public defendant. When I called Mayor Vauss for his statement about the case. Vauss stated that he was not aware of any case like this. He just heard of it from Local Talk Weekly Newspaper's front-page story. He called the police department and director and he said that even the police department and director were not aware of it. I called Mr. Screven and he said that he filed the case in November 2020 to the Internal Affairs Division. Is the internal affairs division properly discharging its duties or is it just

another political appointee?

When Local Talk Weekly launched in November 1, 2000, the community was different. Orange had a better and more close community than today. East Orange has had better crime control than 2000. Newark has a little better crime control than today, but not as good of a community. Irvington was better off in 2000 than now. Maplewood/ South Orange, West Orange, Montclair/ Glenridge, Belleville remain the same.

Marjorie Taylor Green, R-Ga is facing heat for her Facebook comments in January 2019 about Nancy Pelosi and a "Bullet to the head" and also previously said the Parkland School shooting was staged. On Feb. 3, Steny Hoyer, D-Md announced that the House of Representatives would vote to remove Green from the House Education and Labor

Committee and the Budget Committee. The power of the post makes some people say whatever they like. However, that will hound her and she will pay. The next up for examination will be Ilhan Omar, who has made numerous racist statements against Israel. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy has been in support of punishing Omar for being critical of Israel.

Also, the impeachment proceedings taking place in the Senate on Feb. 9 will be interesting as well. The division between Republicans and the Democrats will continue with story after story in the coming months and even year.

Have a wonderful, healthier and peaceful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

#### STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR **LOCAL TALK** WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Publisher & Editor-in-chief : Dhiren Shah

Editors : Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah

Journalists / Writers : Kristopher Seals | Walter Elliott | Bro. Thomas Ellis | Dhiren Shah | William Hathaway Jr.

Dr. Daniel Louis | Ahmed Screven, Esq. | Anuj Shah | Lev Zilbermints | Kinjal Shah | Asha Shah |

Akshat Shah, MD | Ivy Mahabir | Kalindi Bhatt | Dr. Robert Kennedy Dhiren Shah | Kristopher Seals | Thomas Ellis II | D. Adams, Jr.

Distributors : Larry Wright | Walter Elliott | Fred Simpson

Newspaper Designer : New Image Art Studio

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# WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

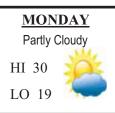
Sunny
HI 39
LO 25

Photographers

# FRIDAY Chance of Snow HI 40 LO 25







# TUESDAY AM Snow HI 27 LO 19



# LOCAL®TALK

# SPORTS WRAP



On Feb. 7, the National Football League will own on the national stage, with Super Bowl LV taking place in Tampa, Florida. This year's game has a twist, as for the first time, one of the participants, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will be playing a home game, with the contest taking place in their home Raymond James Stadium. The Bucs will host the defending Super Bowl Champions, the Kansas City Chiefs.

Six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady is now on a different team, after winning his first half dozen titles with the New England Patriots. TB took TB to the big game after winning the NFC Crown with a 31-26 win over the Green Bay Packers on the road. Head coach Bruce Arians is looking for his first SB title in that position, as he previously won a Super Bowl

with the Pittsburgh Steelers as a coordinator.

On the other sideline, the Kansas City Chiefs are looking to go back to back, as Patrick Mahomes led his squad to a 38-24 win over the Buffalo Bills. If the Chiefs win, they will be the first team to win consecutive championships since Brady's Patriots won SBXXXVIII and XXXIX.

Due to COVID-19, only around 25,000 live fans will be in attendance. There will be thousands of cutouts of fans to add to the experience. Among the local flavor in the game are former NY Giant Jason Pierre-Paul and former NY Jet La'Ve-on Bell.

As for my prediction, Patrick Mahomes will go back to back, beating Tom Brady by the final score of 27-21, and going back to Disney World, if it's open.



# NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT CALLS PUBLIC COMMENTS "BULLS---"

By Lev D. Zilbermints

"Here comes the bulls---." - That is what Josephine C. Garcia, the President of Newark's Board of Education, called the public comments portion at the January 28, 2021 online meeting. Now the board president, whose term expires in 2023, is facing calls for her resignation.

The incident occurred during the January 28 online meeting. In a one-minute video clip that has been shared numerous times on social media, Board President Josephine C. Garcia is heard saying on live air, "Here comes the bulls---."

"Local Talk" attempted to verify this controversial statement.

In her written responses to a ten-question interview, Yolanda Johnson, president of Parents Educating Parents, Inc., described in detail how the controversial remark came to be.

"Around the 47 mark and in the live section of the Newark School Board meeting on 1/28/21 where parents were questioning board president commentary, board president Josephine Garcia motioned to move the meeting to public speaking, where Arsen the attorney had introduced the public portion. Board President Garcia can be heard talking over Arsen saying, "Here comes the bulls---". This is what captured the public's attention," Johnson wrote in her email.

It did not take long for the public to express its displeasure with President Garcia's quote. Jaz West-Romero, an education activist, parent and mother whose children attend Newark's

schools, wrote a blistering post on Facebook demanding both "an apology and an explanation as to why we [the public] were called bulls--- last night [January 28]."

In her Facebook post, Jaz West-Romero blasted the Newark Board of Education for deleting the video taken of the Jan. 28 NBOE meeting. She also demanded an official statement on the matter immediately.

"I'll give you until Monday [Feb. 1] to release an official statement & follow-up consequence, otherwise I will be organizing a protest and we will be present and HEARD THROUGH THE BS", Ms. West-Romero wrote on Facebook.

According to Facebook posts, West-Romero was demanding that the same standard be applied to the Board President

as to the Director of Recreation last October. The director, who made disparaging remarks, received a suspension. However, the director is not an elected official. Ms. Garcia, on the other hand, is an elected official whose term expires in 2023.

Denise Cole, an education activist, said that this is the first time she heard a president or chairperson talk like that. The board members of the past were more civil.

"We always were able to agree to disagree with other board members," Cole said.

According to Cole, "People are watching. The Board of Education should be held accountable [for what is going on]. She [Garcia] needs to resign. Why does she feel like we are BS

(Continued on page 5)



NEW-

ARK -

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.

The identity of a man who was found beneath "Winter Storm Orlena" snowfall in Lincoln Park and later died Feb. 1 has not been identified as of press time.

Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose said several pedestrians had flagged down a patrol cruiser, telling of a possible man buried in the snow, at 9:40 a.m. Monday. Officers dug to find the "barely responsive" man and rushed him to a University Hospital for hypothermia treatment. He was declared dead by 3 p.m.

"Orlena" had compiled up to 16.2 inches of snow from 3 p.m. Jan. 31 through 5 a.m. Feb. 2 at Newark Liberty International Airport. Mayor Ras Baraka had extended a Jan. 23 stay indoors Code Blue alert through Feb. 2. Those homeless who are unable or unwilling to enter shelters, from the 1,000 daily unaddressed average in Newark, resort to Newark Penn Station or the streets

#### Ambrose Retiring, Fontoura Seeks 11th Term

A change of the local law enforcement leadership, between Ambrose's Jan. 27 retirement and Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura's Jan. 25 bid to run for an 11th straight term, is underway.

Ambrose, who has been public safety director since 2016, is to retire March 31. His combined 34-year career included time with the then-Newark Police Department, Essex County Sheriff's Office and Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

Fontoura has been re-elected since his acting appointment in 1991. His previous 25 years ex-

perience included five as undersheriff after retiring from 20 years as an NPD captain. Former NPD Deputy Police Director John C. Arnold is to challenge Fontoura in the June 8 party primary elections.

**IRVINGTON** - Township and animal welfare officials are looking for the person who left a dog tied to a pole near Irvington's downtown Jan. 23.

An animal control officer from St. Hubert's Giralda Center was called to the corner of North Maple Avenue and Eastern Parkway that Saturday. The St. Hubert's officer found a small dog tied to the pole with a rope, "extremely matted and in intense pain," during one of the coldest nights of this winter.

The officer promptly took the small dog, later named Lux, to a local emergency animal hospital. Although Lux's matted hair was shorn, one of his paws had lost circulation to where the whole leg had to be amputated.

While Lux rests and recovers in St. Hubert's center in Madison, a \$5,000 reward has been posted for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who had abandoned him.

North Maple Avenue and Eastern Parkway are feeder roads between the Springfield Avenue Business District and the Garden State Parkway. The Maple Gardens Luxury apartment complex, a franchise gym and a shopping plaza anchored by Supremo Supermarket are nearby.

Anyone who has seen Lux and any suspicious activity in that area Jan. 23 are to call (908) 526-3330. That number is also good for those who want to make donations to Lux's rehabilitation.

**EAST ORANGE** - The East Orange Police Department's night shift officers found themselves alerting their Orange colleagues after finding a gunshot victim along one of their major streets here Jan. 27.

The victim, who was found by an EOPD patrol along Central Avenue at about 8:55 p.m. that Wednesday, said he was fired at around Orange's 575 Nassau St. The man was then taken to a local hospital for treatment and recovery.

OPD officers had "found a crime scene" at that Valley section block later that night. No

further details have been yet released.

#### Man Dead in Norman Towers Fire

Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide and Arson units detectives have ruled that the fire that killed a resident here at 500 North Walnut St. early Feb. 1 was accidental.

City firefighters, responding to a fire alarm from a Norman Towers Senior Apartment dwelling unit 4:40 a.m. Monday, were met with thick smoke billowing from an apartment. Upon entry, they found an unconscious and unresponsive Charles Rogers, 61, and traced the fire and smoke from his kitchen.

Rogers, who lived alone in the 16-story, 406-unit highrise, was declared dead at 5:36 a.m. The 1980-built Norman Towers was sold to Community Preservation Partners July 30. A \$123 million rehabilitation is being planned.

#### ORANGE / BELLEVILLE -

Sometimes a shared services provider, as in the case of Orange Health Officer Vicent De-Filippo and Belleville's township and school administrations, may be called to make a call between two client institutions on a rules interpretation.

DeFlippio had one of those, "What does this look like to you?" moments when he received a letter from Belleville watchdog Frank Fleischman III Jan. 19 on how the respective elders in Town Hall and the Belleville High School Auditorium have conducted their pandemic era public meetings. Belleville has contracted its health services to Orange since 2019

Fleischman pointed out that the Belleville Township Council has usually held its public meetings in Town Hall's Council Chamber via Zoom since April. Public questions that are submitted in advance are read into the record.

There were two in-person Township Council meetings. Its Nov. 10 meeting at the BHS Auditorium was canceled due to the latter's "deep cleaning." Belleville's Mayor-Council meetings have been back on Zoom ever since.

Belleville's planning and zoning board meetings have also

been held in Town Hall Council Chamber on Zoom since July. (There were no meetings held April-June.)

The BBOE Trustees, by contrast, have consistently held live in-person meetings - and not on Zoom - since March. Temperature checks, sign-ins for contact tracing, masking and social distancing rule there.

DeFilippo's response, said Fleischman, was that he recommended that Town Hall meetings be remote due to the then-rising positive. The Orange officer added that the BBOE is "following strict CDC and contact tracing guidelines."

WEST ORANGE - Instruction and a revised in-class learning schedule that was to take effect has been kicked back to Feb. 8 - and it is not just because of the Jan. 31-Feb. 2 snowstorm.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. Scott Cascone, in a pair of Feb. 2 letters, said that the public school district will be all-online learning for the entire week. Cascone cited "the scope of snow movement and removal will take several days" and that he could not guarantee the safety of streets "for students and staff to arrive on Thursday (Feb. 4)."

Once WOPS schools and offices reopen Feb. 8, it will be for those Grade 3-5 students whose parents have chosen in-class instruction. The Grades 6-8 students' back to the schoolrooms will now happen a week later, on Feb. 16. West Orange High Schoolers, Grades 9-12, will be welcomed inside March 1.

Cascone had actually postponed Grades 6-8 students' return a week on Jan. 27, before "Winter Storm Orlena" became a factor. He said he came to further staggering Grades 6-12 after listening to parents concerns at the Jan. 25 Board of Education meeting.

The Grade 3-5 students' Monday return may or may not include those attending the Redwood Elementary School. There had been one positive COVID test among that community Jan. 22 - which has been followed by contact tracing and the self-isolation of those who had recent contact with the individual.

Cascone, on Jan. 23, added that "several members of the WOHS hockey team have tested positive." Those who are posi(Continued on page 12)

# **BOTH SIDES IN LEAD** WATER SERVICE LINE SUIT CLAIM VICTORY

"Success Has Many Fathers; Failure's an Orphan." (Italian idiom)

**NEWARK** - The plaintiffs and respondents of a 28-month-old federal civil suit over lead content in the city's water infrastructure have been claiming that the suit's objectives have been realized since its Jan. 26 settlement announcement.

"By the grace of God, we're nearing completion of our lead service line replacement program," said Mayor Ras Baraka in that Tuesday afternoon's statement. "I'm thankful that we're able to identify the issue, do the work and are able to help make our residents safer."

"It's a big victory for another generation or many generations of children," said Natural Resources Defense Council senior health director Erik Olson, "who are going to have a much healthier and better life because they're not going to be drinking lead in their water every day."

Under the settlement, a tobe-assigned federal judge will oversee the completion of Newark's Lead Service Line Replacement Program. a 23-month accelerated project that is nearing completion.

The LSLRP - assisted by an Aug. 26, 2018 \$120 million, 30year loan from the Essex County Improvement Authority may well finish within the settlement's June 30, 2021 benchmark for several conditions.

Newarkleadserviceline.com and a multilingual public education campaign, resident access to free water testing, free filters and/or, in particular cases, bottled water, will also continue until at least June 30.

The federal judge will also be monitoring several other conditions on out to Dec. 31, including:

- Newark's regularly scheduled reporting of water quality samples to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.
- Residents who reoccupy houses or apartment buildings that were vacant during the LSLRP are to immediately call Newark Water and Sewer Utility to join the free water testing and filters.
- Continued sub-15 parts per billion of lead per liter of water readings among 90 percent of water samples. The 15 ppb level is a threshold recognized by the EPA and DEP.

Although Baraka, Public Works Director Kareem Adeem, a DEP deputy director and attorneys for the respondents and plaintiffs have signed the settlement Jan. 10-22, it is not yet binding. The 19-page agreement takes effect when the to-beassigned federal judge signs on.

Attorney's fees and other costs of this litigation is being absorbed by the parties. Neither side said they had sought monetary damages.

While the agreement is focused on Newark's 270,000 residents and customers within city limits, customers outside of the NWU's Pequannock Wanaque systems will also be benefitting from the city's improvements and federal moni-

Belleville, Bloomfield, Nut-(Continued on page 7)

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# **NEWARK BOARD**

# **OF EDUCATION**

(Continued from page 3)

when we have legitimate con-No board member cerns? stopped the meeting and said what happened was unacceptable. The student representative [Kimberly Gonzalez] was sitting in shock," Cole said.

On January 29, the day after the incident, the Newark Board of Education President posted an apology on Facebook.

"I would like to apologize for a comment that mistakenly went over the air last night. Please know that this comment was not directed toward, or a characterization of, any member of the public or the public participation process.

I have dedicated over two decades to public service and will continue to work with the community that I love on the behalf of its children and families."

The apology was shared six times between Friday and Sunday. Research by "Local Talk" staff showed that all 11 people who approved of the apology were either former Newark Board of Education members, its employees or were politically connected. Tellingly, only one current board member, Vereliz Santana, wrote that she approved of the apology. The other members of the board maintained their silence.

Santana is the policy director of State Senator M. Teresa Ruiz. Critics say her appointment is a conflict of interest and undemocratic.

In her interview with "Local Talk," PEP CEO Yolanda Johnson blasted the apology as not worth anything.

"It was an insincere apology because she should have apologized right before public participation during the live board meeting versus waiting two days when other news outlets had [the episode] circulated," Ms. Johnson wrote in her response.

Johnson said that she is prepared to go to court if Garcia does not resign and ignores the petition.

According to Johnson, there is a process of recalling a member of the board of education. Currently there is an online petition with hundreds of signatures demanding that Garcia be either forced to resign or be recalled.

Former Newark Board of Education member Leah Z. Owens wrote on her blog, blackwomenteacher.net, "That sentiment [expressed by President Garcia] expresses how board, under her leadership, views the democratic process. For them, deliberation has no place in our public education system."



### **UNITED STATES**

# Winter Storm Blankets Region

If you live in the Northeast, you might have dug out from as much as three feet - not inches, but feet - of snow.

On Jan. 31, a system that the Weather Channel dubbed as Winter Storm Orlena wreaked havoc in several states. In New Jersey, places in Sussex and Morris counties recorded up to and over 30 inches of snow, while Newark recorded between 18-20 inches. Transportation was ground to a halt, and several cities and towns, including the state itself, declared a state of emergency.

The storm led to over 300 flights being cancelled from Newark Liberty, JFK, and LaGuardia alone, not to mention those from smaller airports. Additionally, while power outages in New Jersey were low, over 14,000 were left in the dark throughout Massachusetts. Despite some luck in that area, NJ was not so fortunate on the roads, as over 800 accidents were reported, with over 1,500 motorists, who were advised to stay home, needing help.

Residents in the affected are not ready to breathe a sigh of relief just yet, as another storm system is expected for Sunday. Also adding to their grief was a prediction from noted groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, who predicted six more weeks of winter (if you actually believe a groundhog can forecast the weather).

# **ASIA**

# Myanmar Under Military Coup

The fears that some in the United States had after the storming of its Capitol have somewhat come true halfway across the world.

On Jan. 31 the United Nations Secretary-General strongly condemned the detention of Myanmar's top political leaders and government officials, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, by the country's military.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Secretary-General António Guterres also voiced "grave concern" regarding the declaration of the transfer of all legislative, executive and judicial powers to the military.

"These developments represent a serious blow to democratic reforms in Myanmar", the statement said.

Volkan Bozkir, President of the UN General Assembly, also voiced concerns over the situation in Myanmar.

"Attempts to undermine democracy and rule of law are unacceptable", he said in a Tweet, calling for the "immediate release" of detained political leaders.

The detentions and the seizure of power took place hours before the opening session of Myanmar's new Parliament. They followed days of escalating tensions between the government and the military in the aftermath of last November's general elections.

Aung San Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy (NLD) claimed an overwhelming victory in the polls, securing over 80 percent of the seats, according to media reports. However, the military and some political parties disputed the re-

sults, alleging that the polls were marred by irregularities.

November's polls were only the second democratic elections in Myanmar since the end of nearly five decades of military rule. The first elections, in 2015, were also won by NLD.

In the statement, the UN chief called on Myanmar's military leadership to "respect the will of the people and adhere to democratic norms," and to resolve any differences through peaceful dialogue.

"The November 8, 2020 general elections provide a strong mandate to the NLD, reflecting the clear will of the people of Myanmar to continue on the hard-won path of democratic reform", the statement noted.

"All leaders must act in the greater interest of Myanmar's democratic reform, engaging in meaningful dialogue, refraining from violence and fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms," it said.

The Secretary-General also reaffirmed the "unwavering support of the United Nations to the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, human rights and the rule of law," the statement added.

According to media reports, the detentions started in the early hours of Monday (local time), with political leaders held in Yangon and other cities across Myanmar, and soldiers said to be out on the streets and at prominent landmarks.

Mobile phones, telephones and internet are also reported to have been cut in capital Nay Pyi Taw and the commercial hub of Yangon.

The military also imposed a state of emergency for a year, it announced on a military-run television station. According to media reports, other national and international television channels, and radio are offline.

# **EUROPE**

### **COVID-19 Travel Update**

On Feb. 2, the Council adopted a recommendation amending the recommendation on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction.

Under the new rules, the following epidemiological criteria should be taken into account to determine the countries for which the restriction on nonessential travel should be lifted:

- not more than 25 new
   COVID-19 cases per 100
   000 inhabitants over the last
   14 days
- a stable or decreasing trend of new cases over this period in comparison to the previous 14 days
- more than 300 tests per 100 000 inhabitants in the previous 7 days, if the data is available to ECDC
- not more than 4% positive tests among all COVID-19 tests carried out in the previous 7 days, if the data is available to ECDC
- the nature of the virus present in a country, in particular whether variants of concern of the virus have been detected

In addition, the overall response to COVID-19 may be taken into account, in particular available information on aspects such as surveillance, contact tracing, containment, treatment and reporting as well as the reliability of available information and data sources and, if needed, the total average score across all dimensions for International Health Regulations (IHR).

(Continued on page 11)

#### **LEAD WATER SERVICE LINE**

(Continued from page 5)

ley, Pequannock, Elizabeth and Hillside regularly buy all or some of its water from Newark. Their water departments are not parties to the above suit and have their own water departments conduct sampling and their own reporting to the DEP.

Some of the said customer towns have been benefiting from NWU's orthophosphate additive plant off Montclair's Valley Road since May 7, 2019. The plant on the Pequannock System, replaced the silicone silicate that was added upstream until it lost its effectiveness in 2017.

Belleville, which buys all of its water from Newark, received some water filters from Baraka and Adeem Jan. 17, 2020. Belleville Mayor Melham and Town Engineer Tom Hertis then distributed those filters to their "more vulnerable" residents.

Newark had also sent its LSLRP contractors to Belleville's Silver Lake section later that year. NWU mains run beneath that panhandle neighborhood and directly bills around its 60 customers there. "Local Talk" saw one of contractor Roman E&G's crew replacing a line on a block of Belmont Avenue in October.

The NRDC and the Newark Education Workers Caucus filed suit against Newark and the DEP here in federal court June 26, 2018. Both plaintiffs were asserting that the respondents knew that the city's lead content readings had failed the EPA's Lead and Copper Standards four of the previous five six-month samplings - reading that went back to 2016.

The NRDC asserted that some of Newark's individual sample readings compared to those found in Flint. Mich. The environmental law firm, whose nearest offices are in New York City and Washington, D.C., was involved in the Flint case.

Some of NEWCaucus' members had remembered how Newark Public Schools handled its own lead-in-water crisis. The state's largest public school system shut off fixtures and trucked in bottled or boxed water for up to a year after 30 of its then-69 buildings internal lines had high lead readings in 2016-17.

NDRC and NEWCaucus originally demanded that Newark Water and Sewer Utilities extend free bottled water and filters and the LSLRP to the entire city regardless if they were served by the Pequannock or Wanaque systems. A federal judge dismissed that injunction call Dec. 19, 2018.

Some city officials tried to deflect NRDC's charges as coming from outside agitators. Some residents and activist groups considered the legal firm as an allied watchdog.

Baraka, in a Jan. 30 open letter, called NRDC and NEW-Causus being "the driver of our diligent efforts to eradicate lead in our drinking water" a "false narrative that (they) rescued Newark residents from a government incapable of solving its own problem."

The Mayor noted that the LSLRP was not done under threat of the lawsuit. The city, indeed, started a \$75 million program in July 2018 partially funded by the state.

The LSLRP was to have been conducted within eight years until Baraka accepted a \$120 million loan from the ECIA Aug. 26, 2018. Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo (D-Roseland) offered the loan whose ECIA bonds were to be paid back the next 30 years.

The \$120 million bondissued loan supercharged the LSLRP, resetting its completion

# **BANKRUPTCY**

# CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

The Orange Board of Education has scheduled its next virtual regularly Public Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., closed session to begin at 6:00 p.m.

target to 24 to 30 months. (DiVincenzo had offered similar terms to Belleville and other Essex County towns who had found Lead Service Lines.)

Newark, through its Essex County delegation, pushed through state legislation allowing the NWU to replace LSLs for free - on private property. LSLs, which link Newark water mains to buildings, have been historically and legally private landowner's responsibility.

Baraka's letter states that the city had been well on its way to fulfilling the settlement's requirements for most of the 28 months' litigation.

Newark's approach to removing lead in water infrastructure, said both the respondents and plaintiffs, is a model for other municipalities to follow.



# **CICELY TYSON**

(Continued from page 1)

seeing her being here...it was like she was their teacher," said Robin Lewis, who currently serves as Math Coach for the East Orange School District.

Tyson was famously known for her "master classes," where she held school assemblies and invited special guests such as Maya Angelou, Tyler Perry, Mary Alice, Rosa Parks, Wynton Marsalis, Derrick Luke, and Judith Jamison to name a few.

Tyson's presence positively touched thousands of students throughout East Orange, including Elijah Ahmad Lewis, who is currently performing on Broadway in shows such as Stevie Wonder: Motown Musical and

Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of the Temptations.

"On productions, she would come in and co-direct. We were able to work directly with her," said Lewis. "She was a light, she was an angel on earth. She once pulled me aside and told me, 'You know you got it'. That was a big defining moment for me. Every show, I keep her in mind."

In 2009, Tyson visited East Orange for the dedication of the new \$143 million, state-of-the-art, facility, which was rebuilt at 35 Winans Street to replace the former building on Elmwood Avenue. The new school housed students from grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and included four buildings, two theatres and a TV studio.

"Ms. Tyson was no stranger

**ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY** 

Weekly Statistics from January 27 - February 3, 2021

2	J	•	2	
Municipality	1-27-2021	Deaths	2-3-2021	Deaths
Belleville	3745	95	3949	94
Bloomfield	3609	93	3747	93
Caldwell	393	12	414	14
Cedar Grove	1119	119	1154	119
East Orange	4667	257	4868	259
Essex Fells	134	2	138	2
Fairfield	578	25	595	25
Glen Ridge	227	11	235	11
Irvington	3122	189	3216	193
Livingston	1272	80	1318	80
Maplewood	804	31	838	31
Millburn	575	8	605	8
Montclair	1458	61	1532	63
Newark	26459	818	27647	830
North Caldwell	300	6	305	6
Nutley	1881	49	1978	50
Orange	2361	111	2456	113
Roseland	341	15	360	15
South Orange	505	11	531	11
Verona	630	16	666	16
West Caldwell	715	50	750	50
West Orange	3222	207	3337	211
Total	58117	2266	60639	2294

OTHER COVID-!9 TALLIES (As of Feb. 3, 2021)
NJ: 631,309 cases / 19,506 deaths (Plus 2,187 probable)
United States (approx.): 26.45 Million / 448,000 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 104.1 Million / 2.26 Million deaths

NJ Gov. Murphy announced that indoor capacity has been increased from 25% to 35%.

to our community as she visited quite frequently and taught acting classes whenever she could. Our hearts are certainly heavy as we mourn her transition," said Abdulsaleem Hasan, East Orange School District Superintendent of Schools.

Tyson was the recipient of many honors, including two Emmy Awards, a Screen Actor Guild Award, a Tony Award, and honorary degrees from Clark Atlanta University, Columbia University, Howard University and Morehouse College. Inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, she also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

She was a recipient of the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors in 2015 when the Cicely

Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts Choir surprised her with a guest appearance singing alongside CeCe Winans and Terrence Blanchard. She was also awarded the United States' highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Barack Obama in November 2016.

"What I always respected most about Ms. Tyson is her commitment to 'showing up.' There were never any cameo appearances," added Mayor Green. "She wore her connection to our great city as a badge of honor and the entire community has benefited greatly from her presence in our lives. Her legacy will forever live on and she will always be one of our own."



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# The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

# Problems Of Vaccine Distribution In The U.S.

It is no longer news that we already have the coronavirus vaccine in the US. In fact, many people are already fully vaccinated, but we have a long way to go. But for those that thought the vaccines would bring about the immediate end of the coronavirus pandemic, there's bad news – it won't. Vaccines will help combat the virus, no doubt about that, but only after they are distributed.

It seems to me like we focused all our attention on getting a vaccine, and very little on what to do when we finally get the vaccines. The vaccines aren't going to distribute themselves, are they? Currently, the problem in many parts of the country is not the lack of vaccine doses, but problems on the distribution end.

Perhaps the most pressing of these problems is how to distribute the vaccine. How are the vaccines allocated? How many does each state get? Which centers and hospitals are going to get them? How are the vaccines going to reach rural regions? All of these are questions we still don't have good answers for. While the Trump administration oversaw the vaccine production and kudos to them on that, I must say, they had no solid plan in place to distribute the vaccines. The result of this is inconsistent distribution among states, with some states having stores of vaccines but no way to distribute, and others having exhausted the doses they have.

The primary reason for these varying results across states is that the previous administration allowed states to decide how they want the vaccines rolled out. This was to make the distribution as flexible as possible. While this seems like a good strategy on paper, it didn't turn out to be very effective in reality. Why? States only knew of how many doses they would receive about two days before they were given. As you may imagine, that's a very short time to make great plans on how to roll out the vaccines. States that weren't very prepared suffered for it.

President Biden plans on revamping this federal plan, and get 200 million more doses of the vaccine, 100 million each from Pfizer and Moderna, before summer. This, in addition to the doses these companies have already promised us, will see about 300 million Americans vaccinated by summer. Vaccinating that much people is definitely a lofty goal, but achievable if we go about it the right way. And the right way is formulating better and more effective vaccine distribution strate-

The US has also faced the problem of public perception in vaccine distribution. This is one of the most difficult problems to solve by the government as they can't force people to take vaccines. Some people have reservations over the vaccines' long-term safety and opt out of taking them or allowing their children to take them. That's definitely reasonable. No one wants to risk their health, particularly people who have suffered losses in recent times.

Then there's another group of people that actually believe the vaccines were made to harm them. I hear allegations like, 'they're trying to put microchips in our bodies,' or, 'they want to turn us to zombies.' I swear I'm not making this up. There's only so much the government can do in convincing people in this category.

If you're unsure of the vaccine for safety reasons, then don't be. The science speaks for itself. This is one of the few cas-

es where the more you learn about the vaccine, the more confident in it you become. Don't buy into the claims that a vaccine made in one year cannot be safe. Admittedly, no vaccine has been made in such a short timeframe but note that there were already years of experience in the SARS-CoV viruses, of which the coronavirus is part. And there's also the fact that we have improved technology and billions were invested into making the vaccines. For those that think the vaccines contain microchips, they don't. They really don't. Your phone is your microchip. Alexa and Google too. The vaccine is not trying to endanger you; it wants to do quite the opposite.

Another problem we have faced is shortages of vaccination materials and centers. To vaccinate 300 million people with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, you'll need 600 million doses, as they both require two doses to be effective. 600 million doses mean 600 million syringes, vials, and the like. The vaccines also have to be stored somewhere, and the Pfizer vaccine, in particular, doesn't last more than five days in normal refrigerator conditions. This has severely limited its use in rural areas.

We simply weren't prepared enough for the pandemic. I know you're thinking, 'how can you possibly prepare for a novel virus pandemic?' And the answer is more simple than you think. Many of the deaths could have been avoided if we had a good medical infrastructure, a working infectious-disease-prevention unit, and huge financial medical reserves.

Other problems affect vaccine distribution too, like poor record-keeping, people jumping the COVID line, and more. There are too many problems to list them all out. The government needs to tackle all of these problems as soon as possible to limit the casualties from the virus, because people are still dying every day, and in record numbers too. Vaccines are our best bet at eradicating the virus; that bit is certain. As such, we need to devote all effort into making their distribution seamless.

Then, we should also play our parts as citizens. Don't neglect COVID guidelines. If you have taken one dose of the vaccine, you still aren't fully immune to the virus, and should not be careless. 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 nonprofit 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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#### LOCAL®TALK

#### **WORLD NEWS FLASH**

(Continued from page 6)

Reciprocity should continue to be taken into account on a case-by-case basis.

Where the epidemiological situation worsens quickly and, in particular, where a high incidence of variants of concern of the virus is detected, travel restrictions for nonessential travel may be rapidly reintroduced. In the same circumstances, member states may also limit temporarily the categories of essential travelers. Travel justified by compelling reasons should still remain possible.

Member states should require persons travelling for any essential or non-essential reason, with the exception of transport and frontier workers, to have a negative PCR test taken at the earliest 72 hours before departure.

In addition, they may require selfisolation, quarantine and contact tracing for a period of up to 14 days, as well as further COVID-19 testing as needed during the same period. Quarantine and additional testing upon or after arrival should be imposed in particular to those travelers arriving from a third country where a variant of concern of the virus has been detected.

As regards essential travel, member states may decide, in a coordinated way, to waive some of the above measures in those cases where they would impede the very purpose of the travel. For transport personnel, seafarers and frontier workers, member states should not require more than a negative rapid antigen test on arrival. For transport personnel coming from a country where a high incidence of variants of concern is detected, member states may require a negative rapid antigen tests before departure.

#### **AFRICA**

# Somalian Attack Condemned

The United Nations envoy for Somalia has strongly condemned the Jan. 31 terrorist attack on a hotel near the international airport in capital Mogadishu that left at least five people dead and dozens more wounded.

According to media reports, the Al-Shabaab terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack on Hotel Afrik, which began with a car bomb, followed by an hours-long

i: a man: Steven Michael Hyatt: Living Beneficiary for STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT Estate; general post office; judicial district

# Notice; Praecipe

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l; Hyatt, Steven-Michael, a man claim: any man or Person whom alter or restyle this; my issue; does so under penalty and compensation to i;

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In re: Notice and Praecipe regarding Marriage License Application Revocation of Signature and Notice of Revocation of Power of Attorney for STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT ESTATE.

i; verify all herein be true

i; affirm my word is my bond;

t; am at peace with all mankind; t; claim: sole beneficiary: STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT ESTATE;

i; accept your oath of office, title, and bond as a firm binding contract; evidence fiduciary obligation to i; i; give notice: All unconscionable contracts are subject to rescission and void from the beginning, under law; for Peculiar

good and proper cause; Where there is no meeting of minds there is no contract;
i; am giving my timely notice and praecipe in regards to the matter of the Marriage License Application signed by i; on

December Eleventh (11th) Two Thousand Twenty (2020) in the county of Essex, New Jersey and filed by Deputy or Clerk of Court Christopher J. Durkin, which joined in marriage STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT ESTATE and SHANAKAY LABRENA BIGNOTT ESTATE

i; recently discovered there is no law compelling i; a man to accept as a privilege, the union of marriage; Therefore, any and all Marriage License Applications and Certificates bearing the name STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT or any derivatives thereof are null and void, from the beginning, through various elements of concealment and failure to make the proper disclosures:

i; hereby revoke, repudiate and rescind all signature(s) expressed, implied and otherwise, for peculiar and good proper cause on all forms, the Original Marriage Application and Original Marriage Certificate hereby revoking the Power of Attorney held by the New Jersey over my person and/or property; said release is absolute from the beginning; Notice is given to all above named parties, successors, assigns, and associates that any and all power of attorney, presumed or otherwise, to make any legal determination past, present, and future for STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT and all derivatives thereof is revoked ab initio and is of no legal effect whatsoever, an absolute nullity;

i; further waive and reject any and all benefits and/or privileges expressed, implied or otherwise arising from any such signatures, all resulting contracts, agreements or trust resulting from force, under threat of being denied access to one's own credit among others, involuntary servitude and peonage by adhesion contract, committed against me; Further, these adhesion contracts and any and all powers of attorney whether expressed, implied or otherwise are hereby revoked, terminated, cancelled ab initio;

Therefore, it is my wish and pleasure that you remove the name STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT from any and all form(s), application(s), database(s), record(s), and in all other things, for the New Jersey posthaste, as well as notify any and all interested parties of this change; Acknowledgement and compliance with i; a man's Notice and Praecipe shall be returned to i; In the event you are unable or unwilling to comply with this instruction, i shall alternatively require of you evidence of your Oath of Fidelity as well as the policy number and name and address of the underwriter of your Bond;

This Notice and Praecipe was prepared by: i; with the copy-claim; By my free will, act, and deed, my hand and seal, do hereby establish the facts with good faith and clean hands

this 11th day of December, two thousand

By: Hyatt, Steven-Michael.

We, the undersigned, did witness the living man, known to us as Seven Menael 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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strongest terms," he said.

Several civilians, said to have been trapped in the hotel, were rescued by security forces.

In the statement, the UN in Somalia expressed its condolences to the families of the victims, and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

gun battle with security forces. Four attackers were also killed.

In a statement, James Swan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and head of the UN Assistance Mission in the country (UNSOM), denounced the "senseless attack."

"We are appalled by this reprehensible and senseless attack on a venue frequented by innocent civilians, and condemn it in the



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

#### Singing The Blues

This is the beginning of Black History Month, and because it falls in the midst of one of the worse pandemics this world has ever seen, in a life time, I am thinking of its contradictions and of the genre of songs that black folks used to sing called "The Blues."

Many contemporary youths, even, in the black community do not know of The Blues, so let me describe for such persons and any other of interest. The blues covers a wide range of sounds, but generally it involves music of a certain scale, with certain progression, with certain harmony, with emphasis placed on the dominant seventh, and regularly with lyrics of sadness. The purpose of the blues is to express grief, pain, grief or to make complaint.

What is of interest to me in focusing on The Blues, in this reflection, is that from what is taking place around us, at this time, it seems that the majority of the world is "singing the blues," or "crying the blues" or "having the blues," as the expressions go. With more nearly 104M persons in the world who

have caught the virus, and nearly 2.3M deaths, and the spreading of multiple variants across the world, even the best of scientists are joining to sing the blues.

As has been seen the virus is not selective. It takes down the caregivers and the patients in all communities. In fact, while inequalities in the Health Care system have created many tragedies in Black and Brown communities, as is being observed, especially, here in the United States, it is seen that the virus is making everybody equal, "at the foot of the cross" or "in the midst of the storm." Just about every family in every nation on earth, can tell a story of some loved one(s) or known one(s) who have contracted the virus or been killed by it. So, everyone can join the chorus and sing The Blues.

Yes, what a time to be living in the world? What a time to sing The Blues? We are facing grief, hurts, and pain together. We are all looking for a quick and easy fix. And it seems the vaccinations that have been or are being developed are not offering the quick and easy fix. Across the world people are having conversations. They are asking questions. They are praying. There seems to be a new interest in religion or spirituality.

I do not know if you have noticed it, but I have noted as I pray with people that they seem to have more space for religious talk. And some of the proudest persons I know seem to have been humbled by the disease. They are willing to take any recommendations from anywhere, about what to take and not to take. The problem is that for many all they know is the blues. Their fears are driving them instead of their faith.

But let me turn back to Black History Month to state that my reference to the Blues is not just to name one aspect of the rich and diverse musical tradition that focuses on the interpretation of the pain and suffering that have been resident in the African American community since our ancestors were taken across the Atlantic to the Americas. I am recalling the Blues, because sometimes we tend to focus on the musical forms like the Jazz, and the Negro Spirituals and the Gospel songs with their changing forms, and the Rock and the Rap, and forget to think of what came through the Blues that is still part of the reality of our lives.

What I am arguing is that before the pandemic I felt that even in the churches we had been forgetting to reflect on our pain, except at a usual funeral. I have been listening to the choirs and the praise teams, and the little congregational singing that remains, and I have been taking notice that there seems to have been a drift into the celebration of songs of material success. The lyrics of the songs seem to drift away from the depth of thought that considers the problem of pain. Don't think me sadistic or sadomasochistic, but as we live

in the world, I think it needful for us to recognize the reality of the admixture of pain and pleasure.

Such has been the reality of the world since the fall. And such has been the old musical traditions, in the Black Church and other Christian churches. But today it seems that we live in a land where we wish to deny all pain. So let me talk a little more about pain.

I do not know that my reflection on has been a challenge for you, but it is intended for anyone who is living in the storm of the moment to take a breath and reflect on their grief and hurt, not just for ourselves but for all those about us. As we live in this world the problem of one group of humanity is the problem of the other, so we are called to reflect on the blues together.

We are assured that while we are in this life we will often suffer pain, and that we are to make the best of it together (1 Corinthians 12:1). But there is coming a day when it will be the end of suffering and pain and we will be able to rejoice together (Matthew 5:11-13) free from pain.

While we now share our moments of pain, mixed with a little rejoicing, but the beauty that is in our future is beyond description. Then we will not sing only songs of rejoicing (check, Revelation 4; 7; 14, 15; 19), and no more dirges or blues.

### **TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 4)

tive and/or been isolated may recover long before their March 1 WOHS personal return.

March 1 will also be after the WOHS Mountaineers' Feb. 15 last scheduled regular season game. The 3-1 squad, as of press time, is still set to host the Newark East Side HS Red Raiders here at the Codey Arena 8:45 p.m. Feb. 6.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - The South

Orange-Maplewood School District will start its postponed next step in electronic and in-person hybrid learning either when "Winter Storm Orlena" leaves or when you read this - whichever comes later.

Officials at SOMSD and the South Orange Maplewood Education Association have reached a "back to classroom" agreement Jan. 28. SOMEA members will teach only in classrooms among the district's 11 buildings that have been fully retrofitted with filters and cleaned. Other classrooms will be closed until con-

tractors have upgraded them.

This accord will not include South Orange Middle School, which will remain locked down until Feb. 5. The school is being cleaned after a COVID-positive case was reported Jan. 22.

The agreement was to take effect Feb. 1 - but that was before the three-day snowstorm arrived here 3 p.m. Jan. 31.

SOMSD and SOMEA are now debating on how many classrooms need upgrading. A union-complied Jan. 28-30 survey has half of the two-towns' 507 public school classrooms,

offices and other spaces insufficient. That survey compares to the district's Jan. 18 Spiezle Architectural Group's report where some ventilators have no motors installed back then.

East Orange attorney Keri Aellini, representing 11 two-town parents, had meanwhile filed a lawsuit against the SOMSD, its school board and Superintendent Ronald Taylor in U.S. Federal Court-New Jersey District-Newark Jan. 29. The plaintiffs, claiming that special education students are falling

(Continued on page 15)

# **BLACK HISTORY FACTS**

#### By Thomas Ellis II

February is Black History Month. It's a time to teach, and reflect on all the great accomplishments, achievements, inventions, and patents that Blacks have made in this country.

Congressman John Lewis started out as an influential SNCC leader and is recognized by most as one of the most important leaders of the civil rights movement. He was born on February 21, 1940 in Troy, Alabama, and his family were sharecroppers.

In 1963, Lewis help plan the March on Washington, and at the age of 23, he was one of the keynote speakers at the now historic event. In 1965, Lewis led 500 plus people across the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, which was the focus of the movie "Selma," showing his role in the civil right struggle and movement.

#### **Black History Facts**

- Frederick M. Jones invented the air conditioning unit July 12, 1949
- W.H. Richardson invented the baby buggy June 18, 1899
- S.R. Scratton invented the curtain rod November 30, 1889
- Willie Johnson invented the egg beater February 5, 1884
- Alexander Miles invented the elevator October 11, 1867
- Lydia O Newman invented the hair brush
- Madam C.J. Walker invented the straightening comb in 1905
- Edmond Berger invented the spark plug February 2, 1839
- T. Marshall invented the fire extinguisher October 26, 1872

- L.A. Burr invented the lawn mower May 19, 1889
- J. Standard invented the refrigerator June 14, 1891
- In 2008 Barack H. Obama became the first Black President of the United States of America.

Did you know that on December 30, 1887, Sarah Boone invented the ironing board? Before its invention, women had to use a table or other flat surface to do there ironing, but thanks to Sarah Boone's invention it made ironing much easier not only for women, but for men who also who iron clothes, and other garments.

Granville T. Woods 1856-1910: Granville was born in Columbus Ohio, in April 23, 1856. He dedicated his life to developing a variety of inventions relating to the railroad industry.

To many people, he was known as the "Black Edison.: Granville T. Woods invented more than a dozen devices to improve electric railway cars, and many more for controlling the flow of electricity.

He is most known for his invention to let the engineer of a train know how close his train was to others. The device helped cut down accidents and collisions between trains.

Frederick M. Jones was a great inventor; he was known as one of the most prolific Black inventors ever. He patented more than 60 inventions in his lifetime.

Jones is known for his invention of an automatic refrigeration system for long haul and trucks and rail cars.

Before his invention the only way to keep food cool in trucks was to load the truck or train cars with ice, Mr. Jones was inspired to invent the system after talking with a truck driver who

### 2021 Summer Food Service Program Notice

The Yeshivat He'Atid will be participating in the 2021 Summer Food Service Program from 02/11/21 to 6/30/21.

The Summer Food Service Program is a federal program of the Food and Nutrition Services, United States Department of Agriculture. This program provides all children 18 years of age and under with the same free meal in accordance with a menu approved by the state agency.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

lost his whole cargo of chicken because he couldn't reach his destination before the ice melted. As a solution, the Black inventor developed a roof-mounted cooling system to make sure the food stayed fresh.

Marian Anderson was born February 27, 1897. She was an African American contralto, and one of the most celebrated singers of her time. Anderson became an important figure in the struggle for black artists to overcome racial prejudice in the United States during the mid- twentieth century.

Anderson worked for several years as a delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and as a goodwill ambassador. She also gave concerts all over the world, and participated in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, singing at the March

on Washington for Jobs, and Freedom.

Now if you noticed, all of the Black inventors and their inventions came during a time in this country when Blacks were enslaved or being mistreated, not considered equal or had any political power.

It just goes to show what people can do if they set their minds to it, and how if they see a need, what they can do to address that need, and leave an indelible mark, not only for one race of people but for humanity. Some of the same products and inventions that were created back in the 1800s are still being used today.

We should never forget the history of Blacks in this country because many of them paved the way for the luxuries we have to-day.

NR-USE0007880-01

# **Legally Speaking**



Cassandra Savoy, Esq. OP/ED

# Miranda Really Works If You Let It

Let's start at the beginning. The Miranda warnings have been required at the time of arrest since 1966 after a U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a case involving a defendant named Miranda. The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution gives every citizen the right not to say something that will incriminate you, not to say something that is against your liberty interests.

The Miranda Court put them this way:

- You have the right to remain silent.
- If you give up that right, anything you say can be used against you at the time of trial.
- You have the right to have an attorney represent you.
- If you cannot afford an attorney, the court will appoint a lawyer to represent you.

For the warning to actually protect you, you have to exercise your rights. If you give them up in accordance with the constitutions of both the United States, and New Jersey, you must do so knowing that you are giving them up and you must do

so voluntarily . . . although for the life of me, I cannot imagine why anyone would give up a right voluntarily when his liberty is at stake. In New Jersey, at least in theory, in many ways, Miranda is relatively alive and well. Follow what happened to A.G.D. in New Jersey in 1993.

A.G.D. was babysitting his children and another minor child, K.R., the daughter of a family friend. According to K.R., who was spending the night as she had done in the past, K.R. awoke to find A.G.D. engaging in oral sex with her. She later informed her mother who in turn contacted the police. A detective from the county prosecutor's office conducted a videotaped interview of K.R. Using language of a minor child, the alleged victim essentially described how A.G.D. had conducted cunnilingus on her. Based on that interview, the detective obtained a warrant for A.G.D.'s arrest.

A few days later, the detective and a fellow law enforcement officer went to A.G.D.'s home to question him. One of the detectives explained to A.G.D. that they sought to interview him about allegations of sexual abuse that had been asserted against him, but the detective did not specify the charges. The detective neither executed the arrest warrant nor informed A.G.D. that an arrent warrant had been issued. The detective's stated reason for the omission was that he "wanted to hear what A.G.D. had to say."

A.G.D. accompanied the detectives to the prosecutor's office. According to the detectives, A.G.D. was escorted into an interview room and advised of his Miranda rights. A.G.D. purportedly waived those rights and signed a stand-

ard Miranda waiver form. After being informed of the alleged crimes and identity of the victim, A.G.D. initially denied all charges. Once the detectives advised A.G.D. of K.R.'s videotaped statement, A.G.D. began to make admissions. A.G.D. gave a written statement. A.D.G. was indicted and convicted.

On Appeal, A.G.D. disputed the voluntariness of his statements by claiming that he made up the story about sexually assaulting K.R. to satisfy the police. According to A.G.D.'s version, the detectives questioned him for an hour and a half bepresenting him with the Miranda waiver form. In addition, A.G.D. asked several times whether his wife or his attorney had arrived at the prosecutor's office. A.G.D. claims that, in response, the detectives repeatedly informed him that he did not need a lawyer. He also claims that, after he did sign the Miranda waiver form, his interrogators began to curse and they threatened to put him in jail and to take away his children if he did not tell them what they wanted to hear.

The Appellate Division sent the case back to the Superior Court to conduct a hearing on whether A.G.D. had been afforded the protections of Miranda. Needless-to-say, the Superior Court judge did not believe A.G.D. and the case ended up in 2003 at the New Jersey Supreme Court.

To the benefit of A.G.D. (and the rest of us), the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed that the "confession" was not voluntary, but not for the reasons advanced by A.G.D. The Court held that prosecutors and their represent and therefore, violative of the Constitution, but

because the government failed to inform A.G.D. that a criminal complaint or arrest warrant has been filed or issued against him BEFORE questioning making invalid A.G.D.'s waiver of his right against self-incrimination. In other words, to be knowing and voluntary, the police have to tell you before they question you what the exact charges against you if a criminal complaint or arrest warrant has issued.

Recently, the New Jersey Supreme Court has expanded the right to be informed of the specific charges filed against a person before he can knowingly and voluntarily waive his Miranda rights, also applies to a person who has been arrested and questioned prior to any charges being filed when the arrest was based on information developed through an earlier police investigation.

This may all seem complicated and suitable only for nerds. So let me speak plainly. The only benefit of Miranda is that you actually exercise your rights. If arrested: Shut up! You really are not smarter than the police. They get expert training on the law and the rules that you have barely heard of. They know how to make you talk: isolate you by leaving you alone in a room with your thoughts for a long time; make the room too hot or too cold; and let's not forget the ole good cop/bad cop routine, to just name a few. The best way to get benefit of Miranda and maintain your liberty (a.k.a. stay out of jail) is to just Shut up and remember the magic words: "I WANT A LAW-YER" (not my mother, not my girlfriend). If arrested, the procedure is: I want a lawyer and then SILENCE!!!!

#### **TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 12)

through the virtual learning system's cracks, are calling for immediate full-time all-in-person learning.

**MAPLEWOOD** - Responding township police officers were able to tie two traffic incidents seven blocks apart on Prospect Street Jan. 28 to one motorist.

MPD officers, said Chief Jimmy Du-Val Jan. 29, first went to Prospect and Parker Avenue on "multiple cars of a fivecar accident" at 6:19 p.m."

They first found there the driver and passenger of a car that had been rearended and then sideswiped by another vehicle - who had continued south on Prospect. The passenger noted the other vehicle's license plate number and passed it onto police.

It did not take long to find the "otherer" car: it was found upside down by Courter Avenue after it struck a township tree and a crosswalk sign and ended up against three other cars.

The driver - identified as William Dunn III, 58, of Irvington - was found within the suspected car, asking for medical help. A Maplewood Fire Department rescue unit took Dunn to Newark's University Hospital for treatment of his injuries. MPD has also asked for tests to be conducted on Dunn to see if he had suffered a medical condition during his Parker Avenue collision.

A second driver was taken by the South Orange Rescue Squad to RWJBarnabas Health in Livingston for treatment of minor injuries. MPD contracted Seton Towing removed two cars that became inoperable. Dunn received summonses for leaving the scene of an accident and reckless driving.

MONTCLAIR - The Montclair Education Association's 1,000 members may be returning to Montclair Public Schools buildings on or by March 8 - but it will not be because they think the classrooms are safe enough.

Attorneys for Montclair Public Schools have filed a back-to-work injunction in New Jersey Superior Court-Newark Feb. 2. A judge, after a hearing on or around presstime, may then grant or dismiss MPS' injunction.

MPS Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds, after a series of Jan. 23-30 mediation sessions with MEA leadership, said he was filing suit Tuesday "with a heavy heart - but the status quo can't continue." Mediation is to also continue while a court hearing is being scheduled.

A mediator was called in after Ponds, on Jan. 22 was unable to get enough MEA staff back into the schools for a Jan. 25 hybrid learning launch.

MPS and Ponds' Tuesday filing came as no surprise to MEA President Petal Robertson, who said she has seen the lawsuit coming since Jan. 27.

"We've been informed that it is this district's plan to take the association to court over our advocacy for the health and safety of our students and staff," said Robertson. "We've always been, and still are, committed to the mediation process."

Montclair Mayor Sean Spillar, whose day job is as an NJEA vice president, has been urging both sides to keep negotiating for an agreement, Members of Montclair parents for In-Person Learning and Concerned Parents and Community Members of Montclair, who urge full in-person classes, held their protests before selected MPS schools Jan. 25.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Nicholas Zois' dream of reviving his 65-year-old Roxy Florist has ended with his posting a "Lot for Sale" sign on where 326-328 Glenwood Ave./55 Washington St. in Town Centre's Five Points had stood.

A contracted demolition crew had finished off the 1925 "Roxy Florist Building" Jan. 19 what a gutting Jan. 21, 2020 fire had started. The fire, which happened on Zois' 89th birthday, burned out him and his seven retail or professional tenants.

Zois, 90, of Verona, as late as March, had hoped to build a new two-story building. He had no plans to retire from being a Bloomfield florist.

Zois, whose father owned Forest Hill Flowers at Newark's Broad and Market streets, came to the former Bloomfield Bake Shop and Glenwood Hotel as a former U.S. Army medic with a desire to start his own floral business in 1965.

"Mr. Roxy" gradually became its landlord through tenants' retiring their leases. He had rented out space to Kolby's Place Barber Shop, the Bloomfield Center Alliance, attorneys Salvatore Alfano and Joseph Fusella, Heavenly Bites/Heavenly Flavors, Winfield Security and Samadhi Yoga Studio Jan. 1, 2020.

Bloomfield and ECPO fire investigators had not found a cause to the 7:48 a.m. Jan. 21, 2020 fire other than it was not suspicious. The four alarm blaze brought 100 firefighters from nearby Belleville, Montclair, Nutley, East Orange, Newark, West Orange, Irvington, Cedar Grove and Clifton to bring it under control by 11 a.m. Ten NJTransit and DeCamp bus routes were among the detoured traffic.

Qorrell Wright, thanks to a Feb. 5 fundraising party for all tenants and two Gofundme.com drives, reopened his barber shop and brought back his 11 employees to 595 Bloomfield Ave. Sept. 25. Attorneys Alfano and Fusella have moved to 2 Broad St. and 375 Franklin Ave. The Bloomfield Center Alliance has its temporary quarters at Bloomfield College's Richards Hall.

GLEN RIDGE - The attorney for the borough's police department union has

confirmed that a third hostile work environment suit in four years has been filed against Chief of Police Sheila Byron-Lagattuta in State Superior Court-Newark Jan. 22.

Attorney Paul W. Tyshchenko, who represents PBA Local 58, said that Sgt. Ryan Schwartz, citing unfair treatment and harassment by Glen Ridge's "top cop" "for years," had filed suit.

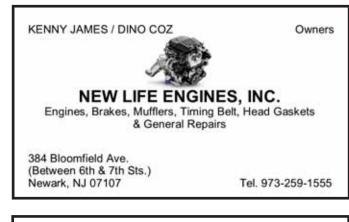
"Chief Byron-Lagattuta's deplorable leadership and unprofessional management style was not confined to her treatment of Sgt. Schwartz," said Tyshchenko. "When morale at the (GRPD) got so bad that PBA Local 58 feared that it could begin to negatively affect the department's ability to operate, Local 58 held two votes of no confidence in the chief - both of which were approved by 95 percent of the PBA's membership."

Those two votes, said Tyshchenko, held in 2018 and 2020, were then delivered by Local 58 President Off. Joseph Ulianoto the Borough Council.

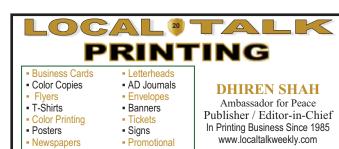
The borough and Sgt. Merritt Carr had settled a four-year-old suit against the chief for \$765,000 Aug. 1. A three-year-old suit by former GRPD dispatcher-turned-Byron-Lagattuta's personal assistant was settled later last year for an undisclosed amount.

Tyshchenko is a member of the Fairfield Caruso, Smith, Picini P.C. firm.

Byron-Lagattuta, of Cedar Grove, became the GRPD's first woman chief upon the March 31, 2010 retirement of John R. Magnier.







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