

2 MORE CHARGED IN CAPITOL RIOT



PAGE 4

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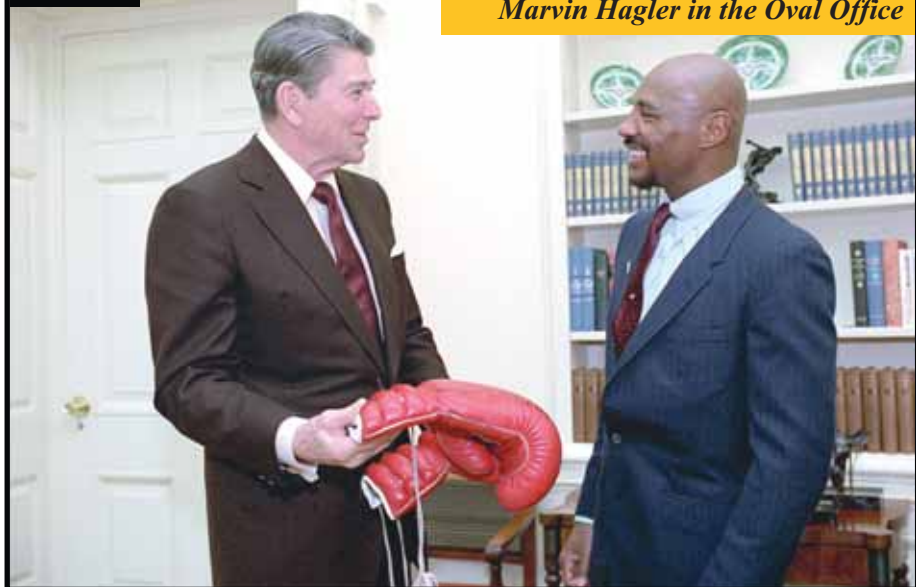
INDEX

Editorial & Weather	02
Sports Wrap	03
World News	04
Finance At A Glance	06
The Doctor Is In	10
Town Watch	11
From The Pastor's Heart	12
Legally Speaking	14

MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER (1954-2021)

PAGE 8

President Ronald Reagan with boxer Marvin Hagler in the Oval Office



SUSPECT ARRESTED IN FATAL ATLANTA SHOOTING SPREE

Suspected shooter Robert Aaron Long

PAGE 7



RUTGERS MAKES AMENDS WITH HINDU STUDENTS

Rutgers Professor Faces Allegations Of Hinduphobia;

University Promises Made To Address Student Demands

By Lev D. Zilbermints

NEWARK - The controversy over a Rutgers-Newark professor's alleged Hinduphobia has come to the boiling point. Hindu students and their allies met with senior administrators to address their concerns and demands.

The meeting came about as a result of the pressure leveraged by students and their allies throughout Rutgers University.

On Friday, March 12, university officials met with a group of Hindu students, student leaders and their allies. According to a statement released by the Rutgers Hindu YUVA and the Rutgers Hindu Students Council, attendees at the meeting included Anna Branch, Senior Vice President for Equity; Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of Rutgers-Newark; Jacqueline

Mattis, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences - Newark, and several other administrators.

The students were represented by the Rutgers Hindu YUVA, the Rutgers Students Council, Association of Indians at Rutgers, Indian Students at R-N, and the Bengali Students Association.

During their meeting, the students made two key demands. One was to "define and recognize Hinduphobia as a distinct category of bigotry and discrimination. This includes recognizing us (Hindus) as an ethnic and religious minority. Creating this definition is a critical step in officially recording transgressions and affording Hindu community members the same protections as other religious minoritized communities."

The second demand was for Rutgers to "employ a practicing Hindu professor who specializes in South Asian/Indian History and/or Hinduism whose scholarship pushes against the dominant

(Continued on page 9)



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Turn to
PAGE 9



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Finally, the heavy snow is over. At least for now, as spring is starting on March 20, 2021. So many stories came within this week. One of them is about the AstraZeneca vaccine. Four persons have gotten blood clots after getting two shots of the vaccine. It is not proven yet that the clots were because of the vaccine, but everyone is panicked with the news. About 13 countries have stopped distributing AstraZeneca's vaccine already. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Also, Moderna has researched using its vaccine on children from 6 months of age to age 12. For a children's vaccine, they do not have to have hundreds of thousands of trials. Only a few thousand children can be tried out. Children have better immunity than older persons.

Their dose is different. The study is expected to enroll 6,750 healthy children in the United States and Canada. If the trial is successful, then they will have to get emergency permission before they start vaccination.

According to the New York Times; "Vaccine side effects like fever, sore arms, fatigue and achy joints and muscles can be more intense in children than in adults, and doctors say it is important for parents to know what to expect after their children are inoculated.

Each child in Moderna's study will receive two shots, 28 days apart. The study will have two parts. In the first, children aged 2 years to less than 12 may receive two doses of 50 or 100 micrograms each. Those under 2 years may receive two shots of 25, 50 or 100 micrograms. (One adult dose is 100 micrograms.) In each group, the first children inoculated will receive the lowest doses and will be monitored for reactions before later participants are given higher doses.

Then, researchers will perform an interim analysis to determine which dose is safest and

most likely to be protective for each age group."

A Rutgers University's professor has made controversial statements and has compared Hinduism to terrorism. The students got proof of Rutgers Professor Dr. Audrey Truschke's comments, who teaches History and Religion. Many times Ms. Truschke criticized the Hindu religion. Hindu religion is most sacred and a nonviolent religion. As per the Hindu tradition, they will never start a fight. They will defend themselves at the time of the fight, but not start it. Rutgers apologized and is making sure that Hindus get rights as like other minority religions. However, they have not condemned Ms. Truschke and did not fire her. Ms. Truschke is very learned and very intelligent with knowledge of many languages including Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu and many others. However, she should ask for forgiveness and tell everyone that it will not happen again. We don't want anyone to act against any religion, according to their beliefs.

Governor Murphy has announced that there will be some

in-person classroom teaching before the end of the 2020-2021 school year. His intention is good, but it should be a general census decision, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, city officials and elected officials. The COVID-19 case ratio is better than before. Now, everyone is used to living a tough life with masks, hand washing, sanitization and social distancing. The vaccination effort is going in full force. So, we should not rush any decision making. Think once, think twice and think thrice before making a major decision like reopening schools.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, said in a statement, "We take this opportunity to warn the new U.S. administration trying hard to give off the (gun)powder smell in our land." I don't think our President Biden will be scared off by this kind of threat.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Heavy Rain	AM Rain or Snow	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sun, A Few Clouds	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
HI 49 LO 31	HI 40 LO 28	HI 51 LO 33	HI 58 LO 37	HI 59 LO 38	HI 61 LO 42	HI 60 LO 42

RUTGERS (Cont. from page 1)

perspective that is currently in place, so that Rutgers moves towards greater academic excellence.”

Previously, in a letter sent to Rutgers President Jonathan Holloway, Chancellor Nancy Cantor and Senior Vice President Anna Branch, the students made several key demands. These included that Professor Audrey Truschke be disallowed to teach a course that involves material related to Hinduism and India due to her prejudiced views; that Rutgers publicly condemn Prof. Truschke for causing trauma to Hindu students, alumni, and the Hindu community by her irresponsible tweets and utterances; provide a platform where Hindu students can bring in faculty and researchers who can provide realistic representations of Hinduism and India; acknowledge that most Hindu students are children of immigrants, or are immigrants themselves, and that as a public institution, there is an obligation to ensure that all students feel welcome and included, and that

the University excludes any group based on their identity.

The university offered its “sincerest apologies” for not communicating with the Hindu community earlier.

“At our meeting today (March 12) with members of the Rutgers Hindu community, this misunderstanding was made clear and we apologize. We are sorry for the hurt that members of the Hindu community have been experiencing in relation to recent events. Our commitment to inclusion includes religion, not just the right but the freedom to celebrate as an individual or community without fear,” Rutgers University wrote in its statement.

The university condemned anti-Hindu bias, messages, threats, and called for an end to them. At the same time, the university expressed gratitude to student leaders for raising their voices in defense of the Hindu community.

“We abhor the vile messages and threats that are being directed at Hindu students and call for an immediate end to them.

We are grateful to the student leaders across Rutgers University who raised their voices and personalized the sentiments of our Hindu community. We will be working in partnership with them to foster an environment that educates and embraces the range of cultural and religious identities, scholarly traditions, and perspectives of this community. This will be difficult work, but we will do this together because it is essential to live into our values and realize the promise of constructive and healthy engagement in a diverse community,” Rutgers University-Newark wrote in its apology.

In its apology, Rutgers did not mention Dr. Truschke or her views on Hindus and their culture.

Earlier, on March 8, the administration of Rutgers-Newark issued a statement defending Dr. Truschke’s right of academic freedom as well as the right of Hindu students to be safe and fully accepted.

In part, the Rutgers statement read, “Rutgers emphatically supports Professor Truschke’s

academic freedom in pursuing her scholarship, abhors the vile messages and threats that are directed at her and calls for an end to them. Scholarship is sometimes controversial, perhaps especially when it is at the interface of history and religion, but freedom to pursue such scholarship as Professor Truschke does rigorously, is at the heart of academic enterprise. Just as strongly, Rutgers emphatically affirms its support for all members of the Hindu community to study and live in an environment in which they not only feel safe but also fully supported in their religious identity.”

The statement was signed by Anna Branch, Senior Vice President for Equity, Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of Rutgers-Newark, and Jacqueline Mattis, Dean of School of Arts and Sciences, Newark.

Dr. Truschke Responds

According to the March 11 issue of the Daily Targum, Prof. Truschke said many statements
(Continued on page 12)

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The NCAA Tournament is being held for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak cancelled last year’s March Madness. After four play-in games, a total of 64 teams will take to two courts inside Lucas Oil Stadium and Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

For the first time in 30 years, Rutgers will be in the tournament, where the at-large scarlet Knights will take on Clemson in the Midwest Region. Also, head coach Rick Pitino will lead #15 Iona against #2 Alabama in the East Region, while Knicks legend Patrick Ewing leads the Big East Conference Tournament Champion Georgetown Hoyas against UNC Greensboro who is 21-8 on the season.

Of course, the big story of the big dance is if #1 overall ranked Gonzaga, who is 26-0,

can run the table and become the first undefeated National Champion since the 1975-76 Indiana Hoosiers. Ironically enough, Rutgers made its only Final Four that season.

While RU and Iona are two local squads doing their part to represent the local area, Seton Hall and St. John’s missed out on the festivities. Also, in the biggest surprise of this year’s tournament, there is no Duke or Kentucky participating.

Joining Gonzaga in the top seed bracket are Illinois, Baylor and Michigan. Meanwhile, the women’s tournament top seeds are Connecticut, Stanford, South Carolina, and NC State. As with the men’s team, the Rutgers ladies are also in the hunt for the National Championship.

Finally, due to COVID-19, there are “stand by” teams that could end up playing should there be a team unable to compete due to the virus.

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UNITED STATES

Two More Charged in Capitol Riot

The probe into one of the most heinous events in American history continues, with two more alleged perpetrators brought to justice.

According to court documents, Julian Elie Khater, 32, of State College, Pennsylvania, and George Pierre Tanios, 39, of Morgantown, West Virginia, were arrested on March 14 in connection with a complaint filed in federal court in Washington, D.C., charging them with conspiring to injure officers and assaulting federal officers, among other charges, on Jan. 6. Khater was arrested as he disembarked from an airplane at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. Tanios was arrested at his residence in West Virginia.

Khater and Tanios are each charged with one count of conspiracy to injure an officer; three counts of assault on a federal officer with a dangerous weapon; one count of civil disorder; one count of obstructing or impeding an official proceeding; one count of physical violence on restricted grounds, while carrying dangerous weapon and resulting in significant bodily injury; and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct, act of physical violence on Capitol grounds.

According to the affidavit in support of the criminal complaint, Khater and Tanios were at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and were observed in video footage working together to assault law enforcement officers with an unknown chemical substance by spraying officers directly in the face and eyes.

During the investigation, it is alleged that law enforcement discovered video that depicted Khater asking Tanios to "give me that bear s---." Tanios replied, "Hold on, hold on, not yet,

not yet... it's still early." Khater then retrieved a canister from Tanios' backpack and walked through the crowd to within a few steps of the police perimeter. The video shows Khater with his right arm up high in the air, appearing to be holding a canister in his right hand and aiming it at the officers' direction while moving his right arm from side to side.

The complaint affidavit states that Officers Sicknick, Edwards, and Chapman, who were all standing within a few feet of Khater, each reacted to being sprayed in the face. The officers retreated, bringing their hands to their faces and rushing to find water to wash out their eyes.

The FBI's Washington Field Office, with assistance from the FBI Pittsburgh and Newark Field Offices, the United States Capitol Police, and the Metropolitan Police Department are investigating the case, while the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, with valuable assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of West Virginia and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey are prosecuting the case.

Anyone with tips is asked to call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

A criminal complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct for purposes of establishing probable cause, not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

EUROPE

Several Countries Halt Vaccine

One of the star players in the ongoing fight against the coronavirus has been taken off the field.

As of this writing, at least 13 nations in Europe have stopped use of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine. The main concern is that there have been reports of patients who took that vaccine getting blood clots, including some deaths.

In response to the recent concerns, AstraZeneca released the following statement:

"Following a recent concern

raised around thrombotic events, AstraZeneca would like to offer its reassurance on the safety of its COVID-19 vaccine based on clear scientific evidence. Safety is of paramount importance and the Company is continually monitoring the safety of its vaccine.

"A careful review of all available safety data of more than 17 million people vaccinated in the European Union (EU) and UK with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca has shown no evidence of an increased risk of pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or thrombocytopenia, in any defined age group, gender, batch or in any particular country.

"So far across the EU and UK, there have been 15 events of DVT and 22 events of pulmonary embolism reported among those given the vaccine, based on the number of cases the Company has received as of March 8. This is much lower than would be expected to occur naturally in a general population of this size and is similar across other licensed COVID-19 vaccines. The monthly safety report will be made public on the European Medicines Agency website in the following week, in line with exceptional transparency measures for COVID-19.

"Furthermore, in clinical trials, even though the number of thrombotic events was small, these were lower in the vaccinated group. There has also been no evidence of increased bleeding in over 60,000 participants enrolled."

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) also released a statement:

"WHO is aware that, as a precautionary measure, a few countries in the European Union have suspended use of a specific batch of the AstraZeneca vaccine distributed in the EU, based on reports of rare blood coagulation disorders in persons who had received vaccine from that particular batch. This was decided as a precaution whilst a full investigation is finalized

"It is important to note that the European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee position is that the vaccine's benefits continue to outweigh its risks,

and the vaccine can continue to be administered while investigation of cases of thromboembolic events is ongoing.

"WHO's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) systematically reviews any vaccine safety signals and concerns related to COVID-19 vaccine safety, and meets every two weeks to advise WHO on any new safety signals or concerns related to COVID-19 vaccines.

"The GACVS is carefully assessing the current reports on the AstraZeneca vaccine. As soon as WHO has gained a full understanding of these events, the findings and any changes to current recommendations will be immediately communicated to the public.

"Vaccination against COVID-19 will not reduce deaths from other causes. Deaths from other causes will continue to occur, including after vaccination, but causally unrelated.

"As of March 9, over 268 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered since the start of the pandemic, based on data reported to WHO by national governments. No cases of death have been found to have been caused by COVID-19 vaccines to date."

AFRICA

Another Mass Kidnapping

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has strongly condemned the latest mass kidnapping of students in Nigeria, in the country's northwestern region.

On March 11, some 30 female and male students and as well as several school staff, were reportedly abducted by gunmen from the Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, just outside Kaduna city in the Igabi local government area - marking at least the fourth round of students kidnapped in the country since December.

While some of the students have reportedly been rescued by Nigerian security forces, Guterres called for "the immediate and unconditional release of those students that remain in captivity," his spokesperson,

(Continued on page 5)

BLACK LIVES, ALL LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe OP/ED

Greetings my fellow readers. Hope all has been well. Remember, every day is a new journey. So let's stay safe. Protect ourselves and be aware and alert at all times.

I have been very dissatisfied of how we as people are supposed to keep our community streets clean, but for those dog walkers that walk their dogs and don't clean up after their pet. I have pets and honestly, if you can't take care of them, why have them? It is another responsibility when you decide to have a dog as a pet. The sidewalks are created to walk on, not for dog poop. So, let's do better. Keep it clean, and curb your dog.

Now, getting into my next topic. This young woman, named Brittany Smith, was six months pregnant when she went missing. Brittany was 28 years of age living in Wake County in North Carolina. Her family had already been concerned based on her life choices and decisions she used to make.

Brittany chose to be with her boyfriend and that's where she was residing. She was going back and forth between her boyfriend and her family from time to time. The police questioned her family, and her neighbors. The neighbors told the police a different story than the story of her boyfriend. Brittany was a beautiful young black woman and dreaming about a beautiful future with the baby. Brittany left home to live with her boyfriend, a white male Caucasian

in an area that is not welcoming to blacks.

Brittany was last seen getting into her car. The neighbors were very helpful to Brittany. The boyfriend was interrogated by police. When the police got more information, they narrowed it down to two suspects that were involved,

Both suspects are in police custody. This case is still ongoing and still needs more answers. Brittany's body was found in a suitcase and it was fully bent. An autopsy showed that she was strangled. How could such people murder a 6-month pregnant woman? It is cold-hearted. I can't really say what I want, but I am sure you all get the picture of my thoughts. I ask to all, "woman love isn't always love."

Never be frightened or afraid to leave. If you are abused in any type of domestic violence situation, listen to your parents. Most of the time they can guide you with their experience. Also, they have only one thing in mind, to help you.

RIP Brittany Smith, and condolences goes to family and friends. Brittany Smith will never be forgotten.

The accused are innocent till proven guilty in a court of law.

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 4)

Stéphane Dujarric told journalist at a regular press briefing.

"The Secretary-General underscores that schools must remain safe spaces for children to learn without fear of violence or kidnapping or any other attacks on them," Mr. Dujarric continued, adding that "attacks on schools and other educational facilities constitute a grave violation of children's rights and human rights more broadly."

The UN chief "urges the authorities to safeguard schools and to ensure the right to education in a safe environment," he said.

Last week, 279 schoolgirls were freed after being snatched from their boarding school at Jangebe, in northwest Nigeria's Zamfara state. Weeks before, dozens of children and staff were taken from a boarding school and in December, more than 300 boys were abducted.

In 2014, Islamist extremist group Boko Haram's attack on the Chibok secondary school in Borno state sparked international outcry and prompted the #BringBackOurGirls campaign. Of the 276 girls taken then, more than 100 are reportedly still missing nearly seven years later.

ASIA

Myanmar Crisis Worsens

Violence continues to rage across the southeast Asian nation at the hands of forces loyal to leaders of the Feb. 1 military

coup, and, according to media reports, dozens of people lost their lives, including around 50 on March 14 alone.

"The killing of demonstrators, arbitrary arrests and the reported torture of prisoners violate fundamental human rights and stand in clear defiance of calls by the Security Council for restraint, dialogue and a return to Myanmar's democratic path," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in the statement released by his Spokesperson in New York.

Mr. Guterres urged the international community "to work collectively and bilaterally" to help bring an end to the repression.

He called on the military to allow a visit by his Special Envoy "as an important element in calming down the situation and setting the stage for dialogue and return to democracy."

In a statement, Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener said she "personally heard from contacts in Myanmar heart-breaking accounts of killings, mistreatment of demonstrators and torture of prisoners over the weekend."

"The ongoing brutality, including against medical personnel and destruction of public infrastructure, severely undermines any prospects for peace and stability."

Ms. Schraner Burgener also underlined that the international community, including regional actors must come together "in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and their democratic aspirations."

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, MBA OP/ED

Signs That The Company Offering You A Job Is Going To Waste Your Time And Money

As of February 2021, the U.S. unemployment rate stood at 6.2% while the number of unemployed was about 10 million. Prior to the pandemic, our unemployment rate was 3.5% and the number of unemployed was about 5.7 million. Clearly, there is pressure in the labor market as many people continue to look for job opportunities.

For the average job seeker, options available to find a job include using contacts, friends, family, newspapers and internet job boards. The pandemic has made the job search that much more difficult. However, it is important for job seekers to be aware of some of the unfortunate practices that may harm them as they seek job opportunities.

In recent years, several companies have started a trend of advertising jobs which are far from the usual. In fact, some of these jobs could actually take money out of a job seekers pocket. One common trick of some of these businesses is to advertise that they are looking for consultants. The descriptions of the job are usually vague and when you read the compensation offers, they usually hint at some strings. For the average person, who has bills coming in regular-

ly, the last thing you need is to waste time with such vague and at times complicated job options.

In simple terms, the job market is an inefficient one. It is increasingly becoming time consuming and expensive for both job seekers and employers to find each other. The middlemen have increased in number via numerous websites for example and the internet has become a staple in the job search efforts of 9 out of 10 job seekers. Yet the fact remains that the internet is only matching 5-10% of those seeking jobs. Up to 90% of all available jobs are filled through contacts and other sources apart from the internet!

Newspapers have continued to be a diminishing source of jobs. It is a symptom of the way the internet is replacing the print media. With the pandemic, Career fairs have been moved online. Even in the best of times, many of the jobs being offered at some of these events are not what job seekers are looking for.

Some insurance companies for example, attend these fairs and offer sales positions based on 100% commission. Many sales companies have developed a strategy of referring to their sales positions as consulting roles and client related positions. If you are not interested in sales, then you may want to read carefully and avoid wasting time on such opportunities. If you need a stable and regular check, then this type of opportunity is not for you.

Job seekers need to protect themselves by asking more questions and being more vigilant about the type of opportunities that they follow. If the compensation is not clearly stated, if key information is not provided from the onset, then be suspicious and cautious about such opportunities. It can be frustrating looking for a job, however, with the abundance of caution, one can make the journey a little better!

A key weapon all job seekers can utilize is to use the internet

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ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Municipality	3-10-2021	Deaths	3-17-2021	Deaths
Belleville	4569	101	4678	101
Bloomfield	4338	103	4473	108
Caldwell	466	15	482	16
Cedar Grove	1321	119	1366	119
East Orange	5541	275	5718	276
Essex Fells	154	2	158	2
Fairfield	683	29	704	29
Glen Ridge	310	11	317	11
Irvington	3600	211	3690	212
Livingston	1530	81	1564	81
Maplewood	998	33	1048	33
Millburn	699	8	715	9
Montclair	1808	66	1884	66
Newark	31757	886	32671	890
North Caldwell	383	6	398	6
Nutley	2408	57	2496	57
Orange	2828	123	2918	124
Roseland	402	15	412	15
South Orange	665	12	706	14
Verona	801	16	840	16
West Caldwell	873	51	911	51
West Orange	3796	219	3903	220
Total	69930	2439	72052	2456

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of March 17, 2021)
NJ: 751,082 cases / 21,530 deaths (Plus 2,515 probable)
United States (approx.): 29.6 Million / 538,000 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 121 Million / 2.7 Million deaths

New Jersey has now reached 1 million residents being fully vaccinated from the coronavirus, with over 3 million having received at least 1 of 2 vaccination shots.

and verify the details of any business entity that wants to interview you or has a position that you are interested in.

While it may seem like a waste of time, it makes sense to read and find out what others

have experienced with that company and whether the company has a track record of fraudulent dealings. This can save you time and money in the long run.

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

By Thomas Ellis II

It's been a year now since COVID-19 hit the United States of America, and my, how things have changed in a one year.

Starting out in March 2020, not many people knew what COVID-19 was, but we knew that it was deadly. We were watching on television; hospitals overcrowded with patients, EMS staff responding to a number of calls about people sick with severe cough and breathing problems, patients being admitted, patients laying in hallways waiting to be treated, governors requesting ventilators, PPE equipment, schools across the country going virtual, and cities all over closed (shut down).

The recommendation from the CDC was that everyone wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands regularly.

While everyone was practicing the guidelines and protocols, the numbers of people testing positive was rising, and the number of deaths was increasing.

Now let's look at it one year later. There are 3 vaccines on the market: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson. People have been lining up to get a shot, but it seems like there are some issues when it comes to the Black Community. Many in the community do not trust the vaccine. Some say it was produced too fast, others are asking for more information, and others just don't know enough about the production.

The vaccines were approved under the EAU and not fully approved by the FDA. This is one more concern that many are having across the country.

In Newark, the public schools are still closed, and unemployment has risen. Many businesses have closed, with no sight of reopening, and the mask mandate is in full effect. Meanwhile, several church pastors are encouraging their members and the community to take the vaccine.

There is hope that Newark Public Schools will reopen in April. All of Newark public schools have been closed for in-person learning since March 16 of last year, with the children doing remote learning. Now, a year later, the children are still remote.

In recent months, the number of hospitalizations has declined in Newark. The death numbers have been lowered, and people are getting tested, but the city is still on a lockdown of sorts.

Many cities have decided to loosen up their earlier restrictions. In Texas, they are doing away with the mask mandate and opening up 100% for businesses, schools, churches, etc.

Jobs, schools, families, businesses, recreation, concerts, sports, and large gatherings have all been impacted by the COVID-19 virus, and even though it looks a little better, there are still several variants of the strain that can still be harmful, and dangerous to the public. Until there is a 100% effective vaccine that gives 100% safety and effectiveness in fighting off the virus, everyone has to make some lifestyle changes.

Starting this month, Moderna will be vaccinating children as early as six months old. Meanwhile, the AstraZeneca vaccine has been pulled in several European nations, like Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Iceland, and many others. This is because it has linked to incidents of blood clots in people, as well as some non-effectiveness to new virus strains in the UK. The AstraZeneca vaccine has not been approved for use in the USA as of yet.

In the United States of America more people are being vaccinated, with cities across the country relaxing restrictions, but some do not agree, and say that they are moving too quickly to open up, even if there numbers have gotten lower.

The 46th President of the

(Continued on page 13)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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SUSPECT ARRESTED IN FATAL ATLANTA SHOOTINGS

Atlanta, GA - As the nation has been reeling from several verbal and physical assaults on Asian Americans, the latest possible incident has proved fatal.

On March 16, a gunman visited three massage parlor and spa locations in the Atlanta metropolitan area and opened fire, killing eight people - with most or all being Asian Americans. Despite the carnage, authorities quickly apprehended a suspect, who was identified as 21-year-old Woodstock, GA native Robert Aaron Long. The alleged shooter was caught around 8:30 p.m., roughly three hours after his shooting spree began.

Upon questioning, Long claimed that the crimes he was accused of were fueled by a sex addiction. Although authorities have not officially labeled his actions a hate crime, that has not stopped most of the public from believing that the attack was another racially motivated assault on Asians. Among the factors linked to the hatred that some

Americans have towards Asians, one considered as a huge reason is former President Trump's naming of the Coronavirus / COVID-19 as the "China Virus" or "Kung Flu."

In response to the many incidents against Asian Americans, several prominent figures have spoken out against the violence.

"The violent attacks and murders against Asians are still happening. Please help us. We need help to be safe in our country. #StopAsianHate. Please," actress Olivia Munn tweeted. Munn recently helped authorities apprehend a suspect in a previous assault on an Asian person.

"Even as we've battled the pandemic, we've continued to neglect the longer-lasting epidemic of gun violence in America. Although the shooter's motive is not yet clear, the identity of the victims underscores an alarming rise in anti-Asian violence that must end," said former President Barack Obama in a tweet.



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MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER (1954-2021)

By *Walter Elliott*

NEWARK - Searching for details on Marvin Hagler's boyhood here, for "Local Talk," may be as elusive as his opponents' looking for a weakness to the late middleweight boxer's defenses.

Marvelous Marvin Hagler, 66, who suddenly died in his Bartlett, N.H. home March 13, was among four outstanding professional prizefighters of the 1970s and 80s.

Hagler, who legally added "Marvelous" to his name in 1982, amassed a 62-win (including 52 knockouts), three-loss and two-draw while a professional boxer 1973-87. He reigned as the undisputed united middleweight champion of the world for six and a half years, defending his title 12 times before losing to Sugar Ray Leonard in a controversial split decision at Caesar's Palace - Las Ve-

gas on April 6, 1987.

Hagler, whose career started from Brockton, Mass. in 1969, developed his unorthodox left-hand stance while an amateur boxer 1969-72. His 55-1 record came through the Golden Gloves and the U.S. National Championships.

It was during his amateur career where he began to get his "Marvelous" nickname - and where he added two years onto his May 23, 1954 birthdate.

Hagler may have lied about his age for a while but he was matter of fact in being from Newark. The 1993 International Boxing Hall of Fame inductee noticed longtime boxing writer and Newarker Jerry Izenberg prior to his 2016 induction and whispered, "So you finally made it, Homeboy."

Marvin Nathaniel Sims was born to Robert Sims and Ida Mae Hagler. He would become the oldest of six children, includ-

ing boxer Robbie Sims, while living here in the Central Ward.

Several Newark Facebook page posters remember being classmates with Hagler while in the Miller Elementary School. One poster said he used "Green" as his last name.

It turns out that Sims never married I.M. Hagler and left the family when the children were young. This also explains in part why finding a Hagler address in 1954-67 Newark real estate and telephone directories were thwarted.

That includes the address of the apartment building or "tenement" that most biographies said was damaged or all but burned down during the July 1967 riots/rebellion/social disturbance. The trashing of their home was what led I.M. Hagler moving herself and her children to Brocton.

Before leaving Newark, there is a line in the

"Washington Post" obituary where "a Newark social worker gave Hagler his first taste of boxing."

By "first taste," did the social worker take Marvin to a bout in Newark or New York's Madison Square Garden? The social worker would take him out to a Newark gym or boxing club - which would give credence to FB posters saying he went to the South Ward Boys and Girls Club and/or The Dukers BC.

Most, if not all Hagler biographies and tributes have Marvin coming to Goody and Pat Petronelli's boxing gym in Brockton. He had just dropped out of the ninth grade was working on construction jobs when a lock boxer had roughed him up the week before.

Hagler would beat that boxer in the ring later on. The Petronellis also took Robbie Sims under his wing.

(Continued on page 13)



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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Opening Schools And Doing So Safely In NJ



The coronavirus pandemic basically shut down the world. There are no two ways of saying it. Everything, from tourism to transportation to sports to health and even education, was affected. Now, countries are starting to get back on their feet, thanks largely to the release of vaccines. But things are not going too smoothly in many of the affected sectors, and today, we will focus on education.

The importance of education cannot be downplayed, especially now in the 21st century. As an immigrant, I would never have been able to become a Physician, if it wasn't for the education I received in our great Public Schools. However, many schools have not been able to reopen because of fear of the

coronavirus. And rightfully so, I must say. Education is important, but health is just more important. You can't teach the dead, can you?

This is why the topic is not just about opening schools; it's about doing so safely. The keyword there is 'safely.' Students and teachers must be assured of their safety and health before we even think of reopening schools.

The CDC has spoken severally on the subject of reopening schools. They believe schools can and should reopen. They referred the country to a 2020 study that says children are not likely to be the main drivers of the pandemic. According to the study, children have lower viral loads. Children are also usually more asymptomatic and show lesser symptoms than adults, which may reduce the transmission of the virus to adults.

In light of this, the CDC believes that while children are equally susceptible to the virus, they are not as likely to die or be very ill from the virus. They also aren't as infectious and usually more asymptomatic than adults. Therefore, schools can be open while the coronavirus cases reduce. This is reassuring, I'd say. But we need more than just 'reassuring' to open schools.

If you are confused as to why I'm so insistent on the safety of teachers and students before opening schools, I am a pediatrician. I treat children. Under no circumstances whatsoever will I support any policy or move that will jeopardize the health of children. But schools still have to reopen sometime, though. We just have to do it the right way.

What is the right way? For starters, there must be weekly testing of students and teachers. If you have been tested for

COVID, it was likely by nasal and throat swabs. You have to agree with me that this test is pretty invasive and uncomfortable. You wouldn't expect children to like it. On the other hand, spit tests are easier, less invasive, and as accurate as nasal and throat swabs. Then, children will likely enjoy this more! And, luckily, spit testing is quite widespread here in NJ.

It is one thing to have weekly testing; it is another to make the system of testing simple. Remember that it's children that are going to be tested. If the tests are overly complex and ambiguous, the children will only skip the tests if they can or just refuse them altogether.

Another step is contact tracing, which is a technique used by public health authorities to contact and give guidance to anyone who may have been exposed to a person who has contracted COVID. Proper contact tracing is critical if we hope to beat this virus, even after the vaccines are widely available.

Long ago, contact tracing was reserved for special government arms. Now, there are applications on your phone that can help with contact tracing. Thank you, technology. One of these is exposure notifications on your smartphone. First, you need to download the exposure notification app, available on both Android and iOS devices. From here, you don't have to do anything serious again.

The app gives you a unique ID. This ID changes every ten to twenty minutes to prevent people from tracking you. Every other person who has the app will also have the ID. The moment you come close to an infected person(s), you get a notification. And you will also receive further instructions from

your public health authority on how to keep you and the people around you safe.

There are, of course, other ways of fighting the virus, like automated emails and the like. Any way that ensures students and teachers are safe is a win.

There are organizations nowadays that help in the reopening of schools, universities, and companies. One of these organizations is SafelyOpen Health, whose Mission is to provide an evidence-based, yet a simple and very efficient plan to schools. The fight against COVID is one we will win. One we have to win. Wear a mask. Stay safe.

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

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TOWN WATCH

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 - Authorities are looking for shooter who struck and killed a South Ward grandmother who was out celebrating on her birthday March 11.

Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose said, on March 12 that his officers had responded to ShotSpotter multiple gunfire soundings from around 187 Lehigh Ave., at about 8 p.m. March 11.

They had arrived to find a woman - identified March 12 by Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II as Debra Derrick, 63 - lying on the sidewalk with gunshot wounds at 8:05 p.m. Derrick was rushed to University Hospital, where she was declared dead at 8:27 p.m.

Derrick, said relatives and neighbors, was performing two selfless acts before she was shot. She was launching balloons with her three adult children and two grandchildren when she heard the first gunfire and shielded two family members. The balloon launch was for her twin sister Diane who had died from an asthma attack in 2014.

Debra was standing alongside the parking garage of her former employer. The Shepherd Avenue resident had worked at RWJBarnabas Health Newark Beth Israel Medical Center nursing assistant until she went on disability after Diane's death.

A sister and their 70-year-old mother are also among Derrick's survivors. No funeral arrangements were released as of March 17.

Stephens and Ambrose are looking for a "silver vehicle" who sped away on Lehigh. Detectives counted 29 rounds recorded by ShotSpotter and "ballistic evidence" along 251-

53 Lehigh two blocks west. Anyone with information are to call the ECPO Homicide Task Force, 1(877) 847-7432.

IRVINGTON - Local night owls and early birds were detoured around the intersection of Springfield and Lyons avenues while authorities investigated a predawn head-on collision there March 4.

Township Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said that Irvington first responders had arrived there at 3 a.m. that Thursday on reports of an accident in front of 1227 Springfield Ave.

They had then found both an eastbound Volkswagen SUV and a westbound Honda Accord in Springfield Avenue's eastbound lanes. Both vehicles' front ends suffered severe damage.

One of the drivers, said Bowers, was taken to a local hospital with "severe " injuries, prompting his calling the ECPO as a matter of course. What, if any, injuries to the other driver was not disclosed.

IPD detectives, in their preliminary investigation, found that at least one of the two vehicles was traveling "at high speed." The rescue and field investigation prompted the detour of NJTransit's Nos. 25 and 70 buses into mid-rush hour. No further details have been released as of press time.

EAST ORANGE - Relatives, colleagues and friends were recalling Mike Davis as being more than "The Voice of East Orange" during his March 16 funeral service here at the Elmwood United Presbyterian Church March 16.

Davis, indeed, was the public address announcer for most of the East Orange Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department's home games and activities. As a recreation department leader, "Big Mike" was a mentor and shaper of thousands of city youth over his 35 year career - including future NFL players Jabrill Peppers on the NY Giants and Rasul Douglas of the Carolina Panthers.

Michael Jonas Davis, 56, died March 7. He was born as the youngest of five "rambunctious" children Feb. 15, 1964 and had graduated from the Clifford J. Scott High School

here in 1983. It was at Clifford Scott where he became a master checkers player with interests in sports and weather forecasting.

Davis, from his first day at nearby Baldwin Park May 12, 1986, found his calling in EO Recreation. He became a liaison between the department and the metro New York City professional sports teams.

Access to teams' sports camps and clinics, scholarships, field trips and giveaways came out of that relationship. Last year's ribbon-cutting for the NHL NJ Devils-supplied Recreation and Pride Fitness Center is a recent example.

The 2019 Lifetime Citizen Award recipient is survived by brothers Paul, Ronald and Keith and sister Lisa, among others. His twin brother Mark died at six months old.

Davis' remains were placed in Rosedale Cemetery, not far from his most recent residence in West Orange. Online condolences may be left of Newark's Perry Funeral Home website.

ORANGE - The motorcyclist who was seriously injured in a collision with a car in front of Monte Irving Orange Park March 14, said officials, is expected to fully recover from his injuries.

Orange Public Safety Director Todd Warren said that his police officers and University Hospital EMS medics to the call of a motor vehicle crash on Central Avenue, just west of Oakwood Avenue, at 5:45 p.m. Sunday.

First responders found a Chevrolet two-door compact car that had somehow broadsided a motorcycle while headed east on Central The motorcyclist, assisted by a Good Samaritan, was lying in the westbound lanes in front of 85 Central Ave.

The rider was rushed to University Hospital. The Chevy driver's condition, however, was not disclosed.

Traffic, including buses on CoachUSA's Nos. 24A and 44 routes, were detoured via Oakwood and Wilson places.

WEST ORANGE - Parents and employees of the around 2,500 West Orange High School community should have been contacted on why the school has been closed since Monday while

your read this. This closure includes the suspension of all WOHS sports until April 1.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Cascone, citing "multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 in WOHS," has closed that school building March 15 - April 19. Its students and teachers will continue learning by remote or virtual in the interim.

"Of the confirmed cases, there're a few in which there's no clear connection to outside events or exposure to positive cases that we know of at this time," said Cascone. "The decision has been made in consultation with health professionals and building and district administration to close the building for two weeks. As the result of the building being closed prior to Spring Break, staff and students may return on April 19."

Cascone added that contact tracing and notification was being conducted the week of March 15. The super said that one positive case had been on WOHS property "late last week" and a second, who "had been in the building" Monday.

The closure had put a March 7 WOHS cheer team formal banquet at the center of a controversy.

An online petition had started on Change.org claiming that the 80-person banquet was held with various people "violating CDC and WO guidelines. The petitioners are calling for disciplinary action, including fining each violating attendant \$1,000, banning the cheer team from 2021's prom and graduation and/or "disbanding indefinitely" the team.

Cascone, in response Tuesday, said there is no connection between the banquet and the two COVID cases.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange Maplewood Education Association's Sixth and Ninth Grade teachers, barring the union filing an appeal, will be returning to South Orange - Maplewood School District classes on March 22.

That was the announcement SOMSD administrators have made here March 16 in the wake of New Jersey Superior Court Chancery Division Judge Jody Alper's ruling that Tuesday
(Continued on page 14)



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Righteous Indignation

Many persons these days are claiming it. They are using it as an excuse for their bigoted anger and rage. When they are challenged for it, they want to make it seem that they are condemning society's sins, but when one observes more closely, it simply covers their hatred and to hide their deep-seated rage. Although they would like to connect what they are doing to God, it often seems that such is more the expression of their unbridled passion than anything connected to God.

I am talking about "righteous indignation." For that is how many persons label their behavior these days. They put under the label of righteous indignation their violence, leading to the murders we see even in churches.

Yes, people are filled with indignation at those who are committing child abuse, sex trafficking, abortions, peddling pornography or those who are engaging in other non-traditional sexual behaviors. They are putting them in hell, or as my grandmother used to say, "in hell crosswise." I am not endorsing any "non-traditional" behaviors

or actions costing so many innocent human lives. I am against them as much as I am against any gun-carrying, pot-smoking behaviors that I am seeing around me.

But I also want to speak about my anger towards the way we treat immigrants, the fatherless and the oppressed, those who are being given less pay than they deserve, and so on. It's also how we respond to the injustices about us, and I am maintaining that the way many of us are responding, we are reflecting the kind of righteousness that Christ called "hypocritical righteousness."

Righteous indignation is typically a reactive emotion of anger over mistreatment, insult, or malice of another. And we are not to question that there is a place for such if it is genuinely righteous indignation. Christ displayed it when he used those cords to drive the money changers out of the temple when he sought to break down the walls of prejudice between Jews and Gentiles, men and women, and then proclaiming that his house should be a house of prayer for all people (cf. Mark 11:15-17; Matthew 21; John 2:13-16).

And further, when he made it clear that what the religious leaders such as the Pharisees were doing was mere "hypocrisy," and then cried out as he left the temple, "Your house is left unto you desolate." (Matthew 23).

One commentator states that: "Christ's indignation was directed against the hypocrisy, the

gross sins by which men destroyed their souls, deceiving the people and dishonoring God. In the specious deceptive reasoning of the priests and rulers, Christ discerned the working of satanic agencies. His rebuke was keen and searching as He denounced sin, but He spoke no words of retaliation. He had a holy wrath against the prince of darkness, but He manifested no irritated temper. So the Christian who lives in harmony with God, and possesses the sweet attributes of love and mercy, will feel a righteous indignation against sin; but a passion will not rouse him to revile those who revile him. Even in meeting those who are moved by a power from beneath to maintain falsehood, he will still preserve calmness and self-possession in Christ. (Ellen White, 1889, *The Desire of Ages*, 619, 620)

In effect, the righteous indignation of Jesus was not with any prejudice or negative feelings of hatred against those about him. His heart was filled with love, compassion, empathy, humility, longsuffering, and pain. In fact, when he "wept" at the graveside of Lazarus, he did it because he saw that so many hearts were steeped in faithlessness (cf. John 11:35).

If we follow the example of Jesus, our righteous indignation will be legitimate and not be carried out with guns and spears or any weapon of warfare. As someone says, righteous indignation is only righteous when it is directed toward what angers God Himself. It is justly ex-

pressed when it confronts sin with love and the understanding of divine justice. It needs to be directed and regulated so that it is not filled with pride and self-centeredness. So, while we need our anger to be directed at sinful behaviors and unmistakable injustice, we must not allow ourselves to commit the very sins that we seek to condemn.

Let us look at the instructs the apostles gave regarding our indignation (anger).

Paul gives us some sound advice on the appropriate approach, "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil" (Ephesians 4:26-27). "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will stack burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:19-21)

The apostle James states: "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20)

The apostle Peter adds: "But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to

RUTGERS (Cont. from page 3)

of hers have been taken out of context for the open letter while others stem from political agendas or assumptions, such as the idea that professors endorse whatever ideas they teach.

In her email to "Local Talk," Prof. Truschke wrote, "the petition is driven by political opposition to my scholarship and activism. It is fueled by a right-wing movement known as Hindu nationalism, of which I am critical. Please note that Hindu nationalism is distinct from Hinduism, a point which I make repeatedly."

According to the March 11 issue of the Daily Targum, Prof.

Truschke said, "Hinduism is an incredibly broad-based religion with great internal diversity. As a professor who works in part, on the history of religions, I teach and appreciate that diversity. It saddens me when others see that same breadth as a liability that they are willing to disown in pursuit of narrow political goals."

Dr. Truschke herself makes it a point to mention this. In her email to "Local Talk," Dr. Truschke wrote, "So far as I know, no student who has taken my classes has signed that petition. I am aware of a small group of students at Rutgers-New Brunswick where I do not teach, who

have objected to me. I have taught hundreds of students of various religious and ethnic backgrounds over the past 15 years at 5 institutions. I have yet to face a single complaint from a student in my classroom."

Prof. Truschke has reading fluency in Sanskrit and Persian. She has reading competency in Hindi, Urdu and Braj Bhasha. She has published three books, numerous articles, and participated as a panelist in conferences going back to 2008.

International Uproar

In part the petition states, "She (Prof. Truschke) has been

demonstrating ongoing hate speeches and propaganda against India, Hindus, Hindutva and the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi under Section 124A, Section 153B, Section 153A and Section 295(A) to revoke her Visa and ban her entry in India." So far, the petition has received over 22,000 signatures as of March 17.

Writing in the Times of India, Avatans Kumar states, "However, the battle Hindu students of Rutgers University are fighting is against Truschke's shoddy scholarship when it comes to Indian history and Hinduism and her blatant Hinduophobia."

MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER

(1954-2021) (Cont. from page 8)

Hagler, whose life apparently did not include a rear-view mirror, said he had nothing more to prove in boxing. He retired first to Italy, where he was an actor in contemporary spaghetti westerns and as a boxing commentator on British television. He used to travel between homes in Milan and Bartlett, N.H.

Marvelous and Bertha Hagler had five children before they divorced in 1990. He had married Kay in 2020 - who broke news of her husband's death on the Marvin Hagler Fan Club website.

Kay Hagler, on March 15, also dispelled a rumor that Marvelous had died from COVID or its complications.

"Marvin hated funerals so therefore there will be no funerals or church celebrations," said Kay G. Hagler. "He wants to be remembered with a happy smile but I'd be happy if each of you light a candle for him. There's something special that I'll do because it's in his wishes and you'll be informed at the right time."

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

(Continued from page 7)

USA, Joe Biden, is looking to have all the schools back with in-person learning by September 2021, and he also said that by July 2021, people should be able to have larger gatherings and visit families because most of the people would have received a vaccination shot. However, you still have to wear your mask, wash your hands regularly and practice social distancing.

Spring will be starting in a couple of days, then Good Friday, then Easter following, not to mention the schools and colleges that will be on spring break, which means that this could be a challenging time for many cities because of the large crowds coming together.

Let's hope for the best for all, while many try to enjoy themselves even in the middle of a pandemic.

NJ TRANSIT

PUBLIC NOTICE

NJ TRANSIT is in search of enthusiastic, community-minded people to improve the quality of life of the growing population of seniors and people with disabilities in the state of New Jersey. Under the authority of the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act of 1984, the NJ TRANSIT Local Programs Citizens Advisory Committee allows for citizen input into the decision making process undertaken by the NJ TRANSIT Community Mobility office in projects to promote transit accessibility, and give advice on issues pertaining to transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities.

The Advisory Committee shall perform the following functions:

- a. Advise and assist NJ TRANSIT in providing technical assistance to recipients of SCDRTAP funds.
- b. Recommend goals and objectives for each county system in the spirit of the Act and in accordance with NJ TRANSIT program guidelines.
- c. Act as an Advocate for the senior/disabled community during project planning and implementation of transportation programs.

There shall be a minimum of eight regular meetings each year, which primarily are held in the Newark and Trenton areas. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are currently being held virtually online. Advisory Committee members will attend meetings in person, teleconferencing or as now is the case virtually online. All selected locations for meetings shall be accessible for people with disabilities and served by accessible scheduled public transportation.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you or anyone that you know is interested in becoming a part of this Advisory Committee, please feel free to contact Gloria Menjura, Regional Assistant of Local Programs, at Gmenjura@njtransit.com or by calling (973) 491-8767. In your e-mail or voicemail, please include your name, your phone number or e-mail address, whether you are a consumer of mass transit/paratransit or an advocate for a senior or a person with a disability who uses mass transit/paratransit, and why you would like to become part of this committee.

Title VI: NJ TRANSIT's Notice to Beneficiaries: NJ TRANSIT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, or wishing to obtain additional information regarding NJ TRANSIT's Title VI obligations, may contact NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at 973-275-5555. A complaint or inquiry may also be filed by writing to NJ TRANSIT Customer Service – Title VI, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105. A complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

ATTN: BUSINESS OWNERS

This includes corner stores, bodegas, supermarkets, etc. and other stores / outlets with retail capability. As Local Talk marches on in its 20th year of existence, we are looking to launch a bold new program. Before we go public with it, we want to discuss the program with local business owners - the very lifeline of the community. PLEASE CALL 973-280-7547 TO GET THE DETAILS.

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

The Operating Agreement Forces the Co-Founders to Make a Plan

I told you this story. Three guys who had been best friends since high school decided that they wanted to go into business together, and because each of them has a 9-5 job, they decided that they would go into the real estate business and earn passive income.

The realtor showed them a great “three family” in East Orange. They could get the property at a good price because the owner needed to get to Atlanta ASAP. So, they each invested \$15,000 and jumped for joy at the “steal.” They decided to have the title company handle the closing and saved another big bundle.

The owner vacated the property when title transferred leav-

ing them with the second floor empty, and the first floor and the basement with rent-paying tenants! The realtor said, “Don’t worry about the tenants. If you don’t like them, you can always get the tenants out!” “You can get them out after you close.”

They thought the realtor was right! It was a good idea to keep the tenants because the tenants will pay the \$3,300 per month mortgage, causing it to RAIN MONEY!!!

The three guys each put up \$15,000, and the deal was done in two weeks! Buyers decided that it would be a good use of their funds to use a title company to be the settlement agent and it only costed them \$1500 and closing costs. This was really a deal!

The closing was February 14, 2019. When they walked into my office, in February 2020, the three best friends were barely speaking, and they hadn’t collected a dime in rent! Since February, one of the “best friends” has walked away from the transaction and left the \$15,000 from the original invested and another \$10,000 he contributed to paying the monthly mortgage when the tenants failed to pay!

This travesty could have been saved on so many levels, but not the least of those ways would have been if the three friends had established a business relationship at the start; if they had started a limited liability company, commonly called an LLC some of the problems might not have come up.

The thing about LLC’s that

gets investor’s excited is the fact that when you form an LLC, you and your co-founders, will only put at risk the money and the financial assets that you contribute to the LLC. If the LLC gets into trouble and can’t pay its debts, or if someone files a lawsuit against your LLC and wins, then they are not going to get your home, your IRA, your car or anything out of your personal bank account. This means that what you don’t directly put into the business is protected. With our three best friends, they have good jobs and houses. If one of the tenants were to file a negligence suit and win, their personal assets, including the IRA, and the house that provides a roof over their children’s heads, are at risk. What they really forgot was that they needed a plan.

The Operating Agreement forces the co-founders to make a plan and to really think about the investment and the people who are joining the group. An operating agreement at the start, before the parties ante up, forces the members to identify the enterprise’s goal which will drive many other decisions. The problem with going into business with others is that sometimes people use the same words but mean different things.

For example, the best friends all agreed “to buy a rental property,” but that could mean something different to each of them. Is the goal to buy a rental, make a few repairs, increase the rents and sell? Will you sell as soon as the fix-up is complete, or will you wait to get tenants with the

hope of driving up the sales price? Is the goal to use the first property as a stepping-stone to the purchase of other properties: Reinvest the proceeds? Or, is the goal to buy the property and hold on to it for the long-term income benefits? This is a critical decision, because it will dictate many of the other considerations as you move toward your investment goals.

It seems clear that our three best friends only planned to buy a property and had made no plan for what they would do once they owned it. For example, if the goal is to buy, fix-up and sell, knowing that will lend insight into whether you borrow “hard money” or whether you go to the bank?

If the goal is to keep the property as an income producer, then that will not only direct where you seek financing but will remind the founders to make sure the tenants actually pay rents every month, when the leases expire, whether the tenants frequently make late payments.

Having a plan will help guide the roles of the various founders. For example, if one of the founders is a handyman, the founders might assign him the role in the operating agreement to make minor repairs.

THE most important part of going into business, alone and particularly with others, is to have a plan! An LLC is a good format to use with group investing, and having a plan is the safest way not to lose friendship or your shirt!

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg 11)

morning.

Alper, from her Newark bench, delivered an order to affected SOMEA members to report to district -approved classrooms “as early as March 18.” Those classrooms were ones the district said had passed an earlier SOMEA leadership walkthrough.

The district, on one hand, has relaxed the said teachers’ return to March 22. SOMEA officials, on the other hand, were to hold a walkthrough that same Monday as part of a projected April 19 reopening.

Alper’s ruling came the day after some Kindergarten-Second Grade students and all special

education and English language learners were to report to classes. SOMEA is respecting that district request after saying March 10 that they, claiming the district was negotiating “in bad faith,” withdrew from state-appointed mediation.

About 80 parents meanwhile held a front lawn sit-in at South Orange’s Marshall School March 12. They were members of a parental group who want a straight-away five days a week in-person learning reopening.

BLOOMFIELD - Bloomfield Public Schools Superintendent Sal Goncalves and his administrators intend to roll out a hybrid learning model for the district’s 5,400 students on April 19 - im-

mediately after the scheduled spring break.

Goncalves, in a plan unveiled at the Feb. 23 Board of Education meeting, will have students in its eight elementary schools attending in a three group rotation. The first group will attend in-person classes 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and the other two voluntarily virtual or online. All afternoon classes will be online.

Bloomfield High and Middle schools will be all-virtual Mondays and Fridays with 36-minute classes. Students will return to the buildings for half-days. Special needs students in both buildings will be online Mondays and Fridays with in-person classes in between.

Forest Glen School students will be limited to 10 per classroom and two per table. While there will be daily outside time, the playground will be closed and classroom libraries will not be shared.

Special education or needs students will otherwise be following an A/B five-days-a-week in-class schedule based on their Individual Education Plans.

Teachers, including Bloomfield Education Association members, will be ramping up to April 19 by voluntarily teaching from classrooms March 29-April 1. All staff are to report in-person April 12-16. Students may retain all-virtual instruction through the school year’s end.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

Goncalves said the plan was based on 5,400 survey responses from parents, teachers and students. The overall survey found a 51.9/48.1 percentage split between parents who felt comfortable sending their children back to school if safety guideline are followed - and those who are not.

MONTCLAIR - Respective Montclair Public Schools and Montclair Education Association officials are ironing out details in their agreement to re-open the district's seven elementary schools for in-person hybrid learning on April 19.

Those details include cleaning materials and frequencies of school buses and classrooms, student entry to and exit from the buildings and whether and how snacks are handled. The said conditions and agreement also hinge on both parties walking through the seven buildings March 22. Teachers are to meanwhile receive a roster of in-person and virtual learning students on March 19.

District administrators and union members arrived at the agreement hours before they were to contest each other in New Jersey Superior Court- Newark March 9. Respective attorneys u=informed Judge James Paganelli that Tuesday afternoon. Paganelli responded by keeping the case docket open until April 15-30.

Around 100 parents meanwhile held a rally at Rand Park March 13 to press for full-time in-person learning. The 60, including parents from South Orange-Maplewood, Nutley, West Orange and Scotch Plains-Fanwood, cited the 100 public and charter school districts who are fully open.

Curbside Recycling Resumes March 15

Mayor Sean Spillar, citing a sufficient number of Department of Community Services employees having returned from COVID quarantine, declared a resumption of curbside recycling collection as of March 15.

Temporary recycling drop-off hours at the DCS yard has been reduced to 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on March 20 and 27 Saturdays. Regular 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday hours return on April 3.

BELLEVILLE - The Belleville Planning Board, in a special meeting here March 8, approved Sound Development, LLC, of Newark, replacing the foam rubber factory near the Nutley border with six-story, 117-unit housing.

The planning board had approved replacing the Foam Rubber Fabricators building at 740-48 Washington Ave. with "The Kelsey." The Kelsey, as presented by Rawlings Architects, of New York

City, would be 114 dwelling units and street level retail space within a six-story structure.

The Kelsey's features include 70 one-bedroom apartments, 44 studio apartments a two-floor split-level parking garage, a gym and a 4,000-square foot roof terrace and pool.

This name comes from 740-48's previous building, which was the factory for the Kelsey Motor Company 1921-23. Inventor-businessman C.W. Kelsey tried to market three models of his gearless, friction drive cars here and from a Newark showroom until it went bankrupt. Kelsey (1880-1970) was better known for inventing the anti-roll or sway stabilizing bar found on most cars today.

The current 1927 building was where the late Irving Lerner founded FBR in 1950. It is not known where that company will move on to.

NUTLEY - Family, friends and colleagues of Angelo "Mr. Nutley" Frannicola helped him round his last base during his Funeral Mass at Newark's Basilica of the Sacred Heart March 1.

Frannicola, whose three decades as a physical education instructor was served in Newark and Nutley, grew up Sacred Heart's shadow. The 1954 inaugural Sacred Heart page boy and future baseball and football official had played neighborhood football in the cathedral's parking lot.

Frannicola, 76, died Feb. 22 from COVID complications at RWJBarnabas Medical Center in Livingston. Angelo R. Frannicola was born in Newark Nov. 21, 1942, where he and wife Toni lived until 1985.

The Sacred Heart School and St. Benedict's Prep (Class of 1960) graduate served in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne during the Vietnam era. He returned to attain education drees at then-Montclair State College (1974) and Seton Hall University (1981).

Frannicola first applied his degrees the first 27 years as a phys ed teacher and athletic director at Weequahic and the former Vailsburg high schools. Upon his move to Nutley, he was that high school' AD/Health Department Chairman 2001-06 and was elected to its board of education for 2007-10. In between, he became a 50-year sports official in basketball, football and an ASA/USA Softball Metro Newark Commissioner. He was most recently a teachers mentor at Caldwell and Montclair State universities.

Son Robert, daughter (and Nutley teacher) Antoinette Giglio and grandson Michelangelo are among his survivors, His remains were buried with military honors in North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Angelo Frannicola Memorial Foundation, PO Box 185, Nutley 07110.

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART (Cont. from pg 12)

make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." (1 Peter 3:14-17)

I know that the apostolic instructions were directed to Christians. And I wish that our contemporary Christians would accept the instructions as their own, rather than being confused with varied political ideologies that push so much anger and resentment, that they lead to extreme negative behaviors. If we were to accept the instructions, we could truly show that we do not endorse any sin but that we are seeking to build up the kingdom of God.

If you show righteous indignation, let God constrain it.

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I've got colon cancer

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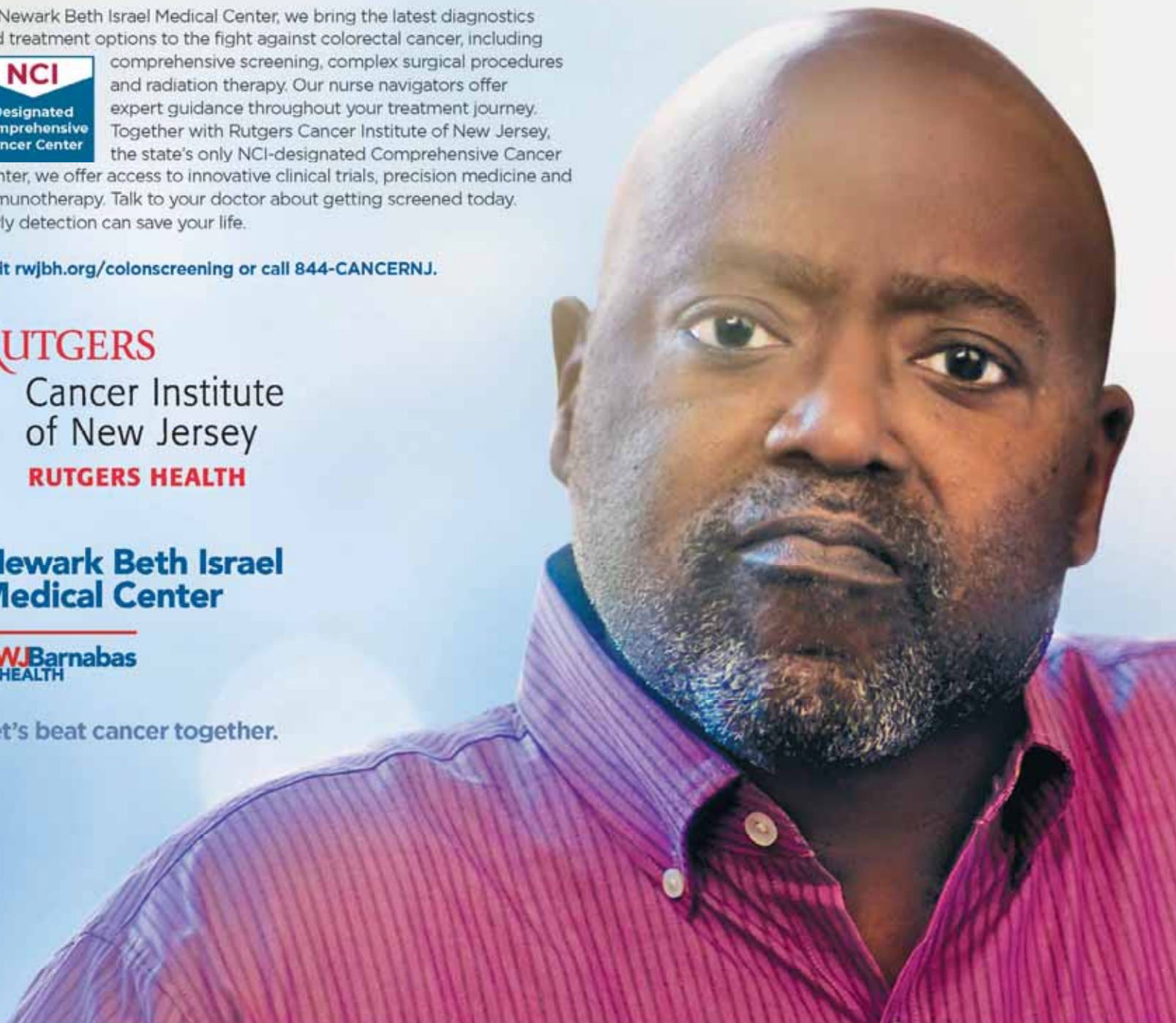
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