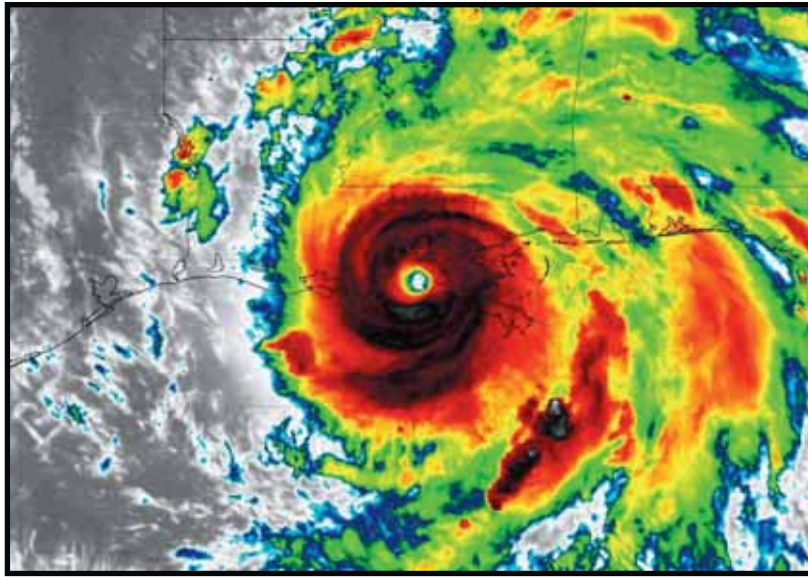


HURRICANE IDA CRUSHES GULF

Storm Draws Eerie Parallels to Hurricane Katrina 16 Years Ago

PAGE 6



8 YEAR OLD DEAD BECAUSE OF GUN CARELESSNESS



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DUELING VIEWPOINTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION AT RUTGERS

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

When it comes to vaccination against the coronavirus, Rutgers University students seem to have different opinions. One group has submitted a petition with 750+ signatures to Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway, demanding a COVID-19 requirement for faculty and staff, according to the Daily Targum. Meanwhile, a non-profit organization and 18 Rutgers students filed a lawsuit on August 23 against the university, seeking to fight its COVID-19 mandate, according to NJ Advance media.

The opposing viewpoints on the coronavirus vaccination reflect the divide in American society. Democrat-run states such as New York,

New Jersey, California have higher vaccination rates than Republican-run states. Florida and Texas are two Republican-run states where both the leadership and the people do not observe wearing masks, social distancing and other preventive measures against COVID-19.

Petition in favor of vaccination

As reported in the August 21, 2021 issue of the Daily Targum, the petition was sponsored by the Rutgers Community for a COVID-Free University, an organization formed this past July by Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology professors Alan Goldman and

(Continued on page 13)

AFTERMATH OF AFGHANISTAN TERROR ATTACK

All U.S. troops pulled from country before Aug. 31 deadline



Hundreds of evacuees make their way towards a U.S. military plane

An already dangerous situation overseas has now reached critical mass, as innocent lives - including those of America's armed forces - have been taken.

On Aug. 26, ISIS-K took responsibility for what was believed to be two suicide bombings at both a checkpoint to enter the airport and a hotel, along with deadly gunfire. However, on Aug. 27, offi-

cial at the Pentagon announced that there was only one bombing, and not two as previously suspected. Despite this, at least 180 Afghans and 13 U.S. servicemembers, which was comprised of Marines, Army and Navy personnel, were killed. At least 18 more military officers were injured.

"Jill and I - our hearts ache, (Continued on page 11)



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Turn
To
**PAGE
8**



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Hurricane Ida, one of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit the US mainland. Eight electrical towers collapsed due to strong winds up to 150 miles per hour, and that left all of New Orleans without power. Usually, it takes up between 1 to 1.5 hours to fix one pole. This time, it is towers, so the utility companies do not know how long it will take. Most of New Orleans could be without power for a week to a month. On Aug. 31, the temperature was 105 degrees Fahrenheit, and no power means no air conditioning. About eight shelters were open for people to cool down, but it helped only a fraction of the population.

By now, most of you have gotten the news that seven fully vaccinated persons have died due to COVID-19. This news is a

little old, as it happened on or about August 16, 2021. However, I did not receive any investigative news after that. It is very important that the cause of death for those seven persons, who lost their lives after vaccination, is thoroughly investigated. However, our administration is too busy trying to force everyone to get a vaccination.

On August 30, about 75 doctors from hospitals in South Florida took part in a symbolic walk out. There is a surge in unvaccinated patients at hospitals across Florida. Only the state of Florida had over 150,000 new Covid-19 patients in the past week. The US has over 156,000 cases and over 1,200 deaths in a day. Florida, California, Texas and Georgia are leading the nation in new Covid-19 cases. I haven't heard anyone getting the real record on the vaccines and their effects on human bodies. I don't say that vaccination is wrong, but we must collect the statistics for our future as well as the next generation. Due to politics and business, it is going only one way. We all should have two goals in mind; one, get vaccinated, and two, look at the im-

pact of vaccination on our body and mind.

Politicians won over politicians! This is a story about the City of Orange Township. A question was placed on the referendum. As usual, any question on a referendum passes. And it did. The mayor and his team have supported cannabis businesses in Orange. The councilpersons are the voice for their constituents. The majority of the councilpersons voted to ban cannabis businesses in Orange. Mayor Dwayne Warren vetoed the resolution rejected by the majority of the council. There was a timeline to stop the cannabis businesses. So, the council called an emergency meeting outside of the building they were locked out of and overrode the veto of the mayor - a veto of a veto. Now, Orange cannot have cannabis businesses in its city limits. Naturally, there will be a court case. The mayor is trying to fight with the language the council used to ban the cannabis business in Orange. Orange has joined many other cities to ban cannabis businesses.

President Biden said on Aug. 31 that he is fully responsible for

the decision he made to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan. However, he blamed Trump for the mess. Trump has been gone almost eight months and the decision to withdraw is solely by Biden. Afghanistan was in control of the Afghan government with the support of the US troops. As soon as the troops started leaving, the Taliban took control of the country within 11 days. Over 300,000 Afghan military officers did not do anything and handed over control of Afghanistan. The Afghani President fled so fast he left millions of dollars of assets behind, much of it on the runway. It shows the weakness of the Afghan military, or maybe a lot of those trained soldiers were secretly Taliban the whole time, and made us look like fools. If that is true, then the US was training the Taliban to fight against the US. Meanwhile, billions of dollars in equipment was left behind, and some smart Taliban soldiers might figure out how to make use of it - or sell it.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	PM T-Storms possible	PM Rain
HI 77	HI 75	HI 79	HI 77	HI 82	HI 83	HI 81
LO 57	LO 59	LO 64	LO 67	LO 65	LO 68	LO 65



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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

COVID Variants of Interest: Where Do We Stand?

I was thinking of a time in the not-so-distant past where all I wrote was about the state of our healthcare system and current health issues in the country. Look at me now - virtually everything I write is about the coronavirus. Virtually everything for about a year now. While that's sad, what's sadder is there's no even

end to all of these in sight.

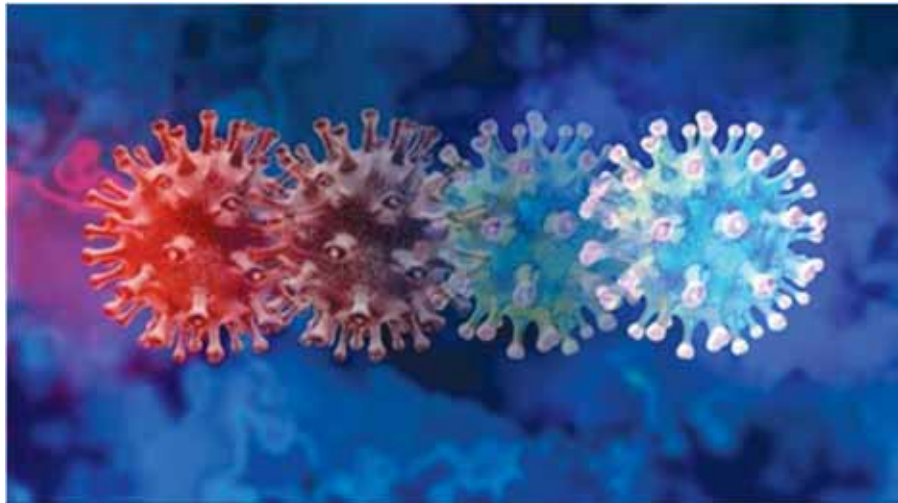
In the first quarter of 2020, the goal was to see out the virus. It's hilarious to think of now, but there was actually a period last year where many thought we could just sit and wait for the virus to self-destruct.

We moved past that stage real fast, though. I wonder why - maybe the number of bodies piling in hospitals, who knows? Then we moved to the stage of hoping for the vaccine and herd immunity.

The vaccine came through; herd immunity, not so much. Yes, I know what I said. Scientists have reason to doubt herd immunity eventually happening, many thanks to the number of emerging variants that are managing to make a damn mockery of our vaccines.

Mockery may seem a bit harsh, considering how effective the vaccines still are, but if you spend a year and billions of dollars making a vaccine and it takes the virus just a month or two to figure it out, then mockery is the word to use.

One of the characteristics of living things is the ability to



adapt to changes over time and evolve to what will give them the best chances of survival. We did the same a long time ago, and the coronavirus is doing the same now.

Compared to the parent strain, these variants are either more transmissible, deadlier, or even both. The vaccines offered protection against earlier strains, but later ones are beginning to 'learn from the mistakes' of their earlier relatives. Now, booster doses are looking like they're going to be requisite before long.

When the variants first became a problem, the WHO grouped them into Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest.

A variant of concern translates to a rise in transmissibility, an increase in fatality and a significant decrease in effectiveness of vaccines, therapy and other health measures. Meanwhile, a variant of interest is one with a genetic capability that affects characteristics of the virus such as disease severity, immune escape, transmissibility and diagnostic escape.

A variant of interest may become a variant of concern upon extensive analysis and it meeting the set criteria. Let me oversimplify this - variants of interest are all variants that are of interest to scientists, while variants of concern are variants to actually be very worried about.

As I speak, the WHO lists the Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta strains as the variants of concern. The Eta, Iota, Kappa, and Lambda variants are the variants of interest. Things change fast, though, and these VOIs could become VOCs in no time.

The variants of concern, in

particular, have developed ways of evading the protective efforts of the vaccine. And with our luck, I won't be surprised if the variants of interest follow suit.

This again just emphasizes why we cannot afford to relax in our fight against COVID-19. The virus isn't resting, and neither should we.

Don't get it twisted too - the vaccines are still our best weapons in this fight, so please take them.

And don't neglect COVID safety measures just yet too.

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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- <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.vox.com/platform/amp/future-perfect/2021/8/25/22627918/covid-pandemic-mindset-delta-kids-harm-reduction>

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2021-2022 BACK TO SCHOOL PREVIEW

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Everyone who will be going back to the 58 school districts within "Local Talk" territory on or before Sept. 7 for the 2021-22 school year are to take face masks and hand sanitizer along with their books, pencils and calculators.

Students and/or their parents may also want to have proof of full vaccination or the latest COVID-19 test results with them - just in case they are asked.

Some students, teachers, staff, administrators and visitors to the "Local Talk" 12 public, 20 charter and 26 religious or private districts - on one hand - have been using the masks and sanitizers since the spring. That use began when some of the said districts began remote/in-person hybrid learning.

This new school year, however, is starting out with everyone taking full-time in-person instruction. This is the stance Gov. Phil Murphy and Education Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan have decided upon

Aug. 6.

Murphy and Allen-McMillan, also on Aug. 6, decreed that everyone on school property are to wear masks full-time. That mandate includes riding on school buses. (Mask-wearing on public transportation is covered at the federal level.)

Murphy (D-Rumson), on Aug. 23, issued his Executive Order No. 253, requiring all Pre-school-12th Grade personnel to be fully vaccinated on or by Oct. 18 or be subjected to weekly COVID-19 tests. EO 253 is to cover full and part-time teachers, administrators and staff including substitute teachers, custodians and cafeteria workers.

Students 12-years-old-and older are currently being urged to get vaccinated. Orange, South Orange-Maplewood and some other districts, on their websites, offer vaccinations and/or links to inoculation stations.

It is not known whether the Essex County Vocational-Technical High School system and the other 11 public school districts will follow Hoboken's

weekly testing of students who are eligible for vaccination but have not done so. The Hudson County public district became the first in the state to go beyond the state requirement Aug. 25.

Students 11 or younger remain unvaccinated as of press time. One source had said Aug. 30 that such vaccines may get FDA and Centers for Disease Control emergency approval by the end of 2021.

And all of the above is just to get to the schoolhouse door.

There are social distancing and positive case or infection contingencies that school administrators, boards of education, teacher unions and related personnel have deliberated and mapped out over the summer. Those "Safe Return to School" policies and protocols have been posted on many districts' websites since Aug. 15 and first passed state muster June 24; several have also held "Town Hall" meetings to outline those procedures and field questions.

The work to subdue and keep COVID infection at bay is above

of the normal level of new school year preparations: hiring and/or promoting teachers and principals, changing curriculums, adding new programs, grade levels and/or schools and school construction.

Those who have taken public summer school or are among the charter networks which started the 2021-22 school year as early as Aug. 2 may well have experienced the changes.

The foregoing and the following are an overview. "Local Talk" suggests logging onto your school's website for the latest COVID-related policies and to call the school for details.

Also keep in mind that the information is dependent on any rise or fall of COVID's Delta and other variants' infection rates - making it all subject to change.

Regarding social distancing, some districts may have your temperature read upon entry. Newark Public Schools will also have all incomers to wipe their closed shoes on sanitation pads.

Once inside, people are to

(Continued on page 14)



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HURRICANE IDA CRUSHES GULF

UNITED STATES

Sixteen years to the day of one of the biggest natural disasters in U.S. history, another powerful tropical cyclone tore through the Gulf region.

Hurricane Ida tore through the Gulf as it reached the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi, packing Category 4 150 mph sustained winds, just short of Category 5 strength. The punishing winds, gusts, pouring rain, flooding and storm surge decimated the two states, with Ida keeping hurricane strength up to eight hours after making landfall. Homes and other buildings were destroyed, trees uprooted, cars and anything not bolted down overturned, levees overwhelmed, and power lines obliterated. Most - if not, all - of Louisiana is without power. Meanwhile, nearly all of these conditions exist in Mississippi as well, with over 113,000 without power. The fatality count is expected to rise to a heartbreaking level.

“Thanks to the (FEMA) Administrator’s leadership and the hard work of the FEMA team - all of whom are gathered behind me - many of whom are gathered behind me - we’ve already pre-positioned resources that we know are going to be needed, and equipment, and response teams in the region,” said President Biden at an Aug. 30 press conference.

“This includes 2.5 million meals and 3 million liters of water. We’ve got generators in place, and we’re in close touch with the power providers to get and restore power as soon as possible because a lot of it - a lot of it’s going to go out. And we should be prepared that it can take a long time, no matter how much we’ve pre-positioned - which we have - that it’s going to take a long time for a lot of it to get back up. It could take a matter of weeks for some places.

“We’ve got 13 Urban Search

and Rescue Teams - for those of you who aren’t familiar with that, they’re - these teams make up about 70 people and experts - each of these teams - and they can do real, serious recovery work.

“More than 100 ambulances and emergency medical teams have been activated. And we’re working with the Red Cross and local partners to open dozens and dozens of shelters with cots and blankets and meals to support those we need to evacuate. That will happen mostly in the northern part of the state and maybe in parts of Mississippi.

“And I’ve already signed an emergency declaration for both Louisiana as well as Mississippi. And I want to make sure that we’re ready to surge all the response capacity capability that we have to deal with whatever comes next. And a lot’s going to be coming.

“I’ve been in touch with the governors of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. And my team at the White House has been in touch with other state, local, and federal officials in the region. And they know - they know there will be the full resources and support of the federal government.”

The power and timing of Ida echoed the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Ida made landfall in Louisiana on Aug. 29, the same day that Katrina hit in 2005. Katrina caused over \$125 billion in damages and claimed more than 1,800 lives.

Ida then powered on through to the Eastern Seaboard, packing high winds and dumping several inches of rain on an area that saw higher than normal rainfall in August.

AID TO AFGHANISTAN CONTINUES

MIDDLE EAST

The flights evacuating civilians from Afghanistan may have come to an end, but a deepening humanitarian crisis remains, UN Secretary-General António Guterres declared as several senior UN officials restated their commitment to stay and deliver urgently needed supplies to the millions in the country who need humanitarian aid to survive.

In a statement released on

Aug. 31, Mr. Guterres expressed his deep concern at the deepening humanitarian and economic crisis in the country and the threat of a total collapse in basic services. “Now more than ever”, said Mr. Guterres, “Afghan children, women and men need the support and solidarity of the international community.”

Afghanistan is coping with a severe drought, and its citizens will have to face harsh winter conditions, underlining the need for supplies to be urgently sent to the country, said Mr. Guterres.

Given this precarious outlook, the UN chief called on all parties to facilitate safe and unimpeded humanitarian access for life-saving and life-sustaining supplies, supplies, as well as for all humanitarian workers, pointedly noting that this meant both men and women working in the field.

Spokesperson Jens Laerke from the UN humanitarian affairs office (OCHA) said that operations were continuing, and that the UN had already helped eight million people this year alone.

But he warned that the \$1.3 billion funding requirement had not been met and that there was a lack of supplies in the now Taliban-controlled nation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also warned that despite Monday’s air delivery of 12.5 metric tons of medical supplies that will cover the basic health needs of more than 200,000 people, it was still “not enough.”

WHO spokesperson Dr. Margaret Harris said that although the UN health agency was planning two more supply flights this week, it wanted “continual flights” to restore basic services.

She warned that before the Taliban takeover, some 12.2 million people were already projected to experience food insecurity and malnutrition; getting supplies into Afghanistan was “absolutely critical,” she said.

The head of UN Women, Pramila Patten, called on the Taliban to include women in whatever form of government it eventually decides upon, in a statement.

Ms. Patten referred to a commitment, made by a spokesperson of Afghanistan’s de facto rulers, to uphold women’s rights

“within the framework of Islam,” and said that including women in government would be the “ultimate litmus test for the Taliban.”

The 2004 Afghan constitution, said Ms. Patten, called for women’s participation in the political life of the country, and in 2015 the country adopted a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security based on a UN resolution. Ms. Patten insisted that these commitments are binding and must be acted upon immediately.

“Afghan women’s rights activists have fought for their rights and have made considerable progress,” continued Ms. Patten. “These hard-won gains cannot be reversed or rolled back.”

NORTH KOREA ACTING UP AGAIN

ASIA

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says it is “deeply troubled” by indications that North Korea, aka the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), appears to have restarted its Yongbyon nuclear reactor.

The 5-megawatt reactor is widely believed to have produced plutonium for nuclear weapons and is at the heart of North Korea’s nuclear program, the agency said.

Responding to journalists’ questions, the UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric, said on Aug. 30 that the Secretary-General was aware of the reports “and concerned by the latest developments.”

“He calls for the DPRK to refrain from any nuclear weapon-related activities and to resume talks with the other parties concerned.

“Diplomatic engagement remains the only pathway to sustainable peace and complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

In its annual report, issued before a meeting of its Member States, the UN-convened atomic energy watchdog said the reactor has been discharging cooling water since July, suggesting it is operational.

The report said the duration of that apparent work - from mid

(Continued on page 15)

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Starting A Business: Part 8

When you decide to embark on the journey of starting a business, it may seem a bit overwhelming initially. The more you research, the more you find out about facets of the business that you need to learn more about! However, there are resources available within the system to guide you on your journey.

Do not panic! Every entrepreneur started from a point of limited knowledge. Their desire for success then propelled them to absorb as much information as possible about their business. By interacting at events with other business owners and entrepreneurs, reading pertinent business books, listening to presentations, attending training events and even visiting the local library, one can learn a tremendous amount about any business. Of course, another resource for business information is Google. By researching online well, one can find abundant information that can assist on your journey.

In this article we shall discuss some of the free resources available to assist up and coming entrepreneurs. My favorite place to start seeking information about any business is the local library. It is worth it to obtain a library card and visit the local library. Several of them have specific resources dedicated to entrepreneurs. Some of the resources are quite valuable and normally would cost you a good

amount of money to access. However, with a library card, if the library has paid for that resource, you could end up getting access to it for free!

Some libraries also may have information about business events taking place within the community. Attending some of these events could open the door for you to connect with potential partners, mentors, and clients. No matter how busy you get, please make it a point to attend strategic networking events within the community. It will serve as a marketing outlet for you as well as a chance to open yourself up to other opportunities that you may not have even thought of!

One organization that is focused on providing free support to new entrepreneurs is S.C.O.R.E. This organization has the largest network of free volunteer mentor coaches in the country. The coaches are typically retired business executives with ample business experience. I would highly encourage this option for those who need more hands-on assistance in the beginning when they are first setting up their business.

Another organization that you should contact for free business support is the Small Business Development Centers (S.B.D.C.) or America's SBDCs. The SBDCs provide free consulting to anyone living in the community that seeks to set up or grow their business. The organization also offers training. While some of the training is free, others charge a fee (nominal in many instances). The organization has over 1,500 offices throughout the country.

Every single state has a number of SBDC offices. Each year this outfit assists thousands of business owners throughout the country to grow their businesses. The organization has decades of experience assisting businesses to grow and expand. While they may focus on on-going businesses, they do assist startups as

(Continued on page 12)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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Belleville	5896	116	5941	116
Bloomfield	5633	125	5688	126
Caldwell	647	16	658	16
Cedar Grove	1627	121	1645	121
East Orange	7506	315	7611	317
Essex Fells	207	2	208	2
Fairfield	935	31	953	31
Glen Ridge	425	14	430	14
Irvington	5038	238	5090	237
Livingston	1969	88	1993	89
Maplewood	1423	37	1433	37
Millburn	884	10	895	10
Montclair	2425	73	2455	74
Newark	38648	1027	38942	1030
North Caldwell	535	6	541	7
Nutley	3198	66	3225	66
Orange	3719	137	3743	138
Roseland	496	16	506	17
South Orange	950	16	960	16
Verona	1059	18	1083	18
West Caldwell	1113	54	1118	54
West Orange	4794	233	4848	233
Total	89127	2759	89966	2769

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of September 1, 2021)
NJ: 953,616 cases / 24,171 deaths (Plus 2,731 probable)
United States (approx.): 39.26 Million / 641,000 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 218.06 Million / 4.53 Million deaths



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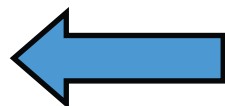
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8 YEAR OLD DEAD BECAUSE OF GUN CARELESSNESS

Two People in Custody Owner of Gun Remains at Large

By Thomas Ellis II

It's really a shame that an 8 year old is dead because someone was careless with a gun, leaving the gun unsecured, and with bullets loaded inside the chamber.

We have to understand that if there is a gun in the house, it should be secured at all times. There is no excuse. It is irresponsible for people to leave a gun around in the house, under the bed, behind the closet door, under a bunch of clothes, etc. If you have small children or other family members in your household, the first rule of gun safety is to secure the weapon.

Now from the act of not caring, not securing, and not knowing that a gun is very dangerous, all it takes is one little touch of the trigger and it will go off, and seriously injure someone or even kill them or someone else.

On the night of Sunday, Aug. 29, Newark Police officers went to the 100 block of Schuyler Avenue in Newark where there was a report of an eight-year-old, later ID'd as Jahmeer Allen, suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The preliminary investigation indicates the child, who is disabled and, in a wheelchair, sustained fatal injuries. At the time of the shooting there was a 10-year-old in the house and Jahnya Black, the victim's aunt, who was sleeping.

At this time three adults have been charged. Shaneefah Allen, 43, the grandmother and legal guardian of the victim, and Black, 23, the aunt, have both been charged with second degree endangering the welfare of a child. Allen was not home at the time the shooting occurred. Black was the only adult in the home when it happened.

Marquis Wright, 18, the victim's uncle, was charged with second degree unlawful possession of a weapon; third degree endangering the welfare of a child; third degree transporting a

manufactured firearm without a serial number and the disorderly persons offense of allowing a minor access to a loaded firearm. It is alleged that Wright brought the gun into the apartment and left it unattended.

Although two women are in custody. Wright remains at large as of the deadline to this article. Someone needs to find him, and turn him into the NPD, or speak with him or family members, and tell him to turn himself in.

This is such a tragic incident which affected many; the family members, friends of the family, the school, and the classmates of the 8 year old, his friends on the block, and the community.

I hear all the time that it's too many guns in the community whenever a senseless act of gun violence happens or an innocent child, teenager or adult takes his or her life accidentally, and that cry is absolutely right. There are too many unregistered, unpermitted, unlicensed illegal guns in our communities, and a weapon in the hands of irresponsible people makes it even more dangerous. So people need to be very careful when they are around people with guns, or if there is a gun just lying around, or if you just happen to stumble upon a gun in your house.

One of the things that's needed in these communities across the country where there are high incidents of guns and violence is gun education, gun safety, and gun violence prevention. We may not be able to reach everyone, but if we could just reach one person at a time, it can save countless lives.

Let's pray for the 8 year old's family, and all those families in Newark and Essex County who have lost a loved one to gun violence. There have been a lot of families who have had to endure the pain of losing a loved one to senseless gun violence over the past few weeks and months.

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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 - Municipal Councilman-at-Large Lawrence Crump could have faced a special Nov. 2 election for his newly-appointed office - but the powers that be in City Hall have decided that it will not happen.

When Municipal Council members appointed "Larry" Crump, Esq. to succeed his mother, Mildred Crump, Aug. 24 - a week before Sept 1. Sept 1 is the state law deadline for vacancies to be filled "at the next general or regular municipal election, whichever comes first."

Municipal Clerk Kenneth Louis, on Aug. 25, said that there was not enough time to send out and return signed petitions and place candidates on the Nov. 2 ballot - even though this instance had an extra seven days.

"The problem here is a question of timing; we don't have the time to run the full process for a municipal election," said Louis. "The County Clerk (Chris Durkin) has a deadline when he has to have his ballots printed."

Durkin has a Sept. 13 deadline to get the Nov. 2 ballot to the printer. Vote By Mail Ballots are to go out to the printer Sept. 18. The deadlines do not take into account time for legal challenges.

Louis cited a precedent when then-Council President Donald M. Payne, Jr. resigned on March 22, 2012, the day after he was sworn in to fill his late father's Congressional seat. The Municipal Council declined to hold special elections on Nov. 6, 2012 or 2013, leaving the younger Payne's seat vacant until the scheduled Newark mayoral-council elections on May 13, 2014.

City voters, barring the unex-

pected, will have their elective say on Larry Crump, the rest of the nine-member council and Mayor Ras Baraka at their May 10, 2022 nonpartisan election.

IRVINGTON - Native son Robert Alan Kinder, who was born here Sept. 11, 1947, had his remains laid to rest here in Clinton Cemetery Sept. 1. Kinder, 73, who died Aug. 28 at the Morristown Medical Center, was best known for owning and operating "Toys 4 All" stores - including two here.

Older brother James, who announced Robert's death on his own Irvington NJ - Down Memory Lane Facebook page Saturday, said that his brother played football and baseball as an Irvington High School Knight.

The IHS Class of 1965 graduate, after serving in the Army during the Vietnam War, began his retail career by working in the Valley Fair (formerly the Great Eastern) Department Store here at 468 Chancellor Ave. Valley Fair allowed Kinder to open his autonomous Toys 4 All department.

Kinder then teamed up with Irvington resident Frank Bonanno to open their second store in the old Finast Supermarket at 1301-17 Springfield Ave. in 1981. The 19,000 square-foot store, leased from Brounell & Kramer, started life as a Widger Plymouth-Dodge dealership until Oct. 15, 1958.

Kinder and Bonanno and officials from Finast were present at Mayor J. Walter Jonkoski's Nov. 5, 1981 ribbon-cutting. Kinder was known to supply toys for the Irvington Fire Department's annual Christmas drive.

Kinder, who bought out Bonanno in 1990, sold the Springfield Avenue store to Springfield Realty, who brought in K&G Fashion Superstore, in 1999. He then retired to Far Hills. (Bonanno died in Watchung July 7, 2007.)

Brother Mark is also among Robert's survivors; sister Evelyn Kinder Kellerman predeceased him. His visitation was held on Aug. 31 at Bloomfield's O'Boyle Funeral Home, followed by a Sept. 1 Funeral Maas at Sacred Heart Church.

EAST ORANGE - The police

department's accident bureau has not disclosed what caused a motorist to drive into a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard restaurant front here early Aug. 21. The crash left the driver without severe injuries but caused the early Saturday morning detours of buses on four routes.

EOPD units and East Orange Fire Headquarters personnel responded to a 5:50 a.m. report of a motor vehicle accident at 441 MLK Blvd/Main St. They arrived to find a four-door grey late model car halfway through Rise Caribbean Restaurant's front window. The driver was already out of her car.

441 shares the same building with 443 King Blvd.'s Domino's Pizza. The two-story building at the southeast corner of King and South Clinton Street is in direct line with the southern end on North Clinton Street. Clinton Street drivers have to take King Boulevard some 50 feet to continue north or south.

The accident caused detours on NJ Transit's 21, 71, 73 and 94 bus routes. Rise had recently replaced the former Stage 5 Restaurant & Grill at 441 King.

ORANGE - City and county authorities have been looking for a vehicle, and its driver, who struck and killed a male by a major intersection here Aug. 29.

Orange police officers and local EMS were called to the intersection of Central Avenue and Scotland Road 2:30 a.m. Sunday -- where they had found the victim. OPD, by standard operating procedure, promptly called in the ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Unit.

ECPO Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Fennelly, in a Sunday statement, said that the male was declared dead at the scene. His identity had not been released as of press time.

Wanted is the driver of a red pickup truck that had fled on Scotland Road. This remains an active investigation.

WEST ORANGE - Whatever action is being taken on the proposed amended Edison Lofts II Redevelopment Plan is incremental until either the Township Council votes on a related \$13 million bond issue or negotiations between the township and original redeveloper Prism Capital Partners reach an agreement -

whichever comes first.

The West Orange Planning Board's Sept 1 agenda, for example, includes reviewing the township's Downtown Redevelopment Plan Fourth Amendment and the council's pending adoption of Ordinance 2656-21. That ordinance would fire Prism and seek a new developer for Edison Lofts II, mainly 55 Lakeside Ave, within 45 days.

The Township Council hired Prism in 2006 to redevelop 21 acres where the present and former Thomas A. Edison factories stand or stood. Prism had turned the former Edison Storage Battery Factory at 177 Main St. into 330 award-winning apartments and storefront commercial space.

"Edison Lofts I," however, took until 2019 to complete, with a Prism payment default and a pair of redevelopment amendments made along the way. The township had recently asked Prism what they had in mind for Edison Lofts II - where the Edison Phonograph Works was imploded in July 1974 to make way for the Barton Press building and the township DPW garage.

Edison Lofts II originally included 230 apartment units, some as affordable housing, and extending Ashland and Standish avenues north across the property. That plan, however, was drawn in 2010. The Council and Mayor Robert Parisi's administrators have used a May 25 payment default as a reason to attempt severing Prism from Main Street Redevelopment Phase II.

Prism has meanwhile countersued, which caused Council President Cindy Matute-Brown, at the Aug. 22 council meeting, to remind everyone that she and her colleagues cannot comment about the suit.

Prism's suit contends that township officials are trying to oust them from Phase II so they can make a more direct deal allegedly with a motion picture studio.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education is to hear from the public and vote on Schools Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor's new proposed contract on Sept. 20.

Board President Thair Joshua, at their Aug. 23 meeting, in-

(Continued on page 14)

**AFTERMATH OF AFGHANISTAN
TERROR ATTACK**

(Continued from page 1)

like I'm sure all of you do as well, for all those Afghan families who have lost loved ones, including small children, or been wounded in this vicious attack. And we're outraged as well as heartbroken," said President Biden in response to the attack.

"Being the father of an Army major who served for a year in Iraq and, before that, was in Kosovo as a U.S. attorney for the better part of six months in the middle of a war - when he came home after a year in Iraq, he was diagnosed, like many, many coming home, with an aggressive and lethal cancer of the brain - who we lost..."

"...To those who carried out this attack, as well as anyone who wishes America harm, know this: We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay. I will defend our interests and our people with every measure at my command..."

"...We will not be deterred by terrorists. We will not let them stop our mission. We will continue the evacuation."

"I've also ordered my commanders to develop operational plans to strike ISIS-K assets, leadership, and facilities. We will respond with force and precision at our time, at the place we choose, and the moment of our choosing."

"Here is what you need to know: These ISIS terrorists will not win. We will rescue the Americans who are there. We will get out our Afghan allies out, and our mission will go on. America will not be intimidated..."

Many Americans, including those on both sides of the political aisle, have slammed Biden's handling of the situation. Among those critical of the Commander-in-Chief is the man who previously held the job

"It's so sad. It's probably from the standpoint of military tactics and just embarrassment, the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to our country; we look like fools all over the world, we are weak, we are pathetic, we are being led by

people that have no idea what they are doing," former President Donald Trump said on a Fox News show.

"They take the military out and then they say now we will bring out the people, then all of a sudden, the Taliban walks in. We had the Taliban so under control they would not have moved without getting our approval. We had an incredible agreement. They weren't killing our soldiers..."

"I want to tell you, I think our soldiers, even civilians, I think our soldiers are in tremendous danger. I think airplanes flying in and out of the airport are in tremendous danger. They (the Taliban) now have the best equipment, best rockets, best tanks and helicopters, Apache helicopters, a lot of them, that are immensely valuable, and by the way, Russia wants them because they want to examine them because we have far superior technology, and China wants them..."

"This is the dumbest thing - I think it was the dumbest move anybody has ever made perhaps in the history of our country, allowing this to happen, taking the military out and then say 'Oh, we hope to get the people out'," Trump added.

In response, the U.S. carrier out a successful drone strike that is said to have eliminated an ISIS-K planner. Not long after however, a rocket attack occurred near the airport.

On Aug. 30, Pentagon officials confirmed that the last plane carrying American soldiers had left the airport. This is considered to be the "end" of the war in Afghanistan. However, according to reports, there are still at least up to 200 American civilians who have yet to be evacuated from that country.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan seemed to place the blame on the civilians themselves for not going to the airport for evacuation as instructed. However, this accusation does not account for the fear of going to the airport because it was a prime target for an attack, which is exactly what happened.

There is no word on what will happen to any non-American civilians who wish to flee Afghanistan.

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From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

What Does It Mean To Be A Christian Today?

Last Tuesday evening, as I sat for a few moments to watch the news, I saw and heard the screaming adults at a school board meeting, calling the school board members to resign because they insisted on mask mandates.

What shocked me most was not the opposition to the masks they were calling for, but the woman who declared that she was a Christian and in the name of Jesus Christ she was ready to do some violent things if she did not get her way. When I heard that, I said to myself that if that is what being a Christian looks like, I do not want anything to do with Christianity.

In fact, this is what many persons, particularly many youths who grew up Christian in their childhood, now say. At times, when I come in contact with such individuals and ask about their faith or religious affiliation, their response is "None."

For those who need to find out, the "None" is an official term for persons who do not wish to be identified with any faith or religious tradition. To

such persons let it be made clear that there is a need for faith, and that religious affiliation have profound significance for all human life in creating meaning and stability.

But it is a challenge not to be atheistic or agnostic about Christianity (or any faith or religious tradition) when those who call out the name and claim affiliation behave with so much contradiction. So I think for those of us who are serious about our Christian faith, we need to make clear that being a Christian does not mean carrying the Bible in one hand and a gun in the other, or being against abortion or mask-wearing while hating our neighbors, name-calling immigrants and being mean to the poor and doing all of the other unjust things that make the lives of those we do not like most miserable, are not Christian. Such is neither Evangelical nor Christian.

My understanding of Christianity is that Christians believe in Christ, love Christ, are obedient to Christ, and are willing to represent Christ to the world that does not know Christ. For Christian theologians, a Christian trust in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ through His death on the cross and subsequent resurrection. Such a person is willing to live for Christ and take up the cross of suffering with Christ. This means adopting a character that is like Christ, being humble, gracious and merciful.

Here is how the Apostle Paul explains it in that powerful text

that serious Christians use as their pattern: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8 ESV)

In other places, Paul gives the reminder: "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ." (2 Corinthians 2:15-17 ESV)

"You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." (2 Corinthians 3:2, 3 ESV)

The above texts make clear that what was relevant in the naming of Christians in the first century of Christianity is still relevant today. The first Chris-

tians were Christ's followers and Christ's representatives to the world. They went about telling the stories of Jesus Christ. They were not gun toting, Bible-thumping, mean, yelling, and political ideological individuals.

Yes, they honored governments and "Rendered to Caesar" what belonged to Caesar. But their fundamental focus was on proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom of God. That means they were making clear the justice of God, and that one day Jesus Christ would return to establish complete peace on earth. They were not into all of the shenanigans that many who label themselves Christians are engaged in today.

Yes, those who were called Christians were ridiculed for their faith, but it was not because they were misrepresenting the character of Christ; it was because they were radical in practicing righteousness. They were respectful to others, practicing the ways of Christ, so the sinful ways of the world would be rebuked without adopting the ways of the world.

When I see the contradictions that many are bringing upon the name of Christ today, I feel like shouting, "Stop taking the name of the Lord in vain." Honor the Lord, by following the third commandment (Exodus 20:7), which says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain, for the Lord will not hold guiltless anyone who takes his name in vain."

FINANCE (Continued from page 7)

well. One can obtain financial training and assistance on business plan writing for example.

A look at their websites will provide a peak at some of the training programs and other services that they provide. Each office sets up its own timetables and programs.

Having worked with the SBDCs for 10 years in three different states, I was fortunate to meet so many amazing entrepreneurs! Our counseling sessions

were private affairs where the clients could feel free and provide information that could assist us in developing a master game plan.

To find an SBDC office near you, simply google them. Once you find an office near you, contact them by phone or fill out a Request for Counseling Form online. They will contact you and arrange to set up a convenient time for you to meet with a trained counselor. Counseling is free for anyone within the community.

The various networking events organized by the SBDC Office can be very beneficial to new and existing business owners. One gets a chance to interact with business leaders, representatives of financial institutions, government policy makers and other strategic business partners within the community. Depending on the type of business that you establish, you would benefit by attending such events. They become an opportunity for you to sell your business to stakeholders in the community. In

addition, these stakeholders can utilize their networks to share information about your 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 localtalk-news@gmail.com.

DUELING VIEWPOINTS ABOUT

COVID-19 VACCINATION

AT RUTGERS

(Continued from page 1)

Robert Boikess and department of Biomedical Engineering professor Troy Shinbrot.

The petition on change.org has as of August 26 gathered 820 signatures and counting. Once it hits 1,000 the petition is more likely to be featured in recommendations!" says the site.

According to the petition, "while Rutgers University was a leader in mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for students returning to campus, the administration is still not requiring vaccinations for on-campus faculty and staff. The same reasons that justify the requirement of vaccination for students also justify such a requirement for everyone else on campus."

The petition goes on to say that many other universities across the country as well as in New Jersey are requiring vaccinations for faculty as well as students.

"Only when students, faculty and staff are vaccinated can life on campus return to normal ... The SARS COV-2 (COVID-19) does not discriminate based on an individual's position in the university. We urge the Rutgers administration to recognize this, and to hold faculty and staff to the same vaccination standards required as our students," reads the petition.

As reported by the Daily Targum, Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway said at an April 21 Board of Governors meeting that management limitations were the reason why faculty and staff did not require COVID-19 vaccination. According to the petition, the vaccine mandate was supported by the Rutgers faculty in April.

President Holloway, in an August 18 university-wide email, said that the overall faculty and staff vaccination is 82 percent. Holloway urged those not vaccinated "to do so as soon as possible" at all three campuses - Camden, Newark and Piscataway.

Opposition to Vaccination Mandate

While most faculty and students at Rutgers appear to be in favor of vaccination, a vocal minority is not. NJ Advance Media reported August 16 that a lawsuit was filed in federal court to fight Rutgers University COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

Both the Daily Targum and NJ Advance Media reported that the lawsuit was filed by Children's Health Defense, a non-profit activist group, and 18 Rutgers students. According to the Daily Targum, the student plaintiffs include Peter Cordi and Adriana Pinto, both School of Arts and sciences seniors; Raelynne Miller, a School of Nursing

junior; Jake Blake, a School of Engineering sophomore; and Kayla Mateo.

The defendants named in the lawsuit are Rutgers University, the Board of Governors, the Rutgers School of Biomedical and Health Sciences, University President Jonathan Holloway and RBHS Chancellor Brian L. Strom.

Julio Gomez, the lawyer representing the non-profit group and the students, argued in the 105 - page lawsuit that "the policy is not authorized by and federal or state law; it actually conflicts with federal law and is so preempted by federal law; and most importantly, it violates the right to informed consent and to refuse unwanted medical treatment guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment and Article I of the Constitution of New Jersey."

In response, according to the Daily Targum dated August 21, a University spokeswoman said that Rutgers' position "is consistent with the legal authority supporting this policy."

"We are committed to creating a safe campus environment in Fall 2021, to support the health and safety for all members of the Rutgers community, the university updated its existing immunization requirements for students to include COVID-19 vaccine," the spokeswoman said.

Not so, say the plaintiffs.

"Fundamentally, the policy is an affront to human dignity and personal freedom because it violates our basic right to control our bodies. In a free society, all people have the right to decide their own medical treatment - especially to decide what to inject into their bodies. And every person has the right to make that decision voluntarily, free from coercion by anyone, and to be fully informed of

the benefits and especially the risks of that decision," the lawsuit states.

The argument is made by plaintiffs that "Rutgers mandate is beyond its authority under New Jersey law because only our State Legislature, the Governor and the Department of Health have the power to require a particular vaccine for attendance at colleges and universities in New Jersey, and they have not passed a law or regulation requiring COVID-19 vaccines either."

"Absent legislative action or executive authorization, Rutgers does not have legal authority to require students to take an emergency-use authorized vaccine which is still under investigation and experimental and to make it mandatory for attendance."

Plaintiffs seek compensation because they believe Rutgers violated their civil rights. They cannot transfer to other universities, because other schools are following Rutgers' lead in requiring vaccination.

Rutgers has financial ties to Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson. The university was selected as a site to conduct COVID-19 vaccine trials for all three manufacturers on its campus.

As reported by the Daily Targum, Rutgers President Jonathan Holloway announced in an August 16 email that student compliance with the vaccine requirement has now reached 99.5 percent, which includes approximately 1.2 percent of 71,000 students who received medical or religious exemptions. This comes out to about 852 students.

It is not clear if the plaintiffs are aware that students from kindergarten to twelfth grade are required to be vaccinated against mumps, measles, flu, and other illnesses.

2021-2022 BACK

TO SCHOOL PREVIEW

(Continued from page 5)

keep the CDC-decreed three-foot-spacing minimum. Desks, with or without "sneeze guards" partitions, will be so spaced out. There will be specified entrance and exit ways and doors for circulation. Newark Public Schools hold a two-person maximum in elevators.

Classrooms without integral heating and air conditioning units may have had them retrofitted by when you read this. Those classrooms who are without air circulation may have their windows opened or replaced by other rooms.

Students may remove their masks while using restrooms, during recess and/or while consuming food. Food is to be served in designated cafeterias or classrooms and may be delivered as bag lunches or left by the classroom door.

The South Orange-Maplewood School District, as of Aug. 26, is allowing outdoor lunch periods except for their middle schools. The South Orange and Maplewood middle school principals will have some outdoor space for lunch.

School principals may further stagger lunch and recess

periods to maintain social distances.

Regarding breakouts of positive cases and/or infections, they will be handled at the school and district levels.

Murphy, at his Sept. 1 Coronavirus Briefing, said that school decisions on whether to go back to all-remote learning would be left to the districts themselves.

"There would have to be a major outbreak for the districts to go all-remote," said Murphy Wednesday afternoon. "I want to say we'll never go back to a statewide shutdown, like we did in March 2020 but, with this virus, you can never say never. I thank the districts for their cooperation; they've had to deal a lot of what was thrown at them."

Some districts, like Bloomfield Public Schools, will provide remote learning to students who are taken out of in-person learning by COVID.

"We'll provide synchronous instruction," said Superintendent Sam Goncalves in his Aug. 24 open letter, "for COVID positive or quarantine students ONLY."

The "Local Talk" area had two reminders on the importance of COVID suppression Aug. 14 and 26.

Orange Public Schools Su-

perintendent Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, on Aug. 14, reported that a student on the Orange High School Auxiliary Band had tested positive. Fitzhugh, in his announcement, added that district and/or Orange Health Department personnel were calling anyone who had been in close contact with that OHS student.

Robert Treat Academy administrators are meanwhile hoping to reopen both of their Newark charter school campuses

plus a merit pay bonus of \$19,658. The average full-time public school superintendent earned \$179,304 2020-21 a four percent increase from 2019-20. The board's Sept. 20 meeting and public hearing will be held both live at the SOMSD Administration Building, 525 Academy St., Maplewood, and via Zoom.

BLOOMFIELD / NUTLEY - The passing of 50-year Bloomfield resident Thomas Strumolo, Sr. was also mourned by those in Nutley, Belleville, Newark and beyond the northeastern Essex County area.

Strumolo, 73, who died Aug. 3, was best known to Nutleyites as "Capt. Strumolo." Strumolo came from the Essex County Police Academy to join the Nutley Police Department and serve for 35 years.

Strumolo, Sr. rose to the rank of Captain in 2009 before retiring. Son Thomas J. followed his father's beat and is now Nutley's

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school football season will officially start this Friday. All schools will be in action around the Local Talk area. The East Orange Jaguars will open their season against rival Montclair in the "Rumble on the Raritan" at SHI Stadium in Piscataway at Rutgers University. In last year's meeting, East Orange shut out Montclair 13-0. This was the first time ever that the Mounties were shut out at home by East Orange.

As for other area teams, the Orange Tornadoes will be on the road against Chatham, in one of several games that will be

played at William Paterson University. The Tornadoes finished last season with a 5-3 record. Meanwhile, West Orange's football team will be playing St. Peter's Prep of Jersey City. West Orange finished the 2020 season with a 6-1 record. Also, Newark's Central High s will be playing Lincoln High at WPU

Finally, in pro news, the New England Patriots have cut former starting QB Cam Newton after the emergence of rookie Mac Jones at the position. Also, the New York Mets have faced criticism after several players on the team have taken to booing fans by way of thumbs down gestures toward those who boo them.

Tuesday morning. They switched to all-remote learning Aug. 25 after 11 of its staff received positive test results earlier that week.

The virtual learning lasted only two days since RTA's North Ward and Jackie Robinson campuses went on a scheduled Aug. 30-Sept. 6 "Summer Break." That break allowed a new lab to re-test all staff; the 11 in question have since received negative results.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

roduced the three-year contract that Taylor and the panel's Negotiations Committee had recently agreed to. Taylor, late of Willingboro Public Schools, had been on a two-year contract since his July 1, 2019 appointment.

The contract, as introduced, calls for Taylor to receive a \$226,051 a year salary with annual two percent increases, topping out at \$235,164.08 before June 30, 2024. This contract, however, loses Taylor's merit pay bonus. It would take effect retroactively from July 1, 2021; Joshas said that negotiations started late due to the district's focus on the pandemic.

Taylor and other public school superintendents statewide were capped at \$190,000 until that was lifted in late 2019. His 2020-21 salary was \$196,584

Chief of Police.

Born on Aug. 5, 1947 in Newark, Strumolo was raised in Belleville by Township Commissioner Vincent and mother Helen Petrill Strumolo. He became a licensed real estate agent in 1978 and was employed by Castle Realty, of Nutley, since 2006.

One can say that love moved Strumolo to Bloomfield. He met and married resident Connie Pallante in 1969. He and Connie moved to Bloomfield in 1971 to raise Thomas J. and the late Vincent.

Grandchildren Tommy, Jr., Vincenza and Natalia; brother Vincent and sisters Nicki Ann Cordi and Josephine Fontaine are also among his survivors. Son Vincent, who wrote his 2001 "A Fight for Life" autobiography, died Aug. 29, 2019.

A Funeral Mass for the former PBA Local 33 president was held in Nutley's St. Mary's Church Aug. 7 before his burial

at East Hanover's gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

MONTCLAIR - The Montclair High School varsity football team will get its first test of the 2021-22 season under Interim Head Coach Pete Ramiccio when they host East Orange Campus High School here 8 p.m. Sept. 3.

Those involved with the MHS Mounties are hoping that Ramiccio's receiving the legendary John Fiore's headset and clipboard Aug. 1 will be seamless. Fiore, citing "an ongoing family matter," took a leave from coaching July 27.

Fiore, as head coach 2010-20, helped the Mounties to a 93-31 win-loss record. MHS reached seven NJSIAA sectional championship games, winning the 2012-14 and 17 editions. They earned 2012, 13 and 17

(Continued on page 15)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

-February to early July - suggested a full batch of spent fuel was handled, in contrast to the shorter time needed for waste treatment or maintenance.

"The new indications of the operation of the 5MW(e) reactor and the Radiochemical (reprocessing) laboratory are deeply troubling", and a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions, it said. The report also said there were indications of mining and concentration activities at a uranium mine and plant at Pyongsan.

North Korea has continued to develop nuclear weapons since IAEA inspectors were expelled in 2009, holding its last test in 2017.

Since then, the IAEA has had no access to North Korea and now monitors the country from afar, largely through satellite imagery, to get an idea of how many weapons the regime is capable of producing.

This latest observation was

the first sign of operational activity at the Yongbyon reactor since December 2018, months after former US President Donald Trump met North Korea leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore, according to the IAEA.

With Trump no longer in his position and the chaotic situation in Afghanistan, some have speculated if North Korea feels emboldened due to a lack of respect towards new US President Joseph Biden.

NO MORE LEAD FUEL

WORLD

The global phase-out of leaded fuel represents a "milestone for multilateralism", UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Aug. 30, marking the end of a 20-year campaign to eliminate a major threat to the health of people and the planet.

"Lead in fuel has run out of gas - thanks to the cooperation of governments in developing nations, thousands of businesses and millions of ordinary people," he said.

The UN Environment Program (UNEP) spearheaded the initiative to put the brakes on a century of leaded petrol use. The move is expected to net the global economy \$2.45 trillion in savings.

Mr. Guterres highlighted the health benefits.

"Ending the use of leaded petrol will prevent more than one million premature deaths each year from heart disease, strokes and cancer," he said. "And it will protect children whose IQs are damaged by exposure to lead."

Inger Andersen, the UNEP Executive Director, echoed his message.

"Overcoming a century of deaths and illnesses that affected hundreds of millions and degraded the environment worldwide, we are invigorated to change humanity's trajectory for the better through an accelerated transition to clean vehicles and electric mobility."

The world officially said goodbye to leaded petrol in July, when service stations in Algeria stopped offering it to drivers.

Vehicles have been running on leaded fuel since 1922, when the compound tetraethyllead was added to gasoline to boost engine performance.

By the 1970s, almost all petrol produced worldwide contained lead, UNEP said. The health impacts have been catastrophic, as the Secretary-General pointed out, but the environment has suffered too, with air and soil contamination just two examples.

Most high-income nations had prohibited leaded petrol use by the 1980s, but almost all low and middle-income countries were still using it as late as 2002.

That same year, UNEP began the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), the public-private alliance behind the campaign.

The initiative brought together all stakeholders, and its activities included raising awareness and overcoming resistance from local oil dealers and producers of lead, as well as investing in refinery upgrades and providing technical assistance.

TOWN WATCH *(Continued from page 14)*

undefeated seasons.

Ramiccio has been at Fiore's side as associate head coach since 2016. He first joined the Mounties in 2010 as defensive coordinator. Ramiccio doubles as an English teacher at the Glenfield Middle School since 2016.

Fiore will not be far away from Ramiccio and the Mounties for the year. He retains his physical education teaching job at MHS.

GLEN RIDGE - Borough railroad station riders who needed minor repairs to their bicycles can thank BSA Troop 855 Scout Zane Pagano, and those who helped him, for installing a bicycle repair stand here.

Pagano and several of his troop members installed the I-Fixit stand at the southeastern corner of Glen Ridge Station at 255 Ridgewood Ave. July 13.

The stand features Allen keys, screwdrivers, wrenches and an air pump. I-Fixit also wears a QR code so that riders can access repair videos.

Pagano's thanks include Borough Administrator Michael Zichelli and the Department of Public Works plus those who responded to his 2,500 project appeal brochures and those who contributed \$1,824 to his GoFundMe.com page.

The above served as the community improvement project towards Pagano's

attempt to attain Scouting's highest rank - Eagle Scout. He came up with the repair stand idea after noticing more than 30 bicycles parked at the station on one of 2020's early winter days.

Pagano's project organization included producing a bicycle safety and information brochure which he and his fellow scouts among the borough's homes and producing a GoFundMe introductory video. He had to wait until October to launch the project due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

BELLEVILLE - A mystery has surrounded a letter brought by the Belleville Public Library & Information Center Board of Trustees attorney 20 months ago concerning "a conflict of interest."

A local watchdog came across a single -page entry on the trustee's minutes of its Jan. 15, 2020 meeting last March. The observer had been going through OPRA-requested library trustee documentation in search of any reports of water damage or repairs to the library's atrium.

The Jan. 15, 2020 minutes state: "Old Business; AlphaDog - Lawyer submitted a letter of conflict of interest."

AlphaDog Solutions, a website design and operation company catering to local government and businesses is Mayor Michael Melham's day job. Melham was elected mayor in 2018.

Melham, like most mayors, has the

power of appointing members to various boards and commissions - including the library's board of trustees. Mayoral board appointments and providing a budget minimum are the extent of a town hall's involvement with its public library.

The nature of the BPL attorney's letter regarding AlphaDog is not publicly known. The watchdog's request for the lawyer's opinion to the acting library director and current legal advisor was met with statements that the letter "is considered privileged."



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