

TWO NEWARK TRAGEDIES ... TWO SHOCKED FAMILIES

PAGE 11



Photos By Thomas Ellis II

A 7-year-old lost his life during a fire at this house

A 2-year-old was shot during gunfire in the city

EXPERTS CALL FOR HALT TO J&J VACCINE



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JUST ANOTHER CHAOTIC WEEK IN AMERICA

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Daunte Wright in a social media photo with his son

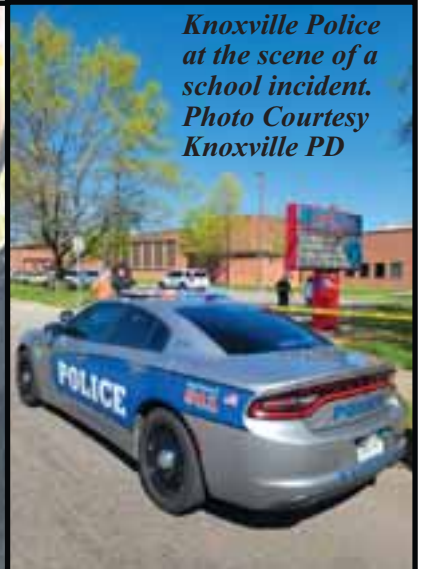


In bodycam footage, Lieutenant Caron Nazario squints his eyes after being pepper sprayed



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Knoxville Police at the scene of a school incident. Photo Courtesy Knoxville PD



ONE ELECTION, TWO BUDGETS, SEVEN SEATS

By Walter Elliott

ESSEX - There are two school year budgets and seven board of education seats for voters in Irvington and Newark to decide even if this year's campaigning has been relatively quiet.

While "Local Talk" knows of two forums held for the seven candidates for the Newark

Public Schools Board of Education, there has been little campaign advertising beyond one slate of four candidates.

The quiet appears to be more so in Irvington. "Local Talk," unlike in other years, has seen no campaign signs up for the three candidates running.

It may be because the three for the Irvington Board of Edu-

cation are all incumbents running unopposed - barring an unknown and unanticipated write-in campaigner's challenge.

Registered participating voters in both cities, however, have something to vote for that no other "Local Talk" towns' districts have - a say in next school year's budgets.

(Continued on page 11)



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Turn to
PAGE 9



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Coronavirus or COVID-19 is making havoc all over the world. However, all the religious leaders and all the astrologists and psalmists are silent. Before the pandemic, they were there to cure everyone's health problems, money problems and what not. Now, they should come forward and do some magic, if they are truly what they say they are. I had a discussion with one of the readers, he mentioned that the faith in religion will go down, as you can see the membership of the churches decline as high as 50%.

In 2020, the main religions numbers in the world were:

Christianity, 2.382 Billion or 31.11%; Islam, 1.907 Billion or 24.9%; Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist, 1.193 Billion or 15.58%; Hinduism, 1.161 Billion or 15.16%; and the remainder was 13.25% not declaring themselves with any religion, or Atheism.

Bernie Madoff, a Ponzi scheme con artist in the world, died at the age of 82 on April 14, 2021. He was in prison before getting transferred to a hospital. His fraud was the largest in Wall Street's history.

According to AP: "Over the years, court-appointed trustees laboring to unwind the scheme have recovered more than \$14 billion of an estimated \$17.5 billion investors put into Madoff's business. At the time of Madoff's arrest, fake account statements were telling clients they had holdings worth \$60 billion. Madoff pleaded guilty in March 2009 to securities fraud

and other charges, saying he was 'deeply sorry and ashamed.' After several months living under house arrest at his \$7 million Manhattan penthouse apartment, he was led off to jail in handcuffs to scattered applause from angry investors in the courtroom. 'He stole from the rich. He stole from the poor. He stole from the in between. He had no values,' former investor Tom Fitzmaurice told the judge at the sentencing. 'He cheated his victims out of their money so he and his wife ... could live a life of luxury beyond belief.'"

Another shooting of a black man by a white police officer. Officer Kim Potter apologized after she pulled the wrong gun. Instead of a taser gun, she pulled her real gun and shot Daunte Wright. Yes, The police had a warrant on Daunte Wright, and he was trying to get away, but that does not give an officer the right to shoot someone. They are

not the judge, jury, and executioner; they have to follow the law and catch the bad guys, not kill the bad guys.

If it happens once, people can understand it as an accident. But every couple of months it's happening. The majority of the time, it's a Black person. I think "Black Lives Matter" is the right movement.

Potter resigned immediately, and was charged with second degree manslaughter. Most probably, she will go to jail. Despite that, Daunte lost his life, and his family will suffer for the rest of their lives.

STOP THE KILLINGS, STOP THE VIOLENCE and most importantly, STOP THE RACISM.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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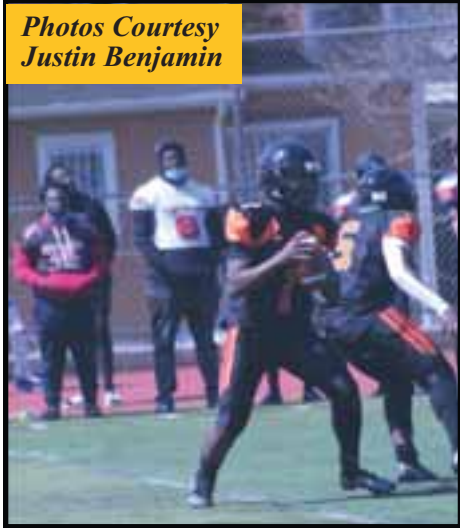
WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Rain	Chance of Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
HI 55	HI 56	HI 60	HI 64	HI 65	HI 70	HI 60
LO 43	LO 42	LO 45	LO 48	LO 48	LO 47	LO 42

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.



Photos Courtesy Justin Benjamin

The East Coast Spring Football League opened its season this past weekend in Orange, in which the Orange All-Stars lost at home to the East Orange All-Stars 21-0 at Bell Stadium. Back in 2019, when both teams played in the championship game in Roselle, East Orange defeated Orange 12-0. The next game for Orange will

be on the road against Roselle this coming Saturday, where they will seek their first win.

In other Essex County high school sports news, Bloomfield High School sophomore Kira Pipkins won a state championship in Girls wrestling this past weekend at the NJSIAA Championship by beating Katrina Kling of Warren 5-2 in the 121 pound group. Her victory came in an overtime match in Atlantic City.

In Major League Baseball this year's All Star Game has been moved out of Atlanta, Georgia due to the state's new election voting laws. The mid-summer classic has been moved to Colorado's Coors Field. Also, ex-Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez is set to become an owner of the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves. The deal is not final yet and is subject to review.

Also, San Diego Padres starter Joe Musgrove tossed a no-hitter in



Texas against the Rangers. The no-no was the first in Musgrove's career and the first in Padres' history. Previously, San Diego was the only team in MLB without a no-hitter.

Finally, the 2021 Masters was won by Hideki Matsuyama, who posted a (-10) score and became the first Japanese golfer to ever win a PGA major.



RAPPER DMX DEAD AT 50

White Plains, NY - The family of one of Hip Hop's most iconic artists has confirmed that he has met with an untimely end.

Rapper DMX passed away on April 9 after being hospitalized due to complications from a heart attack. Although it has been speculated that the cardiac episode was caused by a drug overdose, that has yet to be officially determined.

Born Earl Simmons on December 18, 1970 in Mount Vernon, NY, he took on the alias DMX due to his fondness for the Oberheim DMX drum machine when he first fell in love with rap music. The name was also used as an abbreviation for "Dark Man X."

DMX began minor music work in the 1980s before becoming a more rounded artist in the 1990s after being incarcerated. After several guest appearances with other stars, DMX broke out into the mainstream with the album "It's Dark and Hell is Hot" in 1998. The album dominated the charts, the

radio, and the streets, with many fans blaring his music all throughout their neighborhoods.

In addition to dropping several acclaimed and successful albums, DMX also did some acting. Among his films were "Belly," "Romeo Must Die," and "Exit Wounds." Most of his performances were similar to his rap style, with raw hardcore emotion, but the occasional sensitive touch.

Despite his success, Simmons had a troubled life at times. After his tumultuous upbringing in Yonkers that included years of abuse, he was first jailed for stealing a dog in 1986. Simmons would run afoul of the law many more times, in cases that included drugs and weapons charges, driving offenses, child support, taxes, assault, animal cruelty, impersonation and others.

DMX is survived by fiancé Desiree Lindstrom, ex-wife Tashera Simmons, and by his 15 children.

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UNITED STATES

JUST ANOTHER CHAOTIC WEEK IN AMERICA

Another Black Man Killed By Police

Within the past week, three events have shaken the lives of Americans.

First, the nation was stunned by yet another case of an unarmed African American being killed by a police officer. On April 11, 20-year-old Daunte Wright was pulled over in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, due to a traffic violation. Upon running his name through a database, it was determined that Wright had an outstanding warrant.

Officer Kim Potter, a 26-year police veteran, was actually training another officer during the traffic stop. After a scuffle ensued, Potter warned Wright that she would tase him with a taser. Unfortunately, Potter pulled her service weapon instead and shot Wright, who would die not long after the injury. Two days later, Potter resigned, citing that it was in the best interest of the community. On the same day, Police Chief Tim Gannon also turned in his resignation. On April 14, Potter was charged with second-degree manslaughter.

Soon after, protests broke out in the area, which ironically is just 10 miles from where Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin knelt on the neck of George Floyd for close to nine minutes. Chauvin's trial in the case of Floyd's death is currently taking place as this incident happened.

Wright leaves behind a young son, girlfriend, and parents.

Black Lieutenant Suing Police

An incident from last December has come to light after a

black man serving in the Army had an unfair encounter with law enforcement.

Caron Nazario, a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps, has filed a lawsuit against Windsor, Virginia officers Joe Gutierrez and Daniel Crocker. The suit accompanies video that was released, showing the officers pulling their weapons, pepper spraying Nazario, and even bringing him to the ground. Lieutenant Nazario was wearing his Army uniform at the time of being pulled over at a gas station during a traffic stop.

The officers claimed that Nazario was pulled over due to a lack of a license plate. However, the officers' own dashcam showed a temporary tag in the upper right corner of the vehicle.

During the stop, there was a frightening exchange between Nazario and Officer Gutierrez. In the video, when Nazario says, "I'm honestly afraid to get out of the car," Gutierrez responds, "Yeah. You should be."

"My Office of Civil Rights will be looking into whether there's been a pattern of misconduct with these officers or broadly with the department as a whole," Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring posted on Twitter.

Shooter Dead in High School Shooting

On April 12, the United States dealt with another school shooting incident, that could have been much worse.

At the Austin-East Magnet High School in Knoxville, police officers found a male student in a restroom. They were on the scene because it was alleged that the person was "possibly armed" and a threat. When asked to come out of the bathroom, the student opened fire, injuring one officer in the leg, who then fired back. The suspect died at the scene.

The injured KPD officer was transported to the UT Medical Center, and is expected to recover. So far, there is no motive as to why the suspect had a weapon.

CARIBBEAN

Volcanic Aftermath

Last week's eruption of La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, has left the entire population of the main island without clean water and electricity, the UN Spokesperson said on April 12.

Citing reports from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Stéphane Dujarric added that about 20,000 evacuees on the Caribbean island are currently in need of shelter.

"The eruption has affected most livelihoods in the northern part of the island, including banana farming, with ash and lava flows hampering the movement of people and goods," he told journalists at the daily news briefing.

Although the volcano had been dormant since 1979, it started spewing smoke and actively rumbling in December.

La Soufrière erupted April 9, blanketing Saint Vincent in a layer of ash and forcing some 16,000 residents to evacuate their homes to cruise ships and safer parts of the island.

Emphasizing that access to the island is limited, Mr. Dujarric said that along with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, the UN has mobilized pre-positioned water and sanitation hygiene supplies, currently stored in nearby Barbados.

Over the weekend, the Secretary-General spoke to Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves and the Government officially asked for UN assistance.

The aid includes relief items, food and cash distribution and technical advice while neighboring countries are contributing emergency supplies and assets to support evacuation, according to the UN spokesperson.

Meanwhile, OCHA reported that intervals between tremors have lasted between 1.5 to 3 hours, which, based on visual observations and satellite imagery, are associated with periods of explosive activity or enhanced venting of the volcano.

"Explosions and accompanying ashfall of similar or larger magnitude are likely to continue to occur over the next few days," according to the UN humanitarian office.

As of now, the volcano has forced the closure of airports in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as the evacuation of 30 villages and displacement of between 16,000 and 20,000 people.

EUROPE

British Lockdown Ends

As the country continues to mourn the death of 99-year-old Prince Philip, there was some good news for British citizens.

Significant parts of the British indoor economy and further outdoor settings reopened on April 12, after data confirmed the government's "four tests" for easing COVID-19 restrictions had been met.

However, Prime Minister Boris Johnson continued to urge caution, with no changes to social contact rules and many restrictions still in place. Outdoor gatherings must still be limited to 6 people or 2 households, and you must not socialize indoors with anyone you do not live with or have not formed a support bubble with.

Confirmation Step 2 of the roadmap would proceed came after the measures were agreed at a "Covid O" meeting and discussed on a Cabinet call earlier on April 12.

Before proceeding to this step, the government studied the latest data to assess the impact of the first step, which began when schools reopened on March 8.

The assessment was based on four tests:

- The vaccine deployment program continues successfully.
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalizations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalizations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

(Continued on page 7)

EXPERTS CALL FOR HALT TO J&J VACCINE

On April 13, 2021, one of the nation's biggest assets against the coronavirus was taken out of play.

Experts with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) called for a pause to usage of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. In response, several states, including New Jersey, announced that they would comply with the request. Residents who were scheduled for a J&J shot were either switched to a Pfizer vaccine or rescheduled for another date.

"Out of an abundance of caution and following the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the New Jersey Department of Health this morning paused the administration of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine across all vaccination sites in the state," New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli said in a statement.

"The CDC and the FDA are reviewing the data involving six reported cases - among nearly 7 million doses administered in the U.S - in women between the ages of 18 and 48 who received the J&J vaccine. Symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets. Both the CDC and FDA have said that these adverse events are extremely rare. According to the FDA and CDC, individuals who have received the vaccine and develop abdominal pain, leg pain, shortness of breath, severe headache or other unusual symptoms within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider.

"All New Jersey vaccination sites have been told to cancel or put on hold appointments for the J&J vaccine until further notice. For individuals scheduled to receive the J&J vaccine, the Department will work with all vac-

ination sites to make arrangements for the administration of an alternative two-dose vaccine. We will work with all sites, as needed, to reschedule vaccination appointments.

"The Department will await further guidance from the federal government. The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is scheduled to hold an emergency meeting tomorrow to discuss these adverse events and make recommendations to the CDC on how to proceed.

The following statement is attributed to Dr. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director of the CDC and Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research:

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine have been administered in the U.S. CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia).

All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Treatment of this specific type of blood clot is different from the treatment that might typically be administered. Usually, an anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat blood clots. In this setting, administration of heparin may be dangerous, and alternative treatments need to be given.

CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases. Until that process is complete, we are recommending a pause in the use of this vaccine

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Orange Board of Education has scheduled its next regularly scheduled Public Board Meeting for Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Closed session to begin at 6:00 p.m., at Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium, 400 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ.

out of an abundance of caution. This is important, in part, to ensure that the health care provider community is aware of the potential for these adverse events and can plan for proper recognition and management due to the unique treatment required with this type of blood clot.

Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare. COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority for the federal government, and we take all reports of health problems following COVID-19 vaccination very seriously. People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider.

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Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Investments

Last week, we discussed banking and bank accounts. Too many people do not have bank accounts, and this brings many challenges. Please visit a bank and find out the requirements for opening an account if you do not have one. Then develop a plan for obtaining all the documents necessary to open an account. An account will provide easier access to your earnings and assist you to develop an effective saving and budgeting plan.

This week we will begin to look at investments. We will start by discussing why we should invest, the different types of investment and how to invest in the stock market.

Why should we invest our money? Many of us have heard of the phrase, "making your money work for you." What this simply means is that one places excess funds (or savings) into investments that provide a return. While there are a variety of investment instruments out there, most people refer to stocks when they are speaking about investments.

Making your money work for you means you focus on your main income source if it is a full-time job for example. Then you put aside funds every pay period which you invest into financial instruments that provide a positive return. One key to guide you when you are looking at investment options is to compare the different rates of return. One investment may have a guaranteed rate of return of 5%. Another may have a fixed return of 10%.

Naturally, we are more in-

clined to invest in financial instruments that provide higher rates of return. Rate of return means the amount that one gains per period over and above the initial investment. For example, if I invest \$100 in a financial instrument and I get \$110 by the end of the year, then that investment has given me a 10% return on my money.

The formulae for calculating the rate of return is: $\text{Return} = (\text{End}/\text{Beginning}) - 1$

In our earlier example, we initially invested \$100. That would be our beginning investment. We ended the period with \$110. That would be our ending balance. The investment thus gave us \$10 in one year.

Our return would then be calculated as: $(110/100) - 1 = .10$ or a 10% cumulative return on investment

Understanding the rate of return and how it is calculated is very important because it assists us in comparing different investments. If one investment would give you a 10% rate of return while another would give a 20% return, then the 20% return would seem much more attractive. Please note that it is important to consider other factors apart from the rate of return, such as the risk level. Normally in investments, financial instruments with higher rates of return may carry higher levels of risk. Also, not all rates of return are guaranteed.

We invest our excess funds or savings because we want the money to grow. If you were to put money under your bed for 10 years that would be a bad idea. Why? Because the money would not grow in value! Rather, that money would lose value over time. Due to the impact of inflation, money that is not invested, tends to lose value. In other words, money today can be worth more than money tomorrow. Inflation refers to the general increase in price levels over a period. In 2020 the US inflation rate was about 0.62%. In 2019 this rate was about 1.81%. Inflation is referred to at times as a thief! Because it reduces the value of money and in effect how much one can buy with one's money. The key is to invest excess funds and obtain a

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ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from April 7 - April 14 2021

Municipality	4-7-2021	Deaths	4-14-2021	Deaths
Belleville	5247	105	5474	105
Bloomfield	4955	116	5083	117
Caldwell	570	16	586	16
Cedar Grove	1479	119	1504	119
East Orange	6402	282	6614	284
Essex Fells	181	2	183	2
Fairfield	808	31	839	31
Glen Ridge	353	12	362	12
Irvington	4121	217	4266	218
Livingston	1711	81	1754	81
Maplewood	1191	35	1223	35
Millburn	779	10	800	10
Montclair	2111	69	2177	71
Newark	35867	917	36848	923
North Caldwell	470	6	484	6
Nutley	2778	61	2876	61
Orange	3269	125	3377	127
Roseland	458	15	460	16
South Orange	802	15	817	15
Verona	928	17	944	17
West Caldwell	1018	51	1038	51
West Orange	4290	223	4425	224
Total	79788	2525	82134	2541

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 14, 2021)

NJ: 845,201 cases / 22,414 deaths (Plus 2,592 probable)
United States (approx.): 31.4 Million / 564,000 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 137.83 Million / 2.965 Million deaths

Pfizer has announced that it is ramping up production of its COVID-19 vaccine in the wake of issues with Johnson & Johnson's Janssen one-shot vaccine.

rate of return that is at least higher than the rate of inflation. If for example, you invest in a financial instrument and get a rate of return of 5% then you would have beaten the rate of inflation. That is a step in the right direction.

There is an array of investment options out there. Each investment type comes with different risk levels as well as investment amounts required. Investments also differ in terms of the type of return, the rate of return
(Continued on page 10)

TWO INCIDENTS, TWO CHURNING FEELINGS IN THE STOMACH

By Michele Lowe



Hello again, everyone. I left you with full attention. If it's not one thing, just another. Just over the weekend, I was catching up on two updates, regarding two different situations. two different states, but the same time frame. This is terrible. I have been out of words, but we all have to be aware regardless of wherever we are.

The first is at Sacramento, California. A family traveling along together was gunned down by a biker gang. I saw the breaking news. I assumed the usual, police gunning down, bullets fired, black man killed. But when I looked again, this was different. What kind of war gets fought on a highway? A family with their two children in the back, one baby in a car seat. Suddenly, a biker gang opened fire on their vehicle.



I mean, why? Was it because they were driving under the speed limit and the biker gang wanted to go around? What drove those bikers to insanity? To shoot that family up like that is such a low blow. While the father did not survive, thank God that the others did. Truly, condolences go out to the family

mourning the lost father, who did what he had to do to protect his family.

The second incident took place in North West Miami. Just pitiful. A 12-year-old boy collapsed in front of a convenient store and bystanders. From my understanding, he was brutally sexually assaulted and shot as well. What is this world coming to? A kid for God's sake, just abducted off the street and dropped right back on the streets like trash, and then shot. Lord have mercy on his poor little soul, because this world is cold.



Now getting back to the first incident. It was an isolated murder. I call it road rage. I mean, no one knows what drove these bikers to do that. Surveillance is along the highway. This case should not be hard to solve. This family had both little ones in the back seat. Unfortunately, they weren't so fortunate.

Then, there's the case of the man who did such bodily harm to a child for God's sake. The only thing that needs to happen is the death penalty. This young boy will have a lot of reconstructing in his mindset. I am truly sorry for what happened. My stomach is churning by the thought of this incident, which was just cold-evil. This is a child.

Thank you to all of the people who came to the rescue and to protect the convenient store workers. My message to all is that you should love your close ones deeply. You never know what when the calling comes. Next day is never promised. Give a hug to your loved ones today.

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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.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 4)

- Assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

As set out in the roadmap, around four weeks is required to see the impact in the data of the previous step.

The government also committed to provide a further weeks' notice to businesses, provided through the update from the Prime Minister.

From April 12, additional premises will be able to reopen - with the rules on social contact applying. Indoor settings must only be visited alone or with household groups, with outdoor settings limited to either six people or two households.

This includes non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers, beauty and nail salons; and indoor leisure facilities such as gyms and spas (but not including saunas and steam rooms, which are due to

open at Step 3).

Overnight stays away from home in England will be permitted and self-contained accommodation can also reopen, though must only be used by members of the same household or support bubble.

Public buildings such as libraries and community centers will also reopen.

The majority of outdoor settings and attractions can also reopen, including outdoor hospitality, zoos, theme parks, drive-in cinemas and drive-in performances events.

Hospitality venues will be able to open for outdoor service, with no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcohol, and no curfew. The requirement to eat and drink while seated will remain.

People should continue to work from home where they can, and minimize domestic travel where they can. International holidays are still illegal.

GATEWAY PROGRAM

Portal North Bridge

Virtual DBE Outreach & Networking Event

NJ TRANSIT is holding a DBE Outreach and Networking Event to provide potential Construction teams and New Jersey Unified Certification Program (NJUCP) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms with the opportunity to learn about the project and network!

We will discuss.....

- Project Characteristics
- Design Particulars
- DBE Program Subcontracting Opportunities
- Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (OFCCP) Requirements
- NJ Department of Labor (NJ DOL) Requirements
- Risk Management/Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP) Requirements
- DBE Requirements/DBE Project Goals and the DBE Certification Process

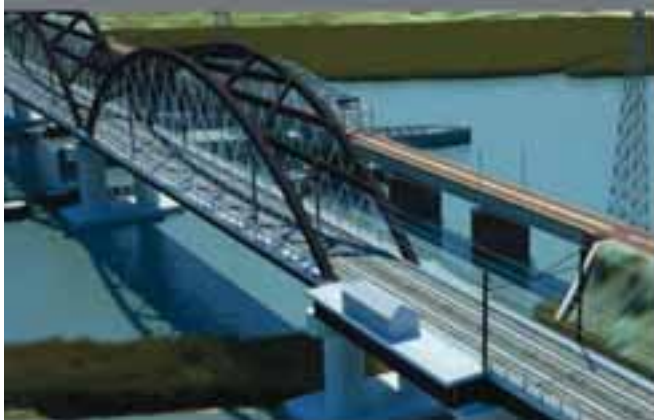
Date: May 19, 2021 / Time: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Virtual Outreach Event Features: Expo Hall / Virtual Booths, Networking Opportunities with Contractors, DBE Firms and Agencies conveniently at your fingertips.



Registration is required: www.njtransit.com/PNBEvent

If you have any technical questions about registering for this event contact Stackie@argdiversity.com



GDC is a not-for-profit corporation overseeing the development of the Gateway Program in cooperation with Amtrak, NJ TRANSIT, and the Port Authority of NY & NJ.





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*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*

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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

New COVID Variants And The Implications On The Next Pandemic Phase



Vaccine Well, well, well... you're probably thinking, 'what the hell are we going to do about this damn virus?' I'm thinking the exact same. Anytime we seem to be making progress and

winning the war, something comes up and sets us right back. My fear now is this recent setback is one we may not recover from. Sorry to be so pessimistic, but after 562,000 deaths, can you blame me?

Okay, let's circle back. What is the setback? In case you haven't heard, there are new variants of the coronavirus. Hooray? In the middle of any pandemic, the last thing any medical doctor wants to hear is that there are new variants; well, actually, the last thing we want to hear is that people are dying, but new variants is just right behind.

The implication of this is simple. The coronavirus is evolving to more resistant or transmissible variants or even both. Let me make it clear. We have gone through the stress of creating a vaccine for the virus, and new variants just pop up. If that sounds scary, you might want to stop reading right now.

According to experts, there is a likelihood that we may return to square 1. I promise I'm not making this up. It sounds horrible, and it really is. All of the battles, the sweat, the perseverance, may all be for nought. That is the setback we are faced with. You see why I was so pessimistic?

But, it's not all bad news. Despite the number of variants popping up, there hasn't been one that has been totally unresponsive to the vaccine we have right now. That's not all good

news, too, though. The highly transmissible B.1.1.7 variant of the virus from the UK is rapidly increasing in the US, accounting for more than 27 percent of cases in the US today.

The problem with this variant is not that it is unresponsive to vaccines; in fact, lab tests on the variants have shown very promising results; the problem lies in the fact that the more the virus keeps spreading, the higher the chances of having more variants. And having more variants is just terrible news, as it significantly dampens the chance of beating the virus once and for all. A year ago, we had just one common enemy - the coronavirus; now, we have the coronavirus and its lackeys to beat.

There are other variants that are fast spreading through the country, too, like the P.1 variant. This variant causes even more serious disease conditions than the original virus. In the middle of all the uncertainties about new variants, one thing is for sure; we can stop this with increased vaccinations.

You must have heard this story a thousand times, and you probably will continue to hear it until we beat this virus. Vaccinating people make them resistant to the virus and its variants. This will limit the spread of the virus, which will, in turn, reduce the occurrence of new variants.

It, therefore, comes as very little surprise that many states

are crying for changes in the vaccine distribution policy. The belief is that it makes more sense to concentrate vaccine efforts in the areas affected by the new variants to curb their spread as soon as possible. And I believe that makes sense too.

Either way, the new variants are calls to wake up. Now is not the time to slack. Now is not the time to neglect social distancing rules. We are not in the endgame yet; apparently, we aren't even close. We just need to do what we can - vaccinate and social distance. Stay safe. Wear a mask.

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/health/covid-variants-vaccines/2021/04/08/a2eed5b8-97ba-11eb-a6d0-13d207aadb78_story.html

FINANCE (Continued from page 6)

and the duration of the investment.

The following is a list of some investment options:

1. High-yield savings accounts
2. Certificates of deposit (CDs)
3. Money market funds
4. Government bonds
5. Corporate bonds
6. Mutual funds
7. Index funds
8. Exchange-traded funds (ETFs)
9. Dividend stocks
10. Individual stocks
11. Alternative investments
12. Real estate

We will discuss each of these over the coming weeks. The term investment can also be used to describe the process of using one's funds to start a new business. This is often described as a direct form of investment. Most investors try to avoid direct investments because they may require much more time to manage, carry higher risks and also may require larger amounts of money. We will look at direct investments in the coming weeks as well.

This week our focus is on investing in stocks. The stock market is a major avenue for investing funds. Insurance companies, corporate entities, pension funds, hedge funds and individuals all invest in the stock market. The stock market has the poten-

tial to allow one's funds to grow over time. For the average investor, it is recommended that one invests with a focus on the long term. In other words, it usually pays off well to buy and hold onto stocks for years to gain from your investment.

There are several stock market gurus who have gained tremendously from investing on the stock market. One of such investors is Warren Buffett. Mr. Buffett is currently worth about \$100.6 billion. It should be mentioned that Mr. Buffett has been an investor for decades. In addition, he takes major stakes in companies and obtains board membership/management roles which allow him to positively influence the direction of some of his investments. Through his

firm Berkshire Hathaway, individuals can invest in his fund and enjoy the benefits of his expertise.

Investing in stocks is a risky proposition. However, it pays to first understand the market and how it operates. There are varied types of research and analysis that one can undertake to minimize the level of risk associated with investing in the stock market. There are also different stock markets and it is important to know more about each market and how it operates.

The stock market has created a great amount of wealth over time. The S&P 500 (Standard and Poor's) consists of 500 of the largest U.S. publicly traded companies. It is used to provide

(Continued on page 12)

TWO NEWARK TRAGEDIES ... TWO SHOCKED FAMILIES

TWO YEAR OLD SHOT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

By Thomas Ellis II

It's a sad day in any city when a 2-year-old baby gets shot, and this is what happened on April 12 around 2 pm on 6th Street and 14th Avenue in Newark.

Now there have been several shootings in the city over the past few months, with several victims losing their lives. While the President of the United States Joe Biden is talking tougher gun legislation because of the rise of mass shootings across this country, that's not the case in the hood. Let's look at it.

When it comes to the inner cities, the problem is not mass shootings, but rather the number of shootings overall, and the number of victims that have been shot on any given day, at any given hour.

It's a shame when people will allow irresponsible people to be in possession of a gun, knowing it's illegal, and they don't say anything, or talk to the person(s) about safety. With many of the

shootings in the hood the gun is HOT, meaning stolen, used in the commission of another crime, not registered, nor permitted, and the serial number in some cases have been filed off, so the weapon cannot be traced.

There may not be much we don't know about the shooting of the 2-year-old girl, but one thing we do know is that she was not the target, and when irresponsible people shoot guns, an innocent person or child can be hit by a stray bullet or killed. This is not stressed enough.

This unfortunate incident just goes to prove we have too many people with guns in and out of communities that do not know the dangerous weapons that they have in their hands.

Thank God the 2-year-old will survive her injury, where she was shot in the hip and had to undergo emergency surgery. Now just imagine what the family members and close friends of the family are going through, all because some irresponsible person or persons with a gun put the whole block, neighborhood, and community at risk of danger.

FIRE TAKES THE LIFE OF SEVEN YEAR OLD

By Thomas Ellis II

An early morning fire at 65 Astor Street on April 8 took the life of 7-year-old Saahir Keiron Hartfield. The child was on the third floor of a three-family house when the fire erupted.

The fire completely destroyed the first, second and third floor. Several residents in the house were able to get out unharmed, but Saahir did not make it out of the building.

Several family members were devastated and by 9 am most of his family were standing across the street from the house in disbelief. The fire also destroyed the two other housing apartments that were next to it, which displaced several families.

This is a rough time for the family and friends of little Saahir Keiron Hartfield. He was loved by many, and one of his relatives stated that he was all about fun.

There is a memorial erected in front of the burned out house



with balloons, stuffed animals, teddy bears, candles, and a sign saying, "We will miss you Saahir. Rest in Peace."

As of deadline for this story the fire is still under investigation, with no answers on how it was started. I have noticed that a Go Fund Me page have been set up to assist the family.

Let us all pray for the Hartfield Family in their time of need.

ONE ELECTION, TWO BUDGETS, SEVEN SEATS

(Continued from page 1)

The bulk of "Local Talk" towns' public school districts, reflecting a statewide trend, traded in annual voter approval or disapproval of school budgets in exchange for moving their April BOE elections to join November General Election ballots. (East Orange and Montclair have mayor-appointed school boards)

Their move was made after the State Legislature passed early 2000s legislation permitting it. There are exceptions to put specific budget questions on the November ballot - but must stay in November for at least five years. (One Bloomfield BOE, in 2018-19, was having second thoughts.)

The idea behind the April to November ballot move was so that more voters can pick their school board members.

The forgoing leaves Irvington and Newark with the rare oppor-

tunity to have their say in their respective school budgets April 20 - which both happen be flat or no property tax increases this year.

2021-22 SCHOOL BUDGETS

The IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' BOE passed a \$161,732,073 budget March 17 onto Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin's ballot placement and for Essex County Schools Superintendent Joseph Zarra's approval.

IPS' public question, which has since been posted on sample ballots distributed by Durkin, calls for \$17,459,529 to be raised in school district property taxes. (State and federal aid plus any tuition and rent will largely make up the balance.)

Those who voted last year may be doing a double-take at the tax levy - the figure is exactly the same as last year. IPS' administrators have managed to keep taxpayers' bills flat.

(Continued on page 12)

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*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Revival Needed

There was a little gospel chorus that I used to hear a lot as I grew up. The lyrics say:

*I want a revival in my soul
(deep in my soul)
I want a revival in my soul
I must apply to the blood of Jesus
To get a revival in my soul.*

The people who used to sing that chorus were often ridiculed, but as I grew up and thought about them, those words took on new meaning. In my present reflection, I say we need a new revival, but not only in each person's soul but also in the soul of the nation. I have never written on the need for revival as a national issue, but the more I watch and listen to the protesters in the different cities of America and the ongoing calls for justice, the more I am convinced that we need a spiritual revival nationally and individually.

The revival is urgent because violence and godlessness of eve-

ry sort are rising across the land, here in American and across the globe. Many nations are on the path to destruction. We do not need prophets to make us aware of this. Anyone with a little wisdom can see that "things are falling apart."

Law enforcement agents, attorney generals, state governments, the United States Congress, the president, and his cabinet cannot fix this effectively or rescue us. No matter how many laws and policies are put in place, if there is no fixture in our hearts, we will never correct the injustices seen throughout the land.

I mean that any good that we can expect at this time has to come from a return of the Spirit to our souls and the land. America has been known as the land of revivals. But it is more than obvious that the soil on which the great revivals came have been swept away, and what we are left with is a hardness of condition that is not permitting the Spirit to rise. The argument today is that many persons who once were fervent church attendees are now leaving their churches and are taking up more secular forms of spirituality.

If any spirituality at all, it is the "Civil Religion." It is noticeable that many churchy persons and institutions have adopted the ideological system that is defending the Bible and guns to-

gether. Some are against abortion but promoting guns. Others are against immigrants but are promoting law and order. I am just pointing to the contradictions and confusion to clarify that we need a great revival to clarify our thinking and behavior.

When revival comes, we will know what pure love, kindness, compassion, and moral principles will lead us to appreciate what justice is. Our challenge is that we are too dependent on our human frame to understand how to evaluate and resolve our situation.

How shall we get the needed revival, some of you might be asking, especially if you have never seen one? I suggest the following seven things.

1. Pray for a revival - There has never been a spiritual revival where people have not spent much time agonizing before God.
2. Pray, as one, or two or three - Jesus said, "When you pray enter into your closet, there in secret talk to your heavenly Father and he will reward you openly." In another place and context, Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered touching anything concerning my name, there am I in the midst to bless and to do you good."
3. Pray for the Spiritual out-

pouring - This is what the apostles of Pentecost did. They stayed long in the upper room and prayed.

4. Confess your faults to one another - This, also, is what the apostles did to one another. They "confessed their faults to one another and prayed for one another."
5. The apostles also understood that a predicate to revival is forgiveness. So much hatred has been perpetrated against one another personally and nationally that we do not only need a truth and reconciliation committee, nationally but personally and in our families.
6. Praying in faith, believing that God will bring about a revival. Maybe you have heard that "God is more ready to give the Holy Spirit to us than we are ready to receive." In which case I encourage pray, pray, pray, and get ready to receive, for, despite the drought, God can allow the seeds of revival to grow.
7. Study the word of God for direction. Here is the fertile place to find the truest truth, the greatest wisdom and the best direction.

Yes, revival will come if we demonstrate that we desire it and avail ourselves to receive it.

ONE ELECTION, TWO BUDGETS, SEVEN SEATS

(Continued from page 11)

Should a majority of participating Irvington voters vote down the budget, which last happened around eight years ago, township educators and council members will promptly convene a Board of School Estimate.

The BSE will then hash out an alternative budget which would be voted on in May or no later than June. That compro-

mise budget must be in State Legislature and IPS leaders' hands before the July 1 start of the 2021-22 school and state budget year.

The NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS has meanwhile asked that city's voters to accept what its administrators call a \$138,314,942 "Municipal Share." Municipal Share is a fancy name for the city's school property taxes.

Superintendent of Schools Roger Leon and his department heads were able to hold that tax

levy the same from last year.

The \$138,314,942, on one hand, is about 13 percent of a record \$1.01 billion overall budget.

Some 87 percent of NPS' budget is comprised of state and federal aid. The state aid has annually given to the state's largest public school district in compliance with the State Supreme Court's series of Abbott v. Burke "thorough and efficient education" rulings.

Federal and state aid increases over the last year have pushed

NPS' budget, which recently hovered around \$735 million, past the \$1 billion mark.

The \$138,314,942 in property taxes, on the other hand, would be the figure up for revision should Newark voters make a rare rejection. Newark would also have to produce a compromised budget before July 1.

BOARDS OF EDUCATION

IRVINGTON voters, unless
(Continued on page 14)

FINANCE (Continued from pg 10)

us with a glimpse of how companies' shares on the market are performing on a regular basis. Rates of return have averaged about 8% to 12% per year. If one had invested \$10,000 in the stock market 50 years ago, it

would have increased or grown into more than \$380,000 today.

A big caution though; stocks do not rise every year! Typically, the S&P 500 falls three out of every 10 years. At times the market can be quite volatile. A key step is to make sure that you understand the stock market

quite well before beginning to invest. There are some pillars of knowledge that one should learn before taking the plunge to invest in stocks. Next week we shall discuss more about the stock market and the pillars of knowledge required to invest effectively.

Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on stocks and investments. 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.

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 / NUTLEY - Mourning over the April 3 death of Rev. Kyle "The Voice" Abercrombie has spread well beyond his native city and one of the township's faith communities.

Abercrombie, 57, whose last address was in the Weequahic section and who was a longtime associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nutley, had been battling lung cancer the past year.

Abercrombie's distinct voice and phraseology were heard from "Local Talk" area pulpits, fashion runways and various public events. for five decades. "The 1 Voice 4 All" may be best known for saying, "Take a Look, Take a Good Look - and Look No Further," which became the basis of a 2015 Acebeat single release.

Kyle Abercrombie was born in Newark to Rev. Dr. James and Christine Abercrombie Dec. 8, 1963 but the family moved in 1968 to become one of the few African American families in Hillside. Kyle, Hillside Class of 1981, attended Pastor Abercrombie's FBCN Sunday school and sang in its Little Angels and Young Adults choirs while attending New York's Berkeley School of Fashion and taking accounting and marketing classes at Essex County College.

The rising Macy's employee activity commentator director had an epiphany while he had walked to an ambulance after crawling out of an overturned car. He studied to become a certified and ordained minister in 1995 and soon became FBCN's associate pastor. He was also Men's Ministry President at

Newark's First Timothy Baptist Church.

Odyssey International's director and fashion coordinator for FP Youth Outcry founded KA& Company "Traveling Fashion Show" in 1980. He was the lead stylist for Unique Design Men's Wear in downtown Newark when he died.

The twice Black Fashion and Entertainment "Commentator of the Year" awardee was buried in Evergreen Cemetery after an April 10 funeral at Irvington's Transcend Worship Center. Mother Christine, companion Antoinette King, brothers Rev. Lance Abercrombie and Darryl Walker, sister Vanessa Abercrombie and godchildren Brittney Peterson, Abdur Shakirullah and Taylor Mceachin are among his survivors.

"Reach for the stars. If you land upon the Moon, just remember, you're still on high ground."

IRVINGTON - Township police officers have been looking out for a Honda CRV - and the occupants who shot a man here by the Newark border - since March 20.

IPD officers who responded to gunfire reports at 7 p.m. that Saturday converged on 18th Avenue and South 20th Street. There they found "a male victim suffering bullet wounds in his leg."

Officers believe that "two male suspects exited a blue Honda CRV" in that East Ward intersection, fired in the victim's direction, reboarded the CRV and sped away.

The victim was taken to Newark's University Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

EAST ORANGE - This city's planning board intends to continue its public hearing over a proposal to build a five-story, 40-unit apartment building here on 12 North Oraton Parkway on May 5.

KSH N. Oraton Development LLC, of Middletown, N.Y., began presenting its plan to build 28 one-bedroom and 12 two-bedroom units on the vacant lot at the board's April 7 hearing.

Bicycle parking, a gym and "rooftop amenity space" are among its features.

The four apartment floors are to be built above 40 parking spaces - with a twist. Residents and visitors will be using automatic, "stackable" parking lifts more commonly found on small downtown Newark parking lots.

KSH had bought the .31 acre lot from Flamingo Builders, LLC, of South Orange, for \$440,000 in 2019. The 1970's era Exxon station was removed from there at least 13 years ago.

Parking garage traffic to 12 No. Oraton's location is to come from East Freeway Drive and Maple Street - which may alleviate a traffic challenge.

The lot is bordered by northbound Oraton Parkway and an entrance ramp for the Garden State Parkway and Interstate 280. That ramp had been the source of City Council requests to NJDOT and GSP parent N.J. Turnpike Authority to fill or remove potholes there.

The GSP and 280's respective 1950s and 60s construction, including their Exit 145/12B interchange, had made that lot part of a three-block Maple Avenue traffic island. That neighborhood's homeowners, apartment dwellers, Salem Advent Church / "The Church at The Crossroads" and four businesses have survived despite a 280-prompted realignment of Main Street/King Boulevard that severed its connection to Maple Avenue.

ORANGE - The city's chief executive officer, by praising the latest water quality findings of one environmental regulation agency, may have thrown shade at another agency.

Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, in a March 17 press release, praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's test results on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances - better known as the PFAS, PFOA and PFOS family. These chemicals, whose trade names include Scotchguard and Teflon, were used for waterproofing and non-sticking until they were found to be carcinogenic.

The EPA found that Orange's water, drawn from wells in Millburn's part of South Mountain

Reservation and East Hanover, "are well below the EPA's 70 parts per trillion (gallons) health advisory level."

"I'm pleased to report that, based on state and national standards, our water is safe for drinking and bathing," said Warren. "I encourage water consumers to continue to be guided by the EPA on water quality issues. The EPA is responsible for setting the legal limits for contaminants in tap water and overseeing overall water quality."

The EPA, however, uses a lifetime 70 ppt "health advisory level" and not as a maximum contaminant level that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection uses.

The DEP, as of March 31, 2020, has adopted 14 ppt MCL for PFOA and 13 ppt for PFOS plus 13 ppt for Perfluorononanoic Acid (or PFNA). Regular water testing to these MCLs began Jan. 1.

Orange water's First Quarter 2021 results include PFOA levels coming in at 23 ppt-- or 9 ppt above the state agency's MCL. Mayor Warren, in the March 17 release, said that "the new solutions implemented over the next year will assist in removing PFOA from drinking water and getting the level down under strict NJDEP standard."

WEST ORANGE - The 12-acre property whose address is 2-10 Ridge Rd., but is also known as The Ridge and the Loree-Bowood Tract, remains on the real estate market since the Township Council rejected its acquisition part of a legal settlement April 6.

The council, with its unanimous vote that Tuesday night, turned down the township administration's settlement with resident/attorney Kevin Malanga. The agreement would have bought the land from Jordan Baris with money from the West Orange Open Space Trust Fund.

Council members felt that the township could not afford to maintain the property southeast of Prospect Avenue and Pleasant Valley Way. They also said that the benefit would be more for Malanga's neighborhood than

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Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

Should I Put My Name On The Birth Certificate?

Cleo and I went out for a month or so. The next thing I know, she says, "You are my baby's father!" Should I put my name of the birth certificate? Here's what you need to think about...

In New Jersey, the rule is clear and certain. Parents must

support their children from the day they are born until the day they 18, and until 19 if they are still in high school, and until 23 if they go to college. Therefore, the relevant question is, "Am I the father?" The courts must allow you to be tested to determine paternity. But... While this list is not conclusive, you will be presumed to be the child's biological father if:

1. You and the child's biological mother are or have been married to each other and the child was born during the marriage. (Yes. This means it could be problematic for you if you and your wife are separated and she becomes pregnant.)
2. After the child's birth, you and the child's biological mother marry or attempt to marry each other solemnized in a ceremony in apparent compliance with the law even if the marriage is later declared invalid or void.
3. You have acknowledged pa-

- ternity of the child by signing the birth certificate.
4. You attempt to have your name put on the birth certificate.
5. You openly hold the child as your natural child; or,
6. You are obligated to support he child under a written voluntary agreement or court order.
7. While the child is under age eighteen, you provide support for the child and openly hold out the child as your natural child.

One question I am often asked is, "Can she put my name on the birth certificate whether I agree or not?" The short answer is "Yes." In cases where Mom is receiving or applying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or WIC or Section 8 housing or any other form of assistance, the government will require that Mom discloses Dad's identity so whether you agree or not, you could be named.

I have seen Mom name the Dad of a twelve-year-old and when Dad gets the notice to bring his tax returns and pay stubs to the courthouse so that he can sign up for child support, Dad is stunned!!! I have also seen Dads contest paternity in these situations and as often as not, the Dad names is the Dad according to the test.

On the other hand, be reminded that the Dad being on the birth certificate or not doesn't guarantee or limit paternal Dad's ability to have parenting time. Dad can fight for visitation rights through the courts (regardless of what the birth certificate says) at any time.

Likewise, financial support can be claimed on behalf of the child even if the father is not on the form. If your name is not on the birth certificate and you want to put your name on the birth certificate, Dad can fill out and sign a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity ("AOP") form.

ONE ELECTION, TWO

BUDGETS, SEVEN SEATS

(Continued from page 12)

they write in a candidate, will be seeing only three familiar names on their April 20 ballot.

Annette L. Beasley, Ronald Brown and Gloria Chison are the ones who are asking for re-election.

All three are running with the endorsement and support of Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss. Vauss have been fielding "Team Irvington Strong" and "Irvington Schools Strong" candidates, who voters have largely elected, since

his 2016 election.

NEWARK voters are meanwhile having to pick from among eight candidates to fill four BOE seats. Three regular three-year seats are up for rotating annual consideration plus a race to finish an unexpired term.

It appears to "Local Talk" that the contest has become a ticket of four candidates vying with four independent runners.

Incumbents Dawn Haynes and Asia J. Norton and appointee Vereliz Santana are running together under the "Moving Newark Schools Forward" banner. "MNSF" was formed as a unity platform by Mayor Ras

Baraka from the former competing "Children First" and "Four Our Kids" slates.

MNSF, as a result, receives a constellation of endorsements from fellow BOE members and city, county, state and federal level officeholders.

Challenging as independents are Nadirah Brown, Yolanda Johnson and Phillip "Phil" Wilson.

An MNSF newcomer and a solo independent are meanwhile vying to fill the last two years of the late Octavio "Tave" Padilla's term.

First-time runner Daniel Gonzalez is on MNSF's ticket.

Sheila Montage is the veteran challenger.

Vote By Mail Balloting - either by pail or by posting in designated drop boxes - is underway. ("Local Talk" thanks you if you have already voted.)

There may be a limited number of polling stations, given the current COVID curbing social distancing regulations, open April 20.

April 20 voting details may be found at essexclerk.com, essexboardofelections.com and the Irvington and Newark municipal clerks.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 13)

town-wide.

Malanga was relying on the West Orange Open Space and Recreation Commission's Sept. 11, 2019 recommendation to have the township buy the property. The purchase would have preserved two carriage houses - one of which was for the Hecker family mansion - and some 800 trees. The said garages are all that is left of the Hecker flour family mansion and railroad ex-

ecutive Lenor F. Loree's Bowood mansion, dairy farm and football gridiron.

It is thought that most of The Ridge's housing was demolished between the 1940s and 1990s; Loree and Ann Wentworth Hecker respectively died here in 1940 and 41. The property was reduced to 12 acres when two assisted living homes were built in the 1990s.

Other projected benefits included controlling erosion from affecting the former O'Rourke Quarry cliff face and the Crest

Ridge Apartments below plus remediating Pleasant Valley Way's 20 mph elbow.

"The family who owns the land wants to protect their interests," said Kevin Baris, "but if they can do something that at the same time benefits the community, they'd be thrilled."

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood School District's headquarters and 11 school buildings are being prepared for an April 19 reopening for the in-

person part of the district's limited Phase 3 hybrid learning plan.

The activity, including the installation of as many classroom ventilation filters SOMSD's contractors can install before Monday, was launched after the district, its board of education and the South Orange-Maplewood Education Association reached a reopening agreement April 9.

The filter installations are meshing with the COVID vac-

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TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

mination of the district's 800 employees. Many of these staffers are SOMEA-member teachers; teachers have been given vaccination priority by Gov. Phil Murphy since March 15.

Students in six grades plus new hybrid, English language learners and self-contained special education students, as outlined by SOMSD Superintendent Dr. Ronald G. Taylor, are to answer Monday morning's school bell with the following details:

- Pre-Kindergarten-Second Grade students are to be in class twice a week.
- Grades Six middle school and Columbia High School's Ninth Grade students return to in-person learning.
- ELL and Special Ed students of all grade levels are to attend four days a week.

April 23 will be the last Virtual Friday for elementary school students. All teachers and staff are to report back to school Friday for the district-wide Asynchronous Day, to prepare for Phase 4's April 26 start.

Phase 4 calls for five days a week in-person for PreK-Fifth Grade. ELL and Special Ed students. Middle school Sixth and Eighth grade hybrid students plus CHS Ninth and 12 Graders will be on four days in-person and Virtual Fridays.

District administrators and the teachers union are projecting a May 3 Phase 5 start. Phase 5 includes bringing Seventh, 10th and 11th Grade students who have not opted for all-virtual/remote learning back to classrooms.

BLOOMFIELD - The township joined Hackensack, Washington Township-Morris County, Bloomingdale and other municipalities in mourning the death of police chief and business administrator Ted Ehrenburg since March 31.

Ehrenburg, 64, of Blairstown, was Hackensack City Manager when he suddenly died at home. He had served as Bloomfield's Township Administrator, between leaving Bloomingdale in 2012 and moving on to Hackensack in 2015.

Ehrenburg was hired on a 3-2-2 split vote by then-Mayor Raymond McCarthy and the Township Council. McCarthy - who objected, but did not veto, the vote - claimed that Ehrenburg had previously met the Bloomfield Democratic Committee Chairwoman. Ehrenburg also took a June-December 2013 temporary demotion to Assistant Administrator while the council sorted out a performance review.

Ehrenburg's service as a municipal

manager or administrator was his second career. The Randolph Township Special Officer joined Washington's police department in 1978. He was promoted through the ranks over 28 years until he became its police chief 1995-2006, retiring to run his own law enforcement consultancy.

Ted Mark Ehrenburg was born in East Orange General Hospital Sept. 28, 1956 but was raised in Randolph. The RHS Class of 1975 graduate went on to an associate's degree from County College of Morris, a bachelor's in criminal justice from then-William Paterson College and a master's in human resource management from Seton Hall.

The Rutgers-certified public manager is survived by wife Gina, son Mark, daughter Kate and seven grandchildren, among others. His Memorial Mass was held in Long Valley's Our Lady of the Mountain Church April 7.

Contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital Memorial Donation & Honor Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942

MONTCLAIR - State Superior Court-Newark Judge Jefferey Beacham is scheduled to consider Montclair Township's request to stay his March 16 order, on allowing a rent control public question to be placed on a ballot, on April 16.

Township Attorney Ira Karasick, hoping to keep Township Clerk Angelese Bermudez Nieves, from scheduling the ballot question referendum, has filed requests to stay and appeal Beacham's March 16 ruling on March 25 and April 5.

Lawyers for the petitioning Montclair Property Owners Association are hoping that Beacham stands by his March 16 ruling. The judge's decision set a timetable where the township files an appeal within 20 days or schedule a special election on the question within 40 to 60 days. The latter timetable would have the MPOA-favored vote held between April 27 and May 18.

Beacham's March 16 ruling, telling the township to get moving with the petition certification process, broke an impasse between Montclair and MPOA. Twice the landlords' group filed their electronically generated petitions for certification - which the clerk's office rejected after correcting the signatures and addresses.

The township reluctantly turned over its list of resident phone numbers and e-mail addresses after an earlier Beacham ruling last year. The township regarded the handover as a violation of privacy since the list was meant for reverse 911 calls. MPOA wanted the list, saying that the current pandemic has kept them from

making door-to-door signature requests.

The township's ordinance that established rent control, which the Township Council passed April 7, 2020, remains on hold by Beacham's order.

BELLEVILLE - Mayor Michael Melham and Police Chief Mark Minichini are offering their entrance walks as an "Internet Exchange Safety Zone" since April 1.

Those conducting item sales on the internet can make their physical transactions in front of 152 Washington St. or its adjacent Police Headquarters entrance plaza.

By designating a neutral trading space within security camera range, Melham and Minichini intend to reduce the frequency of internet exchanges between strangers that have resulted in robbery or assault.

The zone's signs point out that township employees are not witnesses to the transactions, nor available to vouch for items' authenticity nor to settle any disputes.

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