

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, 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.

PAGE 4



PRESIDENT BIDEN'S NEXT GOAL

200 MILLION SHOTS IN JUST 100 DAYS

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 21 * APRIL 1, 2021 - APRIL 7, 2021

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

LOCAL TALK



Newark • Irvington • East Orange • Orange • West Orange • South Orange • Maplewood • Bloomfield • Montclair and more

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF: ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
1576 Springfield Ave., Maplewood, NJ 07040 • 973-622-1111 • localtalk@aol.com • www.localtalkweekly.com

INDEX

Editorial & Weather	02
Sports Wrap	03
World News Flash	04
Finance At Your Fingertips	06
The Doctor Is In	10
Vaccine Eligibility	11
From The Pastor's Heart	12
Town Watch	13

"PAY TO PLAY" IN NEWARK GOOD NEWS ABOUT COVID VACCINES



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Mayor Ras Baraka may have signed an ordinance by when you read this, that the Municipal Council approved March 17, that places a cap on redevelopers' "Pay-to-Play" contributions.

The Mayor like with most pother legislation, has 20 days to sign a council-passed ordinance for it to take effect. Although tis 20-day period ends April 5, Baraka may have signed on long before then.

Baraka's respective Corporate Counsel and Business Administrator, Kenyatta Stewart and Eric Pennington, had introduced this revision to the city's May 2011 "Pay-to-Play" legislation before the Council Feb. 3.

The measure repeals the previous ban on developers making contributions to municipal-level candidates' campaigns and/or political parties with a \$300 per candidate limit.

(Continued on page 7)

Pfizer Vaccine "100% Effective" on Teens

A new CDC study provides strong evidence that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections in real-world conditions among health care personnel, first responders, and other essential workers. These groups are more likely than the general population to be exposed to the virus because of their occupations.

The study looked at the effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA vaccines in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections among 3,950 study participants in six states over a 13-week period from December 14, 2020 to March 13, 2021.

Results showed that following the second dose of vaccine (the recommended number of doses), risk of in-



fection was reduced by 90 percent two or more weeks after vaccination. Following a single dose of either vaccine, the participants' risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 was reduced by 80 percent two or more weeks after vaccination.

It takes about two weeks following each dose of vaccine for the body to produce antibodies that protect against infection. As a result, people

(Continued on page 5)



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group
THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES

MOVED

**to 60 Evergreen Place
East Orange, NJ 07018**

To a **LARGER FACILITY**
to **SERVE YOU BETTER**
For Your Comfort in Mind

Turn to
PAGE 9



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Former President Trump talked in his campaign about an infrastructure plan. However, even after 4 years it has not been done or proposed. Trump's \$1 trillion did not go far. Trump changed his plan to \$1.5 trillion which would get supplemented through private sources. Biden has proposed an even more expensive infrastructure plan. It's basically Trump's suggestion, but while Trump was asking to raise about \$1.5 trillion from private companies/donors, Biden is asking for taxpayers' money.

When Trump's proposal came in 2015, it had about 75% approval. We don't know how much approval will come from the people this time. However, infrastructure repair is badly needed in this country. For the

country's growth, we must have modern-day facilities. I hope Biden will propose a plan with better understanding and less wasteful spending.

21 Senate Democrats, including Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) have asked the Biden administration to include recurring direct payments to individuals and enhanced unemployment benefits for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic in his "Build Back Better" legislation.

The New York assembly and senate passed the marijuana bill and NY Governor Andrew Cuomo has already signed it. Anyone over the age of 21 can buy marijuana from the market like buying alcohol and cigarettes. However, the city, townships and villages have a right to restrict sales within their jurisdiction. I think their main purpose is to raise taxes. Marijuana, Lottery, Gambling, Sports Betting are huge money raisers for the townships and the states.

School taxes are so high that there is no room to raise taxes even more for education. Also,

those who do not have any children in a school are paying high taxes for years to come without any personal gain. Many houses pay from \$6,000 to \$20,000 on property taxes. The majority of the taxes in your property taxes are school taxes. When there is a referendum, most the of the voters do not read it and say yes to the questions.

The George Floyd case is in the minds of everyone. Despite people begging him to leave Floyd alone as he could not breathe, now-former police officer Derek Chauvin hold Floyd under his knee for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Chauvin did not listen to Floyd or the people around him, as well as some other officers who came to arrest Floyd. The whole story started when the cashier of a bodega / corner store called the police stating that Floyd had given them a fake \$20 note. As a regular routine, they called the police. For a mere \$20 bill, the police were flexing their authority, especially Chauvin kneeling down on Floyd's neck and killing him. What cruelty. I think

Chauvin should be charged with murder.

On March 29, George Floyd's family, attorneys and supporters knelt for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to mark the final moments of Floyd's life ahead of the opening arguments in the trial of the former Minneapolis police officer charged in his death.

If this is a regular routine, then it must be stopped. A few bad cops are giving a bad name to all the cops. I think one reason for the bad behavior is that a few bad leaders run the training system, which forces the trainee officers to work a certain way. Not only just a few bad cops, but a few senior officers should stop these bad practices.

Pfizer gave some good news, stating that a vaccinate trial with children between the age of 12 and 16 got a 100% safe result. They will apply for FDA approval for youngster. Hopefully, it works out and even more people can be vaccinated.

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
- Newspaper Designer : New Image Art Studio
- Web : www.localtalkweekly.com

Ask for our advertising rates and increase your business and get exposure to tens of thousands of readers every week. email your request to localtalknews@gmail.com or call 973-622-1111.

Subscribe to LOCAL TALK weekly newspaper

\$50 for one (1) year

Send your name, address and check or money order to:
Local Talk Weekly Newspaper • 1576 Springfield Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040 • Tel: 973-622-1111

To serve you in the best manner, we request that you send your comments, community calendar events, news and other information and queries related to advertisements to the editor on e-mail : localtalknews@gmail.com

LOCAL TALK POLICIES

• We reserve the right to accept or reject any news item, article or advertising, which is not in accordance with Local Talk's Statement of Purpose. We further reserve the right to edit, correct and modify all copy submitted. Letters, articles, and news events are welcomed; but Local Talk will not assume any responsibility for them. • We regret that the volume of mail and pressure of deadlines precludes sending acknowledgements of receipt; nor can advance notice be given if articles are accepted or rejected for publication. • Unused materials may be used at a later date (if not date sensitive) and therefore, they cannot be returned. • The printing of articles or advertising in Local Talk does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement by the editorial staff of Local Talk. • This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. • We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

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>
Rain & Wind	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy,	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy,
HI 47	HI 42	HI 56	HI 61	HI 62	HI 65	HI 65
LO 29	LO 31	LO 43	LO 43	LO 43	LO 47	LO 45

NINE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE NARCOTICS

NEWARK - Nine Newark residents were charged for their roles in conspiracies to distribute and possess with intent to distribute narcotics, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced March 25.

Robert Covington, aka "Nachie," 55; Korey Smith, aka "Murda," 36; Jeffrey Workman, aka "Rah," 53; Yvonne Jackson, 49; Carlos Stokes, aka "Ab," 54; Karen Gamble, 50; and Alaa Covington, 21, are charged by criminal complaint with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute at least 40 grams of fentanyl. Robert Covington, Workman, Williamson, Stokes, and Gamble are also charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine. Smith is addi-

tionally charged, along with Leroy Baxter III, 55, and William Lane, 57, with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute heroin. Stokes remains at large.

According to the documents filed in this case and statements made in court: From August 2020 through March 2021, multiple individuals were involved in selling fentanyl and cocaine in an open-air narcotics market in Bradley Court Housing Complex in Newark. These individuals comprise at least two separate drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs), which have overlapping membership.

DTO-1 involved individuals engaged in the distribution of fentanyl and included Robert Covington, Smith, Williamson,

Gamble, Workman, Stokes, and Alla Covington. DTO-2 involved individuals engaged in the distribution of cocaine and included Robert Covington, Williamson, Gamble, Workman, and Stokes.

The investigation revealed that Robert Covington was one of the leaders and organizers of DTO-1's and DTO-2's distribution of fentanyl and cocaine in or around Bradley Court. Covington purchased powder cocaine and fentanyl from various sources, including Smith; "cooked" powder cocaine into crack cocaine or directed others to do so; used various "stash houses" to store and distribute fentanyl and cocaine and to store narcotics proceeds; and employed multiple drug dealers,

including Workman, Williamson, Stokes, and Alaa Covington, among others, to distribute fentanyl and cocaine to the area surrounding Bradley Court.

Smith - the fentanyl supplier for DTO-1 - was also engaged in distributing heroin in and around his residence on Fairmount Avenue in Newark from at least January 2021 to the present, along with Baxter, Lane, and others.

The conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute fentanyl charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison, and a \$5 million fine. The heroin and cocaine conspiracy charges each have a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$1

(Continued on page 12)

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The NCAA tournament had a bunch of games this weekend in Indianapolis. The Sweet 16 saw Oregon State defeated Loyola of Chicago 65-58 at Bankers Field House. Baylor defeated Villanova and then Arkansas to win the South Region. In other action Houston defeated Syracuse and then Oregon State 67-61, giving them the Midwest Region.

Top seeded Gonzaga defeated Creighton and USC, improving the Bulldogs' record to 30-0 on the season. After last season was abruptly ended, the West Region winner Gonzaga is currently on a 34-game winning streak. Meanwhile, UCLA and Alabama went into overtime, but 'Bama struggled from the foul line, and lost the game 88-78. The Bruins then went on to beat sole Big Ten survivor Michigan 51-49 to win the East

Region.

In the Women's NCAA Tournament, UConn won the made another Final Four after a controversial 69-67 that saw Baylor denied a foul call in the closing moments. Also, top seeded Stanford tamed Louisville 78-63, Louisville beat Oregon 60-42, South Carolina defeated Texas tech 62-34, and Arizona beat Indiana 66-53.

With these results, the Men's Final Four will start with Gonzaga against UCLA, and Houston vs. Baylor. The Women's Final Four will pit UConn against Arizona, and South Carolina vs. Stanford.

Finally, the Major League Baseball 2021 season will officially open this week, with the New York Yankees at home against the Toronto Blue Jays. Both the Yankees and Mets will be able to have fans in the stands this season.

We are Healthcare Vocational Training/ Career Institute
We offer quality education both in Classroom and Clinical areas leading to CERTIFICATIONS.

NEW GRACE
ACADEMY OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Visit Us: newgracenj.com

ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING:
NJ BOARD OF NURSING,
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EDUCATION
AND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED PROGRAMS

Classes
DAYS
EVENINGS
&
SATURDAYS

- Homemaker / Home Health Aide (HHA)
- Electrocardiograph Technician (EKG)
- Phlebotomy Technician (CPT)
- Patient Care Technician (PCT)
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Clinical Medical Assistance & more...

FREE If Qualified

ON LINE CLASSES AVAILABLE

For more Information Call:
862-520-3990 / 862-820-3577 / Cell: 973-280-2005
60 Evergreen Pl., Suite 307
East Orange, NJ 07018



UNITED STATES

Biden's Next Big Goal: 200 M Shots in 100 Days

After reaching a goal to hit 100 million vaccine shots in far less than 100 days, the nation's chief executive has eyes on an even loftier goal.

In his first formal press conference, President Joseph R. Biden announced on March 25 a goal to administer 200 million COVID-19 vaccine shots in 100 days. This comes after the 100 million goal was reached in just 58 days.

"I know it's ambitious, twice our original goal, but no other country in the world has even come close - not even close - to what we are doing. And I believe we can do it," Biden said.

"And today, we've made a historic investment in reaching the hardest-hit and the most vulnerable communities, the highest-risk communities - as a consequence of the virus - by investing an addition \$10 billion in being able to reach them.

"I also set a goal, before I took office, of getting a majority of schools in K through 8 fully open in the first 100 days. Now, thanks to the enormous amount of work done by our administration, educators, parents, local, state education officials and leaders - a recent Department of Education Department survey shows that nearly half of the K-through-8 schools are open now full time, five days a week, for in-person learning. Not yet a majority, but we're really close. And I believe, in the 35 days left to go, we'll meet that goal as

well."

Additionally, the Biden Administration is taking actions to expand vaccination availability in underserved communities and to increase funding for health care workers.

AFRICA

War Criminal's Conviction Upheld

On March 30, the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or "Court") delivered its judgments confirming, by majority, the decision of Trial Chamber VI ("Trial Chamber") of July 8, 2019, which found Bosco Ntaganda guilty of 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed in Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 2002-2003. Furthermore, the Appeals Chamber unanimously confirmed the Trial Chamber's decision of Nov. 7, 2019, by which Mr. Ntaganda was sentenced to a total of 30 years of imprisonment. The conviction and the sentence are now final.

Ntaganda and the Prosecutor had appealed the verdict and Ntaganda appealed the sentencing judgment. In the hearing, Judge Howard Morrison, Presiding Judge in these appeals, read a summary of the judgments in open court in the presence of Ntaganda. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the judgment was delivered on a partially virtual basis, with participation either from the seat of the Court, or from separate locations outside the Court.

The Appeals Chamber found that Ntaganda did not demonstrate that his right to a fair trial was violated and also determined that, in convicting Ntaganda, the Trial Chamber did not

exceed the facts and circumstances described in the charges. The Appeals Chamber also rejected his challenge to the Trial Chamber's finding that the crimes for which he was found to be criminally responsible were part of an attack directed against a civilian population pursuant to, or in furtherance of, an organizational policy. It further rejected Ntaganda's challenge to the Trial Chamber's findings on indirect co-perpetration.

The Appeals Chamber also found that the Trial Chamber provided a reasonable assessment of the evidence regarding Ntaganda's knowledge and intent of the crimes of rape and sexual enslavement of individuals under the age of 15, the recruitment, conscription and use of individuals under the age of 15 in hostilities and in relation to the remaining crimes.

The Appeals Chamber also rejected the Prosecutor's grounds of appeal on the interpretation of the term 'attack' in article 8(2)(e) (iv) of the Rome Statute.

In relation to the appeal against the sentence imposed, the Appeals Chamber rejected Ntaganda's challenge to the Trial Chamber's assessment of his degree of participation in and knowledge of the crimes, including the crime of sexual enslavement and rape of civilians.

Likewise, Ntaganda's challenges to the Trial Chamber's assessment of alleged aggravating circumstances (related to the crime of intentionally directing attacks against civilians) and mitigating circumstances (including the suffering and discrimination that he had endured as a result of his experience in the Rwandan genocide) were also rejected.

Notably, with regard to the latter, the Appeals Chamber found that Ntaganda's personal

experience in the Rwandan genocide could not diminish his culpability given his criminal conduct and the gravity of the crimes which he was convicted.

ASIA

India Makes Huge Donation

On March 27, India shipped out 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to inoculate UN blue helmets serving in peacekeeping missions.

The donated AstraZeneca vaccines left Mumbai for the Danish capital of Copenhagen, where they will be safely stored and distributed to UN peacekeepers serving in various missions.

Lauding India as "a longstanding and steadfast supporter of peacekeeping," UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix said, "an effective roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to all peacekeepers is a key priority for the United Nations in order to protect our personnel and their capacity to continue their crucial work, help protect vulnerable communities and deliver on their mandates."

He thanked the Government and people of India for their generous donation to safeguard peacekeeping personnel and "enable them to continue their life-saving work in a safe manner."

The head of UN Operational Support, Atul Khare, said the "important donation" will ensure that UN peacekeepers remain healthy and "deliver in some of the most difficult environments in the world without relying on already stretched national health systems or ongoing COVAX efforts."

(Continued on page 5)

COVID VACCINES

(Continued from page 1)

are considered “partially vaccinated” two weeks after their first dose of mRNA vaccine and “fully vaccinated” two weeks after their second dose. These new vaccine effectiveness findings are consistent with those from Phase 3 clinical trials conducted with the vaccines before they received Emergency Use Authorizations from the Food and Drug Administration. Those clinical trials evaluated vaccine efficacy against COVID-19 disease, while this study evaluated vaccine effectiveness against infection, including infections that did not result in symptoms.

“This study shows that our national vaccination efforts are working. The authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccines provided early, substantial real-world protection against infection for our nation’s health care personnel, first responders, and other front-line essential workers,” said CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH. “These findings should offer hope to the millions of Americans receiving COVID-19 vaccines each day and to those who will have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated in the weeks ahead. The authorized vaccines are the key tool that will help bring an end to this devastating pandemic.”

One of this study’s strengths is its design: participants self-collected nasal swabs each week for RT-PCR laboratory testing, regardless of whether they had developed symptoms of illness. Researchers were able to look for evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection irrespective of symptoms. A small number (10.7 percent) of infections in this study were asymptomatic (i.e., did not result in symptoms). However, the majority of infections (58 percent) occurred among people whose infections were identified by testing before they developed symptoms or knew they were infected. The study demonstrates that these two mRNA vaccines can reduce the risk of all SARS-CoV-2 infections, not just symptomatic infections.

This is important because preventing both asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic infections among health care workers and

other essential workers through vaccination can help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 to those they care for or serve. Findings from this study complement earlier reports that these two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines can reduce both asymptomatic and symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections.

This study also provided positive news about partial (one-dose) vaccination. The one-dose VE estimate of this study (80 percent) is consistent with other recent VE studies following the first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine among health care providers. Studies conducted in the United Kingdom and Israel showed that one dose was about 70 percent and 60 percent effective, respectively, against SARS-CoV-2 infection. The current results provide reassurance that people start to develop protection from the vaccine two weeks after their first dose. The greatest protection was seen among those who had received both doses of the vaccine.

The study was conducted through the HEROES-RECOVER network, a network of prospective cohorts that share a common protocol and methods. This network is part of a vaccine effectiveness surveillance system made possible by federal pandemic flu preparedness funding.

This study is the first of many planned COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness studies CDC is conducting to evaluate the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines in various populations and across different outcomes, such as preventing infections, doctor’s visits, hospitalizations, or deaths. Results from these studies assist the medical and public health experts on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and CDC to make important vaccine policy decisions aimed at saving lives.

Finally, in a trial study done by Pfizer, it was discovered that so far, the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been 100% effective in children and teens. That study was done on 2,260 youngsters between the ages of 12 and 15 in the U.S. Common side effects, such as arm pain, joint pain, fatigue, and headache were consistent with those found in adults.

Heritage House Apartments
50 South Munn Ave., East Orange, NJ 07018
A PRESTIGIOUS SENIOR COMMUNITY

We are currently accepting applications for studios and one bed rooms in our 204 Unit Apartment Building! The property has undergone exterior and interior renovations including a completely new exterior, new elevator, newly installed hallway carpeting, and upgraded community room with computer lab and improvements to most apartment units. Heritage House is conveniently located near shopping, health care facilities, mass transportation and major thoroughfares.

Apartment/Community Features:

- Newly renovated accessible and barrier-free units
- Fully Equipped Modern kitchens
- Plenty of closet space
- On site laundry facility
- Attended Lobby Entrance
- 24 HR Emergency call w/On Site Maintenance
- Recreational Community Room
- Lovely picturesque outdoor garden sitting area.
- Free on-site indoor garage parking
- Window Treatments

AN EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Heritage House does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. A senior executive has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR, part 8 dated June 2, 1988). You may address your request for review or reconsideration to: Senior Vice President, Related Management Company, LP, 423 W. 55th St. 9th Fl. NY, NY 10019, (212) 319-1200, NY TTY 1-800-662-1220



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



Annual Income Qualifications:
 **Maximum income
 \$38,460.00 – 1 person
 \$43,920.00 – 2 persons
 ** Subject to program guidelines

Open Monday - Friday
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Call: 973-677-9111
 TTY: 1-800-852-7899
 or Stop by!

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 4)

We thank India...(and) remain engaged with our troop and police contributing countries to ensure that wherever possible, uniformed personnel are vaccinated through their national systems prior to deployment.”

At the same time, Mr. Khare’s department is leading UN system-wide arrangements to support national efforts in vaccinating UN civilian personnel and family members.

India has long played an important role in peacekeeping, particularly though its contribution of troops. Currently, more than 95,000 UN peacekeepers are deployed in 12 missions.

EUROPE

Elaborate Laundering Scheme Crushed

At the request of the French authorities, Eurojust has supported an action day in Germany and Luxembourg to tackle an organized crime group (OCG) involved in the laundering of profits from illegal drugs trafficking.

Coordinated via the Agency, multiple searches took place in Germany and Luxembourg, and four suspects were arrested. Following a large-scale police de-

ployment, bank accounts in Luxembourg linked to the OCG have been frozen and four properties, five luxury vehicles and EUR 30,000 in cash have been seized.

The OCG had set up an elaborate scheme to launder substantial sums of cash gained through the large-scale sale of cocaine in France. Eurojust coordinated an operation against the OCG, taking place this week, at the request of the Interregional Specialized Prosecution Service (JIRS) of Lille in France but which was rolled out on the ground in Germany and Luxembourg. Europol provided analytical support to the operation.

In particular, Eurojust assisted with the execution of European Investigation Orders and enabling the freezing of the bank accounts of the suspects. In Luxembourg, the action day involved about 100 Police Grand-Ducale agents under the direction of an investigating judge of the Luxembourg District Court and the Public Prosecutor’s Office (PPO) at the same court.

In Germany, the operation was coordinated by the PPOs of Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Saarbrücken with the support of the police departments of Niederbayern, Esslingen, Heidelberg and Westhessen and the State Criminal Police Office Saarland.

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Budgets and Emergency Funds

The lousiest feeling in the world is that of knowing that you are broke! It impacts your freedom and the guilt trap that comes with it can be quite depressing. If you have an income, there are things one can do to avoid/and/or minimize periods of being broke.

I mention guilt trap because if you have an income and you spend without a plan and become broke, in most cases you would blame yourself for that predicament. Remember, though, we are human, and we will make mistakes. However, when becoming broke becomes a habit, then we need to step up and come to grips with the situation. This week, we will discuss two factors that can help us avoid the broke times: budgeting and banking.

We all need budgets. A budget can and should be quite simple. The reason we need a budget is because it allows us to get a picture of where our money is coming from and where it goes. There are a variety of apps available, some for free that can assist with budgeting. However, before one jumps to an app with its sophisticated and perhaps confusing dashboard, let us start with a pen and paper!

Jim Smith earns \$6,000 a month working as an IT Operations Consultant. His bills total about \$3,000 a month. In addition, Jim provides freelance support to a business and gets paid \$1,000 a month for his services.

The following is Jim's Budget sheet monthly:

Inflows:
Salary - Consulting
6,000.00

Freelance work
1,000.00

Total Inflows
7,000.00

Outflows:

Rent
2,000.00
Utilities
600.00
Food
800.00
Transport
400.00
Entertainment
200.00

Total
3,000.00

Difference
4,000.00

With a net income of \$4,000 per month, Jim can set up a savings rate monthly. In his case, Jim is saving for a house of his own so he decides to save 50% of net income every month into a special account. In addition, Jim is building up an Emergency fund. Jim puts \$1,500 every month or 37.5% of his net income into his Emergency Fund. With expenses of \$3,000 every month, Jim would need to save \$18,000.00 to have a 6-month nest egg. By saving \$1,500 every month into his Emergency fund, Jim would need 12 months or one year to reach his goal of \$18,000. With a nest egg of \$18,000, Jim can now plan for other items on his personal list.

Also, imagine the comfort he will have in knowing that even if he loses his job, he can still live on peacefully. Should Jim lose his job, he would have six months to get another job without changing his lifestyle all that much.

We must consider the issue of job loss because it is a possibility of life! This is a reality! Life happens and at times we become unemployed for reasons beyond our control. That emergency fund may come in handy!

Unlocking the Door to Excellent Grades at the College and University Level

This book is intended for:

- Final year high school students
- College and University students
- Academic institutions
- "Good grades are achievable by every student!!"
- M. Ayiku Jr. MBA Finance M. Phil Economics
- Author of the book
- The book is available on Amazon and all major book channels
- Parents should reach out for tutoring for their wards
- Call or email to arrange one on one quality tutoring!!
- Mosesayiku@yahoo.com Tel: 646-643-3400

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from March 24 - March 31, 2021

Municipality	3-24-2021	Deaths	3-31-2021	Deaths
Belleville	4846	103	5051	105
Bloomfield	4611	112	4807	114
Caldwell	517	16	548	16
Cedar Grove	1400	119	1446	119
East Orange	5881	277	6149	279
Essex Fells	162	2	174	2
Fairfield	725	29	773	30
Glen Ridge	331	12	339	12
Irvington	3831	215	3956	216
Livingston	1603	81	1648	81
Maplewood	1088	33	1149	34
Millburn	734	9	758	10
Montclair	1946	67	2034	68
Newark	33612	905	34613	910
North Caldwell	420	6	449	6
Nutley	2583	59	2684	59
Orange	3026	123	3157	124
Roseland	423	15	445	15
South Orange	731	14	773	15
Verona	871	16	901	17
West Caldwell	938	51	989	51
West Orange	4032	222	4157	222
Total	74311	2486	77000	2505

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of March 31, 2021)

NJ: 799,391 cases / 21,993 deaths (Plus 2,568 probable)

United States (approx.): 30.4 Million / 551,300 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 128.5 Million / 2.8 Million deaths

In New Jersey, Gov. Murphy has announced that the outdoor gathering limit will be expanded to 200 people. The indoor limit remains at 25 people.

Once income is coming in and we are budgeting with a savings and emergency plan in place, we need to monitor all these regularly. Make sure to put pen to paper and write down your budget every single month.

There may be changes that one may have to make at times and that can be captured as they occur. Another simple option to prepare the budget is to use an Excel spreadsheet. A key ad-
(Continued on page 7)

FELON SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS

NEWARK - An Essex Countyman previously convicted of multiple felonies was sentenced to 36 months in prison for possessing a firearm and ammunition, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Sharif Clarke, 39, of Irvington, previously pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Brian R. Martinotti to count one of an indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a weapon. Judge Martinotti imposed the sentence by videoconference.

According to documents

filed in this case and statements made in court: On Dec. 3, 2018, Clarke possessed a Glock .40-caliber handgun loaded with nine rounds of Remington ammunition. At that time, Clarke had previously been convicted in Essex County Superior Court of resisting and eluding arrest and of possession of a controlled substance on school property, both of which are felonies.

This case is part of Project Guardian, the Department of Justice's signature initiative to

(Continued on page 14)

PAY TO PLAY IN NEWARK

(Continued from page 1)

A developer may contribute more than \$300 per candidate - but makes himself or herself subject to the city's "fair and open process" when filing for a contract bid.

The Council's March 17 passage and Baraka's likely signing will replace the up to \$2,800 a potential contractor or developer can contribute to a candidate's campaign. A \$2,800 contributor will have to sit out from contract bidding until the next year.

The March 17 amendment, on one hand, relaxes the formerly hard and fast rule the 2011 Municipal Council had put into law. That legislation formally put Gov. Jon S. Corzine's 2008 executive order barring potentially contract bidding contractors from making campaign contributions. Newark was among the 150 municipal and county legislatures that have put the order into their legal code.

This amendment is the first granted by the council in 10 months. Newark's elders had earlier relaxed Corzine's 2008 order and their own 2011 law May 20, 2020.

The May 20 amendments included:

- Newark-focused PAC or CPCs and Essex County political party committees being exempted from "Pay-to-Play."
- "No exemption for fair and open contracts" language removed.
- \$300 individual and \$2,500

business entity contributions annual limits were removed.

Baraka's administrators, on Feb. 3 and March 17, have said that the latest revision makes for a more level contribution field.

"If there's a \$300 rule for lawyers, garbage companies and everybody else who has to go before the council," asked Stewart March 17, "then why are we focused on the rule for developers? If you contribute in a fair and open process, you deserve an opportunity like anybody else."

"We'll have restrictions that'll be the same as the state and other municipalities that follow the state's guidelines - no more, no less," added Pennington. "The guidelines that are in place are to ensure that there's no quid pro quo and no untoward conduct applicable to the Municipal Council."

North Ward Councilman Anibal Ramos, Jr. viewed the latest amendment as another step away from the days when Gov. Chris Christie, Corzine's successor, had sent a monitor to observe the city's financial practices in exchange for some budget-balancing state funding.

"The city was under special conditions with the state," said Ramos. "The (Baraka) administration is looking to have a law in place which'll mirror what the state contribution limits are and build some consistency."

While these rules are set to go forward, there is no particular certainty about what would happen to those redevelopers who "pay to play" off the record.

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
- ▶ Prevent Auto Repossessions
- ▶ ELIMINATE Credit Card & Medical Debt.



FOR FREE CONSULTATION:

Call

DAVID WITHERSPOON

Attorney-at-Law

10 Hill St. (Suite 20Y) • Newark, NJ 07102

973-342-6653

973-489-9005

LOW RATES: ONE PHONE CALL MAY REDUCE YOUR STRESS!

David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency.

A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

FINANCE

(Continued from page 6)

vantage of Excel is that one can put in formulas to automatically add and subtract within the budget.

With a budget in place, it is important to consider your banking situation. If you have a bank account, this should assist you in setting up your budget regularly. Most banks have online apps that provide you with key information about your account. This should assist us in keeping track of our financial situation regularly.

A rule of thumb is to monitor your accounts and assess your budget on a weekly basis at the least. This periodic check will allow you to ensure that all is going as planned with your finances. Any anomalies can be investigated immediately, and you can then take steps to bring your budget and accounts back on track.

Most of us have smart phones and we can take advantage of this by downloading

the app that our bank provides. With the app, one can even conduct daily checks to ensure that your bills are being paid on time and all is well with your finances and budget.

Many bills that we incur can now be paid online. It is important to take advantage of online payment options to ensure that your bills are paid and paid on time. Some companies provide discounts for setting up automatic deductions for bills. Phone companies and Insurance companies for example provide such discounts for automatic payments. When possible, take advantage of this and save on your bills with those discounts.

Next week we shall discuss banking and how that can help you to reduce periods of being broke. 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

LOCAL
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



TALK
PRINTING

FREE SHIPPING

BUSINESS CARDS ONLINE ORDERS only

We Will Pay for Shipping on Online Orders Only

www.localtalkweekly.com

Go to Shop/Advertising...Last Item Business Cards...select your option and pay in secure payment portal Exp. April 30, 2021

COUPON

10% DISCOUNT

COLOR COPIES

Exp. April 30, 2021

ADVERTISEMENT

ORDER ANY ADVERTISEMENT

SAME SIZE AD - RECEIVE A 50% DISCOUNT FROM THE NEXT WEEK

AS LONG AS YOU DO NOT DISCONTINUE YOUR AD, YOU RECEIVE A 50% DISCOUNT

www.localtalkweekly.com

In Person or Online Ordering.....Expires April 30, 2021

COUPON

\$10 OFF \$100 ORDER

\$20 OFF \$200 ORDER

\$50 OFF \$400 ORDER

Must present coupon for the discount

In Person Ordering.....Expires April 30, 2021

FREE PARKING ♦ HUGE SAVINGS IN PRINTING ♦ BETTER SERVICE

1576 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, MAPLEWOOD, NJ ♦ localtalk@aol.com ♦ localtalkweekly.com

Tels. (973) 622-1111 ♦ (973) 280-7547 ♦ E-mail: localtalkprinting@gmail.com



Heart Center of the Oranges

VISIT us at our new state of the art facility in

East Orange - 60 Evergreen Place • Suite 400

OUR PROVIDERS

CARDIOLOGY

Gitendra Rajiyah, MD
 Catalino Delacruz, MD
 Abbas Shehadeh, MD
 Isaac Tawfik, MD
 Gbemisola Alli, APN
 Guetty Gabaud-Dumesle, APN

PULMONARY/SLEEP DISORDERS

Jeffrey Miller, DO

PODIATRY

Kordai DeCoteau, DPM

NEUROLOGY

Ruth Clark-Brown, MD

NUTRITION

David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

Eddy Simon, MD
 Paul Cahiwat, MD
 Nancy Cahiwat, MD
 Mamatha Mohan, MD
 Myriam Sterlin, MD
 Aleksander Lekan, MD
 Indu Vira, MD
 Hemlata Bhatia, MD
 Deepa Rajiv, MD
 Nivia Rowe, APN
 Sanjaykumar Shah, APN
 Mary Elias, APN
 Janiece Howell, APN
 Jamila Jones, DNP
 Marie Tunis, APN
 Nmandu Utuk, APN
 Beena Mathew, DNP

*As our Community is impacted by another wave of COVID-19, the Heart Center of the Oranges is here to safely assist our patients. We encourage patients to take advantage of our Telemedicine visits to prevent the spread of the virus. We encourage everyone to come in for the flu shot as soon as possible – *Dr. Rajiyah*

NOW OFFERING

Before Treatment



6 Weeks

After Treatment*



Varicose Vein Treatment



Contact us: 973-395-1550
Orangeheartcenter.net

VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

South Orange: 60 Vose Avenue	Tel. 973-763-5200
Maplewood: 2091 Millburn Ave.	Tel. 973-378-2266
Bloomfield: 135 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite B	Tel. 973-743-2248
Newark: 202 Stuyvesant Ave.	Tel. 973-374-8807
West Orange: 77 Main Street	Tel. 973-324-2090
West Orange: 95 Main Street	Tel. 973-736-5552
West Orange: 92 Old Northfield Road <small>(currently closed for renovations)</small>	Tel. 973-736-5552

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

The Significance Of Biden's 200 Million Vaccine Shots In 100 Days

As of right now, there have been more than 30.3 million cas-



es of the coronavirus in the US, and even more worrying, about 550,000 deaths. Massive but horrible numbers. The coronavirus really shut down the whole world, claiming lives, businesses, and economies along the way. Now is not the time to grieve, though. Our primary focus now should be on fully getting our country back on its feet, and it gladdens me to say Biden's administration thinks so too.

Some days ago, moments after the news of the US hitting 30 million cases broke, Biden stated in his press conference that he hopes to reach 200 million vaccine shots in his first 100 days. If you remember, Biden's

administration had originally promised half of that number, 100 million shots. This new target is really lofty, but one I will get behind all year long.

It's not the number but the significance of this number that is thrilling. This target shows that the administration is concerned about beating the coronavirus the only way we can; the only way we know how to - vaccination. Don't buy into the ridiculous claims flying around the internet about how vaccines are dangerous and deadly.

The chances of having a 100% success rate in mass vaccinations, especially with a vaccine that took just under a year to roll out, are low. There will always be complications, but the advantages outweigh these potential complications; in fact, the advantages and complications aren't even in the same stratosphere. We stand a chance to save millions of lives, and families, and businesses, and so much more. We cannot afford to blow this opportunity. We must not; for the sake of the 550,000 souls this deadly virus has claimed.

There's still some distance to travel before 200 million vaccine shots. We have to vaccinate 1.9 million people per day. That's good news, considering we are currently vaccinating 2.5 million people per day. If we maintain this pace, we'll have more than 200 million shots by Biden's 100th day. Again, this is the only way we can beat this virus. Many will bring up topics like herd immunity and the like, but they all hinge on having enough people vaccinated. If 70-75% of the population is vaccinated against the virus, herd immunity will be right within our grasp.

Another reason to be very happy about Biden's target is the ambitious nature of the admin-

istration. This is not the time to be holding punches; I mean, the virus doesn't, does it? We need to push ourselves to the limit, and I mean all of us. We should not give up on COVID guidelines; if anything, we should be more mindful of them now that businesses and schools are starting to reopen. The same applies to finance. The stimulus checks hit some weeks back, and that's a huge step in the right direction.

For so long, we have been on the defensive against the virus, constantly finding new means to protect ourselves. Not anymore. We need to fight. We need to attack the virus head-on. Vaccines are one way to go. And this is why having 200 million shots in 100 days will massively swing the momentum of this war. Sorry, this pandemic. I'm getting too carried away with all the war talk!

My point still stands, though. The sooner we can shift the tide in our favor, the sooner we can go back to normalcy. It's that simple.

The Biden administration has also approved a \$10 billion plan to expand vaccines to low-income and underserved communities. This really keeps getting better. Seriously, this is the first article I have written in a long while without being all gloomy and depressed. The effects of the virus on minority populations have been worse than in other regions of the country. Turning attention and, of course, funds to these underserved regions will go a long way in ending this virus once and for all.

I have to call it an article here. I really am looking forward to the day I'll say, 'the last US coronavirus patient has recovered.' I hope you'll be here to say it with me. Till then, wear a mask, and 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.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjT-quo1tbvAh-WO3KQKHZO2CQ4QFjACegQIAhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.webmd.com%2Fvaccines%2F-covid-19-vaccine%2Fnews%2F20210325%2Fnew-biden-goal-is-200-million-vaccinations-in-100-days&usg=AOvVaw3cZrdEAA7tTdcqTM8TqbDq>
- https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjT-quo1tbvAh-WO3KQKHZO2CQ4QFjANegQIFhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fhealth%2F2021%2F03%2F25%2Fvaccine-biden-goal-200-million%2F&usg=AOvVaw16CypCOmj2NHuQEKS_y3YF

GOVERNOR MURPHY EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM

TRENTON - Governor Murphy has announced the expansion of eligibility for more frontline essential workers and high-risk groups in New Jersey's COVID-19 vaccination program.

Eligible groups include individuals ages 55-64, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, higher education educators and staff, and communications and utility infrastructure workers among others.

"Our Administration has worked closely with communities to build an extensive vaccination infrastructure and has opened over 700 vaccination sites across the state," said Governor Murphy.

"We are already averaging approximately half a million shots per week, and with an expected increase in our federal allocation, we are confident we

can expand our vaccination program to more of our essential workers and vulnerable populations.

"Together with our community partners and a steady supply of vaccine from the federal government, we will meet - and exceed - our goal of vaccinating 4.7 million New Jersey adults."

"New Jersey's phased vaccine rollout continues to prioritize preventing severe illness and death and supporting essential societal functioning," said New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli.

"With the anticipated increased supply of vaccine, more New Jersey residents will have the opportunity to be protected against COVID-19."

Beginning Monday, April 5, the following groups are eligible for vaccination:

- Individuals ages 55-64;
- Individuals ages 16 and up with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- Educators, including support staff, in higher education settings;
- Communications infrastructure support, including engineers, and technicians, and members of the press;
- Real estate, building, and home service workers, including construction workers, code officials, plumbers, electricians, HVAC technicians, property management, and maintenance workers;
- Retail financial institution workers, including bank tellers, lending services, public accounting, and check-cashing workers;
- Sanitation workers providing disinfection and janitorial services, city sanitation workers; residential, commercial, and industrial solid and hazardous waste removal workers;
- Laundry service workers, including those working in laundromats, laundry services, and dry cleaners;
- Utility workers including, electrical generation and supply system, natural gas delivery, nuclear power plant, water supply, telephone, cable/fiber/optical/broadband/cellular service workers; and,
- Librarians and support staff at municipal, county, and state libraries.

For more information about eligibility, statewide vaccination site locations, and to preregister for a vaccination, visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccine>.

GET WITH THE EOF PROGRAM!

You May Be Eligible
Educational Opportunity Fund
at Essex

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) at Essex County College provides students from low income backgrounds with the financial and academic support to succeed.

To learn more, contact us at: (973) 877-3231

For Essex County College registration information, go to www.essex.edu/registration today!



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Proclaiming The
Resurrection**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage, and the world still experiences nearly 12,000 deaths per day, it is a joyous thing that we can proclaim the resurrection.

We do not have to end every day with memorials. In fact, in contradistinction to the other messages that are being proclaimed on death and dying, such as the never-dying soul or transmigration of the soul, and other views that give the impression that death is not the total destruction of all that is human, the message of the resurrection states that, that which has been completely taken away in death, will come to life, like Jesus came to life again after he rested in the grave.

Yes, the resurrection has been the most fantastic news to be proclaimed from the day it occurred and continues to be the touchstone of the Christian faith and will be so until the day of consummation. It is the message that has been doubted by many individuals and believed by authentic followers of Christ. Those who believe find it the greatest hope for the human situation in this life of death and destruction.

The proclamation began on the morning of the resurrection. As the record states, an angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away from the tomb, and Jesus came forth from the grave in his own power (Matthew 28:2), as he proclaimed at the graveside of Lazarus, "I am the resurrection and the life, anyone who believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25). "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself." (cf. John 5:26). He has "the authority to lay down his life and to take it up again." (John 10:18)

The Roman soldiers who witnessed the presence of the angel(s) (John 20:12) and the resurrection left the tomb and began to proclaim that "He is risen." But the priests and other religious leaders who had condemned him to death and sought to secure the tomb against him rising caught wind of the soldiers' proclamation and invited them in to plot a conspiracy that the disciples had stolen the body.

For the sake of the money, the soldiers recapitulated and went to Pilate with the deception, but Pilate had overheard that Christ had already risen. Though Pilate listened to the soldiers and then the priests who came with their concocted story, he was probably convinced that the resurrection must have been true. (Matthew 28)

The priest could not stop the proclamation, for there were many who had been raised as the earth quaked at the moment of Christ's death and were going throughout the streets of Jerusa-

lem proclaiming the message. (Matthew 27:51-53)

As a side note, it is said that those who were raised then were raised to immortality, never to die again like Lazarus and others who were raised during the time of Jesus' ministry. After walking the streets of Jerusalem, they ascended with Jesus when he returned to heaven.

As the Scripture says, "Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Ephesians 4:8). These ascended ones along with Christ are referenced by the apostle Paul as "the first fruits," of death, making it clear that resurrected life is possible to all humanity.

The proclamation of the resurrection was also carried by Mary and the other women who went to visit the tomb on resurrection morning. They saw the empty tomb and the angels who informed them that the one they sought "is risen." The women then took the message and proclaimed it to the disciples who were sorrowing in the Upper Room, the place where they had celebrated the Last Supper.

Peter and John left the rest of the disciples, ran to the tomb and returned to proclaim the message to those who had stayed back what they had seen. While they were discussing the story of the empty tomb, Jesus appeared to them. Without citing the Bible references, we can find at least 13 times that Jesus appeared to the disciples and others.

He appeared to Mary Magdalene. He appeared to the wom-

en returning from the tomb. He appeared to Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus. He appeared to the disciples, in whole or in part, at least on five occasions. He appeared to 500 people at one time. He appeared to James at the end of his post-resurrection forty days stay on earth. He appeared to the apostle Paul in a vision on the road to Damascus. After they saw him, they all began to proclaim the resurrection.

The early Christian church formed at Pentecost (Acts 2) proclaimed that it was founded on the one fundamental teaching - that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day. The proclamation became the heart of the Pentecostal message - the central theme of New Testament preaching and teaching. And it has been at the heart of the Christian proclamation through the ages. Many efforts have been made to corrupt and remove this proclamation from the center of the Christian message, but as the apostle Paul states, if there is no resurrection, "we are to be pitied" and "our faith is vain." (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

So while I am not able to reach everyone with my encouragement, I urge all that if you want to bring meaning into your life, peace to your soul, hope to your heart, and power into your practices, you need to take with utter seriousness the biblical teaching on the resurrection. Believe it. Proclaim it. Teach it. Live it. Let your neighbors know about it because this is the only accurate answer to death and the true comfort to all humanity.

**NINE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED
WITH CONSPIRACY TO
DISTRIBUTE NARCOTICS**

(Continued from page 3)

million fine.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge George M. Crouch Jr. in Newark, with the investigation leading to the charges.

This case is part of the Vio-

lent Crime Initiative (VCI), which was formed in August 2017 by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and the City of Newark's Department of Public Safety for the purpose of combatting violent crime in and around Newark. As part of this partnership, federal, state, county, and city agencies collaborate and pool resources to prosecute violent offenders who endanger

the safety of the community.

VCI is composed of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, the ATF, the DEA, the U.S. Marshals, the Newark Department of Public Safety, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the Essex County Sheriff's Office, N.J. State Parole, Union County Jail, N.J. State Police Regional Operations and Intelligence Center Real Time Crime Center, N.J. Department of Corrections, the East Orange Police Department,

and the Irvington Police Department.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Emma Spiro of the United States Attorney's Office, Opioid Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Unit in Newark.

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

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 - If a state superior court grand jury indicts you on four counts of vehicular homicide, as they have done with a Newark woman here March 26, the police will come to arrest and process you. One will stay in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility until when or if bail is posted, regardless of the burns you suffered in the fatal car crash that started the train of events to begin with.

Nashauna N. Johnson, 20, was held on four counts of "Reckless Death by Auto/Vehicular Homicide" until her 11 a.m. March 30 bail hearing release. Johnson is still recovering from burns, which covered 60 percent of her body from a June 11 Route 22 car crash. She also the sole survivor and driver of the accident that took the lives of her four passenger friends.

Essex County Prosecutor's Office attorneys and Newark Police Division detectives said that Johnson was driving a Cadillac CTS which left the eastbound road and went into a right shoulder guardrail before Weequahic Park at 11:11 p.m. June 11. Taylor Hill and Kamal Johnson, both 19 of Newark, died at the scene.

First responders rushed N. Johnson, Nashaun Brooks, 20, of Irvington, and Asanti McNair, 18, of Newark, to local hospitals. N. Johnson and McNair had suffered third-degree burns.

Brooks, Irvington High School's Class of 2019 Prom King, was on a Wagner College football scholarship, died by 11:57 a.m. June 10. McNair died from his injuries July 10.

Both Johnsons, Hill and McNair were students or recent graduates of Arts High School. Gov. Phil Murphy mentioned

their accident in his June 11 Coronavirus Briefing because all five were heading home from a Point Pleasant Beach party that drew 1,000 people.

N. Johnson's family, on March 27, wants to know how the ECPO arrived at the vehicular homicide charges. The family asserts that the car fire was caused when the guardrail cut open a fuel line while going through the CTS' front bumper and past the chassis. An ECPO official, on March 30, said that the Cadillac was recorded as running at 93 mph before riding on and getting pierced by the guardrail.

IRVINGTON - "Irvington's Bravest" spent the pre-dawn hours of Saturday March battling a three-alarm North Ward house fire.

Although IFD personnel brought the blaze at 46 Adams St. under control by dawn, they could not keep the fire from damaging four adjacent structures and destroying two cars. High wind gusts sent embers from the two-and-a-half story wood frame house flying next door and across the street.

The first responding IFD units found the fire engulfing the house at 3:25 a.m., prompting the incident commander to pull two more alarms. Although whether 46 Adams was vacant or occupied remains unclear as of press time, there were no injuries reported.

The fire's heat melted the vinyl siding of 42, 48 and 50 Adams St. Mechanics were replacing siding at 42 Adams as of 10 a.m. March 31. One of the two burned cars and what is left of 46's garage, remained on its driveway.

46 Adams, built in 1953, was boarded up. Two private fire investigators tacked on "Do Not Disturb" signs alongside a third on where to reroute mail.

EAST ORANGE - A respective visitation and funeral for former East Orange School District administrator Gail Smith, 65, of Montclair, has been set for 9 and 10 a.m. April 3 at Orange's Woody's Home for Services.

Smith, said daughter Bette March 26, had died after a 13-day battle against the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. Smith served EOSD as an assistant to

principals of the Ecole Toussiant Louverture and Mildred Barry Garvin elementary schools and as a Board of Education consultant on support services and parent relations 1999-2014.

Gail Annette Smith Brown was born in Montclair Sept. 25, 1955 and had graduated from Montclair High School in 1963. She had taken courses at Essex County College and ran her own My Private Collection gift basket and delivery service since 1980.

Smith found her calling as corporate and educational administrator, starting with Citibank N.A. Bank Card Membership, for 35 years. She was also information systems manager for with KMPG Peat Marwick. Smith, as of 2021, had been running her own travel consultancy since 2017.

Lucille Piggott and Sandra Mordecai remember Smith as living in their same apartment building in the 1980s. Piggott, OHS Class of 1975, is now Pennsylvania disability rights advocate Lucille Piggott-Prawl. Mordecai was most recently West Orange Board of Education President.

B. Smith has established a Gofundme.com page for her mother's funeral expenses.

ORANGE - One may want to consider the life of Arthur Hugo "Art" Gubitosa, 78, who died in Randolph March 26, on whether one can take an Orange native away but not take the Orange in the native away.

Art, who was born in 1942, brothers David and Dr. Louis and sister Margaret were raised by David Sr. and Flora (Hugo) Gubitosa at 375 Jackson St. The OHS Class of 1960 graduate and Tornados football player left for George Washington University for its undergraduate studies and its Colonials gridiron. The GWU Class of '64 graduate was among the last of that university's footballers. The lack of a home field and support facilities ended that NCAA Division I program in 1966.

Art came back to Orange to become an OHS physical, health and drivers education teacher. The charter teacher of OHSA's current 1973 building was a one-time Tornados football head coach. He would meanwhile meet, date and marry another

Orange native, the former Barbara Ann Sapio.

Some of Gubitosa's students remember taking their practical drivers tests while running up and down South Orange Avenue. Others may remember his helping to chaperone a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Cloisters - until he stayed on the school bus, saying he was suffering from "Cloisterphobia."

Art and Barbara moved out to Randolph in the 1980s where they became parishioners of St. Matthew the Apostle Church. He continued coaching several community youth teams there and, until recently, worked for GAB insurance adjusters in Parsippany.

Children Dana, Kelly, Brian and Laura and three granddaughters are also among Gubitosa's survivors. His beloved Barbara, brother David and his parents predeceased him.

Gubitosa's viewing was held at the Tuttle Funeral Home March 30, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Matthew March 31. Memorial donations may be made to www.jdrf.com.

WEST ORANGE - Mayor Robert Parisi and Nicholas Macioci, Jr. recently came to the corner of Valley Road and Nutman Place to witness it being honorarily renamed Massi Way.

If "Nick Massi" does not ring a bell, then the bass guitar illustration on the new sign, erected March 5, should provide a clue.

"Nick Massi," for the record, is the stage name of Nicholas Macioci, Sr., one of the original "Four Seasons" singers and musicians 1960-65. Macioci/Massi provided the bass guitar, his bass voice and vocal arrangements for Franki Valli, Tommy DeVito and Bob Gaudio - first as among "The Four Lovers" and, later, the Four Seasons in their 17 Billboard Top 40 hit record heyday.

Macioci, who was born in Newark Sept. 19, 1927 and grew up near Bloomfield venue and North 16th Street, moved onto Nutman Place in 1964. He and wife Margaret raised Nick, Bobby and Patty on the one-block Valley section street.

The two-story house included a recording studio for him and DeVita and, later, his own painting studio. It was here where the patriarch died from cancer com-

(Continued on page 14)

SENATOR RICE LAUDS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AAPI VIOLENCE

TRENTON - On March 31, New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Chair Senator Ronald L. Rice issued the following statement condemning violence and bigotry against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:

“As chair of the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus, I speak for all members when I laud the passage this week, by both the state Senate and Assembly, of legislative resolution SR120/AR239 condemning abuse against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and recognizing the impact of AAPI heritage in our state and country.

“As minorities in this country, descendants of slaves, the NJLBC knows all too well the soul-searing impact of racism, not only through individual acts of hostility but also through the ingrown system of oppression that permeates American institutional structures. As such, we sharply condemn every act of violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, in-

cluding hateful speech, and denounce all discriminatory practices against them. We value New Jersey’s one million AAPIs and the unparalleled contributions they have made in the arts, sciences, medicine, education, business, government, law enforcement, community and religious centers, and in neighborhoods throughout the state.

“AAPIs in America have long suffered from atrocious policies and biased attacks ranging from the reactionary internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor, to the recent killings in Atlanta which have redirected our national dialog to our brutal history of bigoted, anti-Asian violence. First documented in 1871 when a Los Angeles mob murdered 19 Chinatown residents, Asian Americans have been targeted as scapegoats whenever our security or economy is threatened, even by something as seemingly innocuous as the success of the Asian auto industry.

“When things ‘go wrong’ - when people fear they will lose what they have or not get what they need - the human race seems to bifurcate into two different tribes: Those that seek to unify for solutions and healing, and those that seek to blame and punish.

“As COVID-19 quaked and then sent a tsunami of hurt across the globe, people everywhere snapped into formation to either be part of the solution or part of the problem. The exacerbators quickly blamed Asia for the pandemic and lashed out at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

“Without the sliver of coping skills or insight necessary to see that we all belong to the same human family, they aligned themselves with the dog whistles and slurs interwoven into Trump’s pandemic updates. They felt justified enacting the centuries-old savagery of ‘racial supremacy.’

“It is yet another example of

damaged people damaging people.

“The problem with oppression and social injustice is that in order to keep a group on the ground, you have to stand right there, with them. To make sure they don’t move, you can’t move. Racism is a lose-lose proposition that blocks everyone from rising together.

“As we stand at yet another crossroad for healing and reconciliation, the words of James Baldwin come to mind: A country is only as strong as the people who make it up and the country turns into what people want it to become ... We make the world we’re living in, and we have to make it over.

“Hasn’t this past year taught us that our country won’t survive unless we see ourselves in each other? Waiting for some future solution to today’s challenge is foolish and irresponsible. The time to make our country over is now.”

THREE YEARS (Cont. from pg. 7)

reduce gun violence and enforce federal firearms laws. Initiated by the Attorney General in the fall of 2019, Project Guardian draws upon the Department’s past successful programs to reduce gun violence; enhances coordination of federal, state, local and tribal authorities in investigating and prosecuting gun crimes; improves information

sharing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives when a prohibited individual attempts to purchase a firearm and is denied by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), to include taking appropriate actions when a prospective purchaser is denied by the NICS for mental health reasons; and ensures that federal resources are directed at the criminals posing

the greatest threat to our communities. For more information about Project Guardian, please see <https://www.justice.gov/projectguardian>.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Martinotti also sentenced Clarke to three years of supervised release.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, New-

ark Field Division, under the leadership of Special Agent in Charge Charlie J. Patterson, and the Newark Department of Public Safety, under the leadership of Public Safety Director Anthony F. Ambrose, with the investigation leading to the sentencing.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah A. Sulkowski of the U.S. Attorney’s Cybercrime Division in Newark.

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg. 13)

plications Dec. 24, 2000. Mother Margaret, 90, still lives there.

Son Nick was a West Orange High School Cowboy scholar-athlete who was inducted into the West Orange Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

SOUTH ORANGE - The four candidates vying for the three Village Trustee seats on May 11's election ballot may be subdivided between a team and an independent runner.

Sole incumbent Karen Hilton is running with South Orange Environmental Commission trustee Bill Haskins and SO Community Police Collaborative member Brayard "Bobby"

Brown. Brown, an attorney and former NFL player, has run before; Haskins is making his maiden run.

While Hilton, Haskins and Brown are running together as "SO 2021," Neil Chambers is running a "For Our Kids" solo campaign.

Chambers founded his own Chambers Design architectural, landscaping and environmental firm in 2014. He is looking for an expedited South Orange-Maplewood Public schools reopening.

Incumbent Trustees Steve Schnall and Walter Clarke have decided to to pursue re-election.

The Village Trustee race is "Local Talk News" only non-partisan municipal election

scheduled for this year. By "nonpartisan," candidates may run separately or together on a platform or banner without any reference to a political party.

MAPLEWOOD - A former township resident is back home after being released on \$25,000 bail from the Wake County (N.C.) Detention Center in late February on condition that he makes this month's pre-trial or plea hearing in Raleigh.

Alan F. Chorun, 53, had surrendered to Wake Forest authorities when he had learned of the rioting charges against him. The North Carolina Capitol Police Department has charged him for starting a June 19 riot in Raleigh that toppled two statues and a

medallion, causing \$100,000 worth of damage.

NCCPD have not said how they had tied Chorun to the Juneteenth / Black Lives Matter / George Floyd murder demonstration that turned into a riot on the Capitol grounds that night. Some of the several hundred protestors pulled down two Confederate soldier statues and tried to topple a 75-foot obelisk - all erected in 1892 - on Union Square.

One 25-foot-tall statue was hung by its neck from a nearby street corner traffic signal. The other statue was dragged to the old county courthouse steps. Gov. Roy Cooper, in a June 20 emergency executive order, had

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

remaining Confederate statuary removed. Chorun is listed on Young Vision Africa's founder and president website as its president. YVA was created to help children and youth in Sierra Leone. His biographical entry includes his being a teacher at a Highland Park (N.J.)'s Trinity United Methodist Church and "actively attempts to reveal and deconstruct racial, environmental and institutional injustice." Chorun, who currently shares a Stanhope address with his father, had lived here along Garfield Place, near the South Orange and Newark borders. It is not immediately known whether he had enrolled in the South Orange-Maplewood School District. He had had four other New Jersey and California addresses.

BLOOMFIELD - Outgoing Township Administrator Matthew U. Watkins has cleaned out his desk March 31, and Anthony DeZenzo has at least temporarily taken over his Municipal Building office. April 1.

Watkins, after five-and-a-half years as Bloomfield's business administrator, had put in his retirement papers Feb. 2. The Bloomfield resident ends his 35 years in public service. The Rutgers-Newark public administration graduate and lecturer had held similar posts in Clifton, South Brunswick, Delran and, for a year, Local Government Services Director in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

DeZenzo was appointed acting BA by Mayor Michael Venezia and the Township Council March 25. He has previously supervised the Bloomfield Parking Utility and the township's shared services agreements with its neighbors.

It is not known whether DeZenzo will be considered by Venezia and the council as a candidate as Watkins' ultimate successor. He currently stands as the seventh Bloomfield TA since 2001, going back to when now-Nutley Mayor Mauro Tucci, Sr. was BA.

Then-Mayor Raymond McCarthy succeeded Tucci with Yoshi Menale, who lasted 17 months before his July 1, 2014 resignation. McCarthy himself and, under Mayor Venezia, Police Director Samuel DeMaio, served as interim BAs before Watkins' hiring.

The TA, who applies governmental policies to daily municipal businesses, serves at the pleasure of the mayor with the advice and consent of the council.

MONTCLAIR - That Jordan Tassy's funeral arrangements have not yet been formalized by March 31 have not kept various Montclair residents from honoring one of their own on Instagram since March 27.

Tassy, 22, had lost his two week battle with COVID at Mountainside Hospital

that Thursday morning.

The Montclair High School Class of 2016 graduate and lifelong South End resident had been running his own curbside-to-collection recycling collection service when COVID had sidelined the township's own collectors earlier this month.

"Living the mantra of John F. Kennedy, Jordan didn't ask what his community can do for him," said Councilman Peter Yacobellis March 27. "He stepped up and asked what he can do for the community. That's who we lost and it's heartbreaking."

Tassy was the leader of neighborhood friends called "The Wolfpack," whose adventures included flying drones, creating digital art and 3D printing. He started JPolo Films to produce videos and photography.

Mother Norma Tassy said that the GoFundMe.com proceeds, meant for his medical expenses, will also be put to his to-be-announced funeral. His memorial service will most likely be at the Montclair Universal Universalist Church, where he was a member.

BELLEVILLE - A township man was among five others who are accused of running an interstate fentanyl and heroin distribution ring that federal agents had recently shut down.

Hugo Richard Villanueva Torres, 29, said U.S. Southern District of New York Attorney Audrey Strauss, was among three men - two from Harrison and one from Kearny - arrested and arraigned in Newark the week prior to her March 10 announcement. The fifth man was arrested and arraigned in Riverside, Calif.

All five were arrested after a federal grand jury indicted them for sending the said narcotics over the U.S. mail May 2020 - February 2021. The investigation was launched when USPS postal investigators found a 6 kg. package of the drugs in transit.

Using USPS to transport over 400 grams of fentanyl and 1 kg of heroin, if the defendants are found guilty, may spend between 10 years and life in prison.

NUTLEY - The Nutley Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad, an independent non-profit institution since 1953, became the Nutley Fire Department's Emergency Services Division April 1.

Those who call for an ambulance here will see little, if any, substantial changes. Most of the same volunteer and paid help will continue to respond from 119 Chestnut St.

NVERS' assets are now township property. Its staff are answering to the NFD - and not to the dissolved squad's board of directors. Nutley, until it finds a third party, is paying bills and issuing invoices.

The above is what the township commissioners had in mind when they adopt-

ed their changeover Resolution 66-21 at their March 16 meeting. The resolution, sponsored by Public Safety Commissioner Alphonse "Al" Petracco, at State Department of Community Services' recommendation, replaces last summer's dissolution ordinance that Petracco tabled.

Petracco tabled his ordinance Aug. 17 when NVERS leadership turned over its financial records and fired then-president Jonathan Arredondo. Arredondo was accused of misappropriating and embezzling \$105,000 from NVERS accounts for two years; his trial is pending.

Orange police officer Boris Dropic, who became NVERS' last acting president since Jan. 1, remains an NFDESD volunteer.

"It's very important that we remember the Squad (NVERS) and all the wonderful good deeds they've done for the people of Nutley; it was the premier squad in the state for a long time" said Petracco March 25. "It's very unfortunate what went on up there. I thank all the volunteers and per diems who are here and all the former members."

New Jersey Anger Management

- Certified Anger Resolution Therapists
- Crisis Intervention Services
- Domestic Violence Counseling



Se Habla Español

121 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302
Newjerseyangermanagement@gmail.com

(973) 795-4300

KENNY JAMES / DINO COZ

Owners



NEW LIFE ENGINES, INC.

Engines, Brakes, Mufflers, Timing Belt, Head Gaskets & General Repairs

384 Bloomfield Ave.
(Between 6th & 7th Sts.)
Newark, NJ 07107

Tel. 973-259-1555



NATIONWIDE PEST MANAGEMENT LLC

P.O. Box 4062
East Orange, NJ 07019
(973) 672-8358 • Fax: (973) 672-2560
www.nationwidepestmanagement.com

TERENCE WILSON
SERVICE CONSULTANT
nationwidepest@aol.com

LOCAL TALK PRINTING

- Business Cards
- Color Copies
- Flyers
- T-Shirts
- Color Printing
- Posters
- Newspapers
- Letterheads
- AD Journals
- Envelopes
- Banners
- Tickets
- Signs
- Promotional

DHIREN SHAH
Ambassador for Peace
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
In Printing Business Since 1985
www.localtalkweekly.com

1576 Springfield Ave.
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Email: localtalk@aol.com

Tel. (973) 622-1111
Cell: (973) 280-7547
Fax: (973) 622-1120

Whoever your heart beats for, our hearts beat for you.

New Jersey's top heart surgery program.

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center has a passion for heart health. As the most comprehensive cardiothoracic surgery program in the state, we've performed more than 1,100 heart transplants in our nationally-ranked transplant program, and have New Jersey's largest pediatric cardiac surgery program. In partnership with Rutgers Health, our cardiac specialists are recognized for their innovation and advancements in transcatheter aortic valve replacements, ventricular assist devices and aortic aneurysm repair. It's all part of our dedication to every heart in our community. [Learn more at **rwjbh.org/heart**](https://www.rwjbh.org/heart)

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

RWJBarnabas
HEALTH

Let's be healthy together.



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