



GAS STATIONS TO PAY FOR FRAUD

NEWARK - Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck announced Oct. 4 that the Division of Consumer Affairs has reached a settlement agreement for more than \$138,000 involving five Essex County gas stations that were found to be overcharging consumers, including by selling regular fuel as premium.

The agreement resolves the investigation led by the Division's

Office of Weights and Measures and Office of Consumer Protection into violations of multiple New Jersey consumer protection laws and regulations following unannounced fuel quality inspections at several gas stations.

In addition to making a monetary payment, K.P. Fuel Corp., BK Fuel, Inc., DS Fuel Corp., Millennium Fuel, Inc., and Harb
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BARAKA'S VACCINE ORDER UPHELD

Unions Set to Continue Fight

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Members of the 11 municipal unions who had a Sept. 27 New Jersey Appellate Court ruling go against them, and upholding Mayor Ras Baraka's mandatory COVID vaccination order, may not be flocking for inoculations quite yet.

Union leaders, who can appeal to the N.J. State Supreme Court and/or go back before the Public Employee Relations Commission, have more than expressed their disappointment with Appellate Judges Robert J. Gilson, Jose L. Fuentes and Katie A. Gummer's ruling.

The ruling gives the Baraka Administration the green light to enact Municipal Executive Order-21-0008, first signed by the Mayor Aug. 10. The order gives all municipal employees 30 days to take full COVID vaccinations and show proof thereof. Those who do not show such proof would be subject to unpaid leave



and ultimate firing.

That 30-day period clock, which was Aug. 16 - Sept. 16, may not be running should the unions file with SCONJ and/or PERC.

Several of the unions who went to the appellate panel Sept. 22 for injunctive relief from Baraka's order were going NJPAC here prior to the Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) / Jack Ciattarelli (R-Hillsborough) gubernatorial debate Sept. 28. They were going to protest

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PANDORA PAPERS EXPOSÉ

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330,000 VICTIMS



PAGE 6



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Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

“Pandora’s Box” is a phrase known to most of us, and the Pandora Papers is known to most of us by now. This became the hottest news all over the world. Many current and former world leaders are involved in it. Wealthy clients from all over the world invested their money into offshore structures to save billions on taxes. This was spread out in Dubai, Monaco, Switzerland, the Cayman Islands, Panama and more. The investigative reporting of the ICIJ uncovered 12 million files. So many famous people from all over the world are involved, including the King of Jordan and singer Shakira.

According to Guardian: “Branded the Pandora papers, the

cache includes 11.9 m files from companies hired by wealthy clients to create offshore structures and trusts in tax havens such as Panama, Dubai, Monaco, Switzerland and the Cayman Islands. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has said his government will investigate citizens linked to a massive leak on hidden global wealth. The Pandora Papers link hundreds of Pakistanis, including members of Mr. Khan's cabinet, to wealth secretly moved through offshore companies. They rank among history's biggest financial leaks, exposing dealings of global business and political figures.”

According to the INDIAN-EXPRESS: “The biggest ever leak of offshore financial records, exposed financial secrets of the rich and powerful. As many as 12 million documents from 14 companies in offshore tax havens with details of ownership of 29,000 offshore companies and Trusts were obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) two years ago...Records in the Pandora Papers reveal that the chair-

man of Reliance ADA Group, Anil Ambani, and his representatives own at least 18 offshore companies in Jersey, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Cyprus... Names like Reliance's Anil Ambani, Nirav Modi's sister Purvi, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw figure in the Pandora Papers.”

According to Punch: “According to an interactive map of the leaked documents, five Côte d'Ivoire politicians were helped by foreign agents to stash money suspected to be looted away from public view. No less than 10 Nigerian politicians have been implicated in the Pandora Papers. At least eight African countries featured in the document...Ghana has three politicians listed in the documents, which has been described as “An offshore data tsunami...Chad, Kenya and Congo Brazzaville have two politicians each listed in the infamous documents that had reportedly sent shivers down the spines of public figures globally; while Gabon has three politicians listed. Angola has nine

politicians listed in the document, while Zimbabwe and South Africa have two each. Mozambique has one.”

With the money power, the billionaires usually find loopholes in the laws and always takes advantage to save billions of dollars. The United States is not an exception. As we all know, the top 1% really benefits. The top 1% makes about 20% of the country's income and pay 40.1% federal taxes. The bottom 90% makes about 73.2% of the income. The top 1% owns more wealth than bottom 90%. Once you add loopholes, some of the wealthy can pay less on taxes than someone working at a fast food restaurant! The politicians are driven by them, as they pay most of their fundraisers through PACs (Political Action Committees). PACs are loopholes for the politicians and the wealthy since 1944 when it was formed to raise funds for then President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

*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 Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Off and On Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

COVID Outbreaks in Schools and Hospitalizations

Over the last few weeks, there has been a surge in COVID cases in the country. As you would imagine, this corresponds to an increase in COVID cases in our schools. Which, ultimately, means more chances of hospitali-

zations. It's interesting how quickly I drew the connection, right? Well, it's not that impressive because it's pretty obvious. It is evident for everyone to see; everyone except the people that really need to see it, apparently.

I don't know if you've heard, but some time back, COVID cases in children hit a record high in some states. In Alberta up in Canada, the seven-day average last week among children aged 5-11 was 68 per 100,000, which was the highest since COVID first hit. Interestingly, the next highest peak was in May 2021. So the pointers were there. The government knew well enough the possibility of increased cases happening, particularly in schools, making it all the more upsetting that these record outbreaks are actually happening, I mean.

To add salt to the injury, some are acting surprised. Like, what? The adequate measures to combat outbreaks have not been put in place, and you're going to act surprised when outbreaks ac-



tually happen? It makes no sense to me.

Many doctors around the country are saying we need a 'firebreak.' In layman's terms, we need to up the regulations to combat the increase in cases, including, but not limited to, closure of schools, at least till we gain back some sort of control. That seems like the smart option. That is the smart option. And you know what that means - that it is absolutely going to be ignored.

The mess we find ourselves in is no surprise at all. The virus doesn't mess around, yet we can afford to be lax with our policies and decisions. That's funny. The recent outbreaks are predictable, and even more importantly, preventable. But that ship seems to be fast sailing now.

Vaccines are not an option yet. This is because children under the age of 12 have not been approved to take the vaccine. The CDC still needs more proof of their safety before giving the green light, and I don't have a problem with that. I do have a problem with eligible adults trying to play down the effect of the vaccine in eradicating the virus, though. You may wonder how adults not taking the vaccine affects children, and it's quite simple to see - the longer the virus persists, the higher the chances of the virus mutating, and the lesser our chances of eventually beating the virus. Not to mention the immediate problem of transmit-

ting the virus.

As regarding hospitalizations, it is difficult to draw inferences because of the limited data available. The US has 4,500 Pediatric ICU beds. This, normally, wouldn't be much of a worry, but we are not in normal times. The pediatric hospitalization rate is around 0.8%. While this doesn't seem like much, it really starts making a big difference when the number of cases starts increasing.

What do I mean? If there are 1,000 pediatric cases, 8 of these cases will require hospitalization with the current hospitalization rate. If the number of cases increases to say 5,000, then 40 of those cases will require hospitalizations. The math is quite simple but scary when you start having cases in their thousands. This is exactly why we cannot afford for these recent outbreaks to continue. Now more than ever.

We need a firebreak. Schools need to set up a system that limits the spread of COVID and if there are any positive cases, rapidly and appropriately quarantines those exposed. If the schools are unable to do that, they need to consider shutting down. Yes I said it. I understand the importance of education. I myself am where I am because of the public education system. I am a New Jersey native after all. However, there are 2.5 million children in New Jersey and only 135 ICU beds. Just think what would happen if the

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GAS STATIONS TO PAY FOR FRAUD

(Continued from page 1)

and Parm, Inc. d/b/a Power Services Center, and their owner Sukhdev Singh of Belleville, have agreed to display the accurate price of any motor fuel they offer or sell and not to misrepresent one grade of fuel as another.

“New Jersey drivers should be able to fill their gas tanks without getting taken for a ride,” said Acting Attorney General Bruck. “Gas stations are on notice that we won’t stand for them cheating their customers. The sale of regular gas as premium not only causes consumers to overpay but also threatens damage to their vehicles.”

The majority of cars on the road today run on regular gas, but some vehicles require premium, which contains higher levels of octane and typically costs about 50 cents more per gallon. Regular gasoline in a vehicle designed to use premium can

self-ignite. This can lead to a persistent knocking sound in the engine and, in severe cases, can cause significant engine damage such as broken connecting rods, melted pistons, or other damaged components.

“Whether consumers choose regular or premium gasoline for their vehicles, we want them to know that our office is committed to ensure that they get what they pay for at the pump,” said Acting Director of Consumer Affairs Sean P. Neafsey. “I applaud the Office of Weights and Measures for their diligent fuel quality inspections and everyone responsible for implementing greater accountability.”

The Division conducted its inspections between July 31, 2019 and September 25, 2020.

Its investigation concerned violations of the Consumer Fraud Act; the Weights and Measures Act; the Motor Fuels Act; the Regulations Governing the Retail Sale of Motor Fuels; and the Scales, Instruments and Devices Regulations.

The respondent gas stations are:

- KP Fuel, 864 Mt. Prospect Ave, Newark
- BK Fuel, 108 Bloomfield Ave, Newark
- Millennium Fuel, 113-119 Franklin Street, Belleville
- DS Fuel, 605 Washington Ave, Belleville
- Power Service Center, 456 W. Market Street, Newark

Under the terms of the Consent Order, the respondents also agreed to maintain weighing and measuring devices in proper operating condition at the gas stations, to exhibit all required documentation for inspection and examination, and to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations.

The total settlement of over \$138,000 includes \$114,200 in civil penalties and \$24,319 in investigative costs and attorneys’ fees. Under the terms of the Order, \$27,519 in civil penalties are suspended and will be auto-

matically vacated after one year if the respondents comply with the terms of the Order. Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Koziar of the Consumer Fraud Prosecution Section within the Division of Law’s Affirmative Civil Enforcement Practice Group represented the State in the matter.

Supervisor James Wilton from the Office of Weights and Measures and Investigator Roger Hines of the Office of Consumer Protection within the Division of Consumer Affairs conducted the investigation. Inspector Bryan Thomson from the Office of Weights and Measures was responsible for identifying the octane deficiencies and gathering documentation for the investigation.

Consumers who believe they have been cheated or scammed by a business, or suspect any other form of consumer abuse, can file an online complaint with the Division of Consumer Affairs by visiting its website or by calling 1-800-242-5846 to receive a complaint form by mail.



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THE PANDORA PAPERS EXPOSÉ

WORLD

Scores of prominent people all over the globe, from world leaders to celebrity icons, have had their shady dealings exposed in a landmark journalistic venture.

On Oct. 3, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) began releasing a cache of intel known as the Pandora Papers. The material in question is comprised of nearly 12 million documents and nearly 3 terabytes of information that exposed secret offshore accounts of 35 world leaders, including current and former presidents, prime ministers, and heads of state. Additionally, over 100 billionaires, celebrities, and business leaders were identified.

Among the biggest names implicated so far are former British PM Tony Blair, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, as well as model Claudia Schiffer, singer Shakira, Elton John, Ringo Starr, Julio Iglesias and arguably the greatest cricketer of all time, Sachin Tendulkar. Shakira, who is currently being investigated for tax evasion in Spain, has denied any wrongdoing.

The celebrities identified are accused of having P.O. boxes in known tax havens such as the British Virgin Islands, where tax rates are virtually nonexistent and most of all, hidden.

Offshore accounts are used by many as a way to employ them as tax shelters. Depending on how and how much is involved, some shelters are considered legal, while others not so much. It varies by country, but if it is offshore, chances are something is either bending or breaking the rules, and the strategy is highly frowned upon in legitimate finance.

“On the surface, some might ask what the big deal is if someone wants to put some money in a Swiss bank account or other

offshore account. However, when a huge chunk of the taxation base is missing, the remaining tax burden gets dumped on everyday citizens and they shell out more on things like education, street paving, etc.,” said “Local Talk” Content Editor Kristopher Seals.

330,000 VICTIMS

EUROPE

An independent commission overseeing child abuse within the Catholic Church in France has dropped a bombshell report.

Led by French civil servant Jean-Marc Sauvé, the commission has revealed that approximately 330,000 children were abused by clergy and other members of the French Catholic Church over the past 70 years. The commission’s findings were culminated in a 2,500 page report compiled over two and a half years of work. Members of the commission that was independent from the Church made their assessments based on victim testimony and press archives.

“The consequences are very serious,” Sauvé said during a press conference. “About 60 percent of men and women who were sexually abused encounter major problems in their sentimental or sexual life...These numbers are more than worrying, they are overwhelming and can in no way go unanswered.”

In response to the report, Matteo Bruni, Director of the Holy See Press Office, spoke on behalf of Pope Francis to journalists. Bruni emphasized that the Holy Father’s thoughts and prayers “go first of all to the victims” and their “wounds.”

Bruni added that Pope Francis is grateful to them for “their courage to speak out” and for “turning to the Church of France, so that, having become aware of this appalling reality and united to the suffering of the Lord for her most vulnerable children, she may take the path of redemption.”

“By his prayers the Pope entrusts the People of God who are in France, especially the victims, to the Lord so that He may grant them comfort and consolation and the miracle of healing, with justice,” Bruni concluded

FACEBOOK GETS BLOCKED

UNITED STATES

The largest social media outfit in the world got rocked on two fronts, garnering a lot of dislikes.

First, whistleblower Frances Haugen took the company to task in both a “60 Minutes” interview and in a Congressional hearing. Haugen has accused the company of putting profits ahead of the safety of its users. She also alleged that after the Capitol Riot on Jan. 6, Facebook rolled back measures to quell the unrest that occurred around that time.

“When we live in an information environment that is full of angry, hateful, polarizing content it erodes our civic trust, it erodes our faith in each other, it erodes our ability to want to care for each other, the version of Facebook that exists today is tearing our societies apart and causing ethnic violence around the world,” Haugen told “60 Minutes” reporter Scott Pelley.

Neither Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg nor COO Sheryl Sandberg have responded to the allegations.

Meanwhile, as the company dealt with the whistleblower fallout, its flagship website, along with other owned sites Instagram and WhatsApp, suffered a service outage for most of Oct. 4. The company attributed the issue to a “faulty configuration change” to its “backbone routers.” In other words, the system didn’t update properly pretty much.

Although the outage lasted less than a day, the downtime is said to have cost Zuckerberg around \$7 billion of his \$120-plus billion net worth.

HAITI STILL REELING

CARIBBEAN

Haiti is currently undergoing “one of the most fraught periods of its recent history”, the head of the UN office in the country told the Security Council on Oct. 4.

Still reeling from the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on July 7, the country was crippled on Aug. 14 by a deadly

7.2 magnitude earthquake that affected over 800,000 people in its southwestern peninsula.

Helen La Lime, Special Representative and head of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) said that “long awaited” national and local elections have now been further postponed while “insecurity has become rampant in Port-au-Prince, as kidnappings are once again on the rise and gangs have extended their control over large swaths of the city.”

She also noted the recent forced return of thousands of Haitian migrants from the US-Mexico border, many of whom had simply “sought better living conditions in neighboring countries.”

Meanwhile, security must be re-established, especially in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, as a significant and sudden increase in gang violence has caused the displacement of some 19,000 people from the communes of Cité-Soleil, Croix-des-Bouquets, Delmas and the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Martissant.

“The control that gangs exercise around strategic entry and exit points of the capital has had a detrimental impact on Haiti’s economy and the movement of people and goods,” said the UN official.

However, an over-stretched, under-resourced police force cannot stem the rise in crime without being strengthened and accompanied by Government services to impoverished neighborhoods.

“The Government must implement a more holistic approach to addressing gang violence, within the framework of the national strategy for community violence reduction,” she stated.

Although Haitian citizens have unanimously condemned President Moïse’s assassination and called for a thorough investigation, Ms. La Lime flagged that “judicial actors must be allowed to work independently...with reassurance that they will be protected while undertaking the delicate task of identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators.”

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Starting A Business: Part 13... Pros and Cons of Starting A New Business

It is a scary thing to think about. Leaving full time employment and starting a new business. What if things do not work out? How does one manage financially? How could these changes affect one's lifestyle? Does one have the necessary support circle of family and friends? How much does one need to save up before taking the leap into starting a new business? Can one run the business while working?

Yet, with all those concerns, one can also look at starting a new business as an exciting new adventure! Success in business changes lives. People are able to soar to heights that they only dreamt about. Some move from always struggling to make ends meet to having an abundance of resources. It does not happen overnight, but success is possible and can happen in a big way. The questions raised above definitely have to be answered. One must prepare. That is the beginning of success. Those that prepare well before starting a business tend to do much better than those that simply wing it.

Remember also that starting a new business is a new opportunity. It can lead to doors opening that one never imagined existed. It is the dawn of new things. A person can meet new circles of people and expand their horizons. Learning is pretty much common for a new entrepreneur. However, with an eye on the prize that is doable. Be prepared to learn about market-

ing, sales, finance, labor laws, tax practices, technology options and a host of other things.

A major motivation for starting a business stems from the simple fact that throughout the economy, many businesses have salary and benefits structures that are low and provide little financial success for many workers. It has been estimated for example that in the past 20 years, salaries have increased by about 1%, the lowest increase in decades. This is proof that employers are underpaying their employees with little improvement in salaries. When one is working for a dead-end employee, it is definitely a realistic option to consider another way to augment one's income and achieve a higher level of financial success. Simply put, in today's job market many employers provide low pay and no future. This can be changed with starting a new business and creating a new income stream.

Our low wages stem from a variety of factors. Greed on the part of the top 1% is an issue. They collect more in profits than ever and pay out less of those profits than ever. Wages are low in part due to the successful decimation of unions throughout the country. Unions, traditionally, have been able to negotiate and contribute to past increases in salary. However, as they have become much fewer in number, that pressure is no longer on management to increase wages realistically. The Federal wage being kept the same for over 10 years has also been a major reason why wages generally remain low. The Federal wage is unrealistic, and it has not helped the economy.

We now have a new work environment. Work from home. This means greater flexibility and options for some workers. It is a new lifestyle. Time will tell whether working from home is here to stay. It will also be interesting to see the types of adjustments in salaries and benefits that will take place. Will they improve over time, or will they go down?

Many individuals refocused their priorities after pandemic started. This is a major factor in
(Continued on page 13)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ▶ Stop Bank Levies!
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Belleville	6206	118	6233	120
Bloomfield	5884	127	5936	127
Caldwell	680	16	684	16
Cedar Grove	1702	121	1712	121
East Orange	7907	320	7974	323
Essex Fells	210	2	211	2
Fairfield	987	32	999	32
Glen Ridge	458	14	464	14
Irvington	5291	239	5323	241
Livingston	2088	89	2104	89
Maplewood	1512	39	1535	41
Millburn	972	10	980	11
Montclair	2586	75	2609	74
Newark	40272	1052	40468	1054
North Caldwell	571	7	572	7
Nutley	3358	68	3387	68
Orange	3838	142	3859	141
Roseland	530	17	535	17
South Orange	1103	16	1116	16
Verona	1136	18	1140	18
West Caldwell	1147	54	1158	54
West Orange	5054	234	5085	234
Total	93492	2810	94084	2820

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of October 6, 2021)
NJ: 1,011,758 cases / 24,745 deaths (Plus 2,797 probable)
United States (approx.): 44.02 Million / 706,900 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 236.125 Million / 4.822 Million deaths

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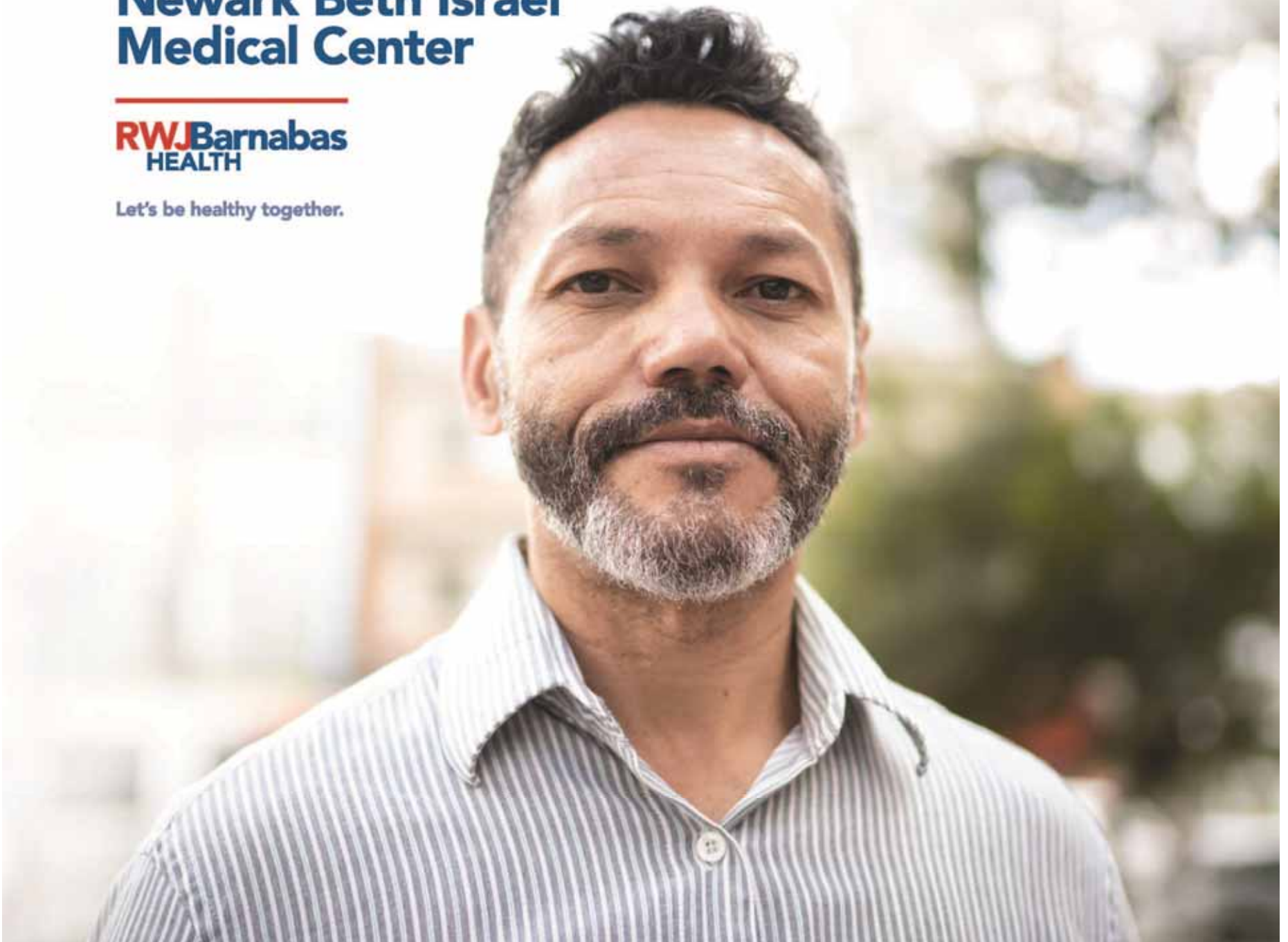
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Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

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HEALTH

Let's be healthy together.



THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

virus went rampant? Just not enough regular or ICU beds.

There doesn't seem to be signs that these will happen any-time soon, though. In fact, it seems like authorities are more concerned with keeping schools open than how safe it is. A case in point is Michigan, which has gone on to redefine what constitutes an outbreak, increasing the threshold of cases that will be classified as such. It's ridiculous, really.

We can only hope these authorities come to their senses. We have to play our part, though. And right now, that's getting the vaccine. I have gotten mine; you should too. Be safe.

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

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NJ TRANSIT INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with Section 5 of P.L. 1984 c.578 of SCDRTAP, The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) is conducting a public hearing in order to gather information and receive comments from interested parties concerning programs developed pursuant to the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program (SCDRTAP) Act. Due to COVID-19, this year's informational hearings will be conducted virtually. We will be offering three (3) virtual informational hearing sessions which will cover the southern, central, and northern regions of New Jersey.

The Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program funds capital, operating, and/or administrative expenses for locally coordinated paratransit services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The program also funds accessibility improvements to NJ TRANSIT's fixed route bus and rail system, the provision of technical assistance to the counties, and the administration of the statewide program.

All materials to be reviewed at this hearing are available in accessible formats upon request. Closed captioning is available for hearing impaired individuals. Individuals requesting language support should contact Customer Service at 973-275-5555 at least ten (10) business days prior to the hearing date. **If you plan to speak at one of these virtual hearings, please contact cderrick@njtransit.com or leave your contact information via voicemail at 973-491-7772 by Monday, October 11, 2021.**

The public is invited to the **October 28th** hearings below at which time they will have a full opportunity to express their views regarding the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program. In order to assure that all members of the public are given an opportunity to be heard, comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. **Written comments for the record may be sent to Public Hearing Comments 2021, NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Community Transportation, One Penn Plaza East, 4th Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246, or via email at publichearings@njtransit.com by Thursday October 28, 2021.**

SENIOR CITIZENS & DISABLED RESIDENTS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, October 28, 2021

- Session 1: 5:00 pm – Southern Region**
- Session 2: 6:00 pm – Central Region**
- Session 3: 7:00 pm – Northern Region**

Join on your computer or mobile app - [Click here to join the meeting](#)

+1 862-294-4371 (Toll) United States, Newark

Phone Conference ID: 625 990 084#

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For those who **have** access to E-mail, please contact cderrick@njtransit.com by **Monday October 11, 2021** and you will be emailed the link to join the meeting via video teleconference. For those who do **not** have access to a PC, Laptop, I-pad, Tablet, or Smart Phone with E-mail, please use the telephone number and conference ID access code listed above to call in via telephone.

With this annual notice we also invite the public to review and comment on the State Management Plans (SMPs) for the following Federal grant programs administered by NJ TRANSIT.

- FTA Section 5310 The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
- FTA Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area Formula Program for Rural Areas

These are available for review and comment on the S-Rides website at <https://s-rides.njtransit.com>. (Click on the *Documents* link). Copies of the state management plans are also available upon request by calling 973-491-7772 or writing to NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Minibus Support Department, 4th floor, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105-2246. All comments can be submitted via the address above or by sending an email to SRIDES@njtransit.com.

An Access Link paratransit update will NOT be provided at this hearing. Access Link holds separate Customer Forums. If you have any questions regarding Access Link forums or service, please email adaservices@njtransit.com or call Access Link at 973-491-4224, choose option #5 for Customer Service, or call TT 1- 800-955-6765.

To obtain a translated copy of this notice, contact Customer Service at 973-275-5555.

Title VI: NJ TRANSIT's Notice to Beneficiaries: NJ TRANSIT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, or wishing to obtain additional information regarding NJ TRANSIT's Title VI obligations, may contact NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at 973-275-5555. A complaint or inquiry may also be filed by writing to NJ TRANSIT Customer Service – Title VI, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105. A complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

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 - East Ward voters will be joining their West Ward colleagues in choosing a new council member in the city's May 10, 2022 Municipal Election.

Augusto Amador, 72, announced his decision to end his 24-year tenure as East Ward Councilman Sept. 27. Amador cited health reasons before his audiences - his closest supporters at an Ironbound restaurant and on a live Portuguese satellite TV channel - that Tuesday night.

The former PSE&G administrator and Newark Public Schools Board of Education member, thanks to a majority of participating registered East Ward voters, ousted incumbent ward councilman and Essex County Freeholder Henry "Hank" Martinez in 1998. He became Newark's first Portuguese-American council member with campaign support from Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura, among others.

Amador was re-elected while on mayors Sharpe James (2002) Cory A. Booker (2006, 10) and Ras Baraka (2014, 18) tickets. A majority of voters helped Amador get his sixth term in a June 13, 2018 runoff election against former Newark Chief of Police Anthony Campos.

The first-generation immigrant's departure is the third change on the Municipal Council and from Baraka's 2018 Moving Newark Forward team. West Ward incumbent Joseph McCallum is not expected to run while he is undergoing a bribery investigation. Lawrence "Larry" Crump was recently appointed to Mildred Crump's at-large seat when the former Council Presi-

dent resigned for health reasons.

Amador, at the same Ironbound dinner, said he would back retired Newark police officer Mike Silva to succeed him. It is too early to know whether Silva will join Baraka's Newark Forward 2022 slate.

IRVINGTON - The Township Council, despite the dates given on a published legal notice, approved comprehensive Cannabis-Based Business legislation before the state's Aug. 22 deadline.

The Municipal Clerk's office confirmed to "Local Talk" Oct. 5 that the council passed Ord. MC 3773 Aug. 9. That ordinance took effect Aug. 30, making Irvington among the "Local Talk" towns that are allowing CBBs under particular conditions.

"Local Talk" did a double-take while reading the ordinance's legal notice in one of Irvington's "official publications" Sept. 17. The ordinance, minus its MC 3773 serial number, in the notice, has had its introduction Sept. 13 and a scheduled public hearing for Sept. 27. The problem was that the council's meetings that month were long-set for Sept. 14 and 28 - past the state's deadline.

What the council passed Aug. 9 restricts cultivating, distributing, manufacturing and wholesaling cannabis and most of its products to the township's three manufacturing zones. Recreational dispensaries in Irvington's Central Business District, General and Limited Business Zones; Medicinal dispensaries are to be established in those three zones plus B-1 Neighborhood and B-2 Shopping Center zones.

MC 3773 and its specifics are to be posted on irvington.net past press time.

Post Office "Branch" Reopens

It took up to 33 days after Tropical Storm Ida but the USPS "Irvington Branch" post office at 1086 Springfield Ave reopened for mailbox customers Oct. 1 and all patrons Oct. 4. What is actually a branch of the Newark Post Office was closed due to flood damage from the adjacent Elizabeth River. Postal box customers were meanwhile directed to pick up their mail at Newark's (920) Springfield Avenue

Branch in the city's Central Ward.

EAST ORANGE - Relatives and friends of Troy S. Traynham paid last respects in Orange's Woody Home for Services Oct. 2 while East Orange Police and the ECPO's Homicide Unit are still searching for his killer.

Responding EOPD officers and local EMS technicians said they found Traynham, 58, crouched on his apartment building's parking lot at Chestnut Street and South Oraton Parkway 4:40 p.m. Sept. 18. They rushed him to Newark's University Hospital - where he was declared dead at 4:48 p.m.

Witnesses said that another man had approached Traynham, fired "multiple rounds" into him and fled.

Traynham, who had graduated from Linden High School and Union County College, was an armed security guard with related certificates since the 2000s.

Parents Elbert and Patricia Traynham, brother Todd, sister Stacey L. Carpenter and friend Michelle Swint are among his survivors.

ORANGE - "No Contract - Still Working" may well sum up the Orange Education Association's Sept. 6 open letter to the Orange Public Schools community.

The letter said neither the OEA teachers union and the OPS Board of Education Negotiating Committee were able to come to an agreement before the Sept. 8 start of the 2021-22 school year.

The letter, as written by OEA Vice President/Negotiations Chairman Brian Canares, cited "scheduling delays with the board and its team and certain personnel delays" for going past Sept. 8.

One recent OPS personnel change is Jason Ballard succeeding the longtime James Adekunle as School Business Administrator/Secretary in July. Ballard was an assistant administrator at the Newark Public Schools. OPS is meanwhile paying OEA members on the expired contract.

Neblett Funeral Fund Opened

Friends and relatives of Siam Neblett, 20, who was shot dead at Central and Lincoln Avenues

Sept. 27, have established a GoFundMe.com page to help with his funeral and the raising of his two-month-old daughter.

Neblett was described as a FedEx worker who was providing for the infant and his grandmother. He was walking his younger sister home from school when a still-at-large shooter felled him while two nearby schools were being dismissed for the day.

WEST ORANGE - Councilwoman Tammy Williams was wearing two hats among those who unveiled a serenity bench in West Orange High School's senior courtyard here Sept. 24.

Williams - who joined West Orange elders and school officials, among others, in breaking the cover on the memorial bench that Sunday - is founder of the West Orange Stop Suicide Advocacy Coalition. She worked with Abdel and Lauren Massader in coming up with the bench to remember their only child.

Williams, with the Massaders' permission, held a "Run for Zack" 5 km. walk and run Oct. 16, 2019 and Oct. 3, 2022 at the Rock Spring Golf Club and the adjacent St. Cloud neighborhood. Race proceeds went not only towards the bench but for first responders training and students' education on suicide awareness.

Zachary "Zach" Massader, WOHS Class of 2011, committed suicide at age 24 in 2018. His bench is graced by a Deepak Chopra quote, "Everything I Have is Within Me."

Orange Man Hurt in 280 Crash

Honda Civic driver Roodloves Estime, 22, of Orange, remains hospitalized after suffering a five-car collision on Interstate 280 Mile Post 7.8 here 2:20 p.m. Sept. 24. Arriving State Police troopers said that several Good Samaritans were trying to upright the upside-down Honda to free Estime.

A preliminary investigation has Estime's Civic collided with a Toyota Rav-4 while both were traveling west on 280. The impact vaulted the Honda into the eastbound lanes and into the paths of a Mercedes Benz C30, a Ford Transit van and a

(Continued on page 14)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

September has come to an end. Now October is here. We have lost a lot lately. The storm especially was a tragedy alone. Flooding, cars floating, I have never seen highways done the way Ida did. Blackouts all over towns sort of like Sandy. I'm sure you all remember. No one expected the storm to destroy things like this one. When you least expect, it can just go black in the blink of an eye.

Treat others how you want yourself to be treated! It's a shame there is just so much hatred in this world. There is no focusing on the positiveness. It must be something in the air, I mean you turn your head, there's a nose, switched up, eyerolling or etc. You must clearly understand that what a person is feeling. It shows all over the face of a person you never knew.

Try to read their face and react accordingly. You never know what or who you may need in the future. I will always speak upon this because this is a major failure. And gossiping, that is just pitiful to do to one another folks! Let's get it together; love one another, but mainly love yourself!

POLICE BRUTALITY

This isn't going to stop. They need to make police officers get a thorough background



Mother says video of daughter's arrest shows police brutality

check and even deal with the backgrounds of their relatives and who they surround themselves with. The hatred they give blacks and Hispanics is a hate crime. Any way you look at it, it's pitiful.

Video footage I saw just make me vomit. All police officers aren't like this, but it makes us citizens so scared to dial 911 for help, depending on your race. Will you fall for being victimizing by a police officer?



Victim's attorney: Euclid will pay

All police officers should turn in their guns until they know when exactly to use them. Drawing a gun should not be how they introduce themselves to anyone. I am totally against police brutality. My vote has been in dealing with all those lost by their hands. How long will this continue?



Police Beating Unarmed Man In Mesa, Arizona | NBC News

All lives do matter. Everyone needs to know the exact toll of things they are dealing with right within our own communities.

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SERIAL KILLER SENTENCED TO 160 YEARS FOR KILLING THREE WOMEN



NEWARK - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, announced that convicted serial killer Khalil Wheeler-Weaver, now 25, of Orange was sentenced to 160 years for killing three young woman and attempting to kill a fourth between August 2016 and November 2016.

In December 2019, an Essex County jury convicted Wheeler-Weaver on three counts of murder in connection with the deaths

of Sarah Butler, 20, Robin West, 19, and Joanne Brown, 33. He was also found guilty of the kidnapping, sexual assault, and attempted murder of a fourth woman, Tiffany Taylor, who survived her attack.

On Oct. 6, the Honorable Mark Ali, Judge of the Superior Court, sentenced Wheeler-Weaver to 160 years in New Jersey State Prison. Under the No Early Release Act (NERA), Wheeler-Weaver must serve 145 years before he is eligible for parole.

"The sentence today sends a clear and unequivocal message that each of these young women mattered. This defendant mistakenly believed that he could kill them and dump their bodies, and no one would care. He miscalculated. The jury made it clear with its verdict when it convicted Wheeler-Weaver on every count. And today the Judge, with his sentence, made it clear that each of these women would receive

(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Come Let Us Worship

Those of us who like to give individuals an invitation to worship God are often frustrated because we have noticed that people pretend that they are so busy that they cannot afford the time.

Very often, they give a lot of reasons why they are not able to accept the invitation. But the attitude is the same as the story told in the Bible about some people who were invited to a wedding banquet; they were saying they had to go to their farms, or to their commerce or to attend to their parents and so on (Matthew 22:4-6). I wish the excuse-makers could remember that if a person is too busy to pray, they are just too busy.

I cannot remember the full context or what led up to the invitation, but what I remember is that my wife and I met a young man in a mall. While conversing with him, he made a statement that evoked the question, "Young man, who do you worship?" And he emphatically responded, "My father is my god." My wife was so shocked that she quickly stepped away. I remained and calmly pressed the young man a little more.

I asked him to explain what he meant by "My father is my god." He started to ramble, so I asked his permission to quote a word from the Bible. He gave permission, and so I quoted the words that are repeated some 36 times, beginning with its recording in Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (ESV).

Then I noted that although we are to give our parents respect, there is only one worthy of our worship - our heavenly Father. The call to honor our parents is in the Fifth Commandment. The First Commandment

states that God we are not to have any other gods before our God. Such is confirmed in the words Jesus shared in a meeting with a Samaritan woman. Jesus told her, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him." (John 4:23 NKJV).

The prophet Malachi sets the Command in the form of an interesting dialogue between God and the people who claimed to have been worshipping him. "A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. "It is you priests who show contempt for my name." But you ask, "How have we shown contempt for your name?" (Malachi 1:6 NIV)

The point being emphasized is that not until a person has a true conception of who God is, as the heavenly Father, that such a person will offer up true worship to God. Without the right conception, persons will worship themselves, their parents, some human being they might address as "His Worship," or some inanimate objects such as carved images. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "You worship what you do not know." (John 4:4fp). Then He went on to state that "we [are to] worship what we know."

The questions for us are: Do we know God for who He is? Do we know him for what he does? If we can answer the questions correctly, we will truly know how to worship Him. If you have forgotten, let me remind you.

A. Who God is:

- ◆ The God, above all gods. - Psalm 95:3
- ◆ The Father above all fathers - Ephesians 4:6
- ◆ The Source and Giver of life - Acts 17:28 - Isaiah 43:11
- ◆ The Almighty Father - All powerful - 2 Corinthians 6:18
- ◆ The Majestic Father - Hebrews 1:3
- ◆ The Eternal Father - Ever living - Isaiah 9:6; Mark 12:29

- ◆ The Invisible Father - Wrapped in mystery - Colossians 1:15
- ◆ The Eternal Lawgiver - Psalm 9:4-8; James 4:11, 12
- ◆ The Righteous Father - All holiness - John 17:25
- ◆ The Holy Father - Matthew 6:9
- ◆ The Just Avenger - Luke 18:7; Psalm 82:3
- ◆ The Faithful Father - Consistent with his children - Malachi 2:17-3:12
- ◆ The Ever-giving Father - John 3:16
- ◆ The Redemptive Father - Isaiah 63:16
- ◆ The Compassionate Father - Psalm 103:13
- ◆ The Father of Light - James 1:17
- ◆ The Holy Father - Matthew 6:17
- ◆ The Electing Father - Exodus 19:5; Hosea 11:1;
- ◆ The Real Father (Father of Truth) - John 3:33; Isaiah 65:16
- ◆ The Father of Mercy - Sympathizes with our frame - Luke 6:36; 2 Corinthians 1:3
- ◆ The Father of Life - Creator - Malachi 2:10
- ◆ The Father of the fatherless - Psalm 68:5
- ◆ The Blessed Father - Giver of gifts - James 1:17; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- ◆ The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ - Ephesians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3
- ◆ The Ever-Present Father (Aramaic - Abba - My Father) - Matthew 6:9-13; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6
- ◆ The Intimate Father - (Zephaniah 3:7).
- ◆ The Perfect Father - (Matthew 5:48).

B. What God does:

- ◆ He creates
- ◆ He provides
- ◆ He protects
- ◆ He blesses
- ◆ He helps us in our infirmities
- ◆ He heals us from our sickness
- ◆ He disciplines us in our folly
- ◆ He answers our prayers
- ◆ He forgives our sins and iniquities
- ◆ He redeems us from us lostness

- ◆ He saves us from the pit of destruction
- ◆ He loves us, unconditionally
- ◆ Frees us from our snares
- ◆ Strengthens us in our weakness
- ◆ He befriends in our loneliness
- ◆ He gives us gifts and stimulates our talents
- ◆ He revels himself to us so we can have knowledge
- ◆ He gives us wisdom
- ◆ He guides us in the paths of life
- ◆ He adopts as his children
- ◆ Even in death, he superintends our graves and will bring us back to life.

What a God! This recognition of who God is and the power of his actions should give us pause to praise him. Or we might say, understanding who God is, as the Heavenly Father and His actions on our behalf should give us responsive hearts to:

- ◆ Love him
- ◆ Honor him
- ◆ Have faith in him
- ◆ Be intimate with him
- ◆ Be contrite before him
- ◆ Confess to him
- ◆ Celebrate him
- ◆ Ask his will in our lives
- ◆ Seek to find strength in him
- ◆ Be obedient to him
- ◆ Kneel before him
- ◆ Stand in his presence with awe
- ◆ Petition our needs to him
- ◆ Share our sorrows, pain, fears, and hopes with him

God is to be worshiped, and we, his sons and daughters, are to take the time to lift up his name, rather than making ourselves so busy that we cannot praise him. We are not to follow in the path of the one prodigal brother who rebelled against his father or the other prodigal brother who was so busy in the field that he had no time to celebrate with his father or brother.

And, if by any means you have turned away from him, I invite you to return so that you can participate in the celebration (cf. Luke 15:11-32). God is waiting for those who are willing to join the festive celebration.

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school football season is now coming off of Week 5. East Orange remains unbeaten at 5-0 after mauling Livingston 47-7. Meanwhile, the Bloomfield Bengals won their first game of the season, raiding East Side 27-0. In another blow-out, the West Orange High School football team won big over Columbia 42-7 to improve their record to 3-2 on the season, and 3-1 in the division.

Irvington's Blue Knights defeated Wayne Hills 21-16 in a crossover game. West Side's Rough Riders have had a rough time, losing in their last effort to Hudson Catholic at Schools Stadium 19-14. The Rough Riders are now 1-3, with their only win coming in Week 2 over Orange when the Tornadoes forfeited the game due to a lack of players

Speaking of Orange, they took a tough 21-6 loss at Belleville. Their next contest will be the homecoming game against Barringer this coming Friday at 7 pm.

In other football news, Rutgers has yet to figure out Michigan, getting blown out again in a 52-7 home loss this time. The Scarlet Knights once loss to the Wolverines 78-0 in a game that saw former UM and East Orange Campus star Jabrill Peppers get on the board.

As for Peppers' current team, they had much better luck. The Giants went on the road and stunned the New Orleans 27-21 in overtime on a walk off Saquon Barley TD. Around the same time, the Jets shocked the Titans at 27-24 in overtime after Tennessee missed a FG.

It was a strange day for the two local NFL squads. Both teams got their first win on the year, on a rare occasion where both teams had games played at 1 p.m. Eastern Time. Even more rare, it was the first time in history that both the Giants and Jets won games in overtime on the same day.

Finally, the season is over for the New York Yankees, after an 8-2 loss in the AL Wild Card Game at Fenway Park to the Boston Red Sox.

FINANCE

(Continued from page 7)

the event of the great resignation. Workers were able to save money during the pandemic. That financial freedom allowed them to resign and chart new paths for themselves.

At this time, it is increasingly important that workers recognize the potential to achieve better financial and professional success by working for themselves. Today's technology and environment allows for business opportunities and success more than ever. Many mundane and necessary business practices have been automated. One can access knowledge and information easily. Training and resources are abundant for learning new skills in a convenient manner. It is up to us to take advantage of these opportunities and develop our businesses.

Next week, I shall share some of the experiences we had running a management consulting firm. By sharing my story, it is my intention to encourage and uplift those of you who are close to starting your own 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.

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SERIAL KILLER (Continued from page 11)

justice. I want to thank the Essex County assistant prosecutors, investigators and others in law enforcement who worked to bring us to this day," said Acting Prosecutor Stephens. "Most importantly, I want to thank the surviving victim, Tiffany Taylor, and the friends and families of the other victims who played a pivotal role in the case."

Assistant Prosecutor Adam B. Wells, who tried the case, with Assistant Prosecutor Mira T. Ohm, said, "I am grateful to Ms. Taylor, and the families and friends of Joanne Brown, Sarah Buter and Robin West for the grace and strength they showed throughout this horrendous ordeal. I hope that today's sentencing, and the promise that the defendant will be incarcerated for the rest of his life can allow them to close this chapter and move forward honoring those who are not able to do so themselves."

After a two-month trial, the jury took less than three hours to find Wheeler-Weaver guilty on all counts, including three counts of murder. In addition to the

murder counts, Wheeler-Weaver was also found guilty of kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault and attempted murder of Taylor. The jury also convicted him of three counts of desecration of human remains and aggravated arson.

Butler, a Montclair resident who was attending Jersey City University was murdered on Nov. 22, 2016. Her body was found in Eagle Rock Reservation in West Orange on Dec. 1, 2016.

Brown of Newark was murdered on Oct. 22, 2016. Her body was found in a vacant home in Orange on Dec. 5, 2016. West, a native of Philadelphia who was living in Union Township, was murdered on Sept. 1, 2016 in Orange. Wheeler-Weaver set fire to her body and then torched the vacant home.

Acting Prosecutor Stephens thanked all the law enforcement agencies that worked so closely with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office on this case. He also lauded Sergeant Christopher Smith of the ECPO, Lieutenant Michael Krusznis of the Newark Police Department, retired ECPO Captain Thomas Kelly, retired ECPO Sergeant Paul Sarbando, and retired ECPO Detective Mario Suarez.

VACCINE ORDER

(Continued from page 1)

how Gov. Murphy has implemented a state-level vaccination mandate.

Their demonstration was canceled hours before that 7 p.m. Tuesday debate start time.

First, news of union leaders talking with Baraka's administrators about the mandate had leaked out that afternoon. Second, their demonstrations would be held too far away from Murphy and Ciattarelli's line of sight.

MEO-21-0008 was first put on hold after PERC Administrative Director Christopher Leavey in Trenton made a ruled Aug. 31 that Baraka's administrators need to negotiate terms and conditions of the vaccination with the unions.

The 11 unions - including

Fraternal Order of Police Local 12 and Teamsters Local 97 - then sought for injunctive relief from the appellate court. Fuentes and Gummer agreed to hear from them and responding City of Newark hired attorney Matthew J. Giacobbe on an accelerated schedule Sept. 22.

The unions, as plaintiffs, questioned the mayor as having the authority to issue a mass vaccination order. Their attorneys also argued that vaccination policy needed to be negotiated.

Their objections included their not being consulted or advised before Baraka issued his order. MEO-21-0008 was drafted in consultation with health experts and was also signed by Corporate Counsel Kenyatta Stewart, Business Administrator Eric Pennington and City Clerk Kenneth Louis.

Newark's attorney argued

that the mayor was acting under a public health emergency declared by Gov. Murphy March 15, 2020 and particularly wanted to stem the Delta variant's rising infection rates.

Giacobbe said that Baraka's order includes religious or medical exemptions; the exempt are to take weekly COVID tests. He added that the Mayor had amended his order where the city will pay for tests and discuss discipline with the unions.

Judge Gilson, speaking for the appellate panel Sept. 27, took up 18 of their 28-page ruling to answer the two questions. The first question's short-form answer is that the mayor has "the managerial prerogative to issue a COVID-19 vaccination mandate."

Gilson, regarding the second question, opined that "the Unions have made no showing that

they have the right to negotiate the implementation, timing or enforcement of that mandate. They have also failed to show the harm to City employees is greater than the harm to the City."

The judge, however, granted the right for the city and the unions to negotiate matters the likes of whether members get the time and/or monetary compensation for taking the inoculations.

"The order contained so many nuances that are open to interpretation said Teamsters Local 97 attorney Kevin McGovern. It's going to produce some unduly harsh results, even for people who try to comply with the order."

Although courts seem to agree across the land that employees can be forced to take the

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

Mitsubishi Outlander.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The TikTok "#DeviousLicks Challenge" has reached "Local Talk" schools - and South Orange-Maplewood School District officials are not amused.

Columbia High School Principal Frank Sanchez, in an open letter and video Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, reported three incidents of vandalized boys' restrooms occurring the previous two weeks. The damage included removed soap dispensers and toilet paper holders and ketchup and barbecue sauce smeared on walls.

Sanchez sees a connection with the damage inflicted by children who take up the "challenge." They are to damage public restrooms and then display their "trophies" on the social media site.

"I thought this would be a middle school problem, not something I'd especially see here at Columbia. I was wrong," said Sanchez. "What bothers me is that I come to work and I see our custodial employees, who remind me so much of my parents and to see students smother sauce to have someone else clean it up for a TikTok chal-

lenge is extremely upsetting."

Such future challenge-inspired behavior, said Sanchez, will not be tolerated. Found vandals are subject to either paying for the damage or returning to school for cleaning as restitution.

Sanchez and township police and fire are also looking for any links between the challenge and a 1:20 p.m. Oct. 4 "small fire" in the A-wing Boys restroom. All students and faculty were evacuated until 1:45 p.m. while the fire was immediately extinguished.

South Mountain Elementary School Principal Kevin Mason had meanwhile scheduled separate Fourth and Fifth Grade assemblies for Oct. 4-5. Mason said that a student and teacher found writing on a hall's walls there Sept. 28.

BLOOMFIELD - One of the last of the Bloomfield High School Class of 1946, Sophie Torrence Hunter, 92, was buried in Columbia, S.C.'s Hillside Memorial Park after her Sept. 11 service at Leevby's Funeral Home.

Hunter, 92, died in Columbia Aug. 28. Her obituary lists her as one of three African Americans, all women, who were among the 240 Class of '46 graduating seniors.

Born Sophie Torrence April 26, 1929 in Jersey City, the fu-

ture Hunter was soon moved to Bloomfield, where father, building contractor and deacon William helped construct the New Light Baptist Church's sanctuary. Torrence, in her BHS years, was active in the Spanish and Glee clubs. It is not known whether Bessie Pulley and Mildred Alice Williams, who graduated with her, still survive.

Torrence enrolled at Newark State Teachers College on Newark's Broadway - now Kean University - and graduated in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in teacher education. She first taught in Newark's Maple Avenue School for the Deaf before moving onto Elizabeth's Winfield Scott School No. 2 for an overall 33-year career.

Torrance became Sophie Hunter by marrying Hartsville, S.C. native George W. Hunter Dec. 25, 1962. They raised daughter Hortense "Kymm" Hunter. Torrence was the mother of Marcia Kone and Audrey Henderson after marrying Matthew Henderson in 1951. Henderson, however, had unexpectedly died.

Sophie and George Hunter were members of Montclair's Union Baptist Church and became avid travelers. She was a member of the Elizabeth Education Association (EEA) and the National Association of Negro Businesses and Professional

Women's Club (NANBPWC).

The Hunters retired to Sumter, SC in the 1990s. George Hunter, 82, died in 2010. Sister Virginia Torrence and two grandsons are also among her survivors. Brothers Benjamin, William and David and sisters Willa Mae and Azzilee also predeceased her. Virginia, Willa Mae, Azzilee, Benjamin, William and David were all BHS graduates.

MONTCLAIR - Police detectives are looking for a motorcycle rider who ended a dispute outside a central business district restaurant Sept. 28 by firing off three gunshot rounds.

A Montclair Police spokesman said that several officers arrived at Cuban Pete's, 428 Bloomfield Ave., 12:04 a.m. They took testimony from restaurant employees and witnesses - as well as finding three Ruger 9 mm. shell casings.

The witnesses said that four males started having an argument amongst themselves within the restaurant at Midnight. The argument went outside and turned into a fight - which ended when one of the quartet revealed a Ruger handgun and fired three times. No shooting injuries were reported.

Wanted is "a black male, approximately 5-ft., 9-in. tall with

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

a thin build" who was last seen "fleeing on a motorcycle east on Bloomfield Avenue."

GLEN RIDGE - Borough police detectives are working alongside the ECPO Bias Crimes Unit in finding the person who left behind a "culturally derogatory symbol" on a borough park here Sept. 28.

The symbol - which witnesses, Mayor Stuart Patrick and Borough Council members call a Nazi swastika - was found spray-painted on a Clay Park sidewalk that Tuesday and brought to the GRPD's attention. The department promptly called in the ECPO unit.

"We're saddened and angered that to hear of the ugly antisemitic vandalism that appeared on our local playground," said Patrick and the council Oct. 1. "We're outraged that it has emerged here in our community and on a playground."

A GRPD spokesman said that the "evidence doesn't indicate that any one individual was targeted."

BELLEVILLE - The construction code official at the center of a double-dipping investigation, thanks to a majority of the Township Council

here Sept. 28, remains on the job for now.

Mayor Michale Melham's ordinance to allow Township Manager Anthony Iacono to suspend the said employee suffered a technical knockout by five council members that Tuesday night.

After Councilman Thomas Graziano seconded Melham's motion to vote on Ord. 19-2021, he and ward council members Marie Strumolo-Burke, Steve Rovell, Vincent Cozzarelli and John J. Notari voted to "Take No Part" in the resolution.

"Take No Part" means that the council member declined to vote - and translated to a "No" vote. Melham and Deputy Mayor Naomy DePena voted "Yes."

Ord. 19-2021 would have granted Town Manager Anthony Iacono the power to consider suspending the official in question and to determine "whether discipline is warranted" at the end of his and Assistant Manager/Police Chief Mark Minichini's investigation.

Melham's resolution was drafted after the State Police, acting on the state Attorney General's behalf, served subpoenas in Town Hall Sept. 20. The resolution may also be moot should the construction code official's job title be covered by N.J. Civil Service.

NUTLEY - The Nutley Board of Education will not be sending a letter to Gov. Phil Murphy opposing mask mandates after all.

Board President Charles Kucinski moved a resolution to rescind their Aug. 23 letter-drafting order at their Sept. 20 meeting. A majority of NBPE members present then approved the rescinding.

Kucinski said that he drafted his resolution after listening to community members, "many of whom support wearing masks," between the two meetings. Mask

VACCINE ORDER

(Continued from page 14)

vaccine or be fired, ruling its managerial prerogative," said FOP Local 12 President James Stewart, "we feel the rights of the employee shouldn't be something to 'discuss later.'"

The appellate ruling on Newark come two days after a State Superior Court-

wearing in schools adheres to federal CDC guidelines.

The board had also received a petition from Informed Nutley for Informed Education earlier that Monday INFO-ED delivered 340 electronic signatures calling for NBOE members to support the state's mask mandates.

Board members Kenneth Reilly and Teri Quirk, who moved and seconded the Aug. 23 motion, were to have drafted the letter.

Paterson judge ruled in favor of Wayne Township in a similar challenge.

U.S. Federal Judge Zahid Quraishi, from his Newark bench Sept. 29, upheld Rutgers University's vaccination mandate. Rutgers had directed that all persons who enter a university building be vaccinated. That mandate was challenged by the Children's Health Defense Fund and 14 students.

ESSEX COUNTY'S RECYCLING DAY

Computer & Electronics



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✓ Only one person per vehicle. ✓ Face mask mandatory. ✓ Do not exit vehicle.
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Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, The Essex County Board of Commissioners and the Essex County Utilities Authority




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