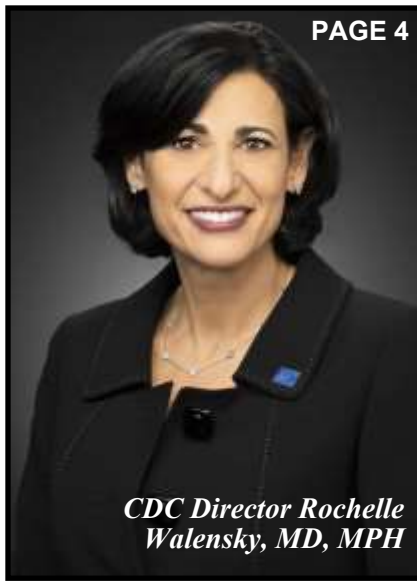


# ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

This includes corner stores, bodegas, supermarkets, etc. and other stores / outlets with retail capability.

Local Talk is currently taking reservations for its new program.

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PAGE 4

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH

# CDC ISSUES NEW RULES FOR FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELERS

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 22 \* APRIL 8, 2021 - APRIL 14, 2021

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# MARCH FOR GEORGE FLOYD TO COMMEMORATE KING ASSASSINATION

**Demands: Justice for George Floyd, \$15 Minimum Wage, Universal Healthcare, Stop Police Brutality**

By Lev D. Zilbermints and Dhiren Shah

On Friday, April 2, at least 50 people participated in a rally and a march held in Newark, New Jersey. The rally, which began by the Lincoln Statue at the Old Court House, attracted about 50 people, featured speakers from the People's Organization for Progress, RWDSU UFCW Local 108 Union, Green Party, and old people who remembered seeing Martin Luther King in the 1960s. As music played in the background, people stood on the side of the sidewalk, holding signs that read "Resist Racism, Bigotry, Hatred and Injustice", "Toot Horn for Living Wage", "Dr. Martin Luther King's dream - nonviolence", and red-white signs demanding a \$15 minimum wage.

The President of Local 108 RWDSU, based in Maplewood, spoke at the rally, describing an alleged conspiracy by agencies such as the Federal Bureau of

(Continued on page 8)



Photos Courtesy Lev Zilbermints and Charles Hall

# WILL ORANGE'S PUBLIC LIBRARY EVER REOPEN?



PAGE 3



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group  
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Turn to  
**PAGE 16**





**Editorial**

**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

On April 4th, India reported over 100,000 coronavirus cases - not the total since the pandemic started, but on that day alone! It was over 133,00 cases. The country is under the rule of Narendra Modi of the Bharatiya Janata Party, who has proved himself worthy of being Prime Minister of India. However, some of the states are under different party rule. So, for whatever reason, Modi has not declared a state of emergency and locked down the entire country. Despite the sharp increases in cases, comparatively, India does not have lot of deaths. So, they are taking it very easy, even after so many are COVID-19 positive. I hope they come to their senses and adhere to the CDC guidelines: masks, social distancing, and sanitiza-

tion, no large gatherings and vaccination.

There is more huge news from India. Anil Deshmukh, Home Minister of the State of Maharashtra, where Mumbai is located, had to resign. The reason is unbelievable. He had instructed the police department to collect 100 crores of rupees (1 billion rupees or about 15 million US dollars) every month from many businesses. In Maharashtra, the government is formed by three different parties. Their goal is to skim money from any sources they can. Also, the state of Maharashtra has the highest COVID cases in India. They (all ministers and party members involved) should be punished to the maximum penalty the law allows. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra should resign immediately.

There were 20 mass shootings within a two week span. The racism is at the highest peak. It is not only bad citizens, but our elected leaders are at fault. We elect our representatives to represent the people, not the party. When there is a reso-

lution, where there might be some good and some bad, they negotiate mainly for the benefit of some groups or companies in the committee meetings and private talks, but do not think about the people. When it comes to voting, they only vote for what their party bosses say.

If they think about the people, how come most of the time it's a party line vote? So, in that sense, they should be addressed as Democratic Party Senators and Democratic Party Congresspersons and Republican Party Senators and Republican Party Congresspersons. Like Democratic Party Senator Booker or Democratic Party Congressman Payne. Politics and groupism is killing the voice of the people. It is about money and power. This is my opinion, and some of the readers I have talked share that opinion too.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION has become part of our regular life. Political corruption has ruined honesty, integrity and truthfulness. Forty years ago, people were not only honest, but the elected council people in the

townships and cities worked for the people, at almost no charge. Most of the time, the activists become the council members, and they were getting paid very little, but they were happy with the respect in the community and thinking that they have done a great job for the people.

Now, times are different. Even on the local level, it's all politics. They spend a lot of money to brainwash people. Even when they have power, they do not let newcomers and competing candidates contact voters. The system needs a change. There should be blind voting at the council meetings, as well as the assemblies, the houses, and the senates. Blind voting means that they will vote with their consciousness rather than their party, and that might work for the benefit of the people in my opinion. Blind voting will cut off campaigning for lobbyists and has a chance of reducing corruption.

*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>
Sunny	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain	Chance of Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy,
HI 68	HI 59	HI 66	HI 62	HI 58	HI 66	HI 66
LO 46	LO 49	LO 56	LO 48	LO 46	LO 47	LO 45



# WILL ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY REOPEN?

By **Walter Elliott**

**ORANGE** - The Orange Public Library, after some 14 months' COVID-induced hibernation, may reawaken again as early as press time.

OPL Trustee President Cheryl Rixon and attorney Dan S. Smith, in an exclusive April 7 "Local Talk News" interview, are asking library cardholders and patrons to watch for the reopening announcement on [www.orangepl.org](http://www.orangepl.org).

"We're following CDC guidelines in reopening for the safety of our patrons and staff," said Rixon Wednesday afternoon. "We're going to reopen gradually, starting with a curbside pickup service as early as tomorrow (April 8)."

By curbside pickup or "Grab

-and-Go" service, OPL will be joining the ranks of most other "Local Talk News" public libraries. Patrons would submit borrowing requests, which the staff prepare for pickup in designated paper bags.

In OPL's case, the website will provide a special e-mail address to make orders with. There will be no phoned-in or in-person orders taken - at least for the time being.

348 Main St., added Rixon, will be open only for curbside pickup during hours posted online.

"The pickup hours will be concurrent with the library's present hours," the trustee president said. "The hours will be on the website."

OPL, perhaps by when you read this, will be open for

curbside pickup service only. There may be an unanticipated detail that may delay that first step.

And that is the first step. Other services are not on OPL's flexible schedule for the time being.

OPL, like all other public libraries, closed during the March 2020 outbreak and public health emergency proclamations.

Library directors and trustees, like most other institution leaders, have made appropriate service restorations based on COVID vaccination, infection and death rates from local through national health officials.

Most public libraries in the "Local Talk" area have reopened their buildings to the public for limited services.

Many are re-opened for

curbside or "grab and go" borrowing and/or craft material pickup.

Some allow a limited number of patrons inside to browse or renew materials, photocopy or use public computers at shorter times. The Newark Public Library system and the South Orange Public Library, for example, close two or three times a day to allow for cleaning.

The Montclair Public Library, as an exception, has kept its Bellevue Branch closed to the public.

The East Orange Public Library's branches, as of press time, also remain closed - except for its Main Library's "Grab and Go" service.

Most public libraries have

*(Continued on page 5)*

## SPORTS WRAP

By **William Hathaway, Jr.**

There is a new national champion in college basketball. The Baylor Bears mauled the top ranked and undefeated Gonzaga Bulldogs 86-70. Based on how Baylor never trailed once in the game, it was clear that Gonzaga was worn out from its 93-90 overtime win over UCLA.

Leading Baylor was Jared Butler with 22 points and Macio Teague chipping in 19 points. The Bears finished the season with a 28-2 record, while Gonzaga fell to 32-1, falling one game short of becoming the first team to run an undefeated season since 1976's Indiana Hoosiers.

On the women's side, the Stanford women's basketball team defeated Arizona in the

National Championship game 54-53, after the Wildcats missed a game winning shot at the buzzer. It marked the second game in the Final Four where the Cardinal survived a late miss from the other team. Stanford barely survived South Carolina 66-65. This is Stanford's first championship in 29 years.

In other news, the Nets beat the Knicks 114-112 and reached the top of the Eastern Conference. In Major League Baseball, while the Yankees opened their season with a tough loss 3-2 loss against the Blue Jays, the Mets' season opener with the Nationals was postpone due to COVID-19 cases on Washington. Finally, in NFL news, the Jets have traded QB Sam Darnold to the Panthers for a 6th round pick this year, and 2nd and 4th round picks in 2022.

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**UNITED STATES**

**New Rules for Vaccinated Travelers**

On April 2, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its travel guidance for fully vaccinated people to reflect the latest evidence and science. Given recent studies evaluating the real-world effects of vaccination, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people can travel at low risk to themselves. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine.

Fully vaccinated people can travel within the United States and do not need COVID-19 testing or post-travel self-quarantine as long as they continue to take COVID-19 precautions while traveling - wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, socially distancing, and washing hands frequently.

“With millions of Americans getting vaccinated every day, it is important to update the public on the latest science about what fully vaccinated people can do safely, now including guidance on safe travel,” said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. “We continue to encourage every American to get vaccinated as soon as it’s their turn, so we can begin to safely take steps back to our everyday lives. Vaccines can help us return to the things we love about life, so we encourage every American to get vaccinated as soon as they have the opportunity.”

Because of the potential introduction and spread of new SARS-CoV-2 variants, differences in disease burden and vaccines, and vaccine coverage around the world, CDC is

providing the following guidance related to international travel:

- Fully vaccinated people can travel internationally without getting a COVID-19 test before travel unless it is required by the international destination.
- Fully vaccinated people do not need to self-quarantine after returning to the United States, unless required by a state or local jurisdiction.
- Fully vaccinated people must still have a negative COVID-19 test result before they board a flight to the United States and get a COVID-19 test 3 to 5 days after returning from international travel.
- Fully vaccinated people should continue to take COVID-19 precautions while traveling abroad.

The guidance issued does not change the agency’s existing guidance for people who are not fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated travelers should still get tested 1-3 days before domestic travel and again 3-5 days after travel. They should stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel or 10 days if they don’t get tested at the conclusion of travel. CDC discourages non-essential domestic travel by those who are not fully vaccinated.

Due to the large number of Americans who remain unvaccinated and the current state of the pandemic, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people continue to take COVID-19 precautions, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, washing hands frequently and avoiding crowds when in public, when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple other households, and when around unvaccinated people who are at high risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19.

**AFRICA**

**Dozens of Abductees Released**

Fifty-eight women and children of more than 600 who were abducted last year during vicious intercommunal fighting in South Sudan, have been reunited with their families, the UN Spokesperson told reporters on April 5.

Since December, the UN Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS, has been working with agencies, supported by the United States and the United Kingdom, to broker peace between the Lou Nuer, Murle and Dinka Bor ethnic groups.

The exchange came about following a community-led peace, negotiated in Jonglei State between the three communities.

Women and girls have been frequently abducted in Jonglei, because of their economic importance in demanding a bride price paid in the form of cattle, said UNMISS in a statement on April 2.

“The UN Mission believes that as many as 686 women and children were abducted during the clashes that took place between January and August of last year,” Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric told journalists at the regular daily briefing.

“Tragically, these abductions often involve sexual violence,” he added.

After a recent peace conference in Pieri, where traditional leaders, women and so-called “cattle camp” leaders had discussed compensation for lives lost, and the return of abducted women and children, UNMISS said that UN helicopters had helped transport the freed women and children so they could be reunited with their families.

Those abducted and freed, are receiving support from Save the Children, and local NGOs Grassroots Empowerment and Development Organization

(GREDO) and the Community Action Organization (CAO).

**EUROPE**

**WHO to Europe: Hurry Up**

The World Health Organization (WHO) is imploring officials in Europe to speed up the vaccination process of citizens there.

Last week saw increasing transmission of COVID-19 in the majority of countries in the WHO European Region, with 1.6 million new cases and close to 24,000 deaths. The Region remains the second most affected by SARS-CoV-2 of all the world’s regions, with the total number of deaths fast approaching 1 million and the total number of cases about to surpass 45 million.

“Only 5 weeks ago, the weekly number of new cases in Europe had dipped to under 1 million, but now the Region’s situation is more worrying than we have seen in several months. There are risks associated with the increased mobility and gatherings over the religious holidays. Many countries are introducing new measures that are necessary and everyone should follow as much as they can,” said Dorit Nitzan, Regional Emergency Director for the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Across the Region, 50 countries or territories have reported the variant of concern B.1.1.7, initially detected by the United Kingdom and now the predominant variant in the Region. As this variant is more transmissible and can increase the risk of hospitalization, it has a greater public health impact and additional actions are required to control it.

At the European regional level, new cases are increasing in every age group except in people 80 years and older. It is only in this most vulnerable pop-

*(Continued on page 11)*



**WILL ORANGE PUBLIC**

**LIBRARY REOPEN?**

*(Continued from page 3)*

moved previously in-person services online. While about all libraries have canceled their physical periodical subscriptions, some will refer periodical readers to "Libby" or another website carrier.

Many have been holding children and adult readings and activities via Facebook or other social mediums.

Some reference librarians are still in their buildings, fielding electronically sent questions or requests. The Irvington Public Library's reference librarian, for example, fields phoned-in questions 5-7 p.m. "after hours" Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There are library employees inside, processing and preparing grab-and-go materials and maintaining the property.

Some of those online functions include library card renewals. Smith, on April 7, said that an announcement on OPL card renewals will come in the future.

The increasing vaccination rates here and across the U.S., have encouraged libraries, among other institutions, to expand their hours and services this second spring of the pandemic. Those advances may just as quickly be withdrawn, however, should New Jersey health officials experience a new wave of infections.

An April 5 Johns Hopkins University report, for example, cataloged that past week's 452,000 new nationwide COVID cases by state. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida and Michigan made up 197,500 - or 44 percent - of new cases.

New Jersey's contact rate that week was 9.6 percent - a

decline from 14.26 percent rate recorded March 28. State health officials want a 1.01 percent contact rate as a COVID-curbing factor.

The City of Orange's Police Department and Office of Emergency Management has meanwhile occupied 348 Main St. as its COVID coordination and command center early in the pandemic emergency. The Stickle Memorial's main entrance has since been blocked with yellow police tape.

It is not clear whether Orange's "COVID Command" remains there or has moved elsewhere. Rixon, April 7, indicated that the authorities are still using part or parts of the 1901 main building and/or 1978 wing.

There have been occasions the past 14 months where cars with OPL employee placards have parked on Main and South Essex Streets - like they have had since at least the 1960s. Orange's DPW workers had cleared that Main Street block's parking spaces and sidewalks of snow soon after a February snowstorm.

Try calling OPL's main telephone number into April 7 - and one gets a recording.

Its website, as of April 6, has remained largely frozen in time. The Library Board of Trustees roster still lists since-retired Orange School District Superintendent Ronald Lee as among its members.

One can get onto Jersey Clicks and Country Watch from the website - but other database links yield "page unsupported."

The city, in its Calendar Year 2020 Municipal Budget, still allocates \$500,000 to OPL. That outlay is a minimum calculated by a state board of libraries formula.

OPL, like most other libraries, is independent outside of

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that minimum municipal outlay and mayoral appointments to the trustee board.

OPL had been twice closed for an overall 14 months in 2010 and 2013-14.

The first closing, prompted by the city's health department, was to remediate lead paint chips and asbestos April-July 2010.

The building was closed for extensive repairs by OSHA from April 2013-January 2014. It was reopened Jan. 13, 2014 with Mayor Dwayne D. Warren's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"We're doing more than just reopening a library," said Warren. "We're returning to our children, families and visitors a cultural resource that's sorely missed in our city."

# Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

## Banks and Bank Accounts

Last week, we discussed budgets and emergency funds. To recap, please set aside time every single month to draw up your monthly budget. Depending on how often you get paid, you can adjust the time. For example, if you get paid every two weeks, you can draw up your budget every two weeks. In addition, ensure that the following are in place:

A saving rate target for your net income. For example, a saving rate of 20% on all net income could be your regular target. The more you save the more you have options for future expenditures. You are in the driving seat!

An Emergency Fund target: An emergency fund could be the amount that can cover your expenses for 3-6 months should something happen, and you are no longer receiving any income.

There are a variety of banks out there. If you do not have a bank account, then it is time to take care of that. When you need a bank account, please do not go to just any bank! Take your time and ask around, find out what type of savings rates the banks offer, any benefits or promotions for opening an account and also the availability of ATM's and branches to enable you conduct your banking with ease. You may want to ask people you know which banks they use and why. The next step is to visit some of the banks that you have been told about. Research online if you can, to get more information about these banks. Then arrange to visit these banks personally or have a zoom meeting with banker's to get more information. I suggest that you

contact at least three different banks. It is shocking that we at times miss opportunities because we do not do this type of research. Please know that no matter how big or small your income, every bank wants you as a customer once you will be earning money that passes through that account. Banks know that most earners save, and that is attractive to them. You are able to select the bank with the best menu of options that you can take advantage of. For example, some banks offer promotions where they place \$100 into your savings account when you open up a checking account with them. Other banks offer special interest rates if you are saving above a certain amount every month. All these should form the basis for you selecting a bank to open your account with. Even if you have a bank account, this type of survey could help you identify a bank that would provide you with perks and benefits that you could gain from. While each bank has its own requirements for opening up accounts with them, most banks will require at least a form of State ID. Make sure that you have one before you visit then bank.

When you visit the bank ask them directly, I need to open an account. Can you please tell me why I should open my account with your bank in particular? Are there benefits that I would obtain from your bank that other banks do not offer? How much money do I need to open a checking account? How about a savings account? What interest rate do you give on savings accounts? Do you have minimum balance requirements for checking and savings accounts? If so, what are those balance requirements?

In opening an account at a bank, the two types of accounts that you should look at opening are a checking account and a savings account. The checking account can be used to receive your salary. This will open the door for you to conduct a lot of your financial transactions online. That will save you time and allow for the benefits of utilizing the banks' apps to track your income and expenses.

The savings account could be where you could direct your savings from your income every



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# ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from March 31 - April 7, 2021

Municipality	3-31-2021	Deaths	4-7-2021	Deaths
Belleville	5051	105	5247	105
Bloomfield	4807	114	4955	116
Caldwell	548	16	570	16
Cedar Grove	1446	119	1479	119
East Orange	6149	279	6402	282
Essex Fells	174	2	181	2
Fairfield	773	30	808	31
Glen Ridge	339	12	353	12
Irvington	3956	216	4121	217
Livingston	1648	81	1711	81
Maplewood	1149	34	1191	35
Millburn	758	10	779	10
Montclair	2034	68	2111	69
Newark	34613	910	<b>35867</b>	<b>917</b>
North Caldwell	449	6	470	6
Nutley	2684	59	2778	61
Orange	3157	124	3269	125
Roseland	445	15	458	15
South Orange	773	15	802	15
Verona	901	17	928	17
West Caldwell	989	51	1018	51
West Orange	4157	222	4290	223
<b>Total</b>	<b>77000</b>	<b>2505</b>	<b>79788</b>	<b>2525</b>

### OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 7, 2021)

**NJ: 824,179 cases / 22,176 deaths (Plus 2,573 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 30.9 Million / 559,000 deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 132.8 Million / 2.88 Million deaths**

**U.S. President Joe Biden has announced that on April 19, everyone age 16 and older should be deemed eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination**

pay period. With time, you may want to investigate whether the bank would allow you to create sub savings accounts. In other words, you could have different savings accounts with the same bank. The advantage is that you could put your basic savings in

one account while putting your emergency funds in another savings account. That way you can separate the different monies meant for different purposes. It gives you clarity and easily allows you to assess the savings  
*(Continued on page 11)*



# NEW JERSEY OBSERVES NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

**TRENTON** - As distracted driving continues to claim more lives on New Jersey roadways than any other risky driving behavior, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and the Division of Highway Traffic Safety (“HTS”) announced on April 1 the launch of a statewide public awareness campaign aimed at providing motorists with good reasons to give the road their undivided attention.

The “Take Control Of Your Destiny” campaign - and its slogan “You Have Places to Go. Don’t Drive Distracted.” - will begin appearing this month in digital ads throughout the state, as well as on the internet and Pandora Radio. The ads feature images of colorfully decorated steering wheels that remind drivers what is uniquely important to them and sends a message that maintaining focus on the road ahead means they will ultimately get to where they are really going in life.

The campaign launch coincides with the kickoff of April’s National Distracted Driving Awareness month, a time when states across the country join together to raise awareness of the dangers of risky behind-the-wheel behaviors like texting, chatting on hand held cell phones, eating, and applying make-up.

“Driver inattention is the leading cause of traffic fatalities in New Jersey and we’re working to change that behavior through a public awareness campaign that uses the power of positive messaging,” said Attorney General Grewal. “We’re reminding people what’s at stake every time they get behind the wheel. We want drivers of all ages to realize that their plans and dreams for the future depend on making safe choices here and now.”

According to New Jersey State Police statistics, distracted driving was to blame for more than a quarter of the fatal crashes that occurred in New Jersey from 2015 through 2019, claim-

ing the lives of 730 drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. During that same five-year period, more than half of all crashes in the state - both fatal and non-fatal - involved a distracted driver.

While distracted driving crashes declined for the third straight year in 2019, they still outpaced those caused by any other risky behaviors, including speeding or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

“The real tragedy of distracting driving fatalities is that they are so easily preventable. All it takes is for drivers to keep their minds on their driving and their hands on the wheel,” said Eric Heitmann, Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

“Our campaign encourages drivers to put down the phone and focus on the important matter of what lies ahead - literally and figuratively. In doing so, they will be taking control of their own destinies and protecting those of all others on the road.”

In addition to digital messaging on display in rest stops along the NJ Turnpike and Garden State Parkway, and in select supermarkets across the state, the campaign includes a digital toolkit of resources available in English and Spanish on the Division’s “Take Control Of Your Destiny” webpage. The resources, including shareable graphics, informational palm cards, and a Distracted Driving fact sheet, are meant to be shared widely across the state to spread the campaign message and promote safer driving habits.

To further commemorate National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, HTS kicked off New Jersey’s participation in the annual “U Drive. U Text. U Pay.” campaign, a national distracted driving enforcement effort sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

All month long, law enforce-

*(Continued on page 10)*

# BANKRUPTCY

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## NEWARK MAN ARRESTED FOR MULTIPLE ARSONS IN ORANGE



**NEWARK** - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, and Orange Police Director Todd Warren have announced that Marvin L. Lewter, 35, of Newark has been arrested for arson and aggravated assault after allegedly starting three fires in Orange that resulted in injuries to firefighters.

Lewter was taken into custody on April 6. He is charged with two counts of aggravated arson, a second-degree offense,

for starting fires at two homes in the 300 block of Henry Street on Nov. 24, 2020.

He is also charged with two counts of aggravated arson for starting a second fire on April 5, at one of the Henry Street locations and a third fire in the 400 block of Codner Street.

Because two Orange firefighters sustained injuries while fighting one of the fires on Henry Street on April 5, Lewter was charged with two counts of Aggravated Assault, a third-degree offense.

These are accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they enter a guilty plea or are found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Prosecutor Stephens lauded the Orange Fire Department and the Orange Police Department for their assistance in this case.

The investigation is ongoing.





**MARCH FOR GEORGE FLOYD TO COMMEMORATE KING ASSASSINATION**

(Continued from page 1)



Investigation (FBI) then headed by J. Edgar Hoover, NSA, CIA and others to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther Jr. According to the Local 108 President, King's family sued in 1999 in a district court in Atlanta, Georgia, for the nominal sum of \$1. The reason for the lawsuit was to show that Dr. King was killed by powerful agencies in order to silence him. In 1967, King spoke out against the Vietnam War and the problems American society faced – discrimination, racism, and other ills – at the time. One year after the speech, in April 1968, King was assassinated.

“In honor of the anniversary of Dr King’s assassination we

will march to demand justice for George Floyd and all victims of police brutality, a \$15 an hour minimum wage, and an end to black voter suppression,” Lawrence Hamm, Chairman of the People’s Organization For Progress stated.

“On Friday we are marching for an end to police brutality, but we are also marching for economic justice. We demand a \$15 minimum wage now and ultimately a living wage for all working people,” Hamm said.

He said that POP wants the elimination of poverty through a guaranteed minimum income, a federal jobs program to eliminate unemployment with jobs at a living wage, universal health care with Medicare For All, free college and the elimination of student debt, a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures until the end of the pandemic, cancellation of rent and mortgage payments, and a national program to provide free childcare.

Speakers at the rally presented three demands. These included justice for George Floyd and victims of police brutality; the passage of a \$15 minimum wage in the United States and an end to voter suppression.

“What is going on with now [with voter suppression] is worse than Jim Crow,” the president of the Local 108 RWDSU said. “There are 361 bills in 47 states

to limit people’s right to vote, black people in particular.”

Following the speeches at the Lincoln statue, protesters marched down Springfield Avenue to Market Street, then Broad Street and back to the Lincoln statue. Black-and-white signs alternated with red-and-white signs held by Local 108 RWDSU members. Marchers walked holding signs with names of police brutality victims. Aubrey Avery, Breanna Thomas, George Floyd and many others were chanted. Demands for justice, a \$15 minimum wage, universal health care and an end to voter suppression were heard during the march.

Passersby snapped photos, took videos on cell phones. Teens raised their fists in salute. Newark Police on motorcycles provided an escort for the marchers, keeping streets open and safe.

Once the march ended, protesters gathered again to hear speakers at the Lincoln statue. One speaker recalled that his generation was the last one to see Martin Luther King. The speaker recalled where he was when heard about the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968. At the time, the speaker was a young man driving in a 1960 Buick given by his mother, down the highway. Coming across were cars with radios

turned on. That is how the speaker heard about King’s assassination.

“He [King] was going to be an enemy of the state,” the speaker said.

Next came a long list of black activists who had been in prison for decades. Some had been in prison for 20, 30, 40, 52 years. Mumia Abu Jamal, who has been in prison since 1982, is the best known of these. He has been given life without parole for the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

Initially Mumia Abu Jamal was on the death row, but after a thirty-year legal fight, the death penalty was overturned. Prosecutors agreed to a sentence of life imprisonment without parole in 2011. Abu Jamal has published books and writings while in prison.

A speaker from the Green Party told protesters that “we all struggle against inequality in health care, injustice in healthcare. Free Medicare for all! Everybody should have decent quality healthcare.”

Carlos Dufflaer read a poem that was both moving and emotional. Audience members appreciated the poem. The rally ended about 6 p.m., two hours after it started.



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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## CORONAVIRUS VACCINE FOR KIDS: WHY THE DELAY?



Vaccine this, the vaccine that. Everything is about vaccines now. However, in the middle of all these vaccine talks, it seems health officials have forgotten our kids. But have they truly forgotten our kids?

Everyone is now aware that the vaccine distribution is well underway, moving from just high-risk individuals to the general population. According to Biden, there will be enough vaccine doses to vaccinate every

adult in the country by the end of May. That is terrific news.

We aren't just meeting the vaccine distribution goals set by this administration; we are surpassing them. And by a wide margin. That really is terrific news. However, there is still discontent in some aspects of the population, like the minorities and, of course, the minors.

Everyone has been affected by the coronavirus in one way or the other. With kids, the major issue has been the closure of schools. Not only is their education bearing the brunt of this pandemic, but their social interactions are suffering too. Some schools are reopening now, to be fair, but under strict regulations and guidelines. Education is no longer fun for many kids, and that's not good news.

This brings us then to the question, 'why aren't kids getting vaccinated?' Most adults in the US now are either vaccinated or have an idea of when they will be vaccinated; this is not the same with kids. For starters, Pfizer and BioNTech vaccines were only recently approved to be used for kids as young as 12. Kids below 11 may have to wait even longer before they can get the vaccines.

Many pediatricians have, understandably, been vocal in their criticisms of these pharmaceutical companies for not including kids in their pre-vaccine development studies. As a pediatrician myself, I understand these frustrations, but I don't have too many complaints. Why? Because kids haven't been the ones suffering the most from the virus, health-wise.

Take a look at this number - only about 270 of the over 549,000 covid-related deaths in

the United States have been in people below 18. That's about 0.05%. You have to agree with me that there isn't much of a case to make for kids here, which is good news as it means only a few kids are dying from the virus. But when it comes to vaccination, the numbers don't work in the favor of kids. Health officials, experts, and pharmaceutical companies themselves first have to focus their efforts on ensuring adults, who are at a far greater health risk, are vaccinated.

Notwithstanding, kids have to get the vaccine sometime if we want to beat the virus. Herd immunity is starting to appear frequently on the lips of health officials. Herd immunity simply entails vaccinating enough of the population to protect the unvaccinated population. However, herd immunity will not work without vaccinating kids below 18, as they make up over 22% of the US population.

According to Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, older teens will be offered the vaccine by fall or thereabouts. Younger kids will have to wait till 2022.

I know we are all eager to beat this virus, but we have to tread with caution. I, for one, don't believe we should rush vaccinations in kids. Let's give these pharmaceutical companies enough time to conduct all the necessary studies before approving vaccines for younger kids. I mean, a 0.05% percentage of total deaths is not an alarming enough number to rush vaccine distribution as with adults.

Don't get me wrong. I am not calling the death percentage good; far from it. It's never nice

to see anyone die, let alone kids, but the vaccines currently in use only has an emergency authorization. This isn't saying they aren't safe, but there shouldn't be the same rush with kids as there was for adults. I can cope with some extra months of covid cases here and there in kids, but definitely not decades of trying to fix the effects of a botched vaccine.

Again, I don't doubt the efficacy of the vaccine. I just want enough time to be given to these pharma companies to conduct all necessary studies before rolling out the vaccines in younger kids.

Of all the uncertainties surrounding the vaccine rollout and distribution, one thing I am certain about is our victory. Right now, it's a question of when rather than if. We will beat this virus. Pending that time, however, we need to follow all necessary COVID guidelines.

We have come too far to start slacking. 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

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### NEW JERSEY OBSERVES

### NATIONAL DISTRACTED

### DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

(Continued from page 7)

ment agencies throughout the state will join agencies across the country in a three-week high-visibility enforcement campaign targeting drivers who are texting, talking on hand-held cell phones, or engaging in similarly risky behaviors that distract their attention from the road. The

campaign will run through April 30, 2021.

New Jersey is one of only eight states nationwide to qualify for and receive grant funding from NHTSA to combat distracted driving.

The funding New Jersey received for fiscal year 2021 has allowed the Division to award more than \$1.2 million in overtime enforcement grants to 183 law enforcement agencies statewide for this month's campaign. The money helps agencies pay for additional officers

on the road, distracted driving checkpoints, and other enforcement initiatives during the "U Drive. U Text. U Pay." campaign.

All New Jersey police departments are invited to take part in the campaign, whether they received grant funding or not.

HTS has also commissioned a study on distracted driving through the Center for Research and Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering Systems (CREATEs) at Rowan University that looks beyond crash

statistics to provide a more full-some picture of the problem in New Jersey.

The results of the study, expected to be completed by the end of the year, will be used to develop recommendations and strategies for addressing and mitigating distracted driving through enforcement and education.

To learn more about the Take Control Of Your Destiny campaign, go to the HTS website at [NJSaferoads.com/destiny](http://NJSaferoads.com/destiny).



**WORLD NEWS FLASH**

*(Continued from page 4)*

ulation that we have seen a steady decline in cases and a decreasing proportion of COVID-19 deaths since the beginning of 2021, reflecting early signs of the impact of vaccination.

New data from Public Health England suggest that COVID-19 vaccines have saved, at the very least, over 6000 lives among people over 70 since vaccination started in December 2020. Similarly, data from Israel show that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is around 90% effective at preventing infection, severe disease and hospitalization after the second dose.

“Vaccines present our best way out of this pandemic. Not only do they work, they are also highly effective in preventing infection. However, the roll-out of these vaccines is unacceptably slow. And as long as coverage remains low, we need to apply the same public health and social measures as we have in the past, to compensate for delayed schedules. Let me be clear: we must speed up the process by ramping up manufacturing, re-

ducing barriers to administering vaccines, and using every single vial we have in stock, now,” said Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.

Vaccination together with continued public health and social measures will eventually bring an end to the pandemic. For that to happen, a scale-up of both vaccine production and vaccination is required, as well as continued adherence to public health and social measures.

“The greatest determinant of how many people get infected and how many people die in the coming weeks is what you as an individual do – or don’t do. We have seen it time and time again: virus spread can be stopped. My message to governments in the Region is therefore that now is not the time to relax measures. We can’t afford not to heed the danger. We have all made sacrifices, but we cannot let exhaustion win. We must keep reining in the virus,” Kluge concluded.

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**Illegal Gun Crackdown**

A police operation targeting

firearms trafficking across South America has seen thousands of illicit firearms seized, thousands of arrests and investigative leads generated on crime networks and smuggling routes.

Over three weeks (March 8-28), Operation Trigger VI saw the arrest of almost 4,000 suspects across all 13 South American countries, with some 200,000 illicit firearms, parts, components, ammunition and explosives recovered.

Hundreds of thousands of people and vehicles were searched at suspected hotspots and air, land and sea borders across the region.

Coordinated by INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the joint operation enabled police, customs, border and prosecution services to work together, carrying out nearly 10,000 checks against INTERPOL databases to track illegal firearms and identify potential links with organized crime.

Whilst investigations continue across the region, initial results and highlights include:

- Uruguayan arrest of mem-

bers of a gang using social media to promote violence by posting photographs of themselves flaunting illegal guns.

- Seizure in Peru of large amounts of ammunition arriving from the Brazil-Argentina-Paraguay tri-border area, and arrest of two US-wanted fugitives the subject of INTERPOL Red Notices for serious drug crime. In Lima, explosives experts intercepted and recovered undetonated grenades in a public square further to a lead exchanged during operations.
- Chilean arrest of a Colombian national wanted via an INTERPOL Red Notice for firearms trafficking and serious drug crime.
- Detection of the illegal sale of 90,000 pieces of ammunition, with investigations expected to lead to arrests in the days to come.

“Firearms present a very serious threat to South America’s security and stability. This is why multi-agency transnational  
*(Continued on page 12)*

**FINANCE** *(Continued from page 6)*

levels you have achieved. You can also adjust your savings rates based on the goals you are trying to accomplish.

When one is looking at banks, consider credit unions. Credit unions are often set up to provide benefits to the bank members. The bank members are the customers that choose to open an account with them. Most financial institutions are registered with the FDIC. The advantage of choosing a bank that is registered with the FDIC is that funds up to xxx are insured. This is a level of protection that you should always have. Credit unions provide benefits to their customers by way of lower interest rates when they want to borrow money amongst other benefits. The advantage of lower interest rates can be enjoyed when you need to purchase a car for example.

While most car dealerships offer financing, please note that their rates are usually much higher than that of credit unions. You could save a sizeable amount of money by obtaining your own financing from a credit union for example, before going to the car dealership to purchase a vehicle. When the dealership offers you financing, compare the rate with that offered by your credit union. Your next step is to go with the lower rate!

If you are unable to open a bank account because of any variety of factors, consider obtaining prepaid cards. Prepaid cards allow you to make purchases online, pay bills and provide other benefits at times. Just as with shopping for a bank, you need to shop for a prepaid cards. There are many of them out there and each has different terms as well as fee structures. Prepare your questions and get information on at least three different prepaid

cards before selecting one to use. However, at the end of the day, you should strive to open a bank account. A bank account is definitely more favorable to you as opposed to prepaid cards.

Please remember, when you are choosing a bank and opening up accounts, some will give you free gifts such as pens and bags. Do not let these be the reasons for selecting a bank! Make sure that they are providing you benefits that you can utilize. Ask the questions raised earlier and keep track of the responses so that you can easily identify which bank is giving you a better offer.

Ask about their apps and how easy they are to use. Ideally, you want a bank that will guide you in even downloading the app onto your phone and computer as well as show you the key features of the app. Do not be afraid to ask questions! It is your money and you have the

right to choose the best options available out there. If you are technologically challenged, make appointment with a personal banker to take their time and show you exactly how to use their apps.

Prepare your list of questions before you meet with the banker. That way you do not forget any pertinent questions that you may have. By opening your account and obtaining an app that keeps you in touch with your finances, you are another step away from being broke and closer to financial peace!

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.

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*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Repentance**

Repentance is a word that we hardly hear these days. It seems to have disappeared from active use, as much as the word sin has disappeared. But with so much tragedy facing us in the nation, I wish we would learn how to confess and repent of our sins, again, generally and personally. In this, we would understand the true significance of repentance, not just about the nation as a whole, but as it applies to each of us.

Before making my point about national repentance, let me set forth a caveat by turning to the warning of C.S. Lewis, who argued in his 1940 essay published in *The Guardian* under the title, "Dangers of National Repentance" that there are always some dangers when we are apologizing for something we disdain in someone else. Lewis's point was that such repentance could easily turn into "the sin of pride" where we "confess" all the things done by others and fail to take our personal responsibilities.

In his own words, Lewis says, "The first and fatal charm of national repentance is, therefore, the encouragement it gives

us to turn from the bitter task of repenting of our sins to the congenial one of bewailing - but, first, of denouncing - the conduct of others."

For sure, I do argue that C.S. Lewis was not against all national repentance, for he knew it to be a Biblical idea. A cursory reading of the Bible makes clear that repentance was the constant theme of the prophets as they challenged the people of God to faithfulness. Not only did they speak to the people of Israel concerning repentance, but they spoke to other nations, as well. Daniel spoke to King Nebuchadnezzar and the other kings of Babylon.

Jonah also spoke to the nation of Nineveh. In his confessional/repentance prayer in Daniel 9, Daniel used phrases such as: "We have sinned." We have broken your covenant." We have transgressed your laws." Were Daniel present in our land today, we can be sure he might have called out the present manifestation of racism, classism, sexism, and other prejudices exhibited in the land. He would have called for repentance for the gun violence and other sins of injustice that are becoming profoundly cancerous in the nation.

I give credit to those who are calling for national repentance today. I can hear many persons repeating the words the Lord repeated to King Solomon at the dedication of the first great temple, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek

My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Like C.S. Lewis, it is my view that if we want revival and reformation in the land, we need to take up our personal responsibility for repentance and not sit around waiting for some national day of fasting and prayer.

The rest of this reflection states that personal repentance is necessary. It is needed so that we do not spend all our time pointing at others without tending to the sins that we have committed. If we are on the path of repentance, we must be willing "to turn around" from our wrong direction and go in the right direction. We must be willing to humble ourselves and walk in a new direction. Repentance is not just a moment of confession. A lot of persons confess, but they do not repent.

To repent is to do like Peter, who denied his Lord in the crucifixion trial. During the trial, he cursed and swore, saying, "I do not know the man." But, as the text says, "And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the words of the Lord, how he said unto him, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:61, 62)

In effect, Peter came to the turning point in his life when he recognized his weakness and his self-dependence and knew that such had destroyed his trust in

the Lord. Peter, then, repented. If we would all admit, we have some personal work to do like Peter. Only thus can we break our:

1. Bad habits
2. False imaginations
3. Self-indulgencies
4. Compromised principles
5. Faithlessness
6. Lack of kindness to one another
7. Lack of courtesy - Disrespect
8. God doubting
9. Disobedience
10. Rejecting of God's voice
11. Lack of holding ourselves accountable
12. Lack of taking responsibility for our actions

Here, I argue, we cannot be pharisaical by putting on some self-righteous cloak and pretend that we do not need to repent. Repentance is the road to personal transformation and reformation. Or, as one writer puts it, "The garden of the heart must be cultivated. The soil must be broken up by repentance. The evil growths that choke the good grain must be uprooted. As soil once overgrown with thorns can be reclaimed only by diligent labor, so the evil tendencies of the heart can be overcome only by earnest effort in the name and strength of Christ."

I ask today, Will you accept the call to repentance? Personally? Individually?

**WORLD NEWS FLASH**

*(Continued from page 11)*

cooperation is essential to identify and dismantle the organized crime and terrorist groups involved," said INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

"Operation Trigger VI has seen thousands of illicit weapons taken out of the hands of criminals and is testimony to the commitment of South American law enforcement despite the challenges of a global pandemic," added Secretary General Stock.

With firearms trafficking intrinsically linked to a wide range of other serious crime, results also included:

- Police forces in Brazil's 27 states and the Brazilian Federal Police confirmed the clear link between firearms trafficking and fraud, including the sale of counterfeit guns between gangs.
- Seizure by Brazil's Army and Federal Police of more than 60 illegal firearms at a dealership suspected of using

counterfeit documents to divert firearms and ammunition. Officers arrested the man suspected of heading the counterfeiting and smuggling network.

- Destruction of 27 cocaine labs across Bolivia including one at a reserve in the Gran Chaco region on the Paraguayan border with a camouflaged runway for small planes and sophisticated telecommunications systems.
- Rescue of 33 suspected human trafficking victims

thought to be from Haiti during a firearms raid at La Paz bus terminal.

- Collective seizure of more than 21 tons of cocaine, marijuana and chemicals

Pre-operational training delivered jointly by INTERPOL and UNODC ensured that officers and prosecutors had the skills needed to detect, identify, investigate and prosecute firearms crime holistically, with each firearm considered as part of a larger, connected scheme.

# 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** - ECPO Homicide Task Force detectives are investigating the circumstances around a city man who was found shot dead along South Orange Avenue here April 6. It is the third gunfire report Newark Police Division officers had been probing in the West Ward's Vailsburg section since April 4.

Newark Police Division and, later, ECPO Crime Scene Unit officers came to the 1000 block of South Orange Avenue at about 9 p.m. Monday - where they found the late Malik Fogler, 45.

Traffic, including CoachUSA's No. 31 buses, were detoured around South Orange Avenue and Salem Street during authorities' field investigation.

NPD officers first went to 83 -87 St. Paul Ave. 8:35 p.m. Easter Sunday on reports of shots fired there.

Witnesses told detectives that they saw a person in "a champagne-colored" late model Pontiac Grand-Am "fired at unknown targets" and sped away. Shell casings were found and collected.

Officers also responded to ShotSpotter activity coming from 106 Oak St. that night. Shell casings were also found - but no description of the shooter.

There are no known links among the incidents as of April 7.

**IRVINGTON** - One of "Irvington's Bravest" had reportedly suffered an injury while battling a two-alarm house fire near the Union border here April 5.

The first responding IFD units found heavy fire coming

from 124-26 Mill Rd.'s second floor at 3:15 p.m. Monday. Some firefighters promptly evacuated the apartment building while others implemented a "surround and drown" tactic.

Irvington police soon closed Mill Road between Manor Drive and Union Place. Heavy smoke, however, wafted across the Garden State Parkway affecting traffic and earning airtime on "Total Traffic" reports by 4:20 p.m.

An IFD firefighter was meanwhile reported as injured, severity unknown, at 3:27 p.m.

"Local Talk" found residents airing out their salvaged clothes on 124-26's front lawn and filling rolling luggage and shipping barrels with other possessions at 4 p.m. April 6. The fire's heat had melted part of 120-22's vinyl siding.

The six-tenant building, constructed in 1928, suffered partially collapsed second-story walls and roof.

**EAST ORANGE** - If you think that things have been quiet lately here at the Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan N.J. building at 111 Prospect St., you would be right - but not for long.

111 Prospect Holdings, LLC, of Lakewood and Passaic, has not yet set a date to demolish the three-story 75-year-old building and to replace it with a 323-residential unit building The East Orange Planning Board had approved 111 Prospect's site plan application at their March 3 public hearing - which was expected to be memorialized at their April 7 meeting.

111 Prospect was approved for building the six-story structure on 101 and 111 Prospect Ave. and on 34-38 Washington Terr. Part of those four lots, comprising 3.199 acres, is to be used for 360 parking spaces.

The holding company bought the four lots on Nov. 11, 2016, for \$1.65 million. The sale reclassified the former church and charitable property as residential/commercial.

The sale also moved JVS of MetroWest to 7 Glenwood Ave. - closer to Brick Church railroad station. The 1897-founded organization moved here in 1948.

MetroWest's nonsectarian employment and training services are also found in Montclair and Livingston.

**ORANGE** - The city's police department is asking for the public's help in finding a motorcycle stolen from a major intersection here March 28 - and clues to the rider who stole it.

The motorcycle's owner said that another rider stole the 2020 grey Suzuki, license plate number V33-7W11, "at about 12:35 a.m." that Sunday "in the area of Main Street and Scotland Road."

Main Street bisects Scotland Road to its south and High Street to its north.

The OPD report does not say whether security video recordings from the PNC Bank, at its southeast corner, have been screened.

**WEST ORANGE** - The former Archdiocese of Newark priest who was once assigned to a parish here plus Seton Hall University now faces a third sexual abuse lawsuit.

Kevin Gugliotta, 59, according to documents filed April 2 in State Superior Court-Elizabeth, is accused of abusing a nine-year-old altar boy while both were at Scotch Plains' St. Bartholomew's parish in 2003. Another male, who has since died in October, had filed a similar suit against the former youth minister.

Gugliotta, according to archdiocese records, was at St. Bartholomew's in 2006-14 after serving here at St. Joseph's parish in 2004. SHU and Millburn's St. Rose of Lima and Seton Hall were among his prior assignments.

Gugliotta was first accused in 2003 of abusing a boy scout while he was a leader of BSA Troop 38 in Newark's St. Xavier's parish in the 1980s. The archdiocese had that suit dismissed on grounds that he was a lay BSA officer and was not an ordained priest until 1996. He was temporarily removed during that investigation 2003-04.

The Vatican had Gugliotta defrocked in 2016 after he was arrested in Mt. Pocono, Pa. for having 20 child pornography files on his computer there. He had served part of a two-year prison sentence in 2017 and has had to since register as a sex offender.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - Parents will have a second or last opportunity at the

April 19 South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education meeting to comment on the proposed elimination of courtesy busing starting with the 2021-22 school year.

The SOMSD BOE members began talking about dropping the transportation program at their March 22 session as part of implementing their desegregation plan - which will start with Kindergarten students - Sept. 1.

The new integration plan, which the BOE approved in June 2020, would eliminate most courtesy bus service within the two-town district. Public school districts are not required to run school buses within 2.5 miles of an assigned school unless for specific conditions.

BOE member Susan Bergin, on March 22, said she and her policy committee are looking to "retain shuttle service between South Mountain School and the Annex and add service between Seth Boyden School and Columbia High School." The proposed policy will allow "for transportation on hazardous routes, such as those that cross busy roads."

BOE colleagues in Montclair, for example, are looking at revising their school bus service between South End students and Montclair High School. A group of that neighborhood's students and parents successfully lobbied Montclair Public Schools and NJTransit to add direct Route 34M runs.

The new transportation plan is up for a second reading, and a possible vote, April 19.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Members of the township's police department, including its honor guard and colleagues from adjacent departments, gave one of their own a final escort from Montclair's Caggiano Memorial to Bloomfield Cemetery via North Caldwell's Notre Dame Church April 1.

They were honoring retired BPD Detective Sgt. Thomas S. Fano, 51, who had died at his West Caldwell home March 28. Fano, who joined "Bloomfield's Finest" in June 1991, retired in 2019 to work for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and in the private sector as a loss prevention/asset prevention ad-

(Continued on page 15)



## Legally Speaking



**Cassandra Savoy, Esq.**  
**OP/ED**

### **Once on Megan's List Always on Megan's List???**

The New Jersey Legislature has declared that the danger of a sex offender reoffending is so great that they must be required to register with law enforcement officials to identify and alert the public. Consequently, in 1999, the Legislature enacted Megan's Law which laid out the system of registration of sex offenders of certain named offenses.

The offenses under Megan's Law include: aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual contact if the victim is minor, endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the child, endangering the welfare of a child through acts involving pornography featuring a child, promoting prostitution of a child,

luring or enticing, kidnapping, criminal restraint, and false imprisonment if the victim is a minor and the offender is not a parent.

Under Megan's Law, all sex offenders over the age of 14 must register at the police department where they live and to notify the police when they move. Sex offenders convicted in another state are required to register within 10 days of moving to New Jersey. In addition, sex offenders convicted in another state are required to register. You must register in New Jersey even if you live in New York and only come to New Jersey to work on a garbage truck or to attend Rutgers. The failure to register is a crime of the fourth degree punishable by up to eighteen months in jail. In 2002, Megan's law was amended to require lifetime community supervision meaning a person convicted of a sex crime would need to register for the remainder of his life. If he moves to another state, he will be required to register in that state.

Sex offenders are classified into three groups. Tier I requires that the offender be registered for at least 15 years, with annual verification of registration information. These offenders have been convicted of the least serious offenses. Tier II requires 25 years registration, with semi-annual verification. Tier III requires lifetime registration with information being verified quarterly. Tier III offenders are those who pose a high risk that

they will commit new crimes. These are the offenders where violence was used in the commission of the offense.

If the risk level is low, Tier I, law enforcement agencies are notified. If the risk level is moderate, Tier II, in addition to law enforcement agencies, schools, licensed day care centers, summer camps, and registered community organizations are notified of sex offenders that they are likely to encounter because of the possibility that pedophiles and sexual predators will be drawn to these places. If the risk level is high, Tier III, in addition to law enforcement agencies, schools, licensed day care centers, summer camps, registered community organizations, and members of the public are notified.

If you are Tier II or Tier III, the worse part of about being in the registry is the fact that the registry is online and open to the public. You lose your right to privacy. The registry includes photos and other details about you. This means potential employers engaging in due diligence can find you if they look.

There are jobs you can never have. For example, you cannot work in a place where there are children like a daycare, the YWCA or a school. Being on the registry could impact on your love life because if your girlfriend has children, you might not be able to be around the children. Being in the registry could affect whether a landlord will allow you to live in a certain

apartment. Legal or not, public information can be misused and there is likely nothing you can do about it. Being subject to Megan's registration means that you lose your right to move freely from one place to another as you choose. And, worse of all, you could be subject to harm by the wingnuts who assume that once a sex offender always a sex offender regardless of tier.

**But all may not be lost!** If you are Tier I under Megan's Law and you meet the criteria, you can apply to the Supreme Court to terminate your registration and remove you from the registry. You are eligible to apply to the court fifteen years after conviction or release from prison whichever is later. The means that if you were convicted in 2005 and released from jail in 2010, you will be eligible to apply to the court for termination and removal in 2025.

When you apply, you will need to prove to the court that you have committed no other offenses during the fifteen-year period, and most importantly, you must convince the court you pose no risk to the public. I should note; however, if you were under the age of 14 when you committed the sex offense, and not yet 18, you can apply for termination of registration. The court must be convinced by clear and convincing evidence that the juvenile offender poses no threat to the safety of others and is unlikely to reoffend.

## NEW JERSEY MAN ADMITS OPERATING ILLEGAL BITCOIN EXCHANGE

A New Jersey man has admitted operating an illegal bitcoin exchange, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced April 5.

William Green, 53, of Wall, pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District Judge Kevin McNulty to Count 1 of an indictment charging him with operating an unlicensed money transmitting business.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: From August 2017 through February 2019, Green operated a website called

"Destination Bitcoin." Through the website and various referrals, Green received money from members of the public through cash, wire transfers into bank accounts controlled by Green, and online payment processors. Green then converted the funds to bitcoin and transferred the bitcoin to bitcoin wallet addresses provided by the customers. Green charged the customers a fee for this service.

Federal law provides that any person who owns or controls a money transmitting business shall register the business

(whether the business is licensed as a money transmitting business in any state) with the Secretary of the Treasury. Green admitted that he knew he was required to register his business with the Secretary of the Treasury and that he failed to do so.

The unlicensed money transmitting charge to which Green pleaded guilty carries a maximum potential penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 10, 2021.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents of IRS -

Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Montanez, and special agents of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jason J. Molina, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Anthony P. Torntore and Matthew Feldman Nikic of the U.S. Attorney's Cybercrime Unit in Newark.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 13)

ministrator.

Tom Fano, who was born in Newark in 1969, came here by way of Montclair's Immaculate Conception High School and the Essex County Police Department. The ICHS Class of 1987 graduate and Lions baseball team's first baseman became a state corrections officer at East Jersey/Rahway before joining ECPD. Fano had moved to Bloomfield and joined the BPD long before the county sheriff's office absorbed the county police in 1997.

Fano rose up the ranks from patrol division to criminal investigations and commanding the day shift. Remembered for a ready smile and a joke, Fano also earned a BA in sociology and criminal justice from Bloomfield College in 2005 and a MA in human resources training and planning from Seton Hall in 2010.

Post-BFD, Fano spent two years with ECPO as a special investigation and executive protection unit member. The now-West Caldwell resident and state licensed real estate agent protected assets at the Saddle Brook Walmart and as facilities director for Raritan's Alternatives, Inc.

Wife Helen, sons Vincent and Michael, mother Anita Lombardi, brother Victor Fano and sister Maria Fano-Galeotafiore are among his survivors. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**MONTCLAIR** - The Bellevue Theatre, on March 27, was vandalized for the second time in 15 months.

Representatives of theater owner Jesse Sayegh called the Montclair Police Department when they found an opened door on 268 Bellevue Ave. earlier that Friday. A joint search found that a person or persons sprayed graffiti throughout the building, causing an estimated \$10,000 in damages.

Vandals last hit the Bellevue on Jan. 31, 2020, leaving behind some damaged theater seats, smashed interior windows, dislodged ceiling tiles and a discharged fire extinguisher. That person or persons remain(s) at large.

It meanwhile appears that the Bellevue, which BowTie Theaters closed Nov. 12, 2017, may not reopen in time for its 2022 centennial celebration.

Sayegh told "Broadway World" Jan. 9 that he now intends to renovate the building as a ground floor movie theater with apartment and storefront commercial space. He had terminated his lease Jan. 1 with Bellevue Enterprises/Highgate Hall LLC for "breach of contract."

Bellevue/Highgate, where five of its six partners were Montclairions with motion picture experience, had proposed a

six-screen theater, a second-floor restaurant and street-level storefront space. The pandemic froze those site plans, which they withdrew from the Montclair Zoning Board of Adjustment Jan. 5.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The Montclair Fire Department's March 28 call to put out a fire near the former Benson Street Railroad station had some veteran firefighters and neighbors thinking back to a more serious blaze there.

MFD personnel and Montclair Police Off. Andrew Waring, according to township records, responded to a brush fire report from near the former station along what is now called the "Lower Boonton Line" right of way that Sunday. The quickly extinguished fire was traced to an "exploded" PSE&G pole transformer; what power outages that happened briefly affected immediate neighbors.

Neither MFD nor MPD records had pinpointed the brush fire, which was close to the 1887 station-turned private home. MFD personnel, however, joined their Glen Ridge and Bloomfield colleagues in putting out a July 10, 1990 blaze that seriously damaged the active station.

The fire was one of GRFD's final calls. A shared service agreement with Montclair dissolved the borough's department Jan. 1, 1991. Two 18-year-old men - one from Bloomfield, the other Montclair - and a 17-year-old Bloomfielder were charged with the arson Oct. 30-31.

The blaze created an impasse among the borough, NJTransit, right of way owner Conrail Shared Assets-Norfolk Southern and tenant Jimmy Wilson over who should pay for repairs until 2007. NJTransit meanwhile diverted all "LBL" passenger service onto the combined Montclair-Boonton Line Sept. 20-22, 2002.

NJTransit sold the building in 2009 to a resident redeveloper, who repaired and converted the station by 2013. NS has sold the 12-mile line to a third party, who is promoting its reuse as a greenway rail trail to towns along the way.

**BELLEVILLE** - One township man, accused of a Bloomfield armed robbery, has posted bail while his alleged accomplice remains held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since their March 10 arrest.

Anthony Dagata, 21, remains held on a count each of robbery by the threat of bodily injury, possessing a weapon for an unlawful purpose and the unlawful possession of a weapon as of April 5. Ethan Lazado, 20, had presumably posted bail after being similarly charged.

Dagata and Lazado were picked up on Forest Hill Apartments property along Davey Street by Bloomfield police officers March 10. They were brought back to

the Krauser's Food Mart at 73 Belleville Ave., where the manager had identified them as holding him up at knifepoint.

The manager said that the pair had entered the store earlier in the day, "brandished a large knife" and demanded cash and several packs of Newport cigarettes. The pair then fled onto the garden apartment complex through the store's back door.

61-73 Belleville Ave., also known as East West Plaza, was built about the same time as the Forest Hill Apartments. Both are within walking distance of Belleville's SoHo section to its east.

**NUTLEY** - Township police detectives have been looking for a "customer" who ran out of a Franklin Avenue store with an expensive cell phone March 27.

The store employee was showing the customer/suspect the iPhone Pro Max's features when the person suddenly shouted, "They're towing my car!" The person then ran out the door, phone in hand, and north on Franklin.

The Pro Max is valued at \$1,300.

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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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