

# UPSETS EVERYWHERE

# ANNUAL MONTE IRVIN BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



**U.S. Olympians**  
Simone Biles (left) and  
Katie Ledecky (center)

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Photo Courtesy Gregson Smith

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 38 \* JULY 29, 2021 - AUGUST 4, 2021

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## CDC RECOMMENDS RETURN TO FULL ON MASK WEARING



A nurse treats a critically ill COVID-19 patient

On July 27, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, announced that the CDC is recommending that people, regardless of vaccination, resume wearing masks / face coverings due to the prevalence of the Delta variant of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Unlike previous strains of COVID-19, the Delta variant has proven to be more transmissible between persons. Also, one item of great concern is that

the variant has led to "breakthrough" cases of COVID-19, which is when a fully vaccinated person comes down with the virus. Although there have been no reported cases of severe infection among the vaccinated, those with breakthrough cases can still spread the virus to the unvaccinated.

Area officials were quick to acknowledge the CDC's recommendation. First, New York City announced  
*(Continued on page 9)*

## COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CHARTERS

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - An early summer New Jersey Supreme Court ruling is allowing four Newark-based charter school networks to complete their 2016-21 classroom and grade expansion.

Once those seven schools among the North Star Academy, KIPP TEAM Academy, Great Oakes Academy and Robert Treat Academy "top out" their expansion before the Sept. 3-6 Labor Day weekend, they will be subject to stricter New Jersey Department of Education scrutiny.

That "going forward" scrutiny includes weighing any future charter school expansion would further segregation among racial, English Language Learner and special need student categories in comparison to Newark Public Schools' traditional schools.

These are the outcomes of The Supreme Court of New Jersey's June 22 ruling that upheld then-New Jersey Education Commissioner David Hespe's allowing the said Newark-based charter schools' ex-

*(Continued on page 13)*

## DID RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS VIOLATE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT?

Part Two of Two....Page 5



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To  
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16



Dhiren Shah  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

and they are notarizing only 70 per week. The Governor is utilizing his authority to protect government employees, rather than get them to do their jobs. He should start thinking about the people, who are the ones that should be prioritized in my opinion.

The U.S. population, estimated as of July 2019, was 321.4 million. California's Population was 39,512,223 and the Registered Voter Population was 22,047,448 (55.79%), Texas' Population 28,995,881, Registered Voter Population 16,211,198 (55.90%), Florida's Population 21,477,737, Registered Voter Population 14,065,627 (65.48%), New York's Population 19,453,561 and Registered Voter Population 13,555,547 (69.68%), New Jersey's Population 8,882,190 and Registered Voter Population 6,486,299 (73.02%).

Georgia passed new legislation for proof of ID or proof of utility to be provided for using mail-in ballots. Georgia's population is 10.62 million and the registered voters are 7.6 million. Georgia's voting age for the adults is 18 years old. This resolution passed and approved as a referendum 1943. It will be a great question, how many persons are opted out from the election process by ID or some kind of proof for residency. The utility bills and some other bills are many times in the name of one person.

Newark will have another important election in 2022. The Mayor and all council seats are up for grabs. Mayor Baraka has picked 8 incumbents on his slate, and one newcomer in Dupré "DoItAll" Kelly formally. Kelly lost the previous election against current councilman Joseph McCallum in the West Ward.

Also, attorney Chigozie Onyema and former councilman South Ward Oscar James have already announced their intentions to run in the election. It will be interesting to see how Newark will shape up in the next 6 months. Newark's election will be on May 10, 2022 and the last day of filing petitions will be March 7, 2022. By year end, the election will start to shape up. Due to the pandemic, the incumbents will likely get the advantage of name recognition.

We need the elected officials to help the people, not their friends and families. A little politics is good, but right now, the elected officials are taking too much advantage within their group and that must be stopped in my opinion.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Scattered T-Storms	Sunny	Sunny	PM T-Storms	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## 50% of Infected in Israel Are Vaccinated: Cause for Alarm?

Yes, you read that perfectly right.

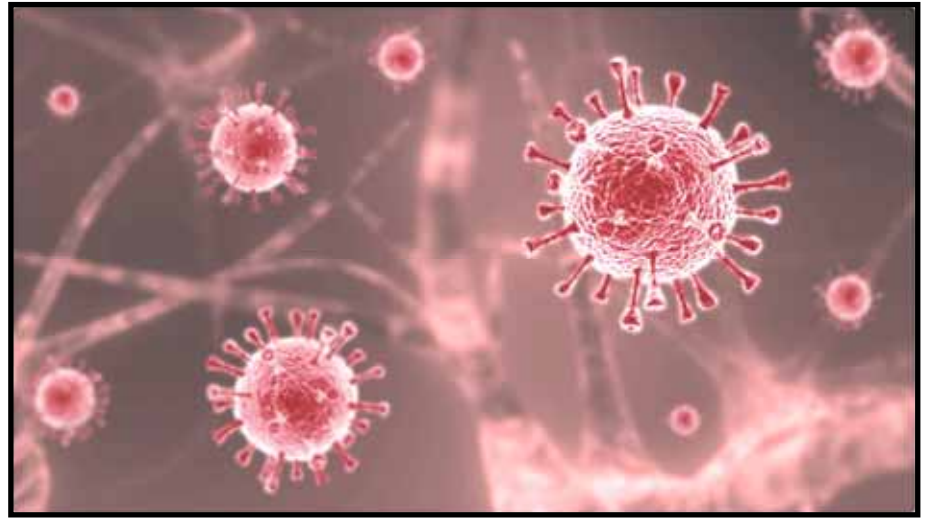
Israel is one of the leading countries in vaccinations. But the delta variant of the coronavirus came and basically said, "I don't care about no damn vaccine!" According to the Director-General of the Health Ministry

of Israel, Chevy Levy, about 40-50% of the new cases of the coronavirus are among vaccinated people. It's pretty shocking, to be honest.

But before you hit that panic button, hear me out. What you read is "50% of infected in Israel are vaccinated," right? Read that again. Now, consider this headline, "50% of vaccinated in Israel are infected." The only thing I have changed from the initial sentence was the order of vaccinated and infected. Yet, the sentence takes on a wildly different meaning. This is due to a phenomenon known as base rate bias or base rate fallacy.

Now, let me warn you, things are about to get really cloudy. Base rate fallacy states that "if presented with related base rate information and specific information, people tend to ignore the base rate in favor of the individuating information, rather than integrating the two." Hey, I warned you!

Let me make this a lot clearer. In Israel, about 57% of their population has been vaccinated. Only about 2-4% of children have been vaccinated, though,



because vaccinations for kids just only gained approval. So when you remove children from the equation, you have 85% of adults in Israel fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

There are far more vaccinated than unvaccinated people in Israel. Back to our topic statement. The sentence, "50% of infected are vaccinated," will be perceived by many as "half of vaccinated were infected."

However, this ignores the base rate. When you do the math, only about 2% of fully vaccinated people were infected. That figure rises to 13% for unvaccinated people. So, in actual

sense, there is nothing too abnormal about that statement because the vast majority of adults in Israel are vaccinated.

Well, I said nothing too abnormal, but it is still reasonably abnormal that a variant can still come out on top against our vaccines quite easily. That variant is the Delta variant. It is a more transmissible strain, experts are suggesting it causes slightly more severe conditions, and it may have the ability to easily evade the protection vaccines afford. This is by far the worst variant we have had.

*(Continued on page 14)*

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# DID RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS VIOLATE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT?

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

## Part Two of Two

In last week's issue, July 22, Local Talk covered the circumstances of the February 26 and June 22 online meetings of the Rutgers Board of Governors. Part One showed how the Board Chairman, Mark A. Angelson, repeatedly ruled both Charlie Kratovil, editor of New Brunswick Today and Troy Shinbrot, an elected University Senate faculty representative. No justification was given as to why the two men, who spoke on agenda items, were out of order.

Part Two will focus on what the law states about the Open Public Meetings Act; responses from Charlie Kratovil and Dr. Troy Shinbrot. Also, the personal opinions of key members of the University Senate, which is on summer recess, will be cited.

### Definition of the Open Public Meetings Act

According to the Digital Me-

dia Law Project, the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) does not apply to government officials acting in an individual capacity, like a governor or a mayor when they meet their subordinates. The act applies to officials if they sit on a board, commission or other multi-member bodies that makes decisions on public business. That is first.

Second, the act covers bodies that vote on public matters or spend public funds. These bodies that are purely advisory boards or committees are not covered. Also not covered is any private group or body not created by a New Jersey statute, ordinance, or regulation or federal government bodies.

Under the OPMA, all members of the public can attend meetings of public bodies, except for closed sessions. New Jersey law states that anyone can attend. However, attendance of a public meeting does not necessarily include the right to comment or participate. Most public bodies in New Jersey may decide for themselves whether to

allow public participation and may impose rules limiting or regulating participation.

Local Talk reached out to Jon L. Oliver, a part-time faculty and assistant dean, who is the other faculty member on the Board of Governors, for comment. Oliver told Local Talk by email that he forwarded the questions to University Media Relations. There has been no response from University spokeswoman Dory Devlin despite questions sent by email and messages left on voice mail.

### Board of Trustees Bylaws and Rules

At its December 17, 2020 meeting, the Board of Governors revised its bylaws. The number of speakers was increased from five to twelve. Furthermore, speakers were given only two minutes to speak on a topic that was on the agenda. Unlike in the past, other speakers could not cede or substitute their time, to somebody who had signed up.

There is a process for putting

an item on the meeting of the Board. However, this process has to go through a five-stage reviewal from the Dean or Director of a Department and up to the University President before making it to a Board agenda.

The Bylaws of the Board of Governors mention the Open Public Meetings Act at least seven times. However, there is little to no public input at Board of Governors meetings.

Under Section I. B2, the agenda is prepared by the President of the University in consultation with the chair and transmitted to each Governor at least five days before the meeting. The Board may remove or add agenda items in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The agenda is available at the office of the University Secretary, usually 48 hours before the meeting.

Even the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs is devoid of student input. The Bylaws, under Section IV, Subsection 3, Committees of the Board,

(Continued on page 9)



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**UPSETS EVERYWHERE**

**OLYMPICS**

So far, the Tokyo Olympics have produced some stunning outcomes. First, the U.S. Men's basketball team lost their first game to France, 83-76. Led by NBA players Evan Fournier and Rudy Gobert, the French went on a 16-2 run to close the game. The U.S. squad did bounce back and run through Iran 120-66.

Simone Biles pulled out of the team gymnastics event due to mental health concerns. The Russian team would win the gold, while the U.S. took silver, and the U.K. took bronze. Then, citing the same concerns, she would also withdraw from the all around final, meaning she would not defend her gold medal in that event. There is hope that she will compete in other gymnastics events next week.

In another upset, tennis favorite Naomi Osaka was knocked out of the tourney in the third round by Czech Olympian Marketa Vondrousova 6-1, 6-4. This means that Osaka will not earn a medal in her native country of Japan.

Finally, U.S. swimmer Katie Ledecky was stunned in the 400m freestyle, as she had to settle for silver after a loss to Australian Ariarne Titmus who took the gold. Despite that setback, Ledecky did take the gold in the 1500m freestyle.

On the other side, there were cases where history was made. Lee Kiefer became the first American to win a Gold Medal in the individual fencing competition. Also, for the first time ever, someone from the Philippines took gold, with Hidilyn Diaz winning the weightlifting competition.

As for the rest of the Olympics, some events had to be shuffled around due to a Tropical Storm in the area.

**NEW YORK CITY MANDATES VACCINATION**

**UNITED STATES**

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Commissioner (DOHMH) Dr. Dave A. Chokshi and NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H) President and CEO Dr. Mitchell Katz have announced a new health care mandate requiring all city workers to provide one-time proof of vaccination or weekly COVID-19 tests beginning September 13th.

In advance of this benchmark, the City is mandating 45,000 City workers and contractors in residential and congregate care settings by August 16th. Both of these recent mandates are in addition to the Health Worker COVID-Safe Requirement the Mayor announced last week, requiring NYC Health + Hospitals employees and those working in Department of Health and Mental Hygiene clinical settings to provide either a one-time verification of immunization, or weekly proof of a negative COVID-19 test by August 2nd.

"This is what it takes to continue our recovery for all of us while fighting back the delta variant," said Mayor de Blasio. "It's going to take all of us to finally end the fight against COVID-19."

"These new requirements reflect our commitment to each other and the people we serve," said Health Commissioner Dr. Dave A. Chokshi. "In the tug of war between vaccines and the variants, we should continue to bet on the vaccines. But now is the time for our whole City to pull together to defeat Delta."

"We've come a long way from once being the 'epicenter of the epicenter' of COVID-19, but this pandemic is not over yet," said NYC Health + Hospitals President and CEO Mitchell Katz, MD. "We have a moral responsibility to take every precaution possible to ensure we keep ourselves, our colleagues and loved ones safe. Our City's new testing requirement for city workers provides more piece of mind until more people get their safe and effective COVID-19

vaccine."

The Mayor also made an official call for the private sector to enact vaccine and test mandates at their offices, workplaces, stores, and restaurants. Approximately 4.9 million New Yorkers have received at least one dose of the vaccine. This includes over 100,000 doses from mobile vaccination sites, 280,000 doors knocked by canvassers, and 20,000 doses given in-home to anyone who needs it. There have also been more than \$80,000 in Referral Bonuses given to community organizations.

Additionally, New York state, California, and the Federal Government have also enacted similar mandates for public workers.

**TRAFFICKING NETWORK DISMANTLED**

**EUROPE**

Spanish and Serbian authorities have dismantled a large-scale drug trafficking network, through a joint investigation team (JIT) with the active support of Eurojust. Across both countries, a total of 43 members of a Serbian organized crime group (OCG) have been arrested for their involvement in the production and distribution of marijuana and hashish, mainly destined for sale in Germany. The criminal network operated plantations in the Spanish provinces of Zaragoza and Tarragona, where fellow nationals were exploited for the cultivation of the drugs.

The main suspects will be charged with drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and money laundering. Most of the proceedings were laundered in Serbia, Spain and other European countries, using a string of shell companies. The OCG was very well organized and employed electricians to condition and run the plantations. Furthermore, it involved managers and intermediaries between the different echelons of the organization and lawyers to open account numbers, using false documents.

The network had set up a professional distribution chain for the transport of the drugs, with lorries registered in the

name of companies of other EU Member States, specially set up for the purpose. In total, 14 indoor plantations have been dismantled, one of which was hidden under a Russian orthodox church.

During a major action day in June and interventions against the OCG in January of this year, coordinated and supported by Eurojust and Europol, the authorities carried out 19 searches and seized over 17,000 marijuana plants, over 880 kilos of marijuana buds and at least 130 kilos of produced marijuana and hashish resins.

Approximately EUR 250,000 in cash was also seized, as well as computer and telecommunications equipment, a luxury vehicle and a handgun. As of January, 400 kilos of marijuana and almost 4 kilos of hashish had already been intercepted.

Eurojust initiated the cross-border judicial cooperation in November 2020, leading to the setting up of the first JIT between Spain and Serbia. It was the first time the Spanish authorities had initiated a JIT with a third country. Further, the Agency enabled the coordination between the Spanish and Serbian authorities and assisted in organizing the action day against the OCG.

The operation was led by chamber no. 2 of the Investigative Court and Public Prosecutor's Office of Huesca in Spain and the Office of the Prosecutor for Organized Crime of Serbia in Belgrade, with the support of various specialized teams of the Spanish Guardia Civil. In Serbia, the specialized Service for Fighting Organized Crime (SBPOK) of the national police carried out the operations on the ground.

**PRE-EID ATTACK CONDEMNED**

**MIDDLE EAST**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres strongly condemned the "horrific bomb attack targeting civilians" at a busy market in the northeast of the Iraqi capital, just before the Eid al-Adha holiday.

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

## Starting A Business: Part 3

Years ago, I met with a classmate of mine. At the time I was consulting on a full-time basis. My friend and former classmate shared with me that after nine years of working with the same employer, he was at a crossroads in his professional career.

I was working on a consulting assignment at the time and was excited that my pal could work with me on it. We made a good team and for the most part, we had fun working for my client. During our usual rounds, we discussed my friend's dilemma. He was thinking of several options. During the discussion, I shared with my friend that an option available to him would be to use the knowledge that he had gained from his previous employer and start a new business. My friend had been a manager in a restaurant.

When I enquired further, my friend indicated that he had learnt quite a bit about the hospitality business as well as other aspects such as inventory management, human resource management and cooking, amongst other skill areas! We both were excited about the idea of him starting his own restaurant. Eventually, we agreed that I should write a business plan for the proposed restaurant.

It was eight years later before I met my pal again, as I traveled out of the country. I was excited and pleased to visit his new establishment! It was set up after I had left the country. Imagine, how pleasantly surprised I

was to see a thriving and active bar and restaurant with customers buying food, drinks and enjoying quality music!

When I was ready to leave my friend's place, he surprised me by giving me several dish samples fresh from his kitchen. He told me that he wanted me to taste various dishes made by the restaurant that I had written a business plan for years ago. When I got home, I eagerly opened the containers to enjoy the food my friend had given me. The food was amazing!

While my palate may not be the most sophisticated in town, I could still recognize that the food was of a high quality. The packaging of the food was not bad either. It has been 20 years now since my friend set up his food establishment. It has had its ups and downs but, for 20 years, that restaurant provided my friend with an income that he used to cater for himself and his family. To this day, I hold this friend in high esteem for having the courage to start his business. Suffice it to say that my friend will not be looking for a job any-time soon!

When we look at the start of a business, it invariably starts from ideas that people develop with time through their own interaction with society. Last week, we talked about one strategy for starting a business: selling one's skills such as computing, social media, consulting, coaching, web development, art-work and writing amongst others.

In setting up a business, one main reason why people do this is to obtain an increased level of financial success. Simply put, they want a higher level of income than what most employers would give them by way of a salary and benefits etc. The other reasons people start new businesses include being forced by circumstances, an interest in achieving a higher level of professional development, to have maximum control over their time and how it is managed. My friend that I wrote about earlier started his business for all the reasons that I have listed.

(Continued on page 12)

# BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY  
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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Belleville	5692	116	5713	116
Bloomfield	5383	124	5410	125
Caldwell	627	16	626	16
Cedar Grove	1561	121	1579	121
East Orange	7232	314	7259	315
Essex Fells	193	2	193	2
Fairfield	890	31	890	31
Glen Ridge	402	13	407	13
Irvington	4791	234	4832	233
Livingston	1857	88	1871	88
Maplewood	1337	36	1360	36
Millburn	831	10	834	10
Montclair	2313	72	2335	72
Newark	37211	1011	<b>37408</b>	<b>1013</b>
North Caldwell	499	6	500	6
Nutley	3055	66	3083	66
Orange	3579	136	3604	137
Roseland	479	16	480	16
South Orange	884	16	897	16
Verona	997	18	1000	18
West Caldwell	1064	53	1069	53
West Orange	4607	232	4627	232
<b>Total</b>	<b>85484</b>	<b>2731</b>	<b>85977</b>	<b>2735</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of July 28, 2021)**  
**NJ: 904,447 cases / 23,870 deaths (Plus 2,719 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 34.632 Million / 611,500 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 195.7 Million / 4.182 Million deaths**

# LOCAL WEEKLY



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## SOUTH ORANGE MAN SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROLE IN CONSPIRACY

ESSEX - Dashawn Duncan, 27, of South Orange, was sentenced July 28 to 24 months in prison for his role in conspiring to defraud two banks of \$250,000 using stolen credit cards and blank checks, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Duncan, and coconspirators Nasheed Jackson, 24, of Newark, and Alexander Varice, 22, of South Orange, previously pleaded guilty by video before U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton to Informations charging each of them with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. Judge Wigenton imposed Duncan's sentence today via video conference. Jackson was sentenced to 2 years on July 22, 2021, and Varice is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 7, 2021.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: From August 2018 through January 2020, Varice, Jackson, and Duncan engaged in a scheme to use stolen credit cards or checks to fraudulently make purchases and withdraw money from two banks. The credit cards were stolen from facilities used by the U.S. Postal Service in Pine Brook and Warren, New Jersey, and never reached the intended cardholders.

After obtaining the stolen cards, Varice, Jackson, and Duncan used them to make unauthorized purchases at various retail stores and to withdraw cash from automated teller machines (ATMs) in New Jersey and elsewhere. The blank checks were also stolen from various New Jersey-based post office

*(Continued on page 11)*

### OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

*(Continued from page 5)*

state that "student complaints grievances and petitions are addressed by the University through established institutional policies and are not within the scope of duties for which this committee is responsible."

According to Karen Thompson, Part-Time Lecturer for English Writing Program and Robert S. Boikess, Professor of Chemistry, what is happening is that "colleges and universities are being transformed more and more from academic institutions governed by academic principles and imperatives into corporate institutions governed by business management principles. The imperious conduct of the Rutgers Board of Governors, a group of non-academics, is a symptom of this transformation."

The two professors stated that since the University Senate does not meet in the summer, it has not yet addressed the issues raised in Local Talk's questions. Both professors agreed to give their personal answers.



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### MASK WEARING

*(Continued from page 1)*

that city employees would have to get vaccinated in lieu of mandatory weekly testing, or face punitive measures. This eventually was mimicked by New York state, the state of California, and the federal government.

One day later, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli strongly recommended that both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents wear masks in indoor settings when there is increased risk.

Examples of such situations include:

- Crowded indoor settings
- Indoor settings involving activities with close contact with others who may not be fully vaccinated
- Indoor settings where the vaccine status of other individuals in the setting is unknown
- Where an individual is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease

Boikess and Thompson stated that they do not speak for the University Senate.

In their responses, Boikess and Thompson wrote, "our position is that it is never appropriate for a legitimate attendee at a meeting to be ruled out of order without stated cause."

Both professors said that "we certainly support voting student representatives on the BOG and are confident that the Senate would, as well."

Asked about conflicts of interest, by the BOG, Boikess and Thompson wrote, "Given

Murphy and Persichilli made the following statement:

"Our metrics are trending in the wrong direction, and new data suggests the Delta variant is more transmissible even among vaccinated individuals, which is why we are making this strong recommendation.

"Fortunately, our numbers are a fraction of those in many other states, most of which have significantly lower vaccination rates. Should our numbers reach those levels, we reserve the right to take more drastic action, including a statewide mask mandate.

"We have crushed this virus repeatedly like no other state in the nation, and we are proud to boast among the country's highest vaccination rates. But at this point, given where our metrics are now, we feel the best course of action is to strongly encourage every New Jerseyan, and every visitor to our state, to take personal responsibility and mask up indoors when prudent.

"And we equally encourage every unvaccinated resident or visitor to get vaccinated. The vaccines are proven safe and highly effective, and are the surest way we can end this pandemic."

that Rutgers is the State University of New Jersey and given that virtually all of its financial authority are under the authority of the BOG, we would expect that not just the Senate, but also the state government would be concerned about personal conflicts of interest on the part of members of the BOG."

Local Talk will keep its readers informed about personal conflicts of interest by the Rutgers Board of Governors. These, as well as history about Rutgers students' past struggles with the BOG, could appear in future Local Talk issues.

# 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** - What a former Newark Public Schools teacher was arrested and charged for in 2019 was found among a July 22 posting entitled "NJ Teachers and Educators Caught in Recent Sex Crime Busts."

Luis Aviles, 52, of Allentown, Penna., was among 18 other teachers, aides and a principal who were or are accused of sexual misconduct with minor students from 2015 to last April. The charges, as lodged by county prosecutors, ranged from sending inappropriate emails and/or photos to statutory rape to sexual assault.

Some of the 18 statewide men and women have had their cases end with being barred from teaching or public office and/or serving time after either pleading guilty or being convicted.

Aviles' case, at last word, is among those still going through the judicial process. The 18-year art instructor was arrested June 12, 2019 and, said Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II, was charged with multiple counts of sexual assault. Aviles' assaults against the 14-year-old boy student were committed December 2017-September 2018.

The article, first posted at nj1015.com and later on other news and parental websites, mentions the June 1, 2018 "Don't Pass the Trash" law. The bill was designed to keep child and/or sex abusers from falling through school hiring cracks. Hiring educators, for example, are to ask for applicants' records, including complaints, going back 20 years.

Most of the 18 accused abusers' alleged incidents, however, were made before "Don't Pass the Trash" took effect. The rest

occurred after June 1, 2018 and without the accused having moved from one school district to the next undetected. Only two cases read as if one district failed to ask or failed to tell on the applicants in question.

The original article on the 18 may appear to some like a digital "perp walk." A perp walk is where suspects, or "the perpetrators," are paraded between jail and the courthouse for arraignment as a photo opportunity.

**IRVINGTON** - Irvington Housing Authority employees and/or its contractors were seen making various repairs here at the Crescent Lane housing projects July 23 - some 48 hours after a community whistleblower posted a video of its living conditions.

The repair people were seen Friday removing mold, rust and water damage from fixtures, ceilings and walls in kitchens and bathrooms. The fixes were made while a local news crew talked with tenants.

The Crescent Lane residents who went on camera said that they have lived with physical problems "for years." They said they have sent their complaints to IHA's office in nearby Union Avenue but little, if anything gets done.

"People who work in the (IHA) office, no one lives in the IHA," said Sonya Powell. "They don't know how it is to live where you've got holes and you've got rust all in the tub."

They brought in "a community monitor," who took video recordings and put them on social media that Wednesday.

IHA Interim Director Ramon Rivera replied that his employees are making repairs even though the Crescent Lane complex is to be replaced with new affordable housing in the near future. He said they make the repairs - when they learn of the requests.

"Sometimes the tenants aren't home, so we have to come back - but it does get completed and fixed," said Rivera. "We treat our tenants as if they're going to live there forever."

**EAST ORANGE** - The East Orange Fire Department has had two of its bravest die 38 days apart here in June and July. Retired EOFD Firefighter Michael Alston, 57, died June 1, 38 days

ahead of Capt. Vincent J. Intiso, 57, who died in the line of duty July 8.

Michael Wayne Alston served the city Jan. 31, 1986 - March 2, 2015. He was the father of active EOFD Firefighter Michael Alston, Jr.

The elder Alston, who was born in Newark's Presbyterian Hospital Nov. 3, 1963, spent his early years here. He was baptized at Park Avenue Christian Church and had attended Columbian Elementary School. (The Columbian/G.W. Carver school was recently replaced by the Sheila Y. Oliver Academy.)

Father John Richard Alston Sr., and the late Alverie Alston, however, moved Michael and brothers Richard C. and John R., Jr. to Montclair. His gridiron days were busy, playing drums with the MHS marching band between playing for the football team.

Alston, after moving to Plainfield, continued playing the drums for Vauxhall-Union's First Baptist Church. (His great-grandparents were among FBC's founders.)

Alston, who married Plainfielder Lois Yolanda Alston in 2011, retired to become a member of CNBC's security team. He died of a heart condition June 1. Daughters Myisha King, Adrienne Comer, Amaya Coleman, and Toni Smith; and two grandchildren are also among his survivors.

Alston's remains made the last ride past his EOFD fire stations, from Plainfield's Judkins Memorial Home and back to Rose of Sharon Community Church, July 9.

**ORANGE** - Someone removed the Orange Elks statute - and its pedestal - from its front lawn here at 475 Main St. sometime between July 7 and 15. It was not reported to police in part because Orange Elks Lodge No. 135 has been closed for some time in the past year.

Members of Lodge 135 were absorbed by the former Newark-Bloomfield Lodge at 296 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield. The Bloomfield Elks, who had opened its doors to Newark's lodge members in 2002, have since renamed itself the Greater Essex Lodge No. 21.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks' leaving Or-

ange also leaves behind decades of memories of social events and civic contribution.

Residents remember Orange Democratic Committee breakfasts, book bag giveaways, Boy Scout Troop meetings, Election Day polling and a host of other events in the Elks' August T. Marchese, Sr. Banquet Hall. The hall was named after the 40-year member and PNC Orange Branch Vice President, who died in 2015.

Orange Elks members had their own "Crippled Children's Fund," which aided the state lodge's efforts. Lodge 135 also awarded annual scholarships for local high school seniors.

A July 27 "Local Talk" visit also found 475 Main's lawn starting to overgrow and its parking lot entrance chained. A printed sign directed voters to go to the polls at the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, 510 Linden Place. The church had moved into the former Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church building around the block in 2013.

475 Main's present vacated state will not last long. The Orange Tax Assessor's office has recorded its purchase by VA 475 LLC June 3. The new owners intend to modify, but not replace, the 1864 two-story house and 1970s-era banquet hall.

**WEST ORANGE / MONTCLAIR** - A West Orange resident and Montclair High School graduate's Summer Olympic Games experience has been a solitary one - and maybe a shortened one depending on a petition before USA Fencing as of press time.

Olympic Fencing Team member Katharine "Kat" Holmes said on June 22 that she had collected an electronic petition calling for USA Fencing bar Alen Hadzic, 29, from participating. Holmes is also the female athlete representative on USA Fencing's board of directors.

Holmes brought the petition up during Hadzic's June 22 appeal to a US Olympic and Paralympic Committee arbitrator to move into the Olympic Village. Hadzic has been living in a hotel room a 30-minute drive from the village as part of what USA Fencing said was a "safety plan."

Hadzic and his attorney Mi-

(Continued on page 14)

# BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

Hello everyone. A very well greeting to all and hope all has been well. The first thing is in regard to New Jersey State Laws. The question I ask is will there be bike lanes, or just to consider them at least. Mopeds,

myself have been a victim of fraud. Trust me, it is not cool at all. Walking up to an empty account, knowing that all your had earnings have been taken without notice or permission. It is so upsetting. I could blow smoke from my ears.

Regardless of our financial situation, it comes to us. Resolving the problem is another headache. It is still a crime and those who commit these crimes, are by law to serve time. An old saying, "If is not yours don't touch" has gone in the dumpster. If anyone has been a victim to fraud, don't hesitate. Contact your local authorities asap.

Also, before I depart from all my readers, just keep in mind, be aware and help those who may need it. When you turn on the news, 3 months, 6 months, 2 years old, 6 years old and more, all missing or deceased at the hands of a neglect-

New Jersey Statutes Annotated. Title 4. Agriculture and Domestic Animals. Chapter 22. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Title 2c. The New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice. Subtitle 2. Definition of Specific Offenses. Part 5. Offenses Against Public Order, Health and Decency. Chapter 33. Riot, Disorderly Conduct, and Related Offenses

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LIST: New Jersey's Missing Children Since the Start of 2020

Visit

ful parent. So, if you are a parent, act nicely with your children and handle them tactfully, rather than losing your temper. No child should be in such endangerment. Children are innocent. These kinds of incidents are terrifying to everyone, especially children.

Keep in mind that animals are also in the same situation. Accordingly, plenty of roaming animals are in streets every day and everywhere. They are also living beings. Wish animals a safe heaven.

Yours, Michele Lowe  
973-280-1002

ADVRTORIAL

scooters, motorcycles, dirt bikes; there are everywhere. Even NYC has bike lanes. Why haven't we had any over here? So many accidents, including bicycles, make it easy to approve. There will be less incidents. Everyone stays in their own lanes. Drivers who don't acknowledge any small, operated vehicles are recklessly driving, with no care or consideration for their surroundings.

Another concern that's been going on in our community - well, the entire world - is basically being victims of fraud. I

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Orange Board of Education has scheduled its next regularly Closed session meeting for Tuesday, August 10, 2021, to begin at 6:05 p.m., at the Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium, 400 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ. The Public Board Meeting session will begin as soon as the Closed session ends which is anticipated to be between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The earliest the Public Board Meeting session will begin is 6:45 p.m.

### SOUTH ORANGE MAN SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS

(Continued from page 9)

facilities, and never reached their intended recipients. Varice and Jackson altered the date, payee, and amount of the stolen checks prior to deposit into a third-party account so that they could manually enter the amounts that they wanted to fraudulently withdraw from a victim bank ATM.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Wigenton sentence

Duncan to five years of supervised release.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited postal inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Acting Inspector in Charge Rodney M. Hopkins in Newark, with the investigation leading to the sentencing.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Blake Coppotelli of the U.S. Attorney's Office Economic Crimes Unit in Newark.



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### See I Am Blind, Hear I Am Deaf

I am using the above title to reflect on what I see being displayed in our world regarding the denial of truth and evidence.

When I see and hear, for example, the trauma of the police personnel who were beaten up on January 6 by the insurrectionist demonstrators at the Capitol of the United States, it grieves my heart; and when I see and hear others trying to change the narrative to make the occasion seem like it was a "love fest," I am mortified.

Some people have been trying to make a case against the negative effective of the insurrection by complaining about how the rioters who have been arrested and imprisoned are being treated. They are calling them "political prisoners." Some news outlets have even refused to cover the investigations of the incident.

As a diversionary tactic, some political leaders have held their press conferences simultaneously with the hearing of the Select Congressional Committee investigating the case. In their press conference, the political leaders being named have been trying to give their own "spin"

about what occurred. What is evident is that every effort is being made in some quarters to present "alternative facts," offer "disinformation," and confuse a quite gullible public.

What is bothersome is the willingness of the mass to go along with the denial of truth. It is obvious to me that people are just:

1. Blinding their eyes
2. Deafening their ears
3. Hardening their heart
4. Searing their conscience
5. Refusing to reason
6. Despising evidences
7. Selecting memory
8. Unwilling to discern
9. Unwillingness to accept the dangerous condition
10. Deceiving themselves
11. Trying to avoid responsibility and accountability

If you have paid any attention to history, you might know that the above reactions provide the ingredients that have destroyed societies, nations, and shattered individual lives.

Let me take you to a frame that you might not have suspected that I am going, but it points to the state of blindness and deafness that operates among truth resisters. And it seeks to direct attention to the effort that Jesus made while He walked the earth, in helping to open His hearers' eyes and ears to the truth. In the days of Jesus, there were those who were most astute as truth and reality deniers. Even while Jesus was standing before them, they blinded their eyes and stopped their ears, refusing to

acknowledge who He was.

One of the fascinating stories in the Gospels record is that Jesus healed a man born blind on a Sabbath. The Pharisees said what Jesus did was against the Sabbath law. And, so a conflict was unleashed. As the conflict progressed, it became plain that the blind beggar was seeing reality while the Pharisees were seeing reality less and less. The conflict reached its highest point when the Pharisees refused to acknowledge that the miracle was attributable to the power of God in Jesus. So, Jesus told the Pharisees "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains." (cf. John 9:41).

In effect, their blindness was willful. They did not want to see. They were resistant to the truth. They saw the miracles that Jesus did and attributed them to demons. When their consciences could hardly resist more, they sought to throw Jesus out of the temple. On other occasions they sought to stone Him. They only held back because they were afraid of the people who had believed in Him. But ultimately, they made a plot with one of His inner circles who betrayed Him and handed Him over to be crucified.

On the occasion of His trial, the Roman legate, Pilate who could not resist the reality that Jesus was a pure and innocent person standing before him, not guilty of death, passed judgment on Him, by handing Him over to be crucified. The after handing Him over to be crucified, Pilate

took a basin and washed his hands, declaring that he was "innocent of this man's blood." (Matthew 27:24). Pilate's effort did not change the reality. Jesus was the truth of God. He was the Truth, the Life and the Way.

So, we might become willfully blind or deaf, or harden our hearts, or sear our consciences, in order to avoid acknowledging the truth. But let us remember that so long as truth stands, we will be judged by God with the very truth that we deny.

We might take note of what is said concerning that which took place on January 6 at the Capitol or about the truth revealed in Jesus Christ, or any other truth that we might seek to deny. The point is that we cannot blind ourselves to truth, or deafen our ears and not expect that God will not bring us into judgment.

To make the emphasis in the spiritual realm, I note again what one of my most favorite authors says: "What we need is a conscience quickened by the Spirit of God; for with many, conscience has been stupefied by indulgence in sin and unbelief. We must know what religion is, and realize that we must have a living connection with the God of heaven; for "this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (Ellen White, ST July 25, 1892 Par. 10)

In effect, we cannot just sit back and say to truth, "See I am blind, Hear I am deaf," or we will be facing the judgment of God.

## FINANCE (Continued from page 7)

When you come up with a solid idea that you think would be an excellent business opportunity, the next step should be to do some research to confirm details about the proposed business. For example, it would be very helpful to find out if the business exists already on the market. If it does, then that gives one the opportunity to investigate and find out how much the business makes as a profit on average, the cost of setting up the business, the staff level and other such core factors about the business. Obtaining this type of information creates a basis for analysis. One can then determine whether the business is profitable one or not. This is a core factor in setting up any new business.

Then one needs to look at the cost of set-

ting up the business. This is an important issue because the ability for anyone to finance a new business is based on that person's financial position and network. For example, if a person has saved up \$300,000 and the business set up cost is \$150,000, then this business is one that is within reach. It can become a reality. This is a complicated area, and everyone has a different angle that they are coming from in terms of their finances.

When it comes to the setup cost of a business, the first place to look for funding would be the amount of savings that one has. Clearly, the higher the amount of savings one has, the greater the chances of being able to self-finance a new business. When the project cost is much higher than the savings one has, then one must look at attracting out-

side money. Research has shown that most new businesses obtain startup financing from their savings, friends, and family. Startup capital is one of the toughest parts about setting up a business. In effect, the ability to raise funds to start the business is a major key for actually having the ability to set one up. For many people that would have been the preferred way to finance a new business.

In the next part we will continue with information about starting a new business.

Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on starting a new business. 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 [localtalknews@gmail.com](mailto:localtalknews@gmail.com).

# NEWARK MAN GETS 6.5 YEARS FOR CARJACKING UBER DRIVER

**NEWARK** - A Newark man was sentenced July 26 to 78 months in prison for his role in a carjacking in which a firearm was brandished, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael Honig announced.

Raquin Tanner, 25, of Newark, previously pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District Judge Madeline Cox Arleo to one count of aiding and abetting the carjacking. Judge Arleo imposed the sentence in Newark federal court.

His co-defendant, Rakeem McNair, 21, of Roselle, also previously pleaded guilty to an information charging him with one count each of carjacking and brandishing a firearm in furtherance of the carjacking and is scheduled to be sentenced in November 2021.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: On Aug. 13, 2019, the victim parked her car, which she used for her work as an Uber driver, on Summer Avenue in Newark. At approximately 11:00 p.m., the victim was sitting in the driver's seat when three males approached her car.

Video surveillance from the scene showed that Tanner walked with the other two males around the corner. As they neared the victim's car, Tanner spoke to the other two, then

went ahead of them, looked into the passenger seat of the car, and upon seeing the lone female driver, signaled the other two males to begin the carjacking.

One of the other males pointed a firearm through the driver's side window, opened the door and attempted to physically remove the victim from the car. A struggle ensued, and McNair went around the car to aid his conspirator in dragging the victim from the car. McNair and the unidentified male threw the victim violently to the ground and drove away with the vehicle.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Arleo sentenced Tanner to three years of supervised release.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited the Newark Police Department, under the direction of Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara; the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II; and 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 sentencing.

The government is represented by Senior Trial Counsel Robert Frazer of the Organized Crime and Gangs Unit in Newark.

## CHARTERS

*(Continued from page 1)*

pansion in February 2016.

The high court decision focused on charter school expansion in Newark, which is home to the state's largest public school district and the largest concentration of charter school districts.

The ruling, however, has ramifications on how charter school districts across the state ask the NJDOE for future expansion.

June 22's ruling ended a six-year challenge mounted by the Education Law center against Hespe, NJDOE's Office of Charter Schools and the said four

Newark-based charter districts.

Hespe, in February 2016, authorized Great Oakes, KIPP, North Star and Robert Treat's request to add classrooms and grades levels among seven of their schools. They would be adding up to 8,499 students on or by their 2021-22 final expansion year.

Their request to Hesper came in the midst of Newark-based charter school districts tripling their enrollment 2010-17. Overall enrollment among the then-27 schools and 10 districts went from 4,559 to 12,800 Kindergarten-12th Grade students those seven years.

The privately run charter schools, who answer directly to NJDOE's Charter School office,

# SPORTS WRAP



Photos Courtesy Gregson Smith



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 7th Annual Monte Irvin baseball tournament took place this past weekend in Orange at Central Playground. It was a two day event organized by Wally Boyett who has done so for about seven years. Baseball teams from all over the tri-state area came to town to participate.

On July 24, the last day of the tournament, the Philly Blue

Jays defeated the Black Sox, while the Brooklyn Tigers defeated the Monte Irvin Giants in the semifinal round 4-1. In the other semifinal round game, the Queens Comets beat the Philly Blue Jays, and eventually won the championship game over the Brooklyn Tigers.

This marked the 2nd year in a row in which the Queens Comets took the crown.



receive 90 percent of per-pupil tuition from the "sending" public school districts. Those sending public districts include those municipalities where the said charter schools are located.

The Newark Public Schools' charter school tuition payment, those seven years, went from \$80 million to \$250 million. The \$250 million represented a quarter of NPS' 2016-17 budget.

Hespe's 2016 expansion authorization came while Christopher Cerf was NPS State District Superintendent. Cerf, who was shepherding NPS' transition from a state-run district back to an autonomous district, was answering to his former chief of staff.

Gov. Christopher Christie

appointed Cerf to succeed the controversial "One Newark Plan" author Camille Anderson. Christie also promoted Hesper as his new education commissioner.

The Education Law Center, which filed suit in April 2016, was challenging Hesper's decision on more than public school district financial grounds. ELC's lawyers argued that the charters' enrollment of special needs and ELL students were not proportional to public school district enrollment. The disproportions, they argued, contributed to racial segregation between NPS and the charters.

The State Supreme Court ruling upheld a March 7, 2019

*(Continued on page 14)*

**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

*(Continued from page 4)*

It's not that our vaccines are ineffective against it, though - far from it. In fact, the Pfizer vaccine is still about 85% efficacious against the variant. But it's the fact that the variant may evolve to an even deadlier strain that worries me. Imagine we get a variant that can totally resist the action of vaccines? Aren't we back to where we started?

I don't want to overthink this. But we need to realize that the war may be far longer than any of us could have imagined.

The implication of this is that vaccination does not protect you fully from the virus. Well, it never does, but even more so now that the cases can't be termed breakthrough anymore.

I remember going against removing the mask mandate so early. This is one of the times where I hate to be right, but we relaxed far too early. The good news is it's not too late to wake up and set things right again, with mask-wearing and proper social distancing. The bad news - I don't trust Americans to care enough or at all.

Stay safe. Wear a mask.

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

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**TOWN WATCH**

*(Continued from page 10)*

chael Palma, of Morristown, had sought a closer motel room but had ruled against it.

Hadzic was allowed to go to Tokyo after arbitration Judge Sherrie L. Krauser overturned the suspension placed on him by the US Center for SafeSport June 28. SafeSport suspended the fencer June 2 after three women told them of his alleged 2013-15 and 2019 sexual misconduct against them.

Hadzic came to Tokyo July 18, two days after the rest of the team, as an alternate fencer. Judge Krauser had upheld a no-contact clause between Hadzic and his accusers - and intends to hold a final hearing at a to-be-announced time.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Former South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education Annmarie Maini in a July

25 open letter to the two towns, said she will not be seeking a third term.

Maini's 5.5 years on the board spanned three SOMSD school superintendents Dr. John Ramos, Interim Superintendent Dr. Anthony Ficarra and the present Dr. Ronald Taylor.

"Dr. Ramos brought humility and humanity to the role that allowed him to identify the urgent needs of our district," said Maini. "Dr. Ficarra brought a clear sense of project management and commitment to execution. Dr. Taylor, (who) joined us two years ago after extensive interviews and discussions, decoupled the construction timelines from the integration plan."

Maini, in her letter, did not say why she is leaving the BOE. She did appraise the work of her current and past SOMSD members.

"I've had the privilege to work alongside some of the most thoughtful board members and SOMSD staff and have received

emails from engaged and expert community members," said Maini. "The board needs to ensure that the schools are well run by monitoring the work of the Superintendent through asking the questions."

Maini continues as director of the South Orange Country Day School and as treasurer of the South Orange Public Library Foundation.

**MAPLEWOOD** - The level of attention of how the Maplewood Community Pool's season-opening day got cut short July 17 rose as far up as Mayor Frank McGehee July 20.

McGehee, after consulting with MCP staff, Health Officer Robert Roe and Township Administrator Jerry Giannis, outlined at July 20's Township Committee meeting what happened with the pool's water leveling and filter system and what was being done to remedy the problem.

"A malfunction of our pool's

automatic level controller in the filtration system resulted in the sediment release, sudden smell and liquid chlorine discharge, causing some members to experience some medical symptoms," said McGehee. "Key township officials and our health officer have been working with our third-party contractor, CFM Pools, to identify and resolve the cause of the malfunction. I've personally spoken or been in contact with some of the families impacted and want to express to everyone that safety, health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors are first and foremost."

Witnesses said they heard a jet going off and the emission of a brown-green plume from the three-foot, 6-inch end of the main pool at 12:45 p.m. that Saturday - along with the smell of chlorine. Although the pool was promptly closed for the day, several adults and children went to local urgent care centers or hospitals with vomiting, breathing

*(Continued on page 15)*

**CHARTERS** *(Cont. from page 13)*

Appellate Court decision that allowed Hesper's Newark charter expansion plan to continue. A retroactive retraction of the expansion, reasoned the justices, would disrupt the charters and sending public districts' enrollment.

"Such a remedy would severely impact Newark's charter school students and their families," said Justice Anne Patterson, who wrote the court's decision, "and would subvert the State Legislature's policy to expand educational opportunities."

The high court faulted Hesper, however, as being "deficient" in not considering whether the expansion would further segregate NPS in terms of race, special needs, ELL students and/or funding resources.

Hesper, who ended his 30-month stint as Commissioner on December 2016, now works in a Morristown legal firm. He had briefly held a post-NJDOE job with NPS.

The State Supreme court ruling allows public school districts to oppose charter expansion by showing how it would adversely affect their budgets.

"Today's ruling now puts the Commissioner on firm and clear notice on the state's constitutional obligation, on an ongoing basis," said ELC Executive Director David Sciarra, "to evaluate the impact of charter schools on student segregation and take action to remedy those impacts."

"As a parent and advocate for families," said N.J. Public Charter Schools Association Parent Engagement Director Jasmine Morrison June 22, "I'm grateful the court has decided that children enrolled in public charter schools in Newark may continue to attend these high-

quality public schools."

Stricter charter school applications, however, may have been set some 70 days before the State Supreme Court decision. NJDOE Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillian, in a series of March decisions, denied further expansion requests from Robert Treat, North State, KIPP and Greater Oaks.

Allen-McMillian questioned the expansion while the said charter networks still have not reached capacity and expressed concerns over how their requests would impact NPS' budget.

**WORLD NEWS**

*(Continued from page 6)*

In a statement, Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq said that the UN chief called the deadly attack in Baghdad's Al-Sadr City "a reminder to us all that the scourge of terrorism knows no bounds."

At least 30 people were killed and dozens of others wounded when a bomb exploded in the Iraqi capital, according to security sources.

The device exploded in the Al-Wuhailat market as families prepared for the Islamic festival of Eid al-Adha on July 20.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) also lamented the deaths, which included children, and the injuries sustained by those in the blast.

"This horrific attack right before Eid Al-Adha is a terrible reminder of the violence Iraqi children continue to face," said the UNICEF Representative in the country, Sheema Sen Gupta.

"Those children were just preparing for the special days to come with their families", she added.

The UN official reminded that children should be protected at all times and grow in a safe environment free from any form of

violence.

"On the eve of Eid Al-Adha and as Iraqis mourn this sad moment, UNICEF calls for all actors in Iraq to work together towards a safer Iraq where children do not have to live in fear and where they enjoy their very basic activities and rights," she concluded.

Mr. Guterres extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the Government and people of Iraq and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

"The Secretary-General underlines the need for the perpetrators of this crime to be swiftly brought to justice," the statement read.

**TOWN WATCH**

*(Continued from page 14)*

difficulties, blue lips and fainting.

Giaimis explained that the automatic leveler malfunctioned, reducing the pool's water level and the recirculation pump shut down. A second pump then started up, emitting sediment. When the first pump restarted, it emitted liquid chlorine in excess of a preset standard.

The township's first announcement, at 4:20 p.m. July 17, said that no chlorine was emitted - an item that was reversed in a 10 p.m. Facebook posting. The pool reopened without incident July 18.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Mayor Michael Venezia and the Township Council will likely have to call a special meeting to refine their proposed Cannabis-Based Business ordinance between now and the Planning Board's Aug. 10 meeting.

Bloomfield's elders' next scheduled meeting is set for Aug. 23 - two days after the deadline Gov. Phil Murphy had set to learn which way the state's 565 municipalities will go concerning CBBs. The township's proposed CBB regulation bill was introduced June 30.

Venezia and the council, at their July 12 public hearing, were asked why historical buildings were excluded as Class 5 cannabis and related product retail sales sites. The proposed legislation calls for no retailers within 1,000 feet of such buildings.

The planning board meanwhile recommended a 200-foot buffer around schools and houses of worship from said retailers. The buffer is similar to those distancing alcohol-serving establishments.

The legislation, which also needs BPB approval, calls for a maximum two retailers each in three zones. Those zones are the southern border to the Norfolk Southern/Lower Boonton Line railroad tracks, between the freight tracks and Bay Avenue and north of Bay.

Class 5 retailers are to have their own single-purpose parking lots. There is to be a space for every 150 feet of customer

space, a 10-minute parking limit and that 20 percent of the spaces are for customers picking up pre-ordered products.

**BELLEVILLE** - Those in the township's Silver Lake neighborhood have been shaking their heads since they have been reading Carmine A. Mattia, Jr.'s name on a federal grand jury's July 23 bill of indictment.

Acting U.S. Attorney Rachel A. Honig said her lawyers had charged Mattia, 60, "of Cedar Grove," with three counts of health care fraud and a count of conspiracy thereof the same Friday the grand jury handed their indictment.

Mattia, in the 11-page indictment, is accused of defrauding a telecommunication company of \$100,000 by billing for "medically unnecessary compound prescriptions" April-July 2016. The said activities were conducted while Mattia was a Silver Lake resident, a business representative for an East Windsor construction union, a sales representative for a telecommunications company and a salesman for "Mattia Compounding Pharmacies."

Mattia had been best known for joining Mayor Michael Melham's "A Better Belleville" team as its First Ward Council challenger in 2020. A majority of participating ward voters retained incumbent Marie Strumolo Burke over Mattia, 55-to-44-percent, in the May 14th election.

The former lifelong Silver Laker has apparently since moved to Cedar Grove.

Mattia is accused of submitting fraudulent prescriptions to the telecommunications company's health benefits plan. He is to have paid and induced "Individual-One" to receive the medication. Mattia was said to have secured a Caldwell plastic surgeon's signature for the false prescription slips. Dr. Robert Agresti, who has a Nutley practice, was not indicted but had pleaded guilty June 26, 2018 to committing health care fraud.

**NUTLEY** - Township Commissioners have been defending their rescheduling their annual Fourth of July Fireworks display to its new date since making that postponement here June 28.

The Commissioners, said Mayor Mauro Tucci, had wanted to hold their annual display along Franklin Avenue and the Nutley Park Oval on July 4-Independence Day. Gov. Phil Murphy's May 28 lifting of outdoor event capacity, said Nutley's elders, left it with too little time to get vendors and make the logistics.

"This decision was difficult but we all agree it was the correct decision for our Township," said Tucci June 29. "We've postponed this exciting event to Spt. 10."

That is not a misquote or a misprint. Sept. 10 is the eve of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the US.

"The time around Sept. 11 is supposed to be for remembering and mourning all those who died and the first responders who took part in the rescue and recovery," said former Nutley Commissioner and retired police detective lieutenant Steve Rogers July 19. "Cancel the fireworks; wait for July 4, 2022."

"Our plan is to celebrate Independence Day, the USA and the resilience of our democracy and its people," countered Tucci July 23. "We will by extension be commemorating those who we have lost, the survivors and our first responders prior to our annual Sept. 11 ceremony. Additionally, our veterans have been included as a show of respect for those in our military, past and present."



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