



10 DEAD IN COLORADO SHOOTING

The Boulder, CO Police Dept. is mourning the loss of Officer Eric Talley, who died during the shooting. Photos By Boulder PD

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HOW DID 300 COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES BECOME "UNUSABLE"?

SHOULD AMAZON WORKERS UNIONIZE?



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The city's Department of Health and Wellness is investigating how 300 of its Moderna COVID-19 vaccination doses recently became "unusable."

Dr Mark Wade, the department's director,

added on March 19 that measures are being taken so that future doses will not expire before their time.

"We've revised our delivery and assessment procedures and protocols," said Wade, "which will be tightly

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NEW RULES FOR STUDENTS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

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Schools throughout the state have been in virtual, in-person or hybrid mode since the pandemic began.



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Turn to
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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Shootings have made havoc around the country and the world. Two weeks, two incidents; one in Atlanta, Georgia and the other one in Boulder, Colorado. The Atlanta spa shootings took eight lives, six of them Asian and two Caucasians. In the Colorado shooting, 10 lives were lost. Both seems like single person rampages, who had their own motivations for their crimes. However, one common thing stands out in both shootings and many more in the past - guns with multiple bullet cartridges.

The gun lobby is strong. But why we are electing those sold-out senators and congress people who support the gun lobby? Donald Trump was in favor of the gun lobby, but Joe Biden and the Democrats are not. That

might be just on the surface. Our elected leaders who are practically owned by different groups can sell you anything. But if the people are united, no one, I mean no one, can stop them from passing gun control laws. Forget about what else they are doing, if they support the gun lobby, and protecting gun manufacturers and gun organizations like the National Rifle Association, we should not elect them.

Vice President Kamala Harris urged both houses of congress to pass gun laws. Right now, Democrats can pass them in the House of Representatives, as they have a clear majority. However, to pass the law and make it permanent, it must be passed with 60 votes in the Senate. The democrats have only 50 votes and maybe one deciding vote at the time of tie. However, the strong gun lobby will not allow Republicans to vote against them, as they are their biggest supporters.

Also, Democrat Joe Manchin has already said he is against very strict gun legislation, so they couldn't even do something

smaller with Harris as the tie-breaker.

Joe Biden can change some laws by an executive order, but it cannot be permanent, and cannot force the states to comply with it. So, passage in both houses is the right way to deal with stronger gun laws.

The Colorado shooting suspect, Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa 21, was arrested in 2018 when he was 18 years old for assaulting a fellow student. Three years later, he killed 10 people. Why? It is a huge question that arises in everyone's minds. I would mostly blame the system. The legal system in this country is a money making system for the government and government workers. It's more like a business to them. More than 85% cases get settled without a real trial. The prosecutors are paid with taxpayer money and defendants have to fight for their rights with their own money. If they are proven innocent, the government does not lose any money, except it goes on their records.

Also, some honest police officers catch some criminals,

but they get out of the jail faster than they went in the jail. Additionally, in the name of humanitarian rights, the prisoners get more amenities in the jail then out of the jail in the United States of America. So, most of them are not afraid of jail.

There should be a two-way layered point system in my opinion. With a 1st minor level offense for a non-criminal (1 point) the person should be released immediately. Any criminal offense adds 1 to 4 points depending upon their severity of the crime. Up to 5 points, they go to a mild jail. But, after that, it should be a harder jail without nice amenities. After the 3rd offense, no TV, no games, only work for them. They must be afraid of jail / prison, not thinking of it as a second home.

I wish there will be a change in the minds of our elected officials after these horrific crimes, and better support for stronger gun control laws. .

Have a wonderful 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
- Photographers : Dhiren Shah | Kristopher Seals | Thomas Ellis II | D. Adams, Jr.
- Distributors : Larry Wright | Walter Elliott | Fred Simpson
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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> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Partly Cloudy | Rain & Wind | Sunny | Rain | Partly Cloudy, Windy | Mostly Sunny | Chance of Rain |
| HI 71 | HI 78 | HI 65 | HI 63 | HI 53 | HI 55 | HI 62 |
| LO 57 | LO 47 | LO 49 | LO 42 | LO 36 | LO 42 | LO 43 |

SHOULD AMAZON WORKERS UNIONIZE?



On March 20, Local 108 RWDSU / UFCW and other locals joined a rally for an Amazon workers union drive. The rally was organized by Local 108 outside Whole Foods Market in Newark. Whole Foods is owned by Amazon.

Local 108 President Charles N. Hall Jr. released a statement as follows: "Having a union at Amazon would give workers the right to collectively bargain

over working conditions including items such as safety standards, training, breaks, pay, benefits, and other important issues that would make our workplace better. Amazon sometimes addresses issues at work but it's all temporary.

"A union contract is in writing, negotiated upon, and Amazon would need to legally follow the guidelines and there are mechanisms to hold them legal-

ly accountable to workers. There's no other way to have this type of relationship with Amazon outside of having a union."

Hall also added what workers at Amazon can improve with a union:

- SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS: The record on Amazon's dehumanizing

(Continued on page 12)

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The NCAA Men's basketball tournament is in full effect, with many upsets of top ranked teams.

Of course, the biggest upset was #15 Oral Roberts taking down #2 Ohio State 75-72 in a game that busted millions of brackets. This was just one of the disappointed results for the Big Ten Conference, as despite getting in nine teams, only top ranked Michigan remains. Among the Big Ten teams getting ousted was Rutgers, who did well to get by Clemson 60-56, but fell to Houston 63-60 in the Round of 32.

Meanwhile, #15 Iona gave it all they had against #2 seed Alabama, but fell short 68-55. The Crimson Tide then went on to beat Maryland 96-77 to reach the Sweet 16. Other games saw Florida beat UNC Greensboro 64-54, Baylor trounce Wiscon-

sin 76-63, and LSU handle St. Bonaventure 76-61.

In some close calls, Creighton avoided an upset in overtime from UC Santa Barbara 63-62, while Kansas had its hands full with Eastern Washington, before pulling away 93-84. Finally, the Big East Tournament Champion Georgetown Hoyas got stampeded by the Colorado Buffaloes 96-73.

In NFL news, the NY Giants were big spenders, bringing in wide receiver Kenny Golladay on a four-year \$72 million contract, cornerback Adoree' Jackson to a three-year, \$39 million deal, and tight end Kyle Rudolph on a two-year, \$14 million deal. These deals come on the heels of re-signing defensive tackle Leonard Williams to a three-year, \$63 million contract with \$45 million guaranteed.

Finally, NBA & Los Angeles Lakers legend Elgin Baylor has died at age 86.

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UNITED STATES

Lousy Mail Service? Get Used to It

If you thought that dealing with the post office was bad before, get ready for some real pain.

On March 23, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Louis DeJoy announced a 10 year plan for the United States Postal Service (USPS).

“The need for the U.S. Postal Service to transform to meet the needs of our customers is long overdue,” said DeJoy. “Our Plan calls for growth and investments, as well as targeted cost reductions and other strategies that will enable us to operate in a precise and efficient manner to meet future challenges, as we put the Postal Service on a path for financial sustainability and service excellence.”

“The Board challenged Postal management to devise a Plan that was firmly rooted in our public service mission to bind the nation together,” said Ron Bloom, Chairman of the United States Postal Service Board of Governors. “The Plan will achieve service excellence, adapt the Postal Service to the evolving needs of the American people and address our obligation for financial sustainability.

“Through a wide-ranging process involving numerous talented and dedicated public servants throughout the organization and insightful input from many stakeholders, they have done just that. This Plan will revitalize this American treasure and we are excited to work with our union leaders, stakeholders and newly nominated Governors, once they are confirmed, as we move it forward.”

According to the USPS, the Plan includes a combination of investments in technology, training, Post Offices and a new vehi-

cle fleet; modernizing the Postal Service’s processing network; adopting best-in-class logistics practices across delivery and transportation operations; creating new revenue-generating offerings in the rapidly expanding e-commerce marketplace and pricing changes as authorized by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

While DeJoy touted the vision of the 10-year Plan, he did not fully emphasize the drawbacks. The Plan in question would cause an increase in postage prices as well as a reduction in retail post office hours. Last but not least, due to logistical challenges, mail delivery would take longer.

If you are thinking that President Biden should dismiss DeJoy for his questionable decisions, think again. The Officer of the Postmaster General is exempt from presidential action, in order to discourage politicians from using the post office as a political tool to influence legislation and elections.

EUROPE

Turkey Criticized For Decision

Turkey’s decision to withdraw from an important treaty on protecting women is “a very worrying step backwards,” a group of independent UN human rights experts said on March 23.

“This decision...sends a dangerous message that violence against women is not important, with the risk of encouraging perpetrators and weakening measures to prevent it,” said Dubravka Šimonović, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

She noted that it will only weaken laws which provide women protection and helps keep them safe, “and leaves them at further risk at a time when violence against women is surging all over the world.”

The Council of Europe’s Istanbul Convention is the most recent international instrument that helps provide a roadmap for the elimination of gender-based violence against women and

girls; alongside the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action.

The independent experts maintained that these accords not only recognize gender-based violence against women as a human rights violation, but also “commit States to putting in place policies and legislation to eradicate it.”

In the last few months, some conservative politicians and groups in Turkey have reportedly expressed concerns that the Convention “threatened the family” and family values, in what the experts upheld was a misinterpretation of the term ‘gender’ expressed in the language of the Convention.

“On the contrary, the Convention provides Member States with tools to better protect women and girls and their human rights,” they said.

In 2012, Turkey was the first of 35 Member States to ratify the Istanbul Convention, and on March 20, the experts noted, with no debate in Parliament or with society at large, it announced its decision to withdraw by Presidential decree.

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Gladys Acosta Vargas, who also chairs of the CEDAW Committee, said that she “would welcome a dialogue with Turkey” to discuss the Convention’s importance in working towards the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence against women at “national, regional and international levels.”

“We call on Turkey to reconsider this decision and to conduct consultations with academia, civil society organizations, Parliament and society at large,” the experts said.

Among those displeased with Turkey’s is U.S. President Joe Biden, who said in a statement, “Turkey’s sudden and unwarranted withdrawal from the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, better

known as the Istanbul Convention, is deeply disappointing. Around the world, we are seeing increases in the number of domestic violence incidents, including reports of rising femicide in Turkey, the first nation to sign the convention. Countries should be working to strengthen and renew their commitments to ending violence against women, not rejecting international treaties designed to protect women and hold abusers accountable. This is a disheartening step backward for the international movement to end violence against women globally.

“Gender-based violence is a scourge that touches every nation in every corner of the world. In the past few weeks, we’ve seen too many examples of horrific and brutal assaults on women, including the tragic murders in Georgia. And we’ve seen the broader damage that living under the daily specter of gender-based violence does to women everywhere. It hurts all of us, and we all must do more to create societies where women are able to go about their lives free from violence.”

MIDDLE EAST

Israel Still Deadlocked

Despite a fourth election in the past two years, the balance of power in the Israeli government is still undecided.

With close to 90 percent of the vote in, the right-wing Likud Party of Benjamin Netanyahu might have the largest number of votes among any particular party in Israel’s latest election, but not enough to take 61 of the 120 seats in the Parliament for a clear majority. This will leave the country under most political duress, and no clear plan going forward.

One reason for the choices by Israeli’s citizens is that Netanyahu’s time as Prime Minister has been marred lately by numerous scandals, including charges of corruption, which he denies and is currently on trial for.

(Continued on page 5)



HOW DID 300 COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES BECOME "UNUSABLE"?

(Continued from page 1)

monitored to prevent this from happening again."

Wade and his deputies are looking for where in the supply chain the doses had expired. It is believed that 300 doses had not been adequately stored or refrigerated within federal CDC and Moderna guidelines.

The vaccines are to be stored in ultra-cold units kept between 5 and -15 degrees Fahrenheit. They may be stored in refrigerators between 36 and 46 degrees F - but for no more than 30 days.

Inoculators, once the doses are thawed, have a short time window to administer them as per manufacturer Moderna.

Moderna and Pfizer require two shots within 42 days of each other; the CDC recommends a 28-day interval. Johnson & Johnson requires one shot.

The department's investigation is focused on Moderna since that pharmaceutical company's doses were revealed during a Feb. 16 public inoculation of a city interfaith clergy group. That group did not receive the expired doses although it is not known whether any unusable shots were inadvertently given.

It is also not known whether spoiled doses caused any canceled inoculation appointments or curtail vaccination hours.

Dr. Wade, at the Feb. 16 vaccination event, said that Moderna and Pfizer's doses include synthetically-made mRNA and not live COVID-19 virus strains.

The expired 300 were 15 to 20 percent of the 1,500 to 2,000

weekly doses the city receives from the State of New Jersey Department of Health. The state delivers to the city's health department offices at 110 William St. and 394 University Ave. - two blocks apart. The city then distributes its allotments among hospitals, pop-up vaccination sites and federally qualified health centers.

Newark's vaccination supply stream is separate from the streams feeding Essex County's five regional vaccination centers and others.

The spoiled dose report comes while the city and other authorities are trying to accelerate vaccine supply and widen the criteria for prioritized shot receivers.

Gov. Phil Murphy, for example, added teachers, more essential workers and people at least 65 years old for priority vaccination since March 15. Murphy (D-Rumson) and Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver (D-East Orange) recently visited a pop-up clinic at Orange's St. Matthew's AME Church in part to promote minority vaccination.

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, on the heels of the five centers' dispensing its 100,000th dose, said that they can handle "25,000 to 30,000 people a week - if we have the supply." DiVincenzo (D-Roseland) is asking Murphy and the Essex County Congress members to lobby for more doses.

President Joseph Biden recently announced that his nationwide "100 million vaccinations in 100 days" goal was met in half the time.

Wade has not set an investigation report release date.

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 4)

LATIN AMERICA

Baker's Dozen Arrested

An INTERPOL-coordinated 'EL PAcCTO' operation (Nov. 20 - March 5) has seen a team of investigators from across Latin America locate and arrest 13 of their most wanted fugitives.

Wanted for serious and often horrific crimes, including murder, kidnapping and sexual violence against women, the fugitives were all subject to INTERPOL Red Notices - a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a wanted person.

Their names also featured on a list of priority fugitive targets established by INTERPOL's Fugitive Investigative Support (FIS) unit and law enforcement in eight Latin American countries in late 2020.

Then, during a two-week 'operational phase' (Feb. 22 - March 5), INTERPOL coordinated intensive working meetings between national law enforcement aimed at locating and arresting as many of these fugitives as possible.

The operational model effectively pushes international police cooperation into 'hyper drive', allowing investigators to exchange actionable information in real-time.

This year, more fugitives were arrested during the operational phase than in any other INTERPOL EL PAcCTO pro-

ject to date. On one occasion, multiple fugitives were arrested in a single day. Positive locations were also secured for a further two wanted persons.

A fugitive wanted by Peru for child sexual exploitation and human trafficking was arrested by Argentina's Federal Police after several days spent tracking down family members that had provided erroneous addresses.

Inga Molina was on Ecuador's most wanted list since 2018 for rape. Initially thought to have fled abroad, investigators exchanging information within the EL PAcCTO task force managed to locate and arrest him in Quito through open source analysis and wiretaps.

The head of an international drug trafficking ring, wanted by Brazil following a series of seizures who had brought in more than two tons of cocaine, was arrested by Bolivian police in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

"These results are only possible thanks to the permanent EL PAcCTO network that has been built up over time between national fugitive investigators," said Stephen Kavanagh, INTERPOL's Executive Director of Police Services."

Law enforcement from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru took part in the EL PAcCTO operation.

EL PAcCTO is a European Union-funded cooperation program that seeks to strengthen capacities and facilitate international cooperation.

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Savings As A Strategy For Financial Stability

As the saying goes, he who fails to plan, in effect, plans to fail. Money management is a crucial key to our success and the more we understand it, the better off we are. There have been ample studies that have identified money as a number one stressor for many people. Creating simplicity and consistency in personal financial management will go a long way towards easing the stress that comes with money problems.

If this sounds familiar, beware: At least two studies show that money problems could lead to divorce. Data released by financial firm TD Ameritrade found that 41% of divorced Gen Xers and 29% of Boomers say they ended their marriage due to disagreements about money. (Jan 10, 2018.)

I remember growing up in Ivy Hill, a neighborhood in Newark and attending Mount Vernon School back in the 1970s. My classmates and I would at times discuss financial issues such as how much allowance our parents gave us for household chores and how much we should be saving. Out of those discussions, some of us were able to lobby with our parents to ensure that our chores received competitive wages in a noncompetitive environment!

While we spent most of our allowances, we did get ingrained in us the concept of saving. Remember, at that age, we had no

bills. Our biggest concern was to ensure we had enough money for baseball cards, candy, soda and of course the ice cream truck!

Our parents assisted us to open savings accounts. In many cases, our parents kept our savings books for safe keeping. Whenever a relative or family friend gave us money, it was deposited into the savings account. We were also advised to save about 20% of our allowance.

Over the years, I have come to recognize that we were quite fortunate to get those lessons about budgeting and saving drummed into our heads at such an early age. However, it is not everyone that is aware of some of these sound personal financial practices.

In this column, I will cover various aspects of personal financial management on a weekly basis. My aim is to provide simple, easy to understand information on how we can improve our finances. In doing all of this, we hope to empower as many people as possible to get a grip on their finances and reduce money as a stressor in their lives!

What is personal financial management? Why is it important to save and how can we deal with unexpected cashflows?

Personal financial management basically covers about five different areas: They are saving, investing, financial protection, tax planning and retirement planning. Each area is important. However, it is possible to succeed financially by taking it one step at a time and developing strategies for one area, mastering it, before going to the next.

Saving is key for all us. We save for various reasons. For one thing, it is a way to develop an emergency fund. Ideally, an emergency fund should be able, for example to cover one's expenses for a period of 3-6 months, if no income were coming in. Things happen and that is what the emergency fund is

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Moses Ayiku Jr. is the Managing Consultant for Lacewood. With over 30 years of experience ranging from Wall Street, Small Business Development Centers to Bloomberg LP, he has worked with businesses, both big and small. Moses is an adjunct faculty in Business and Economics. He holds an MBA in Finance from Rutgers Business School and a Masters in Economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

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ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from March 17 - March 24, 2021

| Municipality | 3-17-2021 | Deaths | 3-24-2021 | Deaths |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Belleville | 4678 | 101 | 4846 | 103 |
| Bloomfield | 4473 | 108 | 4611 | 112 |
| Caldwell | 482 | 16 | 517 | 16 |
| Cedar Grove | 1366 | 119 | 1400 | 119 |
| East Orange | 5718 | 276 | 5881 | 277 |
| Essex Fells | 158 | 2 | 162 | 2 |
| Fairfield | 704 | 29 | 725 | 29 |
| Glen Ridge | 317 | 11 | 331 | 12 |
| Irvington | 3690 | 212 | 3831 | 215 |
| Livingston | 1564 | 81 | 1603 | 81 |
| Maplewood | 1048 | 33 | 1088 | 33 |
| Millburn | 715 | 9 | 734 | 9 |
| Montclair | 1884 | 66 | 1946 | 67 |
| Newark | 32671 | 890 | 33612 | 905 |
| North Caldwell | 398 | 6 | 420 | 6 |
| Nutley | 2496 | 57 | 2583 | 59 |
| Orange | 2918 | 124 | 3026 | 123 |
| Roseland | 412 | 15 | 423 | 15 |
| South Orange | 706 | 14 | 731 | 14 |
| Verona | 840 | 16 | 871 | 16 |
| West Caldwell | 911 | 51 | 938 | 51 |
| West Orange | 3903 | 220 | 4032 | 222 |
| Total | 72052 | 2456 | 74311 | 2486 |

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of March 24, 2021)

NJ: 774,100 cases / 21,727 deaths (Plus 2,535 probable)

United States (approx.): 30 Million / 545,000 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 124.5 Million / 2.75 Million deaths

Due to a rise in COVID-19 cases, New Jersey Gov. Murphy announced that the state will not be loosening any more virus-related restrictions any time soon

for. Depending on one's income and circumstances, the emergency fund could be bigger or smaller than the scenario that has been described.

The simple approach is to ensure that once we are generat-

ing an income, we determine what percentage of that income after our expenses, we put aside as savings. In effect, the income you earn, and your expenses determine the potential amount of

(Continued on page 7)

FINANCE (Continued from page 6)

saving. For example, a person earning \$5,000 a month, with expenses of \$3,000 per month would have the potential to save up to \$2,000 per month.

Another approach would be to develop a percentage rate of savings. For example, someone can decide that given their income and expense levels, they must save 20% every month of their net income (that is total income less total expenses).

Savings come into play for the financing of retirement. Many people have retirement accounts that they put money in every pay period. Apart from such retirement accounts, people are advised to invest in or save additional funds to increase their retirement income.

The reason for this is that in some cases, the Retirement accounts one is investing in may not be adequate for retirement. Additional investments would assist in propping up the level of retirement investment funds. We all plan to retire at some point. Retirement is a reality we know is coming. Hence the need to save and plan for it.

We also saved to finance the purchase of big-ticket items. Home purchases fall into this group. For example, to obtain a mortgage loan for a home, a person may be told to provide a percentage of the value of the house as a deposit. This could be on average between 10-20% of the value of the house. If a person is buying items of lesser value than a home, while they may not need to save large amounts, they need to accumulate funds to finance the purchase. In doing so, this minimizes the impact of the purchase on one's finances.

As many of you have witnessed, life is unpredictable. When it comes to inflows and outflows, there are times when we get an unexpected windfall and of course we are all happy about such inflows. This could be from an unexpected bonus, a

gift or even winning the lottery. There are also times when we get unexpected expenditures. This could be due to a vehicle breaking down. Of course, in some cases, your car doesn't give you forewarning before it breaks down!

We know that no matter who you are, you will have unexpected inflows and outflows. As a result, the prudent practice is to ensure that unexpected inflows are largely saved. Why? Because we know that unexpected outflows will surely arise. When they do, paying for them can be a challenge. However, if we save our unexpected inflows, we will have funds to cover such expenses.

As much fun as it is to simply spend like a drunken sailor when unexpected inflows arrive, please remember the potential pain of dealing with unexpected outflows and consider saving most, if not all of your unexpected inflows. This strategy can end up saving you from stress down the road. It also helps bring stability into your finances.

Imagine this, with a good policy of saving all unexpected inflows; by the end of the year, you can assess your financial situation and once your balance is positive (the money you have left after all inflows and outflows), this could open up so many options based on your choices. You could plan for a vacation that you can afford!

Or perhaps there is one item or other that you have been denying yourself. You could plan and go out and purchase it without breaking your bank! All these and more are ample motivation to put in place a saving policy for unexpected inflows.

Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on saving. I will do my best to respond and, in some cases, I will write on some of these questions.

Your questions and comments can be sent to localtalk-news@gmail.com.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ▶ Stop Bank Levies!
- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ▶ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ▶ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ▶ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
- ▶ Restore Driving Privileges
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10 DEAD IN COLORADO SHOOTING

Officer Eric Talley's police cruiser, lined with flowers in his memory



As the nation remains engaged in its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, the long-standing pandemic of mass shootings continues.

On March 22, a gunman went to the King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colorado and began shooting. Police quickly rushed to the scene, and had a lengthy shootout with the suspect, before he eventually gave up after being wounded.

The person in question was apprehended at 3.28 p.m. local time, and has been identified as 21-year-old Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa of Arvada, Colorado. In the aftermath, a brother of the suspect, who has been charged

with 10 counts of first-degree murder, claims that the alleged shooter is mentally ill, antisocial and paranoid.

In all, 10 people lost their lives in the hail of bullets from an AR-15, a weapon that has become far too common in these incidents. Among those lost were 51-year-old Boulder police officer Eric Talley, who leaves behind his wife and seven children.

The other victims are as follows: Denny Strong, 20; Neven Stanisic, 23; Rikki Olds, 25; Tralona Bartkowiak, 49; Teri Leiker, 51; Suzanne Fountain, 59; Kevin Mahoney, 61; Lynn Murray, 62; Jodi Waters, 65.

In response to the shooting, President Biden gave his condolences to the families of the victims and the Boulder community, and made a call for legislation to end the use of assault weapons. Biden also ordered that flags be flown at half-staff until March 27.

This shooting came less than a week after the deadly shootings in Atlanta, Georgia.



JOHN ARNOLD JR. FOR ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF

It's time to transform that office into an effective, transparent, proactive law enforcement agency that makes Community Policing a norm and not just something to tout during election time.

Together we can make the Essex County Sheriff's Department a place that caters to the safety and security of residents instead of the influences of political bosses.

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I, Commander Forbes, Endorse JOHN ARNOLD Jr. for ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF

30 Plus Years Quality of Life did not improve much... TIME FOR A REAL CHANGE

Like I support, You support too for a Better Life in Essex County

NEW RULES FOR STUDENTS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

TRENTON - The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) released updated COVID-19 K-12 operational guidance for local health departments (LHDs) March 24, 2021.

The updated guidance, which reflects recent changes to K-12 recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is aligned with the Administration's goal of opening schools for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

"Though outbreaks do occur in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission within school settings is typically lower than or at least similar to levels of community transmission when mitigation strategies are in place in schools," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "Based on this data and federal guidance, the Department of Health, in collabora-

tion with the Department of Education, has updated its guidance to help local health departments assist schools in providing safe environments for students and staff."

NJDOH's guidance is intended to offer public health recommendations and strategies for LHDs regarding K-12 school operations. However, schools that have implemented mitigation strategies that have allowed them to successfully open to full in-person instruction may generally continue to follow these strategies.

Pursuant to the updated guidance, LHDs should continue to use the COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix to provide guidance to school districts. NJDOH's COVID-19 Activity Level Index provides information on COVID-19 transmission at the regional level, characterizing risk as low (green), moderate (yellow), high

(orange), and very high (red). The critical updates to the guidance document are summarized below.

NJDOH recommends full in-person instruction with a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing between students maintained in classrooms for elementary schools across low, moderate, and high risk and for middle/high school when the region is at a low or moderate risk level. When the region is in high risk, middle/high schools should maintain 6 feet of physical distancing between students in classrooms to the greatest extent practicable and consider in-person instruction if able to maximize physical distancing of 6 feet or more.

Strict adherence to mask-wearing should be enforced at all times across all risk and grade levels. The CDC and NJDOH continue to recommend six feet

of physical distancing in all settings when masks cannot be worn, such as while eating and drinking. Six feet of physical distancing is particularly important between staff members in the school building and between staff members and students, in common areas, such as school lobbies and auditoriums, and during activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise (even if masks are worn).

NJDOH's guidance recommends that students, teachers, and staff who are at high risk of severe illness or who live with people at high risk be offered the option of virtual instruction.

Students and staff must continue to stay home when sick. Students and staff, unless fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, should stay home if they have

(Continued on page 10)

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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

The Biden Stimulus Checks And Who It Helps



After what seemed like years of dragging the stimulus check release, they finally hit some time back. Sorry, they finally hit! Hooray! The very fact that a check that will go a long way in

helping people and businesses recover and get back on their feet has dragged this long honestly baffles me.

Seriously, we are literally in the middle of a one-year (and very much counting) war against a virus that has killed close to 550,000 people, and there are long, drawn-out discussions and arguments over giving citizens stimulus checks. Don't you just love the United States of America?

However, I am not here to rant about the state of our government or congress, but rather examine how the checks will go into getting people in prime position to bounce back. Speaking of which, despite the havoc the virus has wreaked, we cannot afford to give up now. We have to bounce back. And by we, I mean individuals, businesses, schools, hospitals, everything. It won't be easy, but we must not let this virus win. The fight is far from over.

Back to the stimulus checks. 50.5% of the Biden stimulus check is directed towards aiding individuals, which is quite higher than the 38.9% of the previous two checks. This makes sense when one considers that individuals are the core of the country. There's no point in spending so much on various governmental agencies and sectors of the economy if individuals are neglected.

In total, 54% of the bill goes

toward households. The individual checks are \$1,400, which many experts have estimated will have the greatest effect on the middle and lower class of the economy. \$510 billion of the Biden stimulus bill will go towards state and local governments.

The role of state and local governments in getting the country back on its feet cannot be overestimated, which makes it all the more shocking that just a little over half of this amount, \$275 billion, was dedicated to state and local governments in the other two stimulus checks. The local governments, in particular, are closest to the people and are usually in a better position to effect changes in the country.

\$100 billion is going to healthcare in the Biden stimulus bill. If you think stimulus checks to individuals are non-negotiable, I have news for you. America's healthcare system is nothing to write home about, but don't get me started on that. We have passed the stage of creating a vaccine, thankfully. We have passed the planning stages of distributing the vaccine. But now we have to distribute the vaccine. And to do so effectively, we need money, lots of money, particularly for the rural regions.

Many of these regions and underserved populations are still unvaccinated. And that's not go-

ing to cut it in the fight against the coronavirus. With the right facilities and equipment, more vaccination centers can be constructed in these regions.

One difference between this Biden stimulus bill and the previous two bills is the focus on businesses. The previous two bills dedicated a total of \$915 billion to supporting businesses, while the Biden bill is giving only \$65 billion for this cause.

There have been many complaints and arguments on the bill, mostly political. I don't want to get into any of that, but one thing is clear, we need to fight this virus with all we have, including our finance. 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.

References

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/03/10/how-big-is-biden-stimulus/>

NEW RULES FOR STUDENTS

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

(Continued from page 8)

been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. If someone in their household is being tested for COVID-19 due to illness, students and staff, unless fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, should also stay home until the test result is received.

Educators and staff who have been fully vaccinated should follow the NJDOH Guidelines for Vaccinated Individuals. Vaccinated persons

should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others while in the community, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance, and following any applicable workplace or school guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use and SARS-CoV-2 testing.

To reduce risk of transmission in schools, it is recommended that schools work to increase the circulation of outdoor air, by

opening windows and doors, using child-safe fans and exhaust fans and also consider having activities, classes or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.

If an outbreak is identified, schools and LHDs should promptly intervene to control spread (including consideration of a temporary transition of classrooms or cohorts to remote learning) while working to determine whether the outbreak originated in the school setting and assess potential contributors to the outbreak. The updated guidance document addresses multiple outbreak scenarios and provides the recommended respon-

sive action.

Regional risk levels are just one tool that LHDs and schools can use when assessing COVID-19 risk. LHDs have additional knowledge of COVID-19 in their jurisdictions that can inform local planning and response actions. Many factors need to be considered when deciding to transition entire schools, cohorts, or in-individual classrooms to remote learning, such as whether all close contacts of cases can be identified and excluded from school, and the distribution of cases within the school.

State EOF Scholarship for Essex County College Student Deborah Alonge



Deborah Alonge, an Essex County College General Science major, is the recipient of the Arrigo O. Rogers Scholarship from the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Professional Association of New Jersey.

“I’m honored to receive this scholarship from EOF,” said Deborah, a Newark resident.

“The EOF program has helped me so much ever since I started at ECC in 2019,” she added. Deborah serves as Vice President for Hallmarks in the College’s Alpha Theta Theta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Deborah, who has a 3.81 grade point average, plans to transfer to Rutgers University after graduating from Essex County College, where she will major in Biological Sciences. Her career goal is to become a doctor.

In her scholarship essay, Deborah wrote, “One day, while watching a television program

about diseases, I was fascinated and it inspired me to become a physician. Moreover, it saddened me to find out that despite the rate of technological development in the world today, many people still suffer and die from terrible sicknesses that can be treated. Another reason why I want to become a physician is because I would be able to help people get the treatment they deserve.”

In her recommendation letter for Deborah, the College’s EOF Director Joanna Romano wrote, “She exemplifies many of the attributes of a fine EOF student - determined, intelligent and kind

hearted. Deborah has been an active member of the EOF “family” here at Essex, participating in our services, forums and also our own chapter of The National Society of Student Leadership and Success,” Ms. Romano added.

“It’s always gratifying to see our students recognized on the state level. Deborah is an outstanding student and I am confident she will realize her goal of becoming a physician and make an impact in the community,” said ECC Interim President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

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*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Retaliation

After seeing the presage of retaliatory occurrences that have been taking place in the United States over the last few weeks, such as the insurrection of January 6 on the Capitol that threatened the lives of the leaders of the nation, followed by the murder of eight people in Atlanta, Georgia, and the ten innocent people killed taken in the shooting in Boulder, Colorado, I cannot help but state that if we do not do something to stop this culture of retaliation, we all will soon be dead.

It is especially unbearable to listen to the speeches of some politicians who are constantly seeking to deny reality by promoting the right to carry guns without limitations, under the auspices of the Second Amendment's rights and the need for self-protection. It seems that those who are using their outrageous words to play with people's minds and encourage fanatical behaviors or provoke retaliation have forgotten that those who live by "the laws of the jungle" will die by "the laws of the jungle."

This is a reality that is be-

coming more and more true in many of our urban communities, where a large number of mass killings are taking place on a pretext of retaliation, for some insults that have been done.

I do not know that I need to use any prophetic insight to point to where the retaliation is going. The lessons of history are enough to teach us that any person, family or culture that lives by retaliation will soon cease to exist.

Here, let me point out that retaliation is not only taking place in the public culture, such I have named it at the Capitol, the shootings in Atlanta, Georgia and Boulder, Colorado, but in more private spaces of our job sites, where employers are taking it out on their workers and workers are returning the favors to their employers.

On the job sites, much of the discrimination taking place is due to people trying to "get even" with people. They are finding ways of retaliating for punishment that has been meted out to them.

But let me take you to other private spaces, such as our homes and families, where retaliation is very much being practiced. One only needs to think of what is happening in the many marital break-ups and divorcing and how bitter and angry the responses are.

The tit for tat, the bitter exchanges in language and letters, the numerous fights, and the effort to strip each other of all pos-

sessions to the point of greatest humiliation are evidence of retaliation in their private spaces.

Of course, what is happening between parents and children is a point that we must note in this vein of retaliation. Some parents are very unkind to their children. The neglect, the very harsh words and attitudes to them, the unrelenting criticisms, the name-calling and the cursing at them are a few ways some parents retaliate.

Parents also retaliate by refusing to listen to their children. They seek to domineer them, and some even play the favoritism game. Others have broken promises with their children and "provoked their children to wrath" (cf. Ephesians 6:4).

When the children reach older age, they decide that they will take it out on their parents. What Kirk Franklin's son did to his father seems to be a common occurrence these days. I have seen enough angry text messages and email exchanges between children and parents to justify their behaviors toward each other, and after hearing the background stories, I can only conclude that retaliation was the intent.

Yes, we are in a world that thinks retaliating is going to solve their problems. But, as I have stated, to live in such a world, where we repay in kind for any and every injury that is done to us, is to be in a world of destruction.

The appeal I am making in

this reflection is for us to note that we need to stop the retaliation. My sincere wish is that my suggestions will be acceptable to as many rational minds as are about us. But since rational minds sometimes lack empathy and compassion, I appeal to our hearts. In fact, that is where Jesus centered his appeal when he promoted the ethic of love. He stated it clearly this way:

1. Love the Lord your God with all you have got (Matthew 22:37)
2. Love your neighbor (Mark 12:31)
3. Love your enemies (Matthew 5:44)
4. Love yourself (Mark 12:31)
5. Love (Honor) your parents (Matthew 15:4)

Jesus not only proclaimed the ethic of love, but he also taught love in the way he lived and died. He showed how love and justice work together. While justice calls us to put things right, love teaches us how to practice justice rightly.

Yes, on his way to the cross, Jesus did not retaliate against anyone. He forgave those who taunted him and even those who crucified him. He calls us to learn the way of forgiveness instead of retaliation.

The serious point of my appeal is, let us learn forgiveness in place of retaliation. If we do not turn away from retaliation we are sure to destroy those around us and ourselves.

SHOULD AMAZON WORKERS UNIONIZE?

(Continued from page 3)

working conditions is well established. Nineteen workers have died at Amazon facilities since 2013. Workers face outrageous work quotas that have left many with illnesses and lifetime injuries. With a union contract, workers can form a worker safety committee, and negotiate the highest safety standards and protocols for their workplace.

• **JUST-CAUSE INSTEAD OF AT-WILL:** All workers are considered "At-Will" employees and can be fired for any reason or no reason at all. When workers unionize, workers will become "Just Cause" employees, which means workers can only be fired or disciplined if management can demonstrate and justify to us how workers violated company policy. Furthermore, workers could call on the union to help mediate or file charges on workers behalf if they don't feel that management

is following the rules.

• **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** When workers disagree with a write up or a termination, they currently have no mechanism to challenge it except to go to Human Resources. With a union, workers will be able to file a grievance. When workers file a grievance, management has to prove that there was a good reason that the discipline occurred. This acts as a way to hold management accountable if necessary.



If workers are united and join the union, they can protect their rights and protect themselves. The next Amazon union rally will be on April 2

TOWN WATCH

DISCLAIMER: The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

NEWARK - A three-tower residential complex, called The Halo, which received Newark Central Planning Board approval March 15, is poised to rise from 289-301 Washington St. in the coming years.

The Halo, at its 565-foot, 46-story maximum height, would become Newark's tallest building. It would be seen from New York City - provided that Manhattanites could peer amid Jersey City's taller towers and if The Halo gets built at all.

Developer Moshe Glazer, of Lakewood and INOA Architects had received CPB approval for their first Halo in 2018. The original version featured two towers for 394 apartments atop a five story base. That first Halo was never built.

Glazer, INOA and construction manager came back this winter with three towers and a six-story base to rise from the .681-acre parking lot. The 38-story tower will hold 248 housing units, the 42-story tower 292 units and the tallest holding 297 units. The third spire would oust the 35-story, 466-ft. National Newark (formerly the National Newark & Essex Bank) Building at 744 Broad St.

The apartments break down to 533 studio, 255 one-bedroom and 161 two-bedroom units. Glazer, on one hand, did not number how many will be designated affordable housing. The site plan does adhere to Newark's inclusionary housing and local hiring regulations and Glazer wants a range of Halo residents.

The Halo's third spire would become New Jersey's sixth tallest building. The other five taller buildings - topping out with the

79-story, 900-ft. 90 Hudson St., are all in Jersey City.

IRVINGTON - Authorities, while having the suspected driver of a silver Nissan Altima in their custody, are still looking for the Altima's passenger plus a black Dodge Charger - and its driver -- that eluded their pursuit from the Irvington Park area here March 9.

Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura said that his officers on patrol that Tuesday saw the Dodge, followed by the Nissan, running "at high speed" westbound on Olson Placemear the entrance to Irvington Park.

"In a scene that seemed out of the Old West" said Fontoura, "the Altima pulled up directly behind the Charger before they began to fire several shots from the top window of the (Nissan) vehicle."

Sheriff's officers immediately put on their lights and sirens to pursue both cars. They followed the Nissan north on Grove Street until it attempted "a sharp turn" onto Nye Avenue - until it crashed into a fence. Two men bailed out from the Altima's driver's side door, starting a foot chase. One man, identified as Shylem S. Bennett, 26, of Newark, was spotted walking south along 21st Street; he surrendered upon approach.

Other officers found inside the Nissan a Beretta AXP .40 caliber pistol with four hollow point bullets in its magazine. Bennet was also found with "25 decks of heroin" on his person.

Bennett has since been held on 13 counts of Controlled Dangerous Substance possession schedule I-IV plus a count of "other" CDS possession and a possession count thereof within 500 feet of public property. He also faces eight counts of aggravated assault, two counts of aggravated eluding plus a count each of possession of prohibited hollow point bullets, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, possession thereof without a permit and prohibited possession by a convicted felon.

Some other officers, who tailed the Charger north on Grove, lost sight of it while both were going west on May Street.

EAST ORANGE - Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green's 2021 State of the City Address opened on

livestream here at the Cicely L. Tyson School of Fine and Performing Arts Jean L. James Auditorium March 4 with his honor and his lectern flanked by portraits of parents Ted, Sr. and Lula Green.

"The biggest understatement I could make right now is that the year 2020 was tough for all of us," opened Green. "I'd like to take a moment to remember the 273 East Orange residents who've lost their lives to COVID-19. Personally, this past year was one of the greatest losses for me - my mom on March 8 and my dad on Nov. 25 - but I couldn't shut down. Tonight, I wanted to feel their presence again, to thank them both and to know I miss them dearly."

March 4's address was also marked with an almost empty auditorium gallery, necessitating the livestreaming instead of the usual overflow crowd of 800. Mayor Green's family, the City Council, Green's administrative team, dignitaries and East Orange/Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman Leroy Jones, Jr. made up the bulk of the sparse live audience.

Green also remembered the magnet school's namesake, actress Cicely Tyson. 96, who died Jan. 29. The Mayor then turned to thank the Department of Policy, Planning and Development for creating EOShopLocal.com as a new small business-resident conduit. Green, noting another COVO alleviating measure, thanked the department for matching 100 businesses with county, state and federal grants.

Increasing housing stock and redevelopment continued last year despite the pandemic. The Mayor called the \$400 million Crossings at Brick Church as "our flagship project." Ground-breaking of its first phase is to be later this spring. The 46-year-old Brick Church Shopping Plaza will eventually be replaced with 820 affordable housing units, including "216 affordable housing units, a large rental - ShopRite - a seven-story parking garage, future quality rental spaces and new sit-down restaurants for our community."

Green also checked off other redevelopment and rehabilitation efforts, from the ribbon-cutting of 475 William St. and 60 senior affordable units at 160 Halsted St. to modernizing 1,000 units at Norman and Corinthian towers.

This was among the thanks and kudos the Mayor bestowed to the city's departments and workers in their efforts to make the city, "safe and healthy."

"In the year 2020," said the Mayor during his one-hour, 39-minute address, "we've learned that we can rise above and overcome anything, including the worst pandemic our country has even seen."

ORANGE - Ward Street will be honorarily renamed Walii Muhammad Way in a ceremony here Noon - 2 p.m. April 3. It is not clear whether the ceremony will be held at the corner of Hillyer Street or the corner of Park Street - but "Local Talk" figures it will be the closer one to the boxer's longtime family home at 95 Ward St. The date is the closest At-Large Councilman Wheldon "Monty" Montague III could arrange to Muhammad's April 19 birthday.

Montague's street naming ceremony, which he arranged by a Sept. 1 City Council Resolution, is the latest honor for the former light heavyweight fighter. He was inducted into the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame Nov. 12 in Garfield.

Muhammad, 61, according to boxing records, amassed a 12-win and five-loss professional prizefighting record 198-910. The youth from The Valley's Freeman Street Athletic Club first brought notice by winning the 1976 Golden Gloves Tournament Novice Class.

Muhammad, was born Terence Warren in Orange Memorial Hospital in 1959, was first taken to 108 Parrow St. His family, however, moved to 95 Ward in 1964. The Orange High School Class of 1977 graduate used to fight a rival until both decided to go together to gyms on Main and Freeman streets.

"Bro. Wali Muhammad's dedication was a role model for hundreds of young people, including me," said Montague March 17. "He commanded respect not by how he used his fists but by how he carried himself."

WEST ORANGE - It appears that "Executive Suites 2.0" has spawned "Procedural Lawsuit 2.0" as of March 15.

Several township residents
(Continued on page 14)

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

Question From A Reader

My daughter's father is a registered sex offender. He raped someone that is in his immediate family. Will he be able to get custody?

Usually when we use the term "custody", we are talking about which parent is the residential parent, or the phrase which is peculiar to New Jersey: the "parent of primary residence."

Public policy in New Jersey favors providing both parents equal chance to bond with their child and to have the love and affection of their child. New Jersey affords equal opportunity for Dad's to have custody, and the privilege is not just limited to Moms; therefore, joint legal cus-

tody rather than sole legal custody is the preferred arrangement.

To make public policy real, New Jersey courts will have the child live with each parent on an equal basis where feasible. Most of the time "feasible" is dictated by the proximity of the parents and their work schedules. This means that if you live in East Orange and your son's mother lives in Newark, you might be able to share your son's time equally. Equally as important, is whether your work schedules accommodate the child's needs. If, for example both have a regular 9 to 5 job and each of you can drop the child off at daycare by the start time and each of you can pick-up the child by the end time, equal parenting time might be feasible.

That having been said, the court always stands in the place of the parent. This means that the court must do what is in the child's best interest regardless of what the parents, either of them, want. Before the court awards custody to either parent, the court will consider first and foremost what is in the child's best interest.

As to the reader's question, central to the best interest analysis is whether the child will be safe with the sex-offender parent. Usually, judges do not reject an application for anything out of hand. So, the court might consider whether Dad is a level 1, 2, or 3 sex offender. What exactly was the nature of the sexual offense? Was it actually a brutal rape making Dad a Level 3 sex

offender? Was it more of a grouping making Dad a Level 1 sex offender?

How old was Dad at the time of the offense? What was the age of the victim? Was the victim (she or he) 10 years old or 30 years old? When did the offence occur? Last year or twenty years ago? Has he had therapy? How long ago? What is the therapist's diagnosis? Prognosis?

What is the nature of the child's relationship with Dad? What are the current circumstances that give rise to the question? Did Mom and Dad meet ten years after the sexual assault occurred and did the child reside with mom and dad for ten years, before the breakup giving rise to the current question of who gets custody? Is it a fact that Dad has not seen daughter for several years?

Where does Dad live? In an apartment? A single-family house? A rooming house? Does Dad live alone or with others? His parents? Significant other? Without answers to these and probably many other questions, it is impossible to give an opinion as to how the court would decide. But!

Custody is one thing. Visitation is quite something else. While the court may not give Dad custody, the court may look for ways for the child and dad to bond and spend time with each other while ensuring the child's safety. The court might conclude that spending a night with Dad who viciously raped a child of about her age two years ago is

not a good idea so all because there is nothing to give the court confidence that the child will be safe. However, the court might look for ways for award parenting time where dad groped a woman of 30 fifteen years ago and is a Level 1 sex offender. Judges make reasoned decisions based on proven facts!

If the court were inclined to award parenting time, one of the resources the court often turns to is supervised visitation. There are agencies who for a fee will offer a comfortable place and supervise the visitation. Usually, these agencies have a number of rooms that are set up like living rooms, or family rooms. They have toys, and books and you can bring snacks or games, or puzzles or other age-appropriate things to do with your child.

Some of the agencies have out-of-doors areas where parent and child can interact. It is significant to note that supervised means supervised. In most of the agencies, every single inch of the place is visible or camera, and the cameras record for the record.

Where a parent is a sex offender, having parenting time in a very structured, monitored by camera situation may offer the best opportunity to get the court to award parenting time at all. The poor man's option is trying to find a trusted relative who can monitor, and I do mean monitor-parenting. Safety and Sex-offender are tough to reconcile, but maybe.

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg. 13)

had recently filed suit against the township administration and planning board in State Superior Court-Newark. The plaintiffs, a perceived lack of due process, is asking a Superior Court Judge to at least halt the Municipal Council and West Orange Planning Board's approval process of the revised Executive Suites redevelopment plan.

The new plan, as presented on-line by Mayor Robert Parisi earlier this winter, would replace 1970s-era office buildings at 100 and 200 Executive Dr. with two buildings that would hold 401 housing units. 10 Rooney Circle would be repurposed as the new West Orange Public Library,

DPW headquarters and a dog park or animal shelter. Both the new and former versions include a 30-year PILOT tax abatement plan for developer BNE Real Estate Group.

The plaintiffs complain that some presentation dates were rescheduled without proper prior notice. Parisi's early March virtual presentation on the proposed WOPL portion for example, was advanced a week into February - resulting in only 16 livestream viewers.

Township Attorney Robert Trenk said, on March 10, that the presentation was moved up so that The Township Council can approve BNE as the project's developer before March 1. March 1 was the deadline so that

WOPL could remain eligible for a \$3.1 million share of the state's Library Construction Bond Act.

The Council voted 4-1 March 1 to approve the project's \$30 million, 30-year Payment in Lieu of Taxes for Executive Suites. Lone dissenter Councilman William "Bill" Rutherford disagreed with Township CFO John Gross over whether the redevelopment could be built without the PILOT.

SOUTH ORANGE - Village Chief of Police Kyle Kroll, after 33 years' service, will be retiring May 1.

Kroll, who has been South Orange's "Top Cop" the last five years, made his retirement announcement here March 17. He

will turn his office over to Capt. Stephen Dolinac, who Village President has named acting chief.

Kroll had served as a captain for 13 years before he was promoted to chief in 2016. The third-generation villager and Columbia High School graduate, while chief, created a Special Operations Division for parking and traffic. He launched the village's first Community Policing Collaborative.

"Serving as South Orange Chief of Police has been the experience of a lifetime," said Kroll. "I'm grateful to the Village President and Trustees for putting their faith in me, to my fellow officers for their dedica-

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

tion and support and the community of South Orange for the opportunity to serve in a place that will always be home to me."

MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood School District is still aiming for an April 19 reopening of its 11 buildings for the in-person part of its hybrid instruction reopening.

Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor, in his March 22 update to the community, explained that the March 29 - April 1 Spring Break and April 5-16 are being used as a precautionary quarantine period for students and staff. April 5-16, leading up to April 19, will be all-remote or virtual learning.

April 19 is also the date the district and the South Orange-Maplewood Education Association are to reappear before State Superior Court Judge Jodi Lee Alpert. Alpert, who approved SOMSD-SOMEA's March 15 re-entry agreement, has left April 19 open in case both parties have not ironed out "Phase 4 re-entry" details.

Dr. Taylor also reminded parents that March 25 is the last date to switch their children from virtual to hybrid instruction.

BLOOMFIELD - Township detectives said that they have had a suspect, in connection with the Feb. 7 Bloomfield Avenue doorway shooting, in custody since March 9.

BPD's Detective Bureau, said Public Safety Director Samuel DeMaio, had arrested an Andre King while he was leaving his Newark residence and was about to enter his girlfriend's car 9:30 a.m. that Tuesday. King was originally arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Detectives said they had identified King from security camera recordings surrounding 547 Bloomfield Ave. Feb. 7. A man, whose party was refused entry to PLUGG Studios 3:30 a.m., on COVID capacity limits, drew a gun and fired at the doorman. That firing shattered the glass front door and left a gunshot wound on the guard's right hand.

King is being held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility on charges of aggravated assault, possession of a weapon and possession thereof for an unlawful purpose.

MONTCLAIR - The Montclair Public Schools Board of Education, in its recently filed civil suit against the Montclair Education Association, declared that the district had lost 459 students since the COVID pandemic and its lockdowns began.

The board and their attorneys said that at least half of students who left the district were elementary school students. The

overall figure includes 117 students who the plaintiffs said had gone to private and other non-public schools.

The figures are being used by the MBOE in its contention that the "delay in restoring in-person instruction" is causing "irreparable harm to students." A State Superior Court Judge, in a ruling that rejected MPS administrators' call for MEA members' immediate return to classrooms, said that the district had failed to prove "irreparable harm" to students who had to rely on remote or virtual learning.

Those few private schools who talked with a Montclair-based reporter conformed that there has been more competition for their classroom seats but also cited more families moving here among other factors. Most Montclair-area private, religious and charter school officials declined to comment.

MPS and MEA leaders are meanwhile ironing out details that would open the district to a virtual/in-person hybrid model on or by April 19.

BELLEVILLE - The commotion over the transfer of a painting from the Belleville Public Library atrium to Mayor Melham's Town hall office may have either been resolved - or may have brought in N.J. Attorney General Gurbir Grewal - when you read this.

Belleville Historical Society President Michael Perrone, during the BPL Board of Trustees March 17 meeting, read a statement that the library's allowing "Landscape of Belleville," painted in 1831 by Thomas Natt, to grace the mayor's office wall since June was done without "the authorization of the Hatch family or the Belleville Historical Society."

Perrone presented a letter from owner David Hatch to Belleville Police Chief Mark Minichini that his father's biggest fear that the painting would be hung "in a politician's office." The BHS leader said he had made copies of the two letters to Grewal's office.

Perrone told library trustees that the painting, valued at \$125,000 in 2010, be returned to the atrium within seven days - or face legal action.

A majority of BPL trustees passed a resolution to loan Mayor Melham the art until July 1, 2022 - the end of his first term. Melham - nominally an ex-officio, or non-voting trustee - appoints the library's board members.

Hatch's father, after discovering "Landscape of Belleville" in his basement, donated the art to BHS in the 1950s. The historical society then loaned the work to BPL for public display in 1963. The Hatches are direct descendants of early settler Josiah Hornblower.

Neither Grewal's office, Melham's office nor Interim Library Director Frances Barardi offered comment.

NUTLEY - Members of the township's fire department, with assistance from their Irvington colleagues and Nutley police among others, helped bring Victor A. Mellillo home for the last time here March 17.

Nutley and Irvington's bravest, in full dress uniform, first escorted Melillo's body from Atlantic Health Care Morristown Hospital to the S.W. Brown and Son Funeral Home St. Patrick's Day. They returned to Brown's for Melillo's final escort May 22 for his Funeral Mass here at Holy Family Church and burial at North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery.

A joint NFD-IFD honor guard stood vigil during May 21's visitation at the funeral home.

Melillo, 21, had died in Morristown March 8 - four days after being suddenly stricken during a training exercise at Parsippany's Morris County Public Safety Training Academy. He was training as a recruit for the Irvington Fire Department. He wanted to follow in the boots of his father, Victor G. Milello, who was a longtime and retired Belleville firefighter and arson investigator.

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