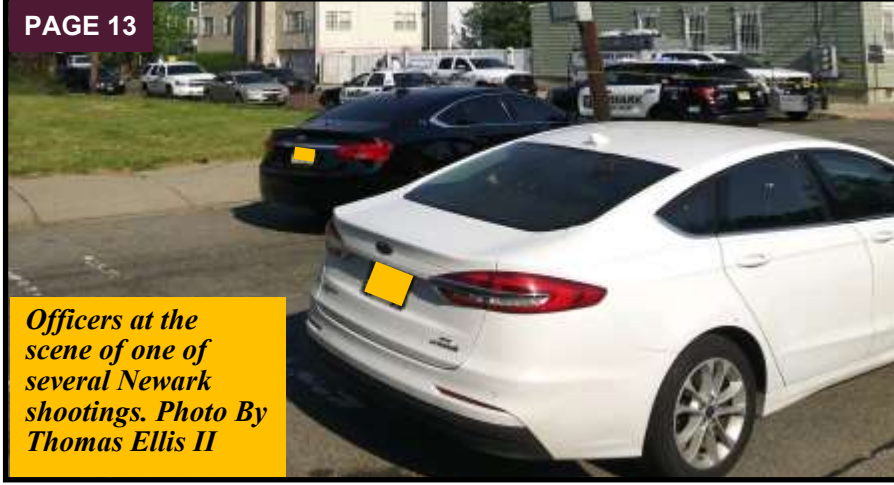


TOO MANY SHOOTINGS IN TOO MANY COMMUNITIES

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD



PAGE 13

Officers at the scene of one of several Newark shootings. Photo By Thomas Ellis II



PAGE 4

POP leader Larry Hamm and LOCAL 108 President Charles N. Hall hold a rally in memory of George Floyd. Photo courtesy Charles N. Hall

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 29 • MAY 27, 2021 - JUNE 2, 2021

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

LOCAL TALK



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

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

INDEX

Editorial & Weather	02
World News Flash	04
Sports Wrap	05
Finance At Your Fingertips	06
The Doctor Is In	10
Town Watch	11
From The Pastor's Heart	12
Legally Speaking	14

GOVERNOR MURPHY LIFTS MAJOR COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



Face Coverings Now Optional in Most Places Except Public Transportation

TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 242, lifting major COVID-19 restrictions and moving forward with the state's most significant reopening steps to date. Effective on Friday, May 28, the indoor mask mandate in public spaces will be lifted, as well as the six-foot social distancing requirement in both indoor and outdoor spaces, the prohibition on dance floors at bars and restaurants, and the prohibition on ordering and eating/drinking

while standing at bars and restaurants. Additionally, effective Friday, June 4, indoor gathering and capacity limits will be lifted.

Over the last two weeks, key COVID-19 benchmarks have been achieved across New Jersey, including a dramatic increase in vaccinations, and significant decreases in new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, spot positivity rates, and rates of transmission, solidifying

(Continued on page 3)

IRVINGTON ZONING OFFICER ADMITS ATTEMPTED EXTORTION



ESSEX - An employee of the Township of Irvington Building and Construction Department (TIBCD) admitted soliciting corrupt payments from a man posing as a land developer in New York and New Jersey in exchange for securing the necessary documentation and approvals required to obtain building permits for a property in Irvington, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Derrick James, 60, of Irvington, pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District

Judge Susan D. Wigenton to an information charging him with one count of attempted extortion under color of official right. James remains on bail pending sentencing on this charge.

According to documents filed in the case and statements made in court: From September 2018 to December 2018, while employed as a zoning officer with TIBCD, James represented to a cooperating witness who posed as a land developer in

(Continued on page 5)



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group
THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES

MOVED

to 60 Evergreen Place
East Orange, NJ 07018

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

Turn to
PAGE 16



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Two stories have had a hold on all of us for over a year. One is the coronavirus, and the other is George Floyd's murder. I would like to talk about the George Floyd murder anniversary.

A person lost his life over an alleged \$20 fake bill. \$20. It created many questions. Did the police dispatch convey the right message? Do the police follow the right procedure? The police must have a system to follow. When police dispatch gives the code for whatever crime has occurred, do the police follow it appropriately?

This is not a one-time mishap. It is an ongoing culture withing the police department. We must stop this hatred mentality within the police department. George Floyd lost his life, but he became a hero who has led a charge to change the procedures, and woke up Americans, including elected officials and administrators.

Coronavirus has been reduced in America as of right now. However, in the world it reduced from over 900,000 cases per day to over 500,000 cases per day, and over 170,000 deaths per day to over 12,000 deaths per day. In the United States, the daily cases have been reduced from over 304,000 to under 23,000 per day and the deaths are reduced from 4,470 daily deaths to 668 deaths.

Due to reduction of the cases and deaths in the US, most of the states have announced they will

lift the restrictions. New Jersey has announced from June 4th, California has announced from June 15th, Virginia and Minnesota from May 28th and Massachusetts from May 29th. New York state has opened business with full capacity and 24 hours without any restrictions.

Right now, summer is almost here. People can stay out and enjoy their lives. So, they should have opened without any restrictions only for outdoors, but with restrictions indoors in my opinion.

According to AP news service; "Biden in a statement said the majority of the intelligence community had 'coalesced' around those two likely scenarios but 'do not believe there is sufficient information to assess one to be more likely than the other.' He revealed that two of the 18 intelligence agencies lean toward the animal link and "one

leans more toward" the lab theory, adding, 'each with low or moderate confidence.'... "The United States will also keep working with like-minded partners around the world to press China to participate in a full, transparent, evidence-based international investigation and to provide access to all relevant data and evidence," he said.

The way Biden's message is that he wants to clear the name of China. According to the Biden Administration, out of 18 intelligence agencies, only 1 came out stating that a Wuhan laboratory was liable for coronavirus leaks. Two are mentioning that it was spread through an animal. What happened to the same intelligence agencies before Biden took over the administration?

*Have a wonderful week.
I'll talk to you next week.*

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

- Publisher & Editor-in-chief : Dhiren Shah
- Editors : Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah
- Journalists / Writers : Kristopher Seals | Walter Elliott | Bro. Thomas Ellis | Dhiren Shah | William Hathaway Jr. | Dr. Daniel Louis | Ahmed Screven, Esq. | Anuj Shah | Lev Zilbermints | Kinjal Shah | Asha Shah | Akshat Shah, MD | Ivy Mahabir | Kalindi Bhatt | Dr. Robert Kennedy
- Photographers : Dhiren Shah | Kristopher Seals | Thomas Ellis II | D. Adams, Jr.
- Distributors : Larry Wright | Walter Elliott | Fred Simpson
- Newspaper Designer : New Image Art Studio
- Web : www.localtalkweekly.com

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

Subscribe to **LOCAL TALK** weekly newspaper
\$50 for one (1) year

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

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

LOCAL TALK POLICIES

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

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sunny	PM Rain	AM Rain	PM Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy
HI 85 LO 58	HI 70 LO 50	HI 62 LO 50	HI 61 LO 51	HI 70 LO 54	HI 77 LO 58	HI 76 LO 60

COVID-19 (Continued from page 1)

the foundation for the state's sweeping reopening steps. Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, individuals who are not fully vaccinated - defined as two weeks after receiving the second shot of a two-dose vaccination (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccination (Johnson & Johnson) - are strongly encouraged to continue masking and social distancing.

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, my administration has been guided by science, data, and facts to put New Jersey on the road to recovery with the public health and safety of all New Jerseyans as our highest priority," said Governor Murphy. "Together, we have made tremendous progress in crushing this virus, and the last two weeks have shown significant decreases in key areas of our data, including new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, spot positivity rates, and rates of transmission. These data points, coupled with a dra-

matic increase in our vaccination efforts resulting in over 4.7 million New Jerseyans with their first shot, allow us to lift major restrictions and move forward with our most significant reopening steps to date."

The following changes will go into effect on Friday, May 28:

Lifting the mask mandate in indoor public spaces.

- Businesses and entities overseeing indoor spaces will continue to have the ability to require masking for employees, customers, and/or guests.
- Per CDC guidance, masks will continue to be required in health care settings, including long-term care facilities and office-based settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation, as well as transportation hubs such as airports and stations.
- Additionally, also per CDC guidance, child care centers and facilities, youth summer

camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, are not affected by this announcement and continue to be governed by existing requirements.

- Indoor worksites that are not open to the public remain governed by existing health and safety protocols that employers must follow.
- Masks will continue to be required in public-facing state offices, such as Motor Vehicle Commission agencies.

Lifting the six-foot social distancing requirement.

- The requirement will be lifted in businesses, including retail stores, personal care services, gyms, recreational and entertainment businesses, and casinos, and indoor gatherings, including religious services, political activities, weddings, funerals, memorial services, commercial gatherings, catered

events, sports competitions, and performances.

- Businesses and entities overseeing indoor spaces can continue to require social distancing should they choose.
- Lifting prohibition on dance floors at bars and restaurants. The prohibition on ordering and eating/drinking while standing at bars and restaurants will also be lifted.

The following changes will go into effect Friday, June 4:

- Removing the general indoor gathering limit, which is currently at 50 people.
- Removing the indoor gathering limit for political gatherings, weddings, funerals, memorial services, performances, and other catered and commercial events, which is currently at 250 people.
- Removing 30 percent capacity limitation for indoor large venues with a fixed-seating capacity over 1,000.

Urgent Care Walk-In Medical Suite
Adults & Children Urgent and Primary Care



Board Certified Providers

- All insurance accepted
- Uninsured Low Fees
- DOT Physicals
- COVID Testing

We're Open!!!

200 Freeway Drive East, Suite 305
East Orange, New Jersey 07018

www.UrgentCareSuite.com
Call us today or Just Walk-In!!
(973)310-2000



New Grace Academy

CALL US NOW!
862-520-3990
973-280-2005

Transforming
COMPASSION into
Excellence

ALL PROGRAMS ARE APPROVED BY:
NJ BOARD OF NURSING,
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EDUCATION
AND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FREE If Qualified

ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE

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

Classes: DAYS, EVENINGS & SATURDAYS

60 Evergreen Pl., Suite 307
East Orange, NJ 07018
862-520-3990 / 862-820-3577 / Cell: 973-280-2005
www.newgracenj.com / newgracenj@gmail.com



UNITED STATES

Remembering George Floyd

On May 25, the people of Minneapolis, the United States, and the world acknowledged a somber anniversary.

That day marked one year to the day that George Perry Floyd, Jr., a black man accused of using a fake \$20 bill, was accosted by four police officers. During the dispute, now-former officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for what was initially believed to be 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Later, a trial determined that the heinous act actually took 9 minutes and 29 seconds.

That nation was outraged, with protests - some peaceful and others not - everywhere; not just in the United States, but all around the world. Many made calls to defund the police, while also saying the names of other innocent black people who lost their lives, like Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.

All of the officers were promptly fired, with Chauvin later arrested and brought up on charges of unintentional second-degree murder; third-degree murder; and second-degree manslaughter. On April 20, 2021, the 12 jurors overseeing his trial found the disgraced 45-year-old guilty on all three counts. His bail was immediately revoked, and he was remanded into the custody of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.

Additionally, Chauvin and the other fired Minneapolis Police Department officers, Tou Thao, 35; J. Alexander Kueng, 27; and Thomas Lane, 38, were hit with federal civil rights crimes for their roles in Floyd's death.

In remembering the fateful day, President Joseph Biden re-

leased the following statement:

"Today, in the Oval Office, I met with George Floyd's family.

"Although it has been one year since their beloved brother and father was murdered, for the family - for any family experiencing a profound loss - the first year can still feel like they got the news a few seconds ago. And they've had to relive that pain and grief each and every time those horrific 9 minutes and 29 seconds have been replayed.

"Yet the Floyd family has shown extraordinary courage, especially his young daughter Gianna, who I met again today. The day before her father's funeral a year ago, Jill and I met the family and she told me, "Daddy changed the world." He has.

"His murder launched a summer of protest we hadn't seen since the Civil Rights era in the '60s - protests that peacefully unified people of every race and generation to collectively say enough of the senseless killings.

"Last month's conviction of the police officer who murdered George was another important step forward toward justice. But our progress can't stop there.

"To deliver real change, we must have accountability when law enforcement officers violate their oaths, and we need to build lasting trust between the vast majority of the men and women who wear the badge honorably and the communities they are sworn to serve and protect. We can and must have both accountability and trust and in our justice system.

"The negotiations on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act in Congress are ongoing. I have strongly supported the legislation that passed the House, and I appreciate the good-faith efforts from Democrats and Republicans to pass a meaningful bill out of the Senate. It's my hope they will get a bill to my desk quickly.

"We have to act. We face an inflection point. The battle for the soul of America has been a constant push and pull between the American ideal that we're all

created equal and the harsh reality that racism has long torn us apart.

"At our best, the American ideal wins out. It must again."

EUROPE

BLM Activist Shot

A prominent Black Lives Matter activist lies in critical condition after being shot in the head.

Information is still scarce, but Sasha Johnson, 27, was shot in Peckham, London during the early hours of May 23. Police arrived on the scene after reports of gunshots in the area, and found Johnson there.

The activist was taken by ambulance to a south London hospital where she remains in critical condition. Her family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers.

A release from the Metropolitan Police had the following: "Detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Command (Trident) have been conducting urgent enquiries at the scene of the incident and in the surrounding area throughout the day and are pursuing a number of priority lines of enquiry.

"It is believed that the shooting occurred in the vicinity of a house where a party was taking place and that a number of people may have been in the area.

"While the investigation is at an early stage, there is nothing to suggest that the woman who was shot was the subject of a targeted attack or that she had received any credible threats against her prior to this incident.

"Officers are very keen to hear from anyone who was at the party and who has not yet spoken to police.

"Detective Chief Inspector Jimi Tele said, "This was a shocking incident that has left a young woman with very serious injuries. Our thoughts are with her family who are being provided with support at this terribly difficult time.

"A dedicated team of detec-

tives is working tirelessly to identify the person or persons responsible for this shooting. They are making good progress but they need the public's help.

"If you saw anything suspicious in the Consort Road area in the early hours of Sunday morning or if you have heard information since that could help detectives, it is crucial that you get in touch.

"Finally, I recognise that this incident will have shocked those in the local community and further afield. I would ask people to avoid speculating as to the motive or the circumstances behind it. If anyone does have information, the most responsible and helpful action is to share it with the police or, to remain anonymous, with Crimestoppers."

Belarus Snatches Journalist

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has strongly condemned the arbitrary detention of an opposition journalist in Belarus, calling it an "astonishing episode" that heralds a new phase in the campaign of repression against journalists and civil society there.

On May 23, Roman Protasevich was flying on a Ryanair jet from Greece to Lithuania which was forcibly diverted to the Belarusian capital Minsk, "apparently under false pretenses and with the express purpose of capturing him," said OHCHR spokesperson Rupert Colville.

The manner, through threat of military force, in which Mr. Protasevich was abducted from the jurisdiction of another State and brought within that of Belarus, "was tantamount to an extraordinary rendition," he added.

Mr. Colville said that such blatant abuse of power against a journalist for exercising his rights that are protected under international law merited the strongest condemnation possible.

Calling for his immediate release, the spokesperson de-

(Continued on page 7)

SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2021 the East Coast Spring Football season has come to an end, with a great contest by both teams in the championship game. Last week, the East Orange All-Stars shutout a tough Orange All-Stars team to make it back to the title game, where they played an undefeated Union County Vipers with a record of 5-0.

It was a battle to the end, and the Vipers slipped by East Orange 20-12. The contest was played before a packed stadium in Roselle. Union County finished with a 6-0 undefeated season. This age group was a 15 and under group bracket.

In other local sports news, the Irvington Blue Knights high school varsity flag foot-



Photo By
Keith Munford

ball team has been doing well this season. In a recent game, the Knights defeated Ramapo on the road in a 37-12 victory, the most points scored in a women's flag football game.

The 2021 Greater Newark Baseball Tournament was held these past couple of weeks. In the quarterfinal round of this year's tournament, Millburn beat Bloomfield 13-3 at Millburn High School. Also, Montclair High School beating Livingston 5-3, and West Essex beat Verona 5-4. In the semifinal round, Millburn beat Montclair 5-3, and Seton Hall Prep beating West Essex 10-1. The championship game saw Millburn edge by Seton Hall Prep at Yogi Berra Stadium on the campus of Montclair State University 6-5, in a great game by both teams.



Homeownership more affordable.

M&T has options to help you achieve homeownership. You may be eligible for solutions to help:

- Reduce the cash needed at closing
- Lower monthly payments
- Save thousands by paying less interest
- Qualify with a less-than-perfect credit history

Get started with one of our mortgage specialists by calling 1-888-253-0993 or visit us at mtb.com.

M&T Bank
Understanding what's important®



Equal Housing Lender. Certain restrictions apply. Subject to credit and property approval. ©2021 M&T Bank, Member FDIC. NMLS# 381076. 5/100.210503 V1

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

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

Apartment/Community Features:

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

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

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

AN EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



IRVINGTON ZONING (Continued from page 1)

New York and New Jersey that James could facilitate the acquisition of the necessary permits for the proposed rehabilitation of a certain residential property in Irvington.

The TIBCD processed the issuance of permits for construction, renovations, and alterations to building structures in Irvington in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code, which required that contractors registered and licensed with the State of New Jersey perform certain residential construction. The TIBCD also required the seal of a licensed New Jersey contractor on building, plumbing, and electrical permit applications to issue permits. James met with the cooperating witness on two occasions, during which he accepted a total of approximately \$1,500 in cash payments from the cooperating witness.

During the meetings, James outlined a corrupt arrangement whereby in exchange for a \$1,000 payment and a further \$1,000

payment per permit, James would arrange for licensed New Jersey contractors to place their official seals on permit applications for the Irvington property. James further guaranteed that an Irvington inspector would inspect the property and grant the necessary approvals. James told the cooperating witness that the cooperating witness' payments would also be passed on to the licensed New Jersey contractors and Irvington inspector that James recruited to the scheme.

The count of attempted extortion under color of official right carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 29, 2021.

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

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tazneen Shahabuddin of the Special Prosecutions Division.

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Investment Options: What Type Of Investor Are You? Part 1

The past year has seen the stock market move like a roller coaster! Covid, the economic downturn and now the hesitant recovery, have all influenced the stock market. The cryptocurrency market has also seen a high level of volatility.

All the above indicate that investing in the stock market is full of risks. One must be prepared with a game plan and stay the course as much as possible. Other than that, any price changes will lead to large amounts of stress and investment decisions that may not bode well for you as an investor in the long run.

It is important to determine the type of investor that you are and the goals that you have before you start investing in the financial markets. The amount of information on financial markets is at times overwhelming. The markets only seem to become more complex with time. However, remember why you are trying to learn about the financial markets.

For one thing, a lack of knowledge about financial markets would make it difficult for you to invest in a manner that would give you a positive return. You are interested in the financial markets because as an investor you could let your money work for you by investing in the markets. You also want to invest because you want to see your money grow over time.

Keeping your money under your bed or in a savings account will not lead to any meaningful growth. In fact, if the inflation rate is higher than the interest rate on your savings account, you can lose money with time. In other words, the value of your savings would continue to fall if the inflation rate is higher than your savings rate. Let us say for example that inflation is 3.2% per annum. By subtracting the rate of return or interest on your savings from the rate of inflation, one can determine the rate at which your money is losing value.

Meanwhile your savings account is giving you a return of 2% per annum. In effect, the money in your savings account is losing value by $3.2 - 2 = 1.2$ % annually! This is not a situation that one would want to be in.

When it comes to investments, one principle you may want to follow is this; if you do not understand the investment, do not put your money in it. This is a basic principle that could save you a lot of stress and hopefully help you avoid losing money. When one looks at the cryptocurrency market, with its recent fall, this is an important lesson that we all need to take note of. If you do not understand the market, how can you strategically invest without losing your shirt?

The question must be asked and answered, what type of investor are you? Are you a pre-investor? This type of person has little knowledge of the financial markets and as a result does not invest in the financial markets. Passive investors on the other hand, have chosen to invest in unit trusts or funds managed by fund managers with expertise on the financial markets.

As a result, such investors do not have many decisions to make when it comes to their investments. They leave the bulk of the decisions up to the fund manager for example. Such investments are a credible option.

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

This book is intended for:

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

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from May 19 - May 26, 2021

Municipality	5-19-2021	Deaths	5-26-2021	Deaths
Belleville	5641	111	5637	112
Bloomfield	5295	120	5314	120
Caldwell	612	16	621	16
Cedar Grove	1537	119	1540	120
East Orange	7074	303	7103	306
Essex Fells	191	2	191	2
Fairfield	877	31	879	31
Glen Ridge	393	13	393	13
Irvington	4663	228	4683	230
Livingston	1828	86	1831	86
Maplewood	1292	36	1295	36
Millburn	825	10	824	10
Montclair	2262	72	2268	72
Newark	36746	985	36798	992
North Caldwell	489	6	490	6
Nutley	3015	64	3020	66
Orange	3527	131	3536	132
Roseland	473	16	477	16
South Orange	854	16	854	16
Verona	994	18	992	18
West Caldwell	1052	53	1052	53
West Orange	4558	228	4558	229
Total	84198	2664	84356	2682

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of May 26, 2021)

NJ: 886,585 cases / 23,489 deaths (Plus 2,670 probable)

United States (approx.): 33.19 Million / 591,900 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 168.1 Million / 3.49 Million deaths

As of May 26, the United States has fully vaccinated 50% of its adult population against COVID-19.

However, when one is shopping for such an investment, please research the fund management costs. If the fund management costs are too high, that could absorb any or most of the pending returns that you could have

accrued.

An active investor on the other hand has a high level of knowledge about the financial markets, has a game plan and buys and sells stocks regularly.

(Continued on page 7)

FINANCE

(Continued from page 6)

Investing in the markets require that you educate yourself about the financial markets. These days there are many training programs that can assist you to learn about the markets and how they operate. As you continue to read about the financial markets, you will see your knowledge base increase.

One simple way to stay in tune is to start taking the financial news as well as business news segments more seriously. As you listen in on a regular basis you will learn a lot about the markets and that will bolster your confidence for the day that you start investing.

Before you begin investing in the financial markets, it is important to also determine the amount of money that you are prepared to invest in the market on a regular basis. Someone for example, may decide that after paying their bills and placing a percentage of their income into savings, they are prepared to invest \$200 per month into the financial markets or stocks. Another person may be prepared to invest much more monthly. It depends on your finances and the decision is ultimately yours.

Another factor to consider is your age. A young person is looked at as someone who has many investing years ahead of them. Such a person may be prepared to invest in higher risk securities with the hope of attaining higher returns. The rationale is that should the young person lose money, they have more years of investing ahead where they could alter their investment approach away from high risk.

Alternatively, the closer one is to retirement, the more prudent it would be to stay away from high-risk investments and follow or invest in steady and sure investments. Again, the rationale is related to working years. With fewer working years ahead of you, one would not want to invest in volatile

stocks that could risk your retirement funds. It is that simple.

In conclusion, it is quite easy to go online or pick up a phone and start investing in stocks. That is not a prudent decision if one has not learnt about how the market operates. In addition, it is important to identify your investment goals, determine how much you want to invest and for how long. All these will feed into your investment profile and assist you as you start your investment journey.

Remember, we are all different and the approach that you select may seem awkward to another investor, but they have a different investment profile! Focus on absorbing as much as you can about the financial markets. Listen to the business and financial news segments regularly.

Go online and use Google to research and study about stocks. Find out whether there are any videos on YouTube that could easily explain stocks to you. If possible, join other investment groups online and ask questions!

There are many solid stock courses out there and that is another way to bring yourself up to speed about financial markets. Check out the website of stock trading companies and brokers. Many of them have very detailed training sections on their websites and in most cases, this training is for free! By doing all the above, you will increase your chances of attaining your investment goals. You will also minimize the risk of losing your shirt due to a lack of knowledge.

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.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ▶ Stop Bank Levies!
- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ▶ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ▶ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ▶ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
- ▶ Restore Driving Privileges
- ▶ Prevent Auto Repossessions
- ▶ ELIMINATE Credit Card & Medical Debt.



FOR FREE CONSULTATION:
Call
DAVID WITHERSPOON
Attorney-at-Law
10 Hill St. (Suite 20Y) • Newark,
NJ 07102
973-342-6653
973-489-9005

LOW RATES: ONE PHONE CALL MAY REDUCE YOUR STRESS!

David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency.
A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

WORLD NEWS *(Cont. from pg. 4)*

scribed Mr. Protasevich's detention and the circumstances surrounding it as an "astonishing episode" that constitutes a new phase in the country's campaign of repression against journalists and civil society in general.

He explained that penalizing a journalist just for being critical of the government went against freedom of expression and is a violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"Under human rights law, the mere act of organizing a peaceful assembly should never be criminalized under domestic laws, including counterterrorism laws, and the arrest or detention of someone as punishment for the legitimate exercise of their rights to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of assembly, is considered arbitrary," Mr. Colville underscored.

He added that the arbitrary arrest is a sign of an extremely

worrying escalation in the crackdown of dissenting voices, not just of journalists but also of Belarusian human rights defenders and other civil society actors, including those living abroad.

The spokesperson emphasized as well that the forced landing of the Ryanair plane terrorized passengers on board and exposed them to unnecessary danger, in violation of their human rights.

MIDDLE EAST

The Fighting Has Stopped ... For Now

The UN chief has welcomed the ceasefire declared between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas, following 11 days of rocket and air attacks, which have left more than 240 reportedly dead and thousands injured, the majority in the occupied Palestinian enclave of

(Continued on page 10)

LOCAL
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



TALK
PRINTING

SMALL BUSINESS ADVERTISING SPECIAL

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS AT REASONABLE COST

Call for Information: (973) 622-1111 or (973) 280-7547

www.localtalkweekly.com

SEE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWSPAPER as well as pdf on the NET

Expires May 31, 2021

FLASH LIGHT w SCREW DRIVER SET

CUSTOMIZED....LET OTHERS KNOW ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS

- This compact, sleek screwdriver with flashlight is perfect for anywhere
- The self locking storage in the back holds a total of 6 bits
- The 2 ultra bright lights allow you to see what you need
- Slide-out end compartment
- Double-ended screwdriver bits (3 flathead, 3 Phillips-head)
- Screws are magnetically attached to the base
- Double white LED
- Slide on/off power switch
- Materials: HIPS (High Impact Polystyrene) Plastic
- Product Includes: Button cell batteries, inserted
- Product Size: 3-5/8"w x 1-3/8"h x 1/2"d
- Product Colors: Black, Blue, Red
- Price Includes: 1-color or full color imprint, 1 location
- Standard Imprint Method(s): 1-Color: Front Center, 3"w x 5/8"h

100 \$399

Regular Price \$499

Additional 10% Discount

We have many promotional products...ask what you need

WE ARE A COMPLETE PRINTING SERVICE

Product Color

Imprint Color Options



Show Your Appreciation for Your Customers
in this Pandemic



- AD Journals * Booklets
- Brochures * Business Cards
- Color Copies * Flyers
- Letterheads * Envelopes
- Labels * Menus
- Post Cards * Presentation Folders
- Banners * Wall Decals
- Signs & Complete Printing

Add Tax where applicable. Expires May 31, 2021

FREE PARKING ♦ HUGE SAVING IN PRINTING ♦ BETTER SERVICE

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

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

TO OUR FRIENDS & EXTENDED FAMILY IN THE OAKWOOD AVENUE SENIOR COMMUNITY

RE-ELECT



TYRONE JON TARVER
EAST WARD (E-5)

- Twice Elected Essex County Democratic District Leader (2016-2021); Orange Resident for almost 30 years and Lifelong Democrat
- Current District Leader for the Oakwood Avenue Senior Community and Outspoken Advocate for Increased Senior Services at past City Council Meetings
- Community Activist who speaks out against Corruption and Wasteful Spending which lessens Monies for Seniors and all Residents!!

ELECT



GERMAINE TARVER
EAST WARD (E-5)

- Orange Township Lifelong Resident & Democrat; OHS Graduate & Valedictorian, Author, Educator & Parent
- 4 Generations of Family Residents of Orange for over 100 years; Longtime Family and Friendship ties to the Orange Senior Community
- Supporter of Increased Spending and Accountability to the entire Senior Community throughout Orange Township!!

Vote For the Community First Team!!

COMMUNITY FIRST...NOT POLITICS



EDWARD MARABLE, JR.
SOUTH WARD (DISTRICT 5)



KAREN WELLS
SOUTH WARD (DISTRICT 5)



BRENDA DAUGHTRY
SOUTH WARD (DISTRICT 4)



ELI'SHA PETITE
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

CDC Removing The Mask Mandate Is Not The Best Move

Should I wear a mask? Do I have to wear a mask?

Well, these questions will definitely be far easier to answer now, in most states at least, that the CDC has eased the restrictions and guidelines on mask-wearing. Now, fully vaccinated people can resume most activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart. This set of people can even attend small parties with unvaccinated people.

Before I continue, I feel like I should point out one major fact. This guidance is strictly and only for vaccinated people. The CDC, doctors, every reputable health body, and any fairly sensible person isn't even going to entertain the idea of an unvaccinated person binning a mask.

So, yes, my problem is defi-

nately with the CDC making it possible for vaccinated people to go without masks in public. Let's take it right to the start.

Why do we wear masks? If you said to limit the spread of COVID, you're absolutely correct. We wear masks to limit the infection and, in turn, the death rate of the virus.

Now, to my next questions. Is COVID still out there? Are people still getting infected and dying in numbers? Are there new strains coming up?

The answer to every single one of these questions is a resounding yes. If the point of wearing masks is to limit the spread of COVID, then does it make any sense to remove that mandate when COVID is still very much around? Look, I know the numbers have mostly been dropping since the distribution of the vaccine started, but there are still tens of thousands getting the virus. And a major problem many scientists have now is the spread of new, more transmissible strains of the virus.

COVID is still very much around. We are heading to summer, a period you and I know the virus is absolutely going to love - all that crowd, rubbing against each other, the virus is probably rejoicing right now.

Sooner or later, the masks have to come off. But that should only be when there's a very reasonable number of people vaccinated. Only about 39% of the population is vaccinated currently; that's impressive, considering many didn't even expect that a vaccine will be avail-

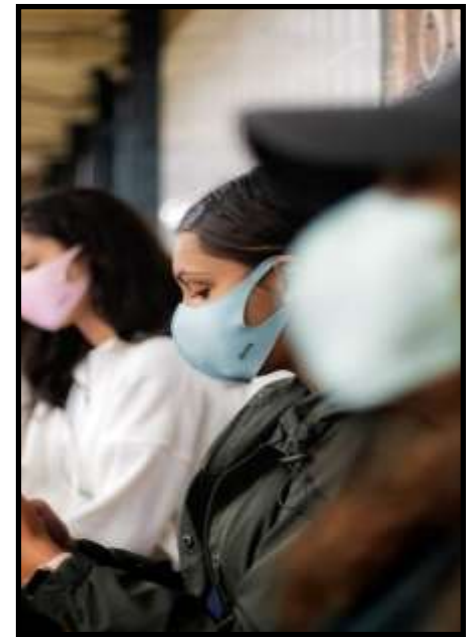
able by this time of the year. But is that figure enough to cause the CDC to drop the mask mandate - hell no.

We need enough people to be vaccinated, upwards of 60%, I believe, before we start making these bold and unnecessary moves. That's exactly what the CDC's move is - bold, and more importantly, unnecessary. The masks are doing a job, so why remove them?

Again, I understand that this guidance is for vaccinated people, but let's be real, what are the chances only vaccinated people will take off their masks? It's not like there's a huge mark on the forehead of vaccinated people to distinguish them from unvaccinated ones. That said, and knowing the great United States of America and its citizens, many unvaccinated people will take full advantage of it. It's not like we're a country with a history of making small sacrifices for the greater good.

Many people kicked, and are still kicking, by the way, against the masks in the first place. Many of them only wore masks when they had to. Can you assure me those set of people will keep their masks on, without being vaccinated, now that the CDC removed the mask mandate on vaccinated people? What I'm driving at is, many people will just misuse this new guidance, and that can cause another spike. I don't know about you, but another spike is the very last thing I want to hear right now. I don't even want to think about it.

Either way, I'm still going to



appeal to businesses, especially those with a large crowd in them, to require masks still. It will go a long way. And luckily, the CDC has also mandated that the requirements of businesses be respected.

That will be all for today. Stay safe.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.

References

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/23/getting-covid-after-vaccine/>

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Gaza.

Secretary-General António Guterres made a statement to reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, a few minutes before the negotiated ceasefire was due to take effect.

"I welcome the ceasefire between Gaza and Israel, after 11 days of deadly hostilities," he said, extending his deepest condolences to all the victims of the

violence, and their loved ones, across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

According to latest news reports, at least 232 Palestinians, including more than 60 children have been killed since violence erupted across the Gaza-southern Israeli border on Monday. At least 12 were killed in Israel, as Hamas and other extremist groups unleashed indiscriminate rocket fire, sometimes deep into Israeli territory.

"I commend Egypt and Qatar

for the efforts carried out, in close coordination with the UN, to help restore calm to Gaza and Israel," the UN chief added, calling on all sides to observe the ceasefire.

Mr. Guterres said it was essential for the wider international community to work with the UN, to develop "an integrated, robust package of support for a swift, sustainable reconstruction and recovery, that supports the Palestinian people and strengthens their institutions."

Meanwhile, the humanitarian community has welcomed the ceasefire agreed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel but warned that the destruction in Gaza will take years, if not decades, to fix.

Speaking from Gaza, Matthias Schmale from the UN relief agency for Palestinians UNRWA, said that there was no "going back to normal" in the enclave, after more than 10 days of rocket fire and airstrike ex-

(Continued on page 12)

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 - The Newark Public Schools Board of Education's reorganization meeting was a session of at least two firsts here May 4.

The full nine-member board that Tuesday night promoted Dawn Haynes from vice president to president before a live Zoom audience. She succeeded Josephine Garcia in leading the state's largest public school system in policies.

Haynes, who was sworn into her second term minutes before, became the first hijab-wearing board member to become president. A majority of participating registered city voters chose the "Moving Newark Schools Forward" runner April 20 and in 2018.

Prior to running on the fusion or unity ticket, Haynes was a Newark Anti-Violence Coalition member. The Malcolm X Shabazz High School Class of 2001 graduate was promoted from the William H. Brown Academy of the Arts. (An earlier BOE had split the magnet elementary school between the nearby Belmont-Runyon Elementary and Arts High schools around 2012 after the 1920s-era Bergen Street School building had fallen into disrepair.)

The current board, who will preside until May 2022, then selected first-term member Flohisha Johnson and the just-re-elected Vereliz Santana as First and Second vice-presidents. It is the first time the board has two "veeps."

The first swearing-in dual vice-presidents had startled some virtual audience members who felt there should have been prior public discussion. Haynes said that adding a vice president was

made on recommendation by New Jersey Department of Education officials.

Haynes, Velez, Asia Norton and Daniel Gonzalez - who were all elected on April 20 - were sworn into their previous or new board seats at the meeting's start. Gonzalez was elected to complete the late Octavio "Tave" Padilla's term.

IRVINGTON - The township's Irvington Public Schools board of education applied Holiday Inn's "No Surprises" motto and philosophy from the mid-1970s to naming their leadership for the next 12 months here April 28.

The just-reconstituted board named Richard Williams and Audrey M. Lyon as their respective president and vice president. Longtime member Williams and second-term member Lyon were similarly named for IPS' 2020-21 school year.

Board members Annette L. Beasley, Ronald J. Brown and Gloria Chison were re-inaugurated at the start of that Wednesday night meeting. A majority of participating township voters re-elected the unchallenged trio April 20.

EAST ORANGE - A collision between a car and a pedestrian along Central Avenue's former Evergreen Arcade business district May 6 came days after a joint safety study body had labeled this city as "the eighth unsafest" in the U.S.

An EOPD report had police officers, Pulse EMS and firefighters to Central Avenue just east of its Halsted Street intersection at 8:15 that Friday morning.

The first responders found a man lying in the westbound curb lane and the driver of a late model four-door purple coupe stopped in the left lane. The car featured a starburst windshield.

While Pulse took the stricken man to a local hospital, witnesses told authorities that he had "bounced off the windshield." The man was admitted in serious condition. Rush hour traffic, including buses on NJTransit's Nos. 94 and 97 and CoachUSA's 24 A and B routes, were detoured.

Insurify, on May 1, published a study where 27.4 drivers per 10,000 in East Orange had

failed to yield right of way to pedestrians, resulting in a violation, in the past year. The finding placed the city eighth - just below seventh-ranked Paterson's 28.1 per 10,000 rate.

The study, which sought to find the 20 worst pedestrian safety records among U.S. cities, was based on four million insurance applications analyzed by the National Safety Council and the Governors Highway Safety Association. New York City's Staten Island borough was ranked the worst at 53.6 per 10,000.

East Orange City Council members have had streetscape improvements made and have asked NJDOT to install curb cuts along Freeway Drive East and West flanking I-280 in recent years.

ORANGE - The City Council here has kept its Cannabis Based Business ban ordinance on the table for a third straight meeting May 18. It may be lifted from the table as early as its June 1 meeting - or let it die on the table.

The ordinance, 14-2021, calls for practically banning all six classes of CBB allowed by the state within city limits. The sole exception is the bill's allowance of deliveries from outside Orange within city limits.

Orange is among the state's 565 municipalities having to tell the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission if it wants CBBs on their premises or not for the next five years on or by Aug. 20. Gov. Phil Murphy started the 180-day countdown when he signed the N.J. Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement and Marketplace Modernization Act into law Feb. 22.

"Local Talk" has been unable to find any clause in 14-2021 which would grandfather any CBBs within Orange. There is one retailer and a reported warehouse that has set up shop here since last year.

WEST ORANGE - Some of the township's elders and administrators are considering adding a resident or a residents committee onto the West Orange Planning Board in the wake for greater calls for transparency at the council's May 20 meeting.

Council President Cindy Matute-Brown said in that

Thursday night virtual meeting that she would consider calling for the hiring of "a public planner."

Several residents logged on to air their planning concerns and specific proposal developments before Matute-Brown and her colleagues. Many came to voice their opposition to a proposed renovation and addition to a house at 410 Main St. that is up for WOPB consideration.

The site plan applicant is asking the board for permission to convert the 1878 single family house into "a five-story mixed-use building with 31 rental apartments and 1,100 square feet of retail space."

Neighbors who object to adding more residential units in town have started a "410MainStreetWO" Facebook page and a petition drive.

SOUTH ORANGE - There is a reason why a village resident here on the South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education may have refrained from voting on, or even discussing, a particular matter since May 10.

The N.J. Department of Education Ethics Commission advised the SOMSD May 10 that Elissa Maplespina be "prohibited from participating in any and all matters related to" the disposition of a 2020 lawsuit settlement between the district and the SOMA Black Parents Workshop.

SOMSD BOE President Thair Joshua stated that the NJDOE Ethics Commission gave its advisory at the board's request for guidance. Neither Joshua nor the school board are making accusations against the first-term Malespina.

Malespina, before she was elected to the board, joined SOMA BPW on behalf of her son. The SOMSD-BPW settlement over racial equity and access included the district's paying financial settlements to BPW plaintiffs.

Maplespina and her son received \$30,000 - \$25,000 of which she donated to the MAPSO Freedom School. (The balance went for her son's educational expenses.)

Joshua, May 12, stressed that neither he or the board have made accusations of impropriety against Malespina, nor are say-

(Continued on page 14)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Transforming
Loneliness**

Yesterday, after listening to a grandson in dialogue with my wife (his grandmother) and a mother who prayed in our early morning prayer call this morning, I must return to the subject I hear everywhere, namely loneliness.

Our grandson told his grandmother that he is just tired of the Zoom platform and did not feel like he wanted to do any more schoolwork. He said explicitly, "I feel tired and isolated from my friends." His grandmother, the retired schoolteacher, took the time to listen to him and then assured him that the school year would soon be over, and things would become better.

She reminded him that he was blessed to have his parents and brother with him. She also assured him that she was there for him and that he could call on her any day for any needed help, and that we look forward to him spending every Wednesday with us when his parents have to be attending to other activities.

Because we understand the pandemic challenges, whenever he and his brother are with us, we try to find ways of doing novel things to break any feelings of isolation. And we do our best to explain that the loneliness is not to continue forever.

Psychologists argue that the emotional distress of being left alone acts as an alarm bell and motivates us to draw others close and hold on - literally for dear life. The children feel that they need to cling to their caregivers no matter what, or else they will be abandoned. They feel fearful, unconnected, unmotivated, powerless, and for many, it's depression.

What our grandson said and what the mother who prayed on our prayer line express is not unique. There are many people around us who are feeling a sense of loneliness. Some feel it more intensely because for more than a year now, the Covid-19 pandemic is raging. Will the passing of the Covid-19 take away the loneliness? Maybe for some persons, but for many others, the feelings will linger a long time.

The background questions for this reflection are: How does one deal with loneliness? How can I help others deal with loneliness? I am focusing on the first question, but I hope that anyone who reads the reflection might find helpful suggestions.

As we all know, every one of us deals with loneliness at varied moments in our lives, even if we are not chronically lonely, we all need some suggestions to deal with loneliness. I will present and expand on a few suggestions, but acknowledge that my list is not comprehensive or in some cases might need fuller expatiations. In any case here is what I offer.

1. Accept that loneliness is a normal phenomenon of life
2. Everyone comes to moments in our lives when we feel

3. Check your feelings when you feel lonely. You might not know why you feel lonely all the time, and you do not want to spend all the time checking your feelings
4. Avoid self-pity - Self-pity can get you more lonely, isolated and depressed
5. Put your experiences into perspective. If you are struggling with too many negative feelings, determine what you need to do to get on the positive side.
6. Resist those feelings that make you rush for immediate relief from your loneliness. Hasty decisions or stop-gap solutions never work. Don't rush to form relationships that might not be helpful. Resist using drugs or other substances to overcome your feelings.
7. Learn how to use the moments of loneliness for personal growth. I could cite multiple examples of individuals whose loneliness helped them grow, but I will just name Jesus, who took time in loneliness each day to grow. It is said, "Big life changes are often made alone. Time in solitude leads us to realizations that might not be apparent when we're constantly with others. Having the capacity to be yourself and stand for what you believe in, even if you're lonely, is necessary if you want to go from a relationship or situation that isn't working to one that's more compatible with your needs. There's often a feeling of loneliness in between letting go of the familiar and reach-

ing with faith for something new." In your lonely times, you can pray, journalize, take a nature walk, listen to the cicadas, look at the stars, do a piece of art, play an instrument and so on. There is plenty to do.

8. In your lonely times, find a place to volunteer and serve others. You might be surprised what your work in compassion will do for you and those with whom you share.
9. Find some support. You might be one of those who say, I have no friends. I find it hard to build friendships. The bible says, "A man (person) who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24 NKJV).
10. Find a life coach or counselor to help you battle the demons of loneliness.
11. Do not forget the power of prayer - there is a multitude of prayer groups all around. Join a prayer group. Praying together does not only give us access to God but helps us to find support. As you pour out your heart, somebody will hear you and help to support you. It has been true and is still true that "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20).

Remember that it is normal to feel lonely in most circumstances. But in order to avoid becoming chronically lonely, you must seek to be transformed as well as help to others who are seeking to be transformed.

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 10)

changes between the warring parties that have killed more than 250 people and injured thousands.

"Going back to normal life means having to watch very carefully where we are going; unexploded devices, we know that at least one school, one of our 278 schools, where we have established two deeply buried bombs, and we have alerted the

Israeli authorities," he said. "Obviously we cannot just rush back into our buildings and schools, we have to make sure they're safe."

The senior UNRWA official also noted that the Kerem Shalom crossing was due to open for several hours on Friday but that for the duration of the clashes, it had not been possible to get people out for medical treatment, or aid reinforcements in.

Mr. Schmale noted that UNRWA staff who are mainly

residents of the region said that the violence had been "worse in intensity and terror than 2014," before echoing the UN Secretary-General's call for a meaningful political process to resolve the grievances of both Palestinians and Israelis.

"Normality here also means 50 percent employed and rising...I'm convinced after being here two and a half years that we will be back in war unless underlying causes are not addressed; and from a Gaza perspective that

means giving people and especially young people a dignified perspective of a dignified life," he said.

"If you have your own money and take home your own money to buy food instead of depending on handouts from the UN," the top UN official added, "you're less likely to run into groupings like Hamas."

It is expected that an inter-agency Flash Appeal for the occupied Palestinian territory will be issued next week.

DUFAULT VICTIM SUES SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Walter Elliott

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Civil litigation against the South Orange-Maplewood School District, its board and a former teacher at the center of a sex scandal continues as of May 14 - after criminal jurisprudence has recently run its course.

An attorney has filed a civil suit in N.J. Superior Court-Newark's Chancery Division that Friday on behalf of a former Columbia High School student who was victimized by nine-year Ninth Grade language arts teacher Nicole Dufault.

The plaintiff, now 22, was 14-16 years old, or a CHS freshman and junior, in 2013-14. He also identified himself among the six boys who Dufault, now 41, had sexual contacts within high school classrooms, in her car while parked on school property and at her apartment.

The plaintiff, in the court filings, identified himself as being videotaped by another boy while Dufault had sexual activity with him in one encounter. That recording's appearance led to a multijurisdictional investigation that led to Dufault's Sept. 18, 2014 arrest.

Damages against Dufault, SOMSD and

the two-town school board were not specified in the filings nor disclosed by the plaintiff's attorney as of May 26. The plaintiff, however, had dropped out of CHS and had suffered from panic attacks from his encounters with Dufault.

Dufault has been serving a three-year suspended sentence since a Superior Court-Newark judge's March ruling; the alternative would have been an up to five-year state prison term.

March's ruling included surrendering her teaching license. She is subject to lifetime parole supervision and registration as a sex offender under Megan's Law.

Dufault had pleaded guilty Jan. 23, 2020 to three counts of aggravated criminal sexual contact just before jury selection. Essex County Prosecutor's Office attorneys and defense lawyer Timothy Smith made the plea bargain, which included dropping 37 of the counts against her.

Born Nicole Bradley, the Bloomfield High School Class of 1997 graduate earned an education degree at now-Caldwell University. She went on to teach at Bloomfield Middle School, Ridgefield Park Jr./Sr. High School, Little Falls' Passaic Valley Regional HS and Hawthorne High before getting hired

by SOMSD in 2004.

Bradley, who became Nicole Dufault in a 2007 marriage ceremony in East Orange, divorced from Drew Dufault by July 2012. They had two children.

Victims' testimony and ECPO findings have Dufault's trail of sexual misconduct starting while she was teaching in CHS summer school in 2013.

The filing plaintiff said that Dufault would invite him and other boys to her classroom. She would use her access to the SOMSD computer system to hide the boys' truancy.

It was in the classroom where Dufault and the boys would talk "about lewd and sexual actions" and where she touched "intimate parts of their bodies" before the group.

That activity, over the next 13 months said prosecutors, would spiral out to sexual encounters in classrooms, in her car and in her home. One session was held in her car while at a local fast food restaurant's lot.

Neither SOMSD nor Dufault's attorney, citing the ongoing litigation, have declined comment on the May 14 filing. It is not known whether the other five victims will also be filing suits.

TOO MANY SHOOTINGS IN TOO MANY COMMUNITIES

By Thomas Ellis II

On May 19, Mr. Akram Brown of Newark was shot to death in front of his business on Mt. Vernon Place in the West Ward of the city. He died at the scene, in a shooting that took place around 8 pm that evening.

"Buster," as he was known by family and close friends, was holding a 2-year-old baby when he was shot to death. He was a business owner in the city and had a candy and T-shirt shop on Mt. Vernon Place.

Akram was a believer of the Muslim faith, and believed in giving back to the community. Right after Ramadan ended, he fed the community in front of his store for all who were hungry and in need of food. Mr. Brown was also looking forward to sponsoring several children this year to play baseball with the Ivy Hill Little League, and was going to have a banner made with his business logo to be displayed on the field in Ivy Hill Park.

It's really a shame that someone would just come up and shoot him, and injure another

person at the same time. Someone in the community need to say something so that his family can get the justice they deserve.

Over the past few months, there have been several shootings, robberies, and even murders in the Ivy Hill, Vailsburg section of the city. The 6th Precinct in that area is doing the best they can, but they need the residents of the community to step up, and help them whenever there is a shooting or murder. They cannot just sit back and stay silent, because the silence helps to keep the shooters and killers on the loose.

In the Central Ward on Blum Street, a young man was shot multiple times in the face around 3:30 in the afternoon. He was pronounced a few minutes later. The victim's name was Charles Pridgen, Jr., and he was 28 years old.

We are still in the spring and with all of this violence going on, it looks like it's going to be a really hot summer, which could mean that we will see a spike in shootings and murders. Because, it's been said that when the weather heats up, the crime and

violence heats up. Let's hope that this is not true this year, so that the children can enjoy their summer without attending prayer vigils and memorials.

In the South Ward of the City, over 12 rounds were fired in the area of Bergen and Avon aves. The shooter fired an automatic weapon, leaving shell casings all over the area with three people being hit by gunfire. Again, someone needs to say something, because as long as the shooter is in the community the community is not safe.

The violence continues: a male was shot in an NHA development. The shooting happened at Bradley Court around 4:30 pm. If we begin to look at the times of these shootings, it leaves one to believe that there is no respect for the neighborhood or the residents, and at any given time a person can be injured because of the carelessness and recklessness of those who have guns in their possession. Let's hope that we can reach some of these people before it's too late; either they will be a victim or will become victimizers.

Shootings are not the only violent crime going on in Newark. Just the other day, a male was stabbed to death in the Ironbound section during an argument, which turned into a domestic dispute that cost him his life. He was stabbed in the neck, and died from his injuries. Then we had two stabbings on the same street in Newark.

Stabbings have begun to rise throughout the city, with many people being hospitalized or dying from knife wounds. This too is causing a lot of pain and heartache for many families, because no one expects to get a call or a knock on the door from the police, notifying a family member of the violent incident that took the life of their loved one.

So, to be fair with this story, the violence and murders are not only in Newark. In the city of Paterson, a 36 year old female was shot dead, and her body found in an alley way. In Trenton, a male was shot near 215 Coolidge Avenue. In Jersey City, there were several shootings in the past over the past few weeks, with at least one fatality.

(Continued on page 15)

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

What's It Like At A Mediation Session?

In this very litigious and all too often disagreeable world we live in, I am always looking for ways to find solutions without the bitterness of a knock down, earth-scorching event that all too often happens in our courts. I really like the idea of mediation.

But, what's it like in mediation? Generally speaking, it is relaxed and "informally formal." Often, mediators use a round table so that there is no subtle indication that one party to the mediation is more important than the other. If you and your domineering husband are at mediation and he enters the room first and sits at the head of the table, it might give the impression that he is in charge just because he is sitting at the head of the table. Everyone gets a chance to speak and to be heard.

Usually, the day's discussion revolves around the homework that has been assigned. For example, if the issue is parenting time, the mediator might want to look at how your children spend

their time. Where they attend school, how they get to school, the hours school is in session. In today's Covid world, a valid question might be does your home have sufficient internet bandwidth such that you and the three kids can all be on line at the same time? If not, what do we need to do to resolve that issue?

If the issue relates to equitable distribution of marital assets, the mediator might ask the parties to provide documentation of monthly expenses, or investments, or pension plans so that all of the parties understand what's to be divided. The mediator is a neutral. She is not on your side, but neither is she on the other person's side. Her job is to facilitate discussion and to help the parties find a solution to their problems.

Often in a relationship, one of the parties feels dominated, "unheard," or overlooked, overtalked, disrespected by the other party. Mediation is empowering. Here's why. First, the mediator gives each party a voice. The quintessential ground rule is that only one person speaks at a time and each party gets to say what he/she thinks. On the rare occasion when one party insists on "overwhelming" the other, the mediator may separate them... either in a separate room in the office or in the waiting room if the mediation is via Zoom.

The mediator may speak to each party without the other but will never reveal what is said to the other party without that party's express permission. Mediation is about solving problems. For example, during mediation, a frequently heard question is, "Why?" If you tell us "why" the

mediator and the other party can better understand your position, and perhaps suggest a possible solution that satisfies your needs and to which the other side can agree. Without the "Why" question, the parties get bogged down into the "Just because..." There is no viable compromise to just because.

Compromise is a win-win. Compromise is not I win/you lose. You have to give to get. For example, if the issue is dividing marital assets and liabilities, one party may decide that they will give up what they might be entitled to in terms of wife's pension in exchange for her accepting less of the proceeds when the house is sold. Or, one party might decide to accept less child support than the law would ordinarily give in exchange for permission to relocate out of the state in two years if they can work out a visitation scheduled.

Because you can do anything that is legal in mediation rather than do what a judge decides is best for you, mediation is empowering. You have control over how your problem is solved. You are not stuck with what the court would do, or some cookie-cutter solution, but are free to act in what you believe to be your best interest. For example, I once had a couple who both wanted residential custody, but neither could make a reasonable plan without changing employment. So, they decided to share joint legal custody. They would pay support to Wife's mother to keep the children during the week, and they would alternate weekends with the children. This way, they could say that they were "co-parents" with fifty-fifty par-

enting time.

Usually, a mediation session lasts about 60 to 120 minutes. The cost of mediation in comparison to litigation is good value for the dollar. Most lawyers in Essex County charge between \$375 and \$500 per hour. Once begun, litigation takes on a life of its own and you have no idea when or how it will end.

You are required to adhere to court mandated rules and procedures; getting into court for a hearing could take as long as ten weeks depending on the county where your case is venued. With a mediator, you can likely schedule an appointment within a couple of weeks. You pay your attorney each time she picks up the file to speak with someone on your behalf. Many mediators work from a flat fee paid by each party. Often an agreement can be reached in three or four sessions which could result in a Consent Order which is a document for the court to sign to make the agreement official. Or a memorandum of understanding that addresses all of the economic issues of the marriage.

At the end of the day, when you ask yourself, "Why mediate?" Here are three good reasons:

1. Far less expensive than litigation
2. You control the time, not the judge
3. You control the solution to the problem
4. You will not be in court six weeks later with the same issues because studies show when the parties agree to a solution, they usually stick to the agreement.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 11)

ing that she did anything unethical regarding the suit and disposition for her settlement payments.

MAPLEWOOD - It is not known whether the late long-

time Committeeman and Municipal Judge Ed Borrone's headstone in Jersey City's Holy Name Cemetery will have "Hon." carved ahead of his name or "Esq." after it.

The Hon. Borrone, 81, who died May 16 in Neptune's Jersey Shore University Medical Center, was a Township Committeeman 1977-88 and was a Municip-

pal Court Judge 1989-98.

Borrone, Esq. was also an attorney and special counselor to Public Service Coordinated Transport here at 180 Boyden Ave. 1965-80. He continued representing PSE&G from Newark after PSCT became the state-owned NJTransit Bus and Light Rail Operations in 1980.

Borrone's transit experience

prompted Gov. Tom Kean (R-Livingston) to appoint him as NJTransit Board of Directors' Vice Chairman. He was a chairman of the Hospital Center of Orange's Board of Trustees in its last years 1976-95.

Ed and first wife Elizabeth meanwhile raised son Edward and daughter Kathleen here.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

Second wife Lillian and two grandchildren are also among his survivors.

Edward Jerrome Borrone was born in Weehawken July 23, 1939 to Ed., Sr. who was a Hoboken Councilman and the Hudson County Clerk in the 1950s. The St. Peter's Prep graduate parlayed his baseball scholarship for the St. Peter's College Peacocks and recruitment by MLB's Minnesota Twins. The Twins' failure to offer a bonus prompted Borrone to successfully obtain a juris doctorate from Newark's Seton Hall Law School.

Borrone's Funeral Mass was held May 22 at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish's Church of the Ascension, in Bradley Beach. St. Peter's Prep has started a memorial scholarship in his name.

BLOOMFIELD - If the walls of 209 Franklin St., better known as Essex County Bloomfield Tech High School, could talk, would they be asking itself whether it is having an identity crisis? Or maybe they will be expressing relief that they are being used at all?

The 1930 vocational and technical high school is being used as a temporary site for another county district student body for the third time in four years.

Although the 2,000-student capacity building ceased being Bloomfield Tech June 30, 2018, it had been used to house students of Essex County School of Technology-West Caldwell when the latter's building was being renovated and expanded in 2019-21. The West Caldwell sign remains above Bloomfield Tech's front door May 24.

Bloomfield Tech has been housing three of Newark Tech's four grades here since May 17 and will continue to do so through 2021-22. An announcement on Newark Tech School of Technology's digital sign board at 91 W. Market St. says as much.

Although Newark Tech is the county district's youngest building, it will be undergoing renovations during the next school year. All Newark Tech sophomores, juniors and seniors are to report or log into their new address in Bloomfield.

Newark tech's freshman class, however, will be attending the district's newest campus - the Donald M. Payne, Sr. School of Technology at Newark's 498-544 W. Market St - which brings this story to a full circle. "Payne Tech," which opened Sept. 1, 2018, was the merger of Bloomfield Tech and Newark's 13th Street Tech high schools.

The Bloomfield Tech building is being used as a "swing space," where the student body continues its instruction while its home building is being renovated, expanded or replaced. The Newark Public Schools, for example, intended to use its World War One-era Central High

School building before selling it to NJIT.

MONTCLAIR - Parents of Montclair Public School elementary students are to look for a survey about holding full-time in-person classroom instruction in their mail June 1 - and to return their responses to MPS administrators soon.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds, in his May 21 open letter, said that his staff are working on such a survey. While he nor his administration have not made a gp/no-go full-time elementary in-person decision as of press time, this 2020-21 school year will end June 30.

"We'll evaluate variables such as; proper spacing, furniture and restructuring physical spaces," said Ponds in his Friday open letter. "We're also contemplating implementing a five-day option for Tier II and III students and those with 504s. Please know that once variables are considered, we'll implement five days based of efficiency, safety and equity in all schools."

The letter comes while MPS is opening more of its classrooms to all students. Montclair High School has reopened to Sophomores May 26, who are to be joined by juniors and seniors June 1.

GLEN RIDGE - While other "Local Talk" towns weigh the merits of having Cannabis Based Businesses in their municipalities between now and Aug. 20, borough elders have taken their stand for the next five years.

Mayor Patrick Stuart signed into law May 1 an ordinance passed by borough council members April 12 that bans all CBBs now through April 2026. The ordinance does allow such businesses from outside Glen Ridge borders to make deliveries within borough limits.

Councilwoman Ann Marie Morrow cited both Glen Ridge's limited commercial district and borough leaders' wait-and-see attitude with the state regulations for their decision.

"This gives us the option to think about it," said Morrow. "We're a fully built-out, residential town (with) a very small retail section. We don't have a lot of room, so we want to be thoughtful about it."

Glen Ridge joins 15 other statewide municipalities in closing, but not bolting, their doors to CBBs. Orange and Nutley are contemplating similar bans; other "Local Talk" towns are discussing the matter.

BELLEVILLE - Township detectives have been looking for two cars and three suspects - two of them armed - in a carjacking on a major street here since May 13.

The owner-driver of an Audi A4 told responding Belleville police officers that he was along the 35 block of Washington

Avenue when a "blue BMW X7" pulled up alongside him at about 8 p.m. that Thursday.

The victim then said that two suspects armed with guns got out and took control of the Audi. The Audi and the BMW then sped away, leaving the first driver physically unharmed.

Further descriptions of the three suspects, either car or which direction they had fled were not released as of press time.

TOO MANY SHOOTINGS IN

TOO MANY COMMUNITIES

(Continued from page 13)

In Fairfield Township in Cumberland County, there was a mass shooting that happened at a house party. As of deadline for this article, there was another victim that died from their injuries, which makes the total three dead and 12 injured.

It's sad that these incidents are happening, but what is truly sad is that we are losing too many people to violence.

NEWARK FLEA MARKET Bet. Park Ave. & William St.
 120 North 11th St...NOW OPEN
 2 FLOORS • Wed. - Sun. • 7 Days
 Avon sold here • We Have Everything • Candle Room
 Tools • Bikes • Furniture • Refrigerators • Clothes & More
 551-271-0415 • The Turtle Lady • 201-852-5881

New Jersey Anger Management

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

Se Habla Español

121 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302
 Newjerseyangermanagement@gmail.com
(973) 795-4300

NPM
NATIONWIDE PEST MANAGEMENT LLC
 P.O. Box 4062
 East Orange, NJ 07019
 (973) 672-8358 • Fax: (973) 672-2560
 www.nationwidepestmanagement.com
 TERENCE WILSON
 SERVICE CONSULTANT
 nationwidepest@aol.com

LOCAL TALK PRINTING

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

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

1576 Springfield Ave.
 Maplewood, NJ 07040
 Email: localtalk@aol.com
 Tel. (973) 622-1111
 Cell: (973) 280-7547
 Fax: (973) 622-1120



Heart Center of the Oranges

VISIT us at our new state of the art facility in

East Orange - 60 Evergreen Place • Suite 400

OUR PROVIDERS

CARDIOLOGY

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

PULMONARY/SLEEP DISORDERS

Jeffrey Miller, DO

PODIATRY

Kordai DeCoteau, DPM

NEUROLOGY

Ruth Clark-Brown, MD

NUTRITION

David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

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

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

NOW OFFERING

Before Treatment



6 Weeks

After Treatment*



Varicose Vein Treatment



Contact us: 973-395-1550
Orangeheartcenter.net

VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

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