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A bus and car are burnt out after a rocket hit in Holon. Photo By Yoav Keren

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VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 28 \* MAY 20, 2021 - MAY 26, 2021

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

# LOCAL TALK



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## PIPELINE CYBERATTACK HITS HOME



Inconvenient gas prices are just some of the issues that arose from the Colonial Pipeline hack.

By Walter Elliott

ESSEX - While some "Local Talk" area motorists may see their gasoline prices settling down after Colonial Pipeline's owners had resolved its May 5-12 computer hacking attack, its effects may last well beyond the prices at the pumps.

The American Automobile Association-Northeast, among those who track gasoline prices, found the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline peaking

to a \$3.07 statewide average as of May 17. This is a nickel up from May 10's \$3.02 average and \$1.07 up from May 17, 2019.

AAA-Northeast, on May 10, listed Essex County as second to Bergen County with the highest average gas prices among New Jersey's 21 counties.

Colonial Pipeline officials, after reopening their 5,500 mains between Texas refineries and its Linden, N.J. terminus 5

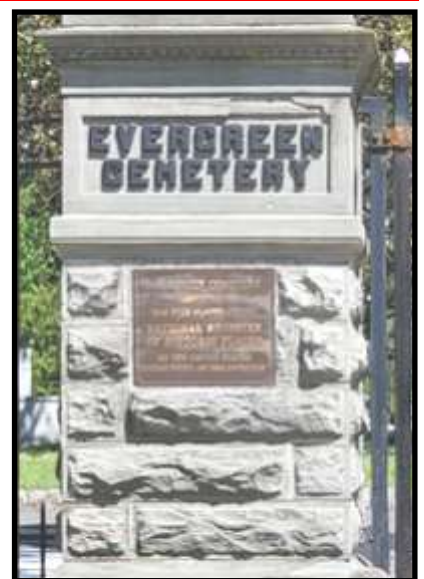
(Continued on page 13)

## THE EVERGREEN CEMETERY DRAMA: IT'S HAPPENED IN 6 STATES

By Lev D. Zilbermints

Vandalism and desecration of the Evergreen Cemetery is not limited to Hillside, New Jersey. A spate of vandalisms, all occurring in an Evergreen Cemetery, has occurred in at least five other states. Texas, Maine, Colorado, Virginia and Illinois have seen incidents of vandalism between 2015 - 2021.

"Local Talk" diligently investigated the incidents and unexpectedly found that no other



news outlet noticed similarities between cases in six states. Information from the article has been extracted from sources across the country.

In Portland, Maine, more than 150 monuments and gravesites have been toppled or broken at Evergreen Cemetery, Portland Police said.

Bangor, Maine

The Bangor Daily News re-

(Continued on page 3)



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Turn to  
PAGE 16



**Editorial**

**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

Slowly and gradually, the coronavirus pandemic has become less dominant in our regular lives. As many have announced, most of the restrictions, including wearing masks has been lifted. Vaccination is in full force, but we should take care of ourselves by protecting ourselves with masks and social distancing.

I see many restaurants are packed with customers. People have been fed up with staying home. Slowly and gradually, business is picking up. Without government help, many businesses have already folded. PPP loans have been a great success. However, SBA loans to different businesses with 3.75% interest

and 2.75% for the organization will be a debt for many individuals. It is a 30-year loan, like a home mortgage. A home mortgage with excellent credit has a lower interest rate than the 3.75% SBA is charging. Those who took that loan would pay the installments until the end of their lives. Also, everyone should be cautious while traveling. By road is a better way to travel than by plane or train. By train is a better way to travel than plane.

New Jersey lifted the restrictions on travelers from other states. Now they do not require a quarantine for 14 days. However, it was self-quarantining without any reporting. From what I heard, some people were traveling, had only temperature checking at the airport and did not follow the quarantine when they reached their destination.

I had a discussion with a couple of Local Talk's readers. One said that it should be man-

datory for anyone owning a house to live in the community. He was trying to stop the investors who are buying the houses and charging a lot of rent and making money - but they do not live in the community. Partially, it is true because those who actually live their lives in the community do not get an advantage like that.

For that, I have a couple of suggestions. Those who have lived more than 20 years in the same community should benefit from their support of the community. So, they should have no property tax for 10 or 15 years. That will give them encouragement to buy property in the community they live in. Also, those who are born and lived their life for 18 years, as an adult, they get the same privileges. For the time they are getting the advantage of no property taxes, they are giving some money to the township or the city by the way of sales tax and spending their money

within the community, more than outsiders. The cities or townships are giving 30 years tax abatement to those who invest money, make money, but do not support the community, except donating some money at the fundraisers of the politicians.

There is another way of helping and encouraging residents by reduced property tax. They will get 20% or 25% discount on the property taxes. This way, they will buy local properties and keep the spirits high for the township or city.

I am not against raising funds for a campaign. But there should be a limit. There should be a limit on campaigning. If the government restricts one candidate from campaigning in senior buildings, this restriction should apply to all, including the elected officials who are in administration.

*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>
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy, But Hot	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	PM Thunderstorms
HI 77	HI 80	HI 85	HI 92	HI 74	HI 78	HI 90
LO 57	LO 62	LO 66	LO 61	LO 56	LO 65	LO 65

**EVERGREEN CEMETERY**

*(Continued from page 1)*

ported in its April 2, 2021 edition that witnesses reported seeing teenagers running away from the cemetery on March 26, though the nature and extent of the damage indicates it's likely that the vandalism occurred over several days, police told Bangor Daily News.

"I'm always disheartened by such flagrant disregard for not only others' property, but for the memories of our community's loved ones. We have bolstered patrols in the cemeteries, and I would urge anyone with any information to contact the police department, even anonymously, to help us solve this senseless vandalism," Portland Police Chief Frank Clark told Bangor Daily News.

**Austin, Texas**

Evergreen Cemetery in east Austin, Texas, was vandalized over the weekend of September

18 - 20, 2020. About 15 headstones were defaced with blue spray paint, KXAN reported. It is believed that the cemetery was targeted because it is a predominantly Black cemetery.

KXAN reported that the Black Austin Coalition organized the cleanup and created an online petition. The purpose of the petition is to bring more security cameras and surveillance at the cemetery to prevent future vandalism.

Nook Turner, a representative of the Black Austin Coalition, told KXAN, "This is our ground; this is our soil. We got our blood in the ground here, and we got to protect it. We have to get educated on the value of it, and we have to understand what we need to do moving forward, so things like this will never happen again."

The Austin Police Department is reportedly investigating the vandalism.

**Bloomington, Illinois**

Research by "Local Talk" yielded an April 22, 2015 report about the Bloomington Police Department arresting two suspects for doing damage to gravestones at the Evergreen Cemetery. According to the police report, on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at approximately 0815 hours, Bloomington Police responded to Evergreen Cemetery (302 E. Miller Street) regarding damage to numerous headstones. Upon arrival, an officer observed several toppled and damaged headstones as well as damage to a vault located in the cemetery.

Terry L. Ridgeway Jr., age 32, of Bloomington was arrested for Felony Criminal Damage to Property. A 17-year-old juvenile, of Bloomington, was arrested for Felony Criminal Damage to Property. There are reported no other suspects in the case.

Ridgeway was transported to McLean County Jail.

The police report stated that BPD patrol officers and detectives from BPD's Criminal Investigations Division followed-

up information from a concerned citizen regarding the vandalism. The public was thanked for assisting police in catching criminals and holding them accountable for their actions.

**Richmond, Virginia**

According to the Times-Dispatch of Richmond, Virginia, gravestones in Richmond's East End and Evergreen cemeteries were vandalized. Maggie L. Walker's grave was sprayed with a neon green sign of "777", a hate symbol used by a South African white supremacist group in the 1970s and Nazi Germany in the 1940s, the Anti-Defamation League said.

The Sir Moses Montefiore Cemetery, the East End Cemetery and the Evergreen Cemetery were all founded in the late 19th century to serve marginalized communities, the Times-Dispatch reported.

Evergreen and East End cemeteries are predominantly *(Continued on page 7)*

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## **MIDDLE EAST**

### ***The Israel & Palestine Crisis Worsens***

As the fighting escalates between two sides, one thing holds true despite any opinions, people want Israel and Palestine to stop firing at each other.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued an urgent appeal for all parties involved in this week's escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian enclave of Gaza, and Israel, to "immediately cease the fighting," or risk creating an "uncontainable security and humanitarian crisis."

"The ongoing military escalation has caused great suffering and destruction," said a statement issued on behalf of Guterres by his Spokesperson. "It has claimed scores of civilian lives, including, tragically, many children. The fighting has the potential to unleash an uncontainable security and humanitarian crisis and to further foster extremism, not only in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, but in the region as a whole."

In a statement, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the region, Lynn Hastings, said some 10,000 Palestinians had fled their homes in Gaza, with limited access to water, food, hygiene, and health services.

"The Israeli authorities and Palestinian armed groups must immediately allow the United Nations and our humanitarian partners to bring in fuel, food, and medical supplies and to deploy humanitarian personnel. All parties must always adhere to international humanitarian and human rights laws," she said.

"Civilians are suffering," spokesperson Jens Laerke told journalists earlier, at a media briefing in Geneva, noting that

extensive damage has been reported to civilian property in densely populated areas all across the Gaza Strip, with over 200 housing units destroyed or severely damaged.

There are also reports of hundreds of people, many from refugee camps in Gaza, seeking safety and shelter in schools run by UNRWA, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, especially in the northern Gaza Strip.

On May 17, U.S. President Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. The President reiterated his firm support for Israel's right to defend itself against indiscriminate rocket attacks. The President welcomed efforts to address intercommunal violence and to bring calm to Jerusalem. He encouraged Israel to make every effort to ensure the protection of innocent civilians.

The two leaders discussed progress in Israel's military operations against Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza. The President expressed his support for a ceasefire and discussed U.S. engagement with Egypt and other partners towards that end. The two leaders agreed that they and their teams would remain in close touch.

There is no word on if Biden attempted to reach out to Palestinian leadership.

## **UNITED STATES**

### ***Fighting COVID Fraudsters***

On May 17, U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the establishment of the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance enforcement efforts against COVID-19 related fraud.

"The Department of Justice will use every available federal tool—including criminal, civil, and administrative actions - to combat and prevent COVID-19 related fraud. We look forward to working with our federal gov-

ernment colleagues to bring to justice those who seek to profit unlawfully from the pandemic," wrote Attorney General Garland in a memo announcing the Task Force.

The federal government responded to the far-reaching economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with critical COVID-19 relief to workers and businesses affected by the pandemic. There has already been extraordinary vigilance, across the federal government, to help ensure that those much-needed public funds make it to Americans who are depending on them to feed their families and keep their businesses open. While it is impossible to keep all those intent on carrying out illegal COVID fraud schemes from doing so, the Department of Justice and its partner agencies have already been working to hold hundreds of bad actors accountable.

The Task Force will augment and incorporate the existing coordination mechanisms within the Department and will continue to work in close coordination with other efforts underway throughout the federal government. It will work closely with the Department's interagency partners to share information and insights gained from prior enforcement experience, in order to reduce the potential threat to the American people and COVID-19 relief, and will help agencies tasked with administering these significant relief programs increase their fraud prevention efforts by providing any appropriate information law enforcement learns about fraud trends and illicit tactics.

Additionally, it will also bolster efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminals, prevent the exploitation of government assistance for personal and financial gain, and recover stolen funds.

Organized and led by the Deputy Attorney General, the Task Force includes several entities within the Department of Justice, including the Criminal and Civil Divisions, the Execu-

tive Office for United States Attorneys, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Key interagency partners, such as the Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security, the Small Business Administration, the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Relief (SIGPR), the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), and others, have been invited to be part of the Task Force.

The Department of Justice needs the public's assistance in remaining vigilant and reporting suspected fraudulent activity. To report suspected fraud, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCFD) at (866) 720-5721 or file an online complaint at: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/webform/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>. Complaints filed will be reviewed at the NCFD and referred to federal, state, local, or international law enforcement or regulatory agencies for investigation.

## **EUROPE**

### ***Hit and Run Driver Gets More Time***

Mohammed Ishfaq, who killed a grandmother in a hit and run incident has had his prison term increased following an intervention by the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP.

In November 2017, Krishna Droch, 62, was killed when she was struck by Ishfaq's speeding car that was travelling on the wrong side of the road in Birmingham.

Drug dealer, Ishfaq, aged 31 at the time of offending had consumed a cocktail of drugs including heroin and cocaine with his friend Daren Holness, before they drove to an address to sell drugs. When they arrived, they noticed two vehicles waiting for them, so they drove away, resulting in a car chase that lasted for approximately half a mile.

CCTV footage captured Ishfaq driving on the wrong side of

*(Continued on page 7)*

# BLACK LIVES MATTER, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

Hello Readers,

Foremost as said and must, do keep always wearing your mask. Now I'll be discussing on everyday crimes. Recently, I



myself experienced some terrible, horrible, hurting this past week. Just honestly disturbing, and getting over it is the hardest part. In the blink of an eye, you never know. You can be a victim like myself. I am blessed and thankful to see another day.

There are still ongoing cases over the years. Today, people are still missing and the search stands at what remains. This has to stop, honestly, NYC has to stop. What is NYC doing? Are they truly concerned? Because more and more crimes are happening every second. Besides this, the underground attacks, pushing on the train tracks, the slashing in faces, the whole situ-



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ation is insane, freaking ridiculous.

NYC says it puts more into the task force on the job for the public, but I can't tell. These people are getting hurt, and killed right under their nose. It's a dysfunctional system. They are with a rap sheet on the street. New York, what are you?

There are wrong decisions made by the elected politicians, including the Mayor of New York City. The crime rate is not getting better, and still we elect the same people over and over again. New Jersey is no different. Both states should take priority in their action towards crime. Thousands of children are missing in New York City. In New Jersey there are over 1100 people missing, and nationwide, there are 87,000 active cases of missing people.

If you feel that my subject is worthy of talking about, please call me and if you have any emergency, call or text my phone at 973-280-1002. Let's take action. Even if your loved ones are in trouble, call or text me. This is not only for humans, but animals too.

Let me wish you the best until next time. Yours, Michele Lowe.

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photo By  
Keith Munford



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The East Orange All Stars spring football program has once again made it to the finals in the East Coast Spring Football League. EO scored a big 20-0 playoff win over the Orange All Stars rec football team, making it the third time this season they beat Orange. East Orange will be heading to the championship game against the Union County Vipers, who are 5-0 on the season, while EO has a season record of 4-1.

In other area sports, the Orange High School wrestling squad celebrated a milestone in recent weeks. Senior Merlin Senat captured his 100th career victory during the first ever outdoor two day wrestling event held at Bell Stadium in Orange. The Tornadoes wrestling team competed against Summit, but lost the match 45-20.

In high school baseball, the annual Greater Newark Tournament was held this past weekend, in which Millburn defeated Montclair 5-3. The championship game will be held at Yogi Berra Stadium on the campus of Montclair State University, where Millburn will face a tough Seton Hall Prep team.

Finally, the New York Yankees had an unusual round of COVID-19 cases, in which eight people, including Gleyber Torres, tested positive. These cases were called "breakthrough cases," as all were vaccinated, although reportedly with the less effective Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Also, Phoenix Suns head coach Month Williams was named Coach of the Year, much to the disappointment of Knicks fans, who felt that coach Tom Thibodeau should have gotten the award after leading NY to a #4 seed in the playoffs.

# Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

## Investment Options: Starting Your Own Business

This week, I will shed light on another investment option that is available to all of us. One can consider starting a new business. This is an option in terms of investments one can make.

Even during the pandemic, many people used the opportunity to start a new business. That was a tough time to start a business, yet people did it. In fact, research shows that many people do start successful businesses during economic down turns. We saw it during the Great Depression of the early 1930s and we saw it again during the Great Recession of 2008.

Why do people start their own businesses? There are several reasons that motivate some to start their own businesses. One reason could be the desire to increase their income. Some folks recognize that their full-time jobs do not provide the income that they desire to live the lifestyle that they desire. This leads people to identify unique skills that they possess which could be monetized.

Someone for example may be an excellent public speaker. They could develop a business plan for how to obtain engagements that would enable them to speak and get paid for it. Others may simply want to open businesses to provide services or products that they recognize society may be interested in. We have seen young folks starting

bow tie businesses using unique fabrics. Others have capitalized on family recipes that have been handed down through the generations. For example, we have businesses that provide baked goods using family-owned recipes.

Many people who establish businesses are also interested in being their own bosses. After decades of working for others, some realize that they would be much happier working for themselves than working for others. The added bonus for such people is the opportunity to earn much more than they were making working for others. It must be stated though that when one sets up a business, there is no guarantee that that business will make a profit. A new business will always face a certain amount of headwinds. However, it is possible to start a new business and grow it into a profitable enterprise.

These days we also have people who have created unique, new and innovative products that they then are able to bring into the market successfully. The advantage of such businesses is that they provide society with amazing options. Let us consider Uber and Airbnb. Uber was set up to provide transport services. The beauty of their business model is that the company does not own any vehicles, yet it has grown to become a multibillion-dollar business with a global footprint. Uber provides the apps and methodology for individuals to sign up as drivers and provide transport to the public.

Drivers who do not have suitable vehicles are even assisted by Uber to obtain vehicle loans to acquire used or even new vehicles that they can then use to provide transport to the public. The car payments are usually taken out of their earnings. The advantage of Uber to the drivers is that they get to schedule their own time for working. They can decide to work as little or as much as they desire.

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# ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from May 12 - May 19, 2021

Municipality	5-12-2021	Deaths	5-19-2021	Deaths
Belleville	5654	110	5641	111
Bloomfield	5286	119	5295	120
Caldwell	611	16	612	16
Cedar Grove	1536	119	1537	119
East Orange	7058	301	7074	303
Essex Fells	191	2	191	2
Fairfield	875	31	877	31
Glen Ridge	395	13	393	13
Irvington	4644	227	4663	228
Livingston	1823	85	1828	86
Maplewood	1286	36	1292	36
Millburn	823	10	825	10
Montclair	2262	72	2262	72
Newark	36651	975	<b>36746</b>	<b>985</b>
North Caldwell	485	6	489	6
Nutley	3024	64	3015	64
Orange	3520	131	3527	131
Roseland	473	16	473	16
South Orange	853	16	854	16
Verona	992	18	994	18
West Caldwell	1053	52	1052	53
West Orange	4555	228	4558	228
<b>Total</b>	<b>84050</b>	<b>2647</b>	<b>84198</b>	<b>2664</b>

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

**NJ: 884,221 cases / 23,370 deaths (Plus 2,660 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 33.01 Million / 587,600 deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 164.42 Million / 3.41 Million deaths**

**While the state of New York has relaxed rules on mask wearing, NJ Gov. Murphy is not yet ready to do so.**

Given the fact that diverse transport options existed before they were set up, one can recognize that Uber did its homework well and really found a niche for itself. To this day, Uber continues to obtain an increasing num-

ber of clients. One major reason for this is that the Uber service is available at a considerably lower price than taxis for example. In fact, many taxi services continue to bemoan the exist-

*(Continued on page 12)*

**WORLD NEWS**

*(Continued from page 4)*

the road, overtaking several vehicles by driving onto the oncoming lane and through a red light. The road had a speed limit of 30 mph, but he was driving between 50-56 mph when he hit the victim who was using a pedestrian crossing. The victim died at the scene.

Ishfaq failed to stop at the scene, instead he drove for another two miles before stopping to consume more drugs with Holness. They then removed any evidence from the vehicle and left on foot.

On March 4, the offender was convicted of causing death by dangerous driving at Birmingham Crown Court and sentenced to 6 years and 3 months' imprisonment.

The Solicitor General referred Ishfaq's original sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme. The Court found his sentence to be unduly lenient and on May 18 increased his sentence to 8 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said: "Ishfaq's actions stole the life of a much-loved woman and shattered a family. This was a senseless and avoidable crime. Crimes of this nature should be met with the full force of the law, and I am pleased the Court of Appeal increased the sentence today. My thoughts remain with the family and friends of Krishna Droch at this difficult time."

**AFRICA**

**Nation Asked to Address Domestic Violence**

Failure to address domestic violence in South Africa is a violation of women's rights, independent UN experts said in a report published on May 17, citing low levels of prosecution and conviction as factors.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination

against Women (CEDAW) visited the country in September 2019 to conduct a confidential inquiry into allegations raised by civil society organizations.

Available evidence indicated that the scale of domestic violence, including femicide, is alarmingly high, members said.

Many women and girls in South Africa, particularly in rural areas, are victim of harmful practices such as child marriage, abduction for marriage ("ukuthwala"), and polygamy or polygamous unions that often give rise to domestic violence.

CEDAW found those who reported their abuser often did not get the protection they needed. Official figures show that out of nearly 144,000 requests for protection orders in 2018-2019, only around 22,200 were granted. In many cases, the protection order just called for the abuser to sleep in a different room, in the same house.

The experts highlighted the substantial suffering experienced by women and girls frequently exposed to domestic violence, including sexual violence, from a very young age.

"Many victims described physical violence including rape, battery with objects, kicks and inflicted burns by their partners, who often abused alcohol or drugs, had low self-esteem or had sadistic tendencies," the Committee said.

"Some survivors used drugs to cope with the violence or had attempted to commit suicide. Even after leaving an abusive relationship, many continued to suffer from depression, trauma and anxiety."

The report also noted that in many cases, women had been killed by their partners.

The report includes 34 recommendations for action. They include effective law enforcement, policies ensuring adequate access to justice, protection and victim support services, and measures dismantling patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes that legitimize domestic violence.

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**EVERGREEN CEMETERY**

*(Continued from page 3)*

black. They are the final resting place of many African-American leaders from post-Reconstruction and Civil Rights eras, such as Maggie L. Walker, the first African American woman to charter a bank in the United States; Dr. Richard F. Tancil, who rose from being a slave to being a successful doctor and founder of the Nickel Savings Bank, Times-Dispatch reported.

According to its website, the Sir Moses Montefiore Cemetery was founded in 1886 by orthodox Jewish immigrants from the Russian Empire who fled persecution under the Tsarist regime of Alexander III and Nicholas II. The cemetery is currently managed by a board affiliated with Keneseth Beth Israel in Richmond's west end.

Vandalism affected Evergreen, East End and Sir Moses Montefiore cemeteries equally. "777" was also painted in the

Sir Moses Montefiore Cemetery as well as Evergreen and East End cemeteries.

The Richmond Free Press reported in its August 20, 2020 issue that almost three weeks after the cemeteries were vandalized, a group of Black and Jewish activists helped to restore the gravestones. Volunteers spent time removing graffiti from the gravestones in Black and Jewish cemeteries. As reported by the Richmond Free Press, Queen Richardson, an activist with the One Sound Movement, said that she and her friends wanted "to show that we just didn't stand for what was going on."

**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

According to a pamphlet published by the Evergreen Cemetery Benevolent Society, the Evergreen Cemetery was established shortly after the town was founded in 1871, and deeded to the City of Colorado

*(Continued on page 10)*

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NORTH WARD (DISTRICT 5)



**MALIKA ABDUL-ZAHIR**  
WEST WARD (DISTRICT 3)

## Orange Democratic District Leader Election Tuesday, June 8, 2021



# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Getting Covid Between Vaccine Shots: A Call To Reality

Getting a vaccine is the goal, right? If you've been following my writing, you'll know my answer to that is a resounding yes. Or to be more enthusiastic: Absolutely! The vaccine is the only way we can beat this virus. Yes, there's herd immunity, but you also need the vaccine for that.

Things started taking weird turns when people still got the virus after taking the vaccine. Depending on the number of vaccine shots taken and the time involved, the cases observed after taking the vaccine may be breakthrough cases or just normal covid cases.

Breakthrough cases are cases that occur two weeks after a person has been fully vaccinated. By fully vaccinated, I mean taking two shots of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine and one of the Johnson & Johnson. Breakthrough cases are really rare, with mere tens in millions of

vaccinated people having them, and even when they arise, the mortality rate or hospitalization risk is virtually non-existent.

When a person gets covid between vaccine doses, it isn't a breakthrough case - it's just a person getting covid. The covid vaccine ramps up our immune system to better combat the virus, if it eventually enters the body. To do this, the vaccine provides the body a blueprint of the virus to get it acclimatized with the virus.

The mRNA vaccines don't work like conventional vaccines in that there isn't a weakened or dead strain of the virus being injected. It works with messenger RNA carrying protein instructions about the virus into the body. I really don't want to go too much into this, but the effect is still the same - protection from the virus.

However, with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine, you need two shots to assure immunity. The first shot is undoubtedly going to offer a reasonable level of protection, with scientists suggesting about 50-80%. While it isn't the best for a vaccine, it is still more than enough to prevent deaths and hospitalizations if the person eventually gets covid.

The second shot is what really assures full immunity. Don't mistake me saying full immunity for 100% protection in all cases, I mean, I just spoke of breakthrough cases. In fact, there isn't a medicine in this world that can be said to be 100% effective. There's always a chance of an infection developing after medicine or even vaccine application, albeit a very very minimal one. You can probably throw one more 'very' in there too!

With that said, it isn't too out of place to hear that some people



get the virus after the first shot. Your chances of getting it are far lower than in unvaccinated people, but you definitely can still get it. This is why all hands have to be on deck till the end of the war. I'm talking of this long, arduous, and frustrating war against the coronavirus.

Getting one shot is not enough reason to neglect social distancing rules as you could still catch the virus, and that in turn means, you can still spread the virus. And if the virus keeps spreading, the chances of new strains developing are higher, which means the chances of more deaths and hospitalizations are also higher.

This is why Biden tweeted, 'the rule is now simple: get vaccinated or wear a mask until you do.' Note that he didn't say get one vaccine shot, he said, get vaccinated. This means full vaccination, and that is only possible with two shots for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. If you've taken just one shot, you need to take one more. And pending when you take the second shot, you must act as though you are unvaccinated, following all social distancing and covid guide-

lines.

From Biden's tweet, you can also see that the goal is for everyone to eventually get vaccinated, hence the 'wear a mask, UNTIL you do' part. Again, the vaccine is still our only shot of beating this virus. So, if you want us to finally beat this virus, you know what to do.

Stay safe. And wear a mask until you get vaccinated.

*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/2021/04/23/getting-covid-after-vaccine/>

### EVERGREEN CEMETERY

(Continued from page 7)

Springs in 1875 the city founder, General William Jackson Palmer. As such, 220-acre Evergreen Cemetery enjoys a very unique historical tie to the Colorado Springs community. In 1993, Evergreen was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, only the second cemetery in the state to receive such an honor.

The same pamphlet discuss-

es reasons why graves have been vandalized. These are given below.

### What do all Evergreen Cemeteries in various states have in common?

Research by "Local Talk" found that most if not all, Evergreen Cemeteries were for Black people. This is the case with New Jersey, Texas, Virginia. According to the 2010 Federal Census, Maine is demograph-

ically 94.8% white, 1% Black, 1.1% Asian, 2% of two or more races. Thus, it is not clear that the Evergreen Cemetery in Maine is similar to that of its counterparts in New Jersey, Texas and Virginia. Colorado Springs is 78.8% White, 6.3% Black, 16.1% Latino or Hispanic, 3% Asian, 1% Native American, 5.5% of some other race, 0.3% descended from indigenous Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and 5.5% from two or more races. Thus, the Ever-

green Cemetery in Colorado Springs serves both the Black community and others as well.

Another important point is that some Evergreen Cemeteries in the different states did not have proper security or cameras installed. The cases in New Jersey, Texas and Virginia illustrate this. In some other cases, where cameras were installed, the culprits were caught on video. This helped to catch them later.

(Continued on page 14)

# TOWN WATCH

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

**NEWARK** - A former Newark Parking Authority employee is serving his 30-month jail sentence for possessing narcotics with an intent to distribute plus illegal weapons possession as part of his May 6 plea bargain here in U.S. federal court.

Aughkay L. Green, 50, of Newark will also be on three years' supervised release once he has served his time.

U.S. Judge Katherine S. Hayden sentenced Green after the latter pleaded guilty to the federal justice department's three indictments. Those counts were possession of heroin and cocaine base with an intent to distribute and for being a convict in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Green, said Acting U.S. Attorney Rachel A. Hoing, was seen by law enforcement surveillance selling 38 grams, or 25 decks, of heroin to "Individual One" for \$1,200 Jan. 12, 2017.

Green, also known as "K-Boogie," sold 48.9 grams of crack cocaine to the same person for \$21,250 March 22, 2017. Green was wearing his NPA uniform at the time.

Green, with "an unidentified male associate," was further accused of being present when the associate sold two Smith and Wesson handguns and 50 rounds of hollow point bullets to Individual One for \$1,360 in Irvington for \$1,360. One gun was a Model 21 .44 caliber, the other a Model 15 .38 caliber.

**IRVINGTON** - Authorities are still looking for a motorist who had left a boy injured along a major West Ward street here May 5.

Irvington police and local medics were called to Lyons Avenue and Lincoln Place 4:42 p.m. that Monday - where they found the maimed youth, The boy and witnesses told IPD officers of a car that struck the victim and had kept traveling along Lyons.

The boy is expected to recover from his injuries after treatment at a local hospital. No further details were given as of presstime.

**EAST ORANGE** - Afternoon rush hour motorists and riders on NJTransit's No. 41 bus route witnessed a picket like demonstration in front of 140 Park Ave. here May 13.

Workers of the Gardens Care and Rehabilitation Center - better known as Windsor Gardens - were protesting the pending sale to Complete Care Management.

They were joined by members and officials of SEIU Local 1199, The union had also held similar demonstrations at five other Complete Care nursing homes across the state April 15.

SEIU representatives, April 13, said that Windsor Healthcare Communities to CCM would include the decimation of paid time off plus the elimination of educational and retirement benefits and an affordable health insurance plan.

An arbitrator, since April 15, has issued an emergency order to block Windsor Gardens' sale to CCM. CCM has meanwhile gone to federal court in Newark to have the block removed.

CCM, which is owned by a private equity firm, is the largest nursing home chain in New Jersey. Complete Care at Summit Ridge, of West Orange, is among its 19 Garden State centers with four more in Wisconsin.

An attempt to reach out to the Howell-headquartered CCM May 16 was not successful.

**ORANGE** - Registered city Democrats have some choosing to do who will represent them on the party's city and county levels June 8.

What would normally be a formality in picking respective Essex County Democratic Committee or Essex Republican Party Organization district leaders, in Orange's case, has up to three slates of candidates to choose

from.

It does not get more politically local than a party district leader, where wards are broken down to neighborhoods. The party district leader becomes a liaison between the neighbors and at least the major party - or City Hall if the party has an elected member on the council or in the mayor's office. The district leader helps set policies for the party. Some also become county or state committee members or, on convention years, even national party delegates.

In the North Ward - Fifth District ECDC candidates Kevin Hardaway and Tency Eason are being faced by "Community First - Not Politics" runner Elisha (or El'sha on campaign literature) Petite. In the East Ward-5, Tazewell Lacey and an open ECDC seat are faced by Community First's Tyrone Jon Tarver and Germaine Tarver.

In the West-3 district, ECDC runners William Hathaway, Jr. and Melissa McKoy are challenged by Community First's Malika Abdul-Zahir. In W-5, Shelley Alexander and an empty ECDC seat are being challenged by independent Dolores Sawyer.

In South-1, ECDC's Clifford Ross and Mamie Green are being challenged by Edward B. Marable, Jr. and Karen Wells. In S-2, ECDC's David K. Armstrong, Lawrence Gaunt, Jr. and a vacant seat are being challenged by "Demand Progress-Every Vote Counts" April Gaunt -Butler plus independents Ernest Lydell Carter, Deborah Bartley-Carter, Shawn Hunter and Jairam Kissou. In S-4, ECDC's Stacey Martin is vying with Community First's Brenda Daugherty.

**WEST ORANGE** - Mayor Robert Parisi may present details of his administration's purchase of almost a third of the Crestmont Country Club during his remarks at the Township Council's May 18 meeting.

There was no listing of the Township-Crestmont Country Club transaction on the council's agenda as of 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Those details that the council and the public want to know includes the purchase price.

Mayor Parisi announced May 7 that the township had agreed to buy 95 of CCC's 300 acres. The acreage had been ru-

mored to be on the market and could have been the site for a townhouse development.

"The Township, with the help and support of the Council, agreed to terms with CCC for acquiring 95 acres of undeveloped land that had been slated for development," said Parisi. "The acquisition will permanently preserve the land while protecting the surrounding neighborhoods."

Crestmont started off as an 18-hole golf course by August Sipple in 1913. Although the Pleasantdale section course has since changed hands five times, its 248 members have built a wedding reception area, a track and field oval and a polo course.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - Although the South Orange-Maplewood School District is well on its way to full in-person learning, nearly 24 parents, on May 10, want the former learning model to happen sooner than later.

The 20 parents asked Schools Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor and the Board of Education that Monday night to bring back full in-person learning before the current 2020-21 school year ends.

Full return soon advocates cited declining infection rates and improved student learning.

"We haven't given up" on a five-day in-person week, replied Taylor. "We'll make sure we're still vigilant" by talking with local and state health officials.

SOMSD, since April 26, have made in-person learning available to all grades. Grades Six-Eight students, however, are allowed in-person learning five days a week. Students from the Sixth Grade up are on a hybrid learning model; both students and teachers on half-day schedules.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Mayor Michael Venezia came to Broadacres Office Park to walk a picket line with Planned Companies cleaning workers and SEIU 32BJ members May 4,

They are asking Broadacres new owner, ERCT Capital Group, to either restore the cleaner's lost wages or replace Planned Companies with a union contractor. Workers told 32BJ, Venezia and the public that

(Continued on page 14)



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### Lasting Peace

It is profoundly distressing that war has "flared up" again in the Middle East. I said "flared up," because as the history goes, the Middle East has been in a state of "endless wars."

Every president of the United States, that I have known, in my seven plus decades of life, has had to face wars in the Middle East. Whether it is the war on the Arabian Peninsula, or the war in Iran, or war with Turkey, or the Iraqi wars, or the war in Syria, or the Egyptian - Israeli conflicts or the Israel Palestinian wars, there seems to be no time of peace in the Middle East.

This latest flare up between Israel and the Palestinians has been simmering for a while. Israel has been pummeling Gaza with air strikes in response to Hamas' launching of missiles into Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and other occupied areas around Gaza. The directive to strike at terrorist targets has been given by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after a meeting with his military chiefs. He said "We will

continue to act as necessary to restore peace and security to all residents of Israel." And Hamas has said it will continue to launch rockets until the airstrikes stop.

As of the time of writing, 216 Palestinians have been killed and twenty Israelis. Among the dead are 61 children. The efforts of President Biden and others to encourage peace seems to be falling on deaf ears, and will continue until the Israelis and the Palestinians can come to a common understanding regarding their claims to Jerusalem and its environs.

Yes, it is of interest to me is that Jerusalem has been called the "The city of Peace" and yet it has been the center of wars since its founding by the Jebusites. When in its earliest history king Melchizedek - the king of Jerusalem - the king of Peace met with Abraham, Abraham was coming from a war with five kings in the valley of Shitim where the kings were in constant warfare. (Genesis 14)

Because of its history of wars and claim to be a city of peace, a holy city, Jerusalem has taken center stage in geopolitics. So many wars are fought in a city where God's name is invoked by three religions, namely Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

As I reflect on the prospect for peace in Jerusalem and the Israeli Palestinian lands, I am led to think back on what I had read

many years ago in Professor Jacques Ellul's book, *The Meaning of the City*, when he says:

"Jerusalem is a holy city. But she is still a city. She carries man's (sic) mark, even in her (sic) election, even in her adoption by God. She never escapes from all the characteristics of the city, as is indicated by the accusations constantly aimed at her, aimed all the sins she never ceases falling into anew. Her sins are those of the other cities, she acts like them and is condemned like them.

"Jerusalem is a bloody city - built in blood and living in sacrifices, crime and war. The terrible curse pronounced against builders weighs her down also, and God adopted her when she was covered with blood. . . (Mic. 3:10; Ezek. 16). She is the city of pride. She, also, like the other cities, insults heaven with her mad desire to plunder heaven itself (Jer 13:9). City of pride and injustice. . . (p. 97)

"Everything in the city of Jerusalem that still belongs to the world of the city, the creation and pride of man (sic), is condemned to be only a devastated cemetery. (97)."

I did not write here to discourage the diplomatic efforts, but to make the point that as long as human pride and prejudice, and the struggles for possessions continue in the earth, that, the prospect from peace is elusive.

However, I wish to ask those of us who are not doing the work of the diplomats and the presidents and prime ministers to negotiate the peace, to join the Psalmist in a prayer:

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
"May they prosper who love you.*

*Peace be within your walls,  
Prosperity within your palaces."  
For the sake of my brethren and companions,*

*I will now say, "Peace be within you."*

*Because of the house of the Lord our God*

*I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:6-9).*

And for those of us who understand that a legacy of peace is not going to be possible so long as humanity continues in the state that there is so much hatred in their hearts. Let us ask the Lord to cleanse our hearts, take away the hatred, and hasten the day when the New Jerusalem will "come down from God out of heaven, as a bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:2) Only then will there be peace - lasting peace (Revelation 21).

### FINANCE

(Continued from page 6)

ence of Uber which is direct competition with their service. Uber will most likely continue to attract an increasing number of clients as more people recognize that it is safe, fast and affordable.

Airbnb is quite similar to Uber. People are able to rent homes or rooms for periods of time. Airbnb does not own these properties. Like Uber, the properties are offered on the platform by individuals that would like to earn money from their properties. Airbnb focuses on setting up the rules and guidelines and a payment mechanism that satisfies both the public as well as the home providers.

Regardless of the particular investment option you choose, there are diverse ways to earn additional income. Some have set up e-commerce sites where they are able to earn income even as they work full time with an employer. Others have also invested in franchises and used that to establish their businesses.

Regardless of the business one chooses; the important thing is to be aware from the beginning that setting up a business requires investments in the form of capital as well as time. Those that have the capital but do not have the time choose to invest in stocks and other financial securities.

Keep in mind that setting up a business requires dedication

and sacrifice. A profit is also not guaranteed. Having said that, we have seen in our lifetimes a number of businesses grow and provide their owners with large incomes that enable them to live a lifestyle of their dreams.

Business can be quite rewarding, and this is a major attraction for new business owners. If you want to start a business, do your homework well, research the opportunity thoroughly and write a business plan. Learn as much as you can about the business you are about to enter and that will give you an advantage.

Within many communities throughout the country, there are business development organizations, some of which provide

free consulting to new business owners. One of these entities is the Small Business Administration (SBA) which provides free consulting through the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's). The SBDC's are present in every single state. Take advantage of these free resources should you decide to start your own business.

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](mailto:localtalk-news@gmail.com).

## BLOOMFIELD DETECTIVE INDICTED ON CHARGE OF OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

TRENTON - Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced that a suspended detective in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office was indicted May 17 for installing a Global Positioning System ("GPS") tracking device on a civilian's vehicle without obtaining the required warrant from a judge or departmental authorization.

Timothy Kealy, 27, of Bloomfield, was indicted today by a state grand jury on a charge of second-degree official misconduct. The indictment was obtained by the Attorney General's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) as the result of an investigation by the Professional Standards Bureau of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office ("ECPO").

The ECPO Professional

Standards Bureau began investigating Kealy in January 2020 after learning that Kealy, who was assigned to the Essex County Narcotics Task Force, had allegedly purchased and installed a GPS tracking device on a civilian's car without formal or legal authority. The ECPO has a process by which detectives must obtain permission from supervisors to apply to a judge for a warrant, and only ECPO-issued GPS devices may be used. A court-issued warrant is required by law for law enforcement to install a GPS device on a vehicle. Kealy was suspended as a result of the investigation.

The charge of second-degree official misconduct carries a sentence of five to 10 years in state prison, including a mandatory minimum term of five years of

parole ineligibility, and a fine of up to \$150,000. The indictment is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Deputy Attorney General Eric C. Cohen presented the case to the state grand jury for the OPIA Corruption Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Peter Lee and OPIA Deputy Director Anthony Picione. Attorney General Grewal thanked the Professional Standards Bureau of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office for their investigation and referral.

Attorney General Grewal created the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) in September 2018 to combat corruption and strengthen public confidence in govern-

ment institutions. In December 2019, the Attorney General issued a directive codifying OPIA and making it a permanent part of the Attorney General's Office. That directive established the OPIA Corruption Bureau as the lead office within the Department of Law & Public Safety for the investigation and prosecution of state criminal violations involving corruption and abuse of public trust.

OPIA has a toll-free Tipline 1-844-OPIA-TIPS for the public to report corruption. The AG's Office has an Anti-Corruption Reward Program that offers a reward of up to \$25,000 for tips leading to a conviction for a crime involving public corruption. Information is posted at: <http://nj.gov/oag/corruption/reward.html>.

### PIPELINE CYBERATTACK

(Continued from page 1)

p.m. May 12, said that the gasoline, heating oil and kerosene-jet fuel supplies will "take several days" to flow back to normal levels.

CP, from its Alpharetta, Ga. headquarters, closed the pipeline in response to a ransomware attack from a group called DarkSide May 7. It serves 10 Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Gulf Coast states with 45 percent of its gasoline.

New Jersey motorists have noticed the price hikes but may have been spared the panic buying shortages that hit Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and - despite not being served by CP - central Florida.

Some 12,000 Southeastern gas stations said they had run out by May 10. Those that remained open had waiting lines reminiscent of the fuel shortages of the 1970s. Several customers were seen filling plastic storage containers and single use plastic bags with gasoline - prompting officials to warn them to use approved motor fuel containers only.

Governors in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia declared states of emergency. Charlotte, N.C. officials suspended non-essential city motor pool use; the regional transit carrier suspended fare collection since May 11.

New Jersey and Delaware

were spared the brunt in part because their refineries were able to receive crude oil from nearby seaports and/or were trucked in. Trucking association representatives noted, however, that the tanker truck industry is running with 10 percent fewer drives since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While CP officials and their IT technicians strived to work around and harden their pipeline control system, President Joseph Biden signed an executive order waiving truck drivers' work rules and hours. Foreign flag sea tankers were temporarily allowed to ship crude oil between U.S. ports.

Colonial CEO Joseph Blount was meanwhile faced with a dilemma a growing number of executives had before in recent times: pay the hackers their ransom or try to "hack back" their computer control system.

Blount, in a May 19 interview, more than confirmed a rumor that he paid DarkSide \$4.4 million in ransom.

"I didn't make it lightly; I admit that I wasn't comfortable seeing money go out the door to people like this," said Blount Wednesday morning. "But it was the right thing to do for this country."

Blount - in consultations with federal law enforcement and IT professionals - had determined that DarkSide was a "black hat" hacking group.

Black hat hackers will break

through a victim's computer system with damage a forethought. They will at least attempt to disrupt a victim's operations. Some, like DarkSide, will demand ransom under threat of releasing stolen files. Those files may or may not contain customers' Social Security numbers or other sensitive information.

Readers may recall, for example, that some of Newark City Hall's desktop computers were disabled by a computer encryption virus with ransomware April 24-27, 2017. The hackers demanded a 1.7 Bitcoin "fee," or up to 24 Bitcoins, to unlock and free the software.

Those computers not hit by the Bitcoin ransomware went into "safe mode" until the matter was resolved.

DarkSide, which has been operating since August, is not a "white hat" hacking operation. White hat hackers are individuals who will break into a computer system and then tell its host, "See how easily vulnerable your system is?"

DarkSide, in its statements, have tried to pass themselves off as a "Grey hat" operation - that they will not invade medical or educational institutions' software.

This group is grey in terms of its host. DarkSide operates from Russia. It is not clear whether it operates independently of the Russian government or has consent or support from the Kremlin.

It is believed that some hacking individuals or groups either work as subcontractors or directly for governments like Russia, mainland China and North Korea.

The FBI has consistently advised victims not to pay ransom; doing so would support the trade in stolen computer data information.

Blount, Wednesday morning, has not said how much CP will also be paying in restoration and hardening costs - which is estimated in the tens of millions of dollars. The CP CEO added that the company will be unable to bill its customers until that part of the system has returned.

CP's experience has other executives, law enforcers and IT technicians redouble their system rehardening.

As for gas prices substantially subsiding, don't hold your breath.

The CP hack came three weeks before the May 28-31 Memorial Day weekend. The weekend, also the unofficial start of summer, starts a traditional supply-versus-demand hike. AAA-Northeast anticipates some 40 million Americans on the road that weekend for 50 or more miles from home - a nine percent increase over last year's "Pandemic Summer."

There is also refineries' annual June switch from a winter-time gasoline blend to a summer blend. There also has been a six-month price incline trend.

# Legally Speaking



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

## Mediating Parenting Time Issues

In the family court, there are two high conflict areas where the court will require you to mediate: custody and parenting time or what we used to call "visitation" issues. Sometimes, the court will require mediation if one parent wants to relocate. The idea is that you, as the child's parents know what is in your child's best interest, and that you will always act in your child's best interest.

The court really wants you as the parents to decide. Mediation allows you to work with a neutral who does not represent your interest or the other party's interest but will help you think through the issue of custody or parenting-time schedule and perhaps offer unique solutions when the parents get stuck.

What typically happens in a custody dispute is that both parties dig in their heels. Each assumes the position that "I want the kids because..." A mediator can help you think about the various aspects of a custody issue in a methodical manner.

For example, you may want custody, but you have to be to work at 5:00 AM. The children, 6 and 9, don't have to be to school until 8:45 AM. Your parents live thirty miles away. What is the plan? Who will get them up; get them dressed; and to school on time? If you can work that out, then maybe custody should be with you. On the other hand, if Dad lives across the street from the school, and works from home, maybe he should have custody.

## Mediating Custody And Parenting-Time Issues

All divorce complaints and motions where custody or parenting time are at issue are referred to mediation. The problem with court-ordered mediation is that it is expected to be "an event!" Unfortunately, big decisions like those relating to our children's lives are not made in forty-five minutes. Decisions about our children's lives require time, consideration and sometimes, reconsideration of all relevant facts.

Consequently, you might do well to consider private mediation which is not expected to end in forty-five minutes with all of the decisions regarding the rest of your children's lives made, written up, signed, sealed and delivered!

Often the issues involving our children are big and complex. They simply can't be resolved in 45 minutes. A good mediator can help you not only address the standard pick-up and drop-off times, but help you think through the "what ifs" of

child rearing between co-parents.

For example, what if Amina breaks her leg at soccer practice? What if Harold qualifies for the Olympic trials? Or, how do we co-parent Hannah who is 12 and autistic and Ali who is an overactive 8-year-old who loves sports and the out-of-doors? Do both of the children have parenting time together, or do they go to Mom's one at a time? Individually always or sometimes together? Under what circumstances together? Separately?

The best part of mediation is that you get to find solutions that actually work in your children's best interest. You should consider mediating parenting-time issues if you find yourself constantly returning to court trying to resolve the same issues. Statistics show that mediated settlements are more likely to be lasting than court-orders, and it makes sense. You are much more likely to do what you voluntarily agree to do rather than do what someone is ordering you to do.

### EVERGREEN CEMETERY

(Continued from page 10)

#### Motives for vandalizing

The motives for vandalizing are many and diverse. In some cases, it is hate. The Colorado Springs pamphlet says that another is greed and a desire to make a quick profit. This is done by stealing plaques, veteran medallions, porcelain portraits for quick resale on Craigslist, eBay, yard sales or

garden shops. The same holds true for marble and granite vases, cast iron fences and gates.

A third reason is occult rituals made by cults in the dead of the night. Dumb acts by teenagers are a fourth reason. Thus, the vandalizing has no single reason, but rather a plethora of reasons. It all depends on a case-by-case basis, and possibly by geographic region.

For example, in Richmond, Virginia and Austin, Texas, the main motive was hate. Quite possibly someone was retaliat-

ing for the removal of Confederate monuments. Also, it could be an expression of anti-Black sentiment by white supremacists.

Portland, Maine, possibly had teenagers doing dumb stuff. In that case, it is possible that more than one person with different reasons was responsible for the vandalism. Theoretically, it could be teenagers on one day and someone else on other days.

Hillside, New Jersey is still not clear what exactly happened there. No animal except a bear

has the strength to lift a heavy casket. Gophers, beavers, rats, may dig underground, but how do they open the casket when the lid is shut?

Bloomington, Illinois, managed to catch the culprits thanks to cooperation from the public. This is something that other states investigating vandalism in cemeteries should do. It would make it easier to catch criminals.

### TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 11)

Planned had slashed their hourly wages from \$16.10 per hour to \$12.50 an hour and reduced their health benefits.

Former Broadacres owner, P3 Properties, fired the unionized Raritan cleaners and replaced them with Parsippany-based Planned Companies after

it sold the four-building office park to ERCT April 1.

Broadacres - at 1455 Broad St., and 200, 300 and 400 Broadacres Dr. - is located in the North Plains neighborhood, close to the Clifton border. The sale was conducted without advertising.

The Montclair-based ERCT holds various commercial and residential properties in New Jersey, including those in East

Orange, West Orange and Montclair.

"We won't stand for the abusive treatment by the Planned Companies, or anyone else, much less our essential workers who day to day keep us safe and protected," said Venezia. "We urge the building owners to reject these practices and hire a union contractor who'll pay workers a fair wage, give them back their family healthcare and

treat them with dignity."

**MONTCLAIR** - The owners of the Bellevue Theatre have set a deadline to have the Upper Montclair landmark reopened to the public on or before May 13, 2022.

That date was when the two-story theater first opened on May 13, 1922. It had been continuously run until tenant Bow-  
(Continued on page 15)

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 14)

Tie Cinemas let its lease expire Nov. 30, 2017. BowTie, which still runs the Clairidge in the Bloomfield Avenue Business District, took most of the motion picture projection equipment with them.

Theater President Doreen Sayegh, speaking on owner Jesse's behalf May 13, 2021, stood outside 260 Bellevue Ave. to announce that renovation work will soon begin, "once we have the paperwork filed." That work is to be completed this autumn or no later than May 13, 2022.

"Most of the work will be cosmetic," said Sayegh in a press conference with Mayor Sean Spillar and Deputy mayor/First Ward Councilman William "Bill" Hurlock. "We've renovated theaters or built theaters from the ground up."

Sayegh was referring to the family's most recent effort, renovating the Cranford Theater.

The Sayeghs are keeping the Bellevue's four screens although one screen would also double for performing arts and stage plays. They have taken on the work since they pulled the lease on Bellevue Theaters/Highgate Hall LLC in January for "breach of contract." Provision will be made, however, for future addition of residential and retail space.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The borough has a new "Top Cop" since Sheila Byron-Lagattuta has officially turned over the chief of police office to Sean Quinn here May 1.

Byron-Lagattuta, after serving the GRPD for 39 years - including the last 12 as chief - announced her pending retirement April 23, The Borough Council, on April 26, promoted Capt. Quinn as their 12th chief.

Byron-Lagattuta was promoted from captain on the recommendation of then-Chief John Magnier March 26, 2010. Magnier, a 25-year veteran, retired to join the US Department of Homeland Security's Vermont office.

Byron-Lagattuta became the borough's first woman chief after "working every position of the department." The Denver-born Bryon was introduced to police work when a Glen Ridge High School guidance counselor told her of a dispatcher's opening in 1982.

She was a junior detective when she worked the 1989 "Our Boys" case, where several high school boys sexually assaulted a mentally deficient girl in a home basement with a bat. Capt. Byron-Lagattuta created the department's Domestic Violence Response Team in 1996.

The wife of retired Cedar Grove Police Det. Charles Lagattuta, however, had been the subject of two workplace harassment suits since 2016. Both cases were settled out of court by August.

Chief Quinn has also gone up through the ranks, including as head of GRPD's

Internal Affairs Office since 2015.

**BELLEVILLE** - The township's Silver Lake riders were the first to know about a signal problem that had affected NJTransit's Newark Light Rail Mainline during May 19's morning rush hour.

The seven Newark Penn Station Silver Lake passengers knew something was wrong when train No. 107 stopped by the outbound, or Grove Street, Bloomfield-bound platform at 7:26 a.m. Tuesday. The unusual stop also caught the three outbound passengers.

No. 107's train operator motioned the inbound passengers to go around, get seated - and wait for word from a NLR dispatcher.

"I told the dispatcher and they'll be sending a crew here soon," said the operator. "We have signal problems at (Newark's) Branch Brook Park; if you need to make alternate transportation, you may do so while we wait. I apologize for not having an external PA system to tell you."

No. 107 was still "on the wrong track" when another train came from the Grove Street yard to pick up inbound passengers at their intended platform five minutes later. NJTransit announced at 8:20 a.m. that, while the signal problem was corrected, riders on "the Grove Street Extension" can be up to 15 minutes late.

The Newark Light Rail handles an average 18,000 daily riders pre-pandemic. Its Grove Street Extension was added Sept. 1, 2001 as part of NJTransit's renovating the former Newark City Subway. NLR's Broad Street Connector, in downtown Newark, was unaffected.

**NUTLEY** - Nutley's Township Commissioners, pending the outcome of a June 1 public hearing here, are looking to close the door to most Cannabis-Based Businesses.

The Commissioners had set up the public hearing and final vote after approving Ordinance No. 3473's introduction at their May 4 meeting. R-3473 calls for banning all six classes of CBBs permitted by the state - with the exception of residents receiving products from an outside delivery service.

Nutley, should R-3473 pass, would close - but not lock - the door to CBBs here.

State CBB regulations, drafted after a majority of registered statewide voters approved a recreational marijuana public question referendum Nov. 2, allow municipalities who ban CBBs to reconsider on or by this time 2026.

Nutley, pending passage, would join 15 other Garden State municipalities in saying "Not Now" to CBBs. A majority of Nutley voters, or 64.67 percent, approved the Nov. 2 question.

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<b>West Orange:</b> 95 Main Street	Tel. 973-736-5552
<b>West Orange:</b> 92 Old Northfield Road <small>(currently closed for renovations)</small>	Tel. 973-736-5552