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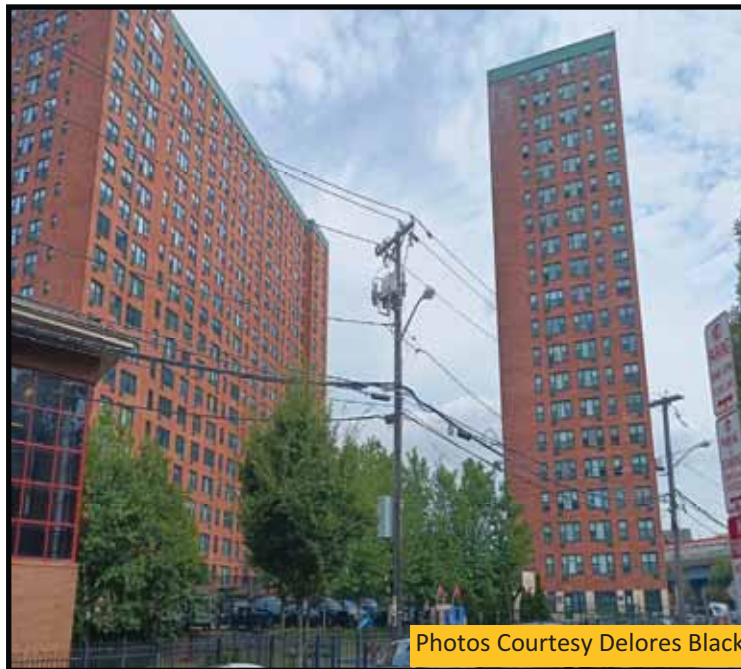
GARDEN SPIRES: MILLIONS ON RENOVATIONS FOR THIS?

By Lev D. Zilbermints

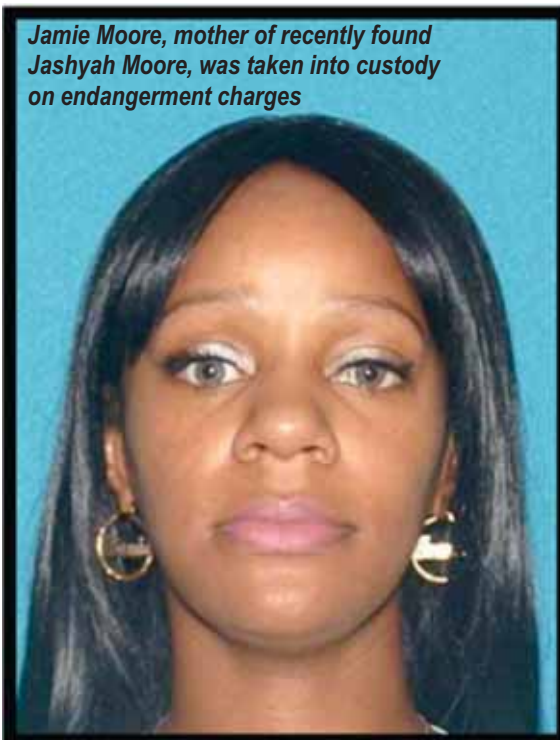
Slow repairs, vermin, no heat, hot water for weeks

Tenants at Garden Spires Apartments in Newark, New Jersey, are up in arms over what they say are patchwork repairs, no heat or hot water, and lots of vermin. This case was previously covered by nj.com in the October 18, 2021 issue of "The Star-Ledger." "Local Talk" has unearthed new information that sheds new light on an old problem. This information has come through extensive interviews with Delores Black, the tenant association president; online research; and the original nj.com article.

(Continued on page 7)



Photos Courtesy Delores Black



Jamie Moore, mother of recently found Jashyah Moore, was taken into custody on endangerment charges

SHOCKING TURN IN MISSING GIRL CASE

By Walter Elliott

EAST ORANGE - About the only clear fact regarding Jashyah Moore's Nov. 11 finding and mother Jamie's Nov. 12 arrest is neither they nor Jashyah's three-year-old brother will be returning to their Third Ward house here anytime soon.

Jashyah, 14, and her brother, as Acting Essex County Prosecutor put it in his 11 a.m. Nov. 12. press conference in Newark, "is safely in custody between us and (the N.J. Department of Children and Families) Division of Child Protection and Permanence."

News broke at 11 p.m. that Thursday that Jashyah was found by NYPD on the corner of 110th St. and Lenox Ave. in Harlem. Although she had cut most of her hair off, she was discovered there by a good Samaritan while waiting for an acquaintance to show.


"Jashyah is a resourceful girl," said Stephens Friday. "She took a circuitous route in New Jersey to New York. She had been staying in a shelter in Brooklyn."

Jashyah Moore's story brought a massive 29-day missing person's search, and its growing momentum, to an end.

The fallout involving Jamie Moore, since ECPO's 5 p.m. Nov. 12 arrest announcement, may have just begun.

Jamie Moore, 40, is being held until at least Nov. 23 in Newark's Essex County Cor-

(Continued on page 5)



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Turn To PAGE 9



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The third wave of the coronavirus pandemic is showing its course. In the United States, the new cases were down to 10,000 cases per day. Now all of a sudden it is above 50,000 cases per day in the past week. Also, COVID-19 deaths have gone from as low as 41 deaths in July to about 2,252 deaths a day in September. As of Nov. 16, it was 1,414 deaths. What is the reason? California leads the US with 5.2 million cases so far, with 73,487 deaths. They are followed by Texas, Florida, New York and Illinois.

Maine leads the nation in vaccination. In Maine, 99% of people over age 65 have been fully vaccinated. They are followed by Minnesota, Vermont, and Wisconsin. New Jersey has about 96.2% of those above age

65 vaccinated, while New York has about 90.4% above 65 vaccinated.

The United States is leading in new daily COVID cases and deaths with 87,133 cases and 1,282 deaths on Nov. 16. If you look around, many people have stopped using masks when visiting stores or restaurants. In the U.S., Minnesota is leading the nation with 10,656 daily cases and Arizona with 83 daily deaths as of Nov. 16. I hope that people follow the strict regulations of covering their faces with masks. The craze of eating outside must be stopped and whenever you go, cover yourself and make sure you are fully vaccinated.

The Biden administration will spend billions to increase the production of vaccines for poor nations. Some people who do not believe in vaccination and think that vaccination is a way to control people did not like Biden's administration spending money on vaccination. There is anger as to why the Biden administration is spending too much tax dollars on pet projects, which are outside of America, like climate control, vaccinations and the list goes on and on.

Biden is failing on border control and as soon as he got pressure, he announced the opening the borders for legal and asylum purposes only. Still, more and more people are trying to cross the border. Our economy is in trouble, as the inflation rate is climbing up. The annual inflation rate in the U.S. likely increased to 5.8% in October of 2021 which would be the highest rate since December of 1990. October's inflation rate is 6.2%.

In other big news, after a long time, two men accused of killing Malcolm X have been exonerated. According to the New York Times; "Two of the three men convicted of killing the civil rights activist Malcolm X are expected to have their convictions thrown out Thursday. The men - Muhammad A. Aziz and Khalil Islam - always maintained their innocence in the 1965 assassination of Malcolm X, who rose to become one of the most prominent leaders of the civil rights movement.

"Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance and lawyers representing the two men first told The New York Times that they expected the names of Aziz and

Islam to be cleared Thursday. Vance and the Innocence Project, which represents the two men, confirmed to NBC News that they would 'move to vacate the wrongful convictions of two individuals for the murder of Malcolm X' on Thursday afternoon. Islam died in 2009, but Aziz, who is in his 80s, continued to fight to clear his record.

"The development follows a 22-month investigation and decades of speculation that the case was mishandled from the start. Malcolm X was assassinated Feb. 21, 1965, at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City, where hundreds had gathered to hear him speak. Inside the ballroom, several men opened fire, striking him onstage."

On Nov. 17, President Biden got the chance to drive the first electric vehicle Hummer in an upscale GM Plant. In the near future, the Hummer EV (about \$110,000) will compete with Tesla Cybertruck.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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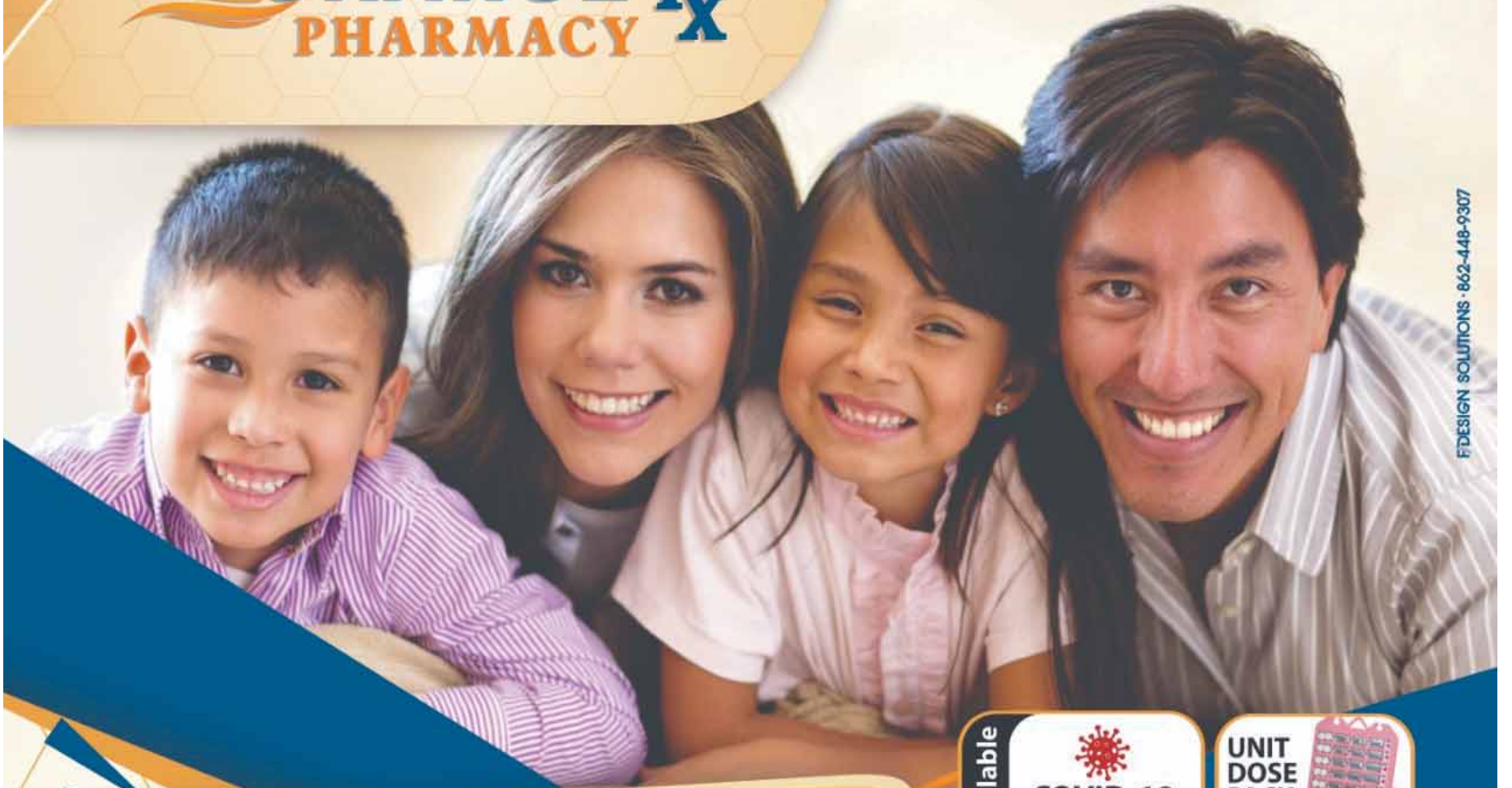
WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

COASTAL STORM THREAT

<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 Cloudy	Cloudy	Showers	Partly Cloudy / Wind	Mostly Sunny / Wind
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LO 40	LO 30	LO 38	LO 42	LO 34	LO 31	LO 32



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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Vaccine For 5-11 Year Olds: ACIP Cliff Notes

Here's the news we've all been waiting for - the CDC finally approves the vaccines for under 12 kids. It dragged on for so long it started to feel like it wasn't going to come this year, but thank goodness we have it now. Candidly, it started to look very

likely when the VRBPAC - Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee approved the vaccine for kids between 5 and 11, with a whopping 17 of 18 votes in the affirmative for the vaccine.

And it's not hard to see why - the longer the virus lingers amidst us, the higher the chances of the virus mutating and developing into a deadlier strain. Again. God, no.

Delta showed just how unprepared we were for the virus mutating. The vaccine we heralded as our saving grace was embarrassed by the juiced up Delta strain.

And in mid-July, the Delta hit hard across all populations. Children between 5 and 11 make up 8% of our population, and even their fresh immune system couldn't prevent them from getting it.

Now, the argument many make about children vaccination is how unnecessary it is given they are relatively low risk people. But there still is a risk, one a vaccine can effectively remove, or at the very least, reduce to the



absolute minimum.

People say only a few children actually die. And by few they mean close to 100. In what universe is that "a few?" Yes, I get that over 750 thousand people have died from COVID, but when you consider that COVID-19 is very close to being top five leading causes of death in these children, it starts to make more sense.

The reality is children within this age class have developing and a reasonably strong immune system. Also, they rarely have serious underlying conditions that can increase their risk of dying from COVID. But they can still get it and that's more than enough reason to get them vaccinated. Do I have to remind you why Delta even exists?

Okay, let me do the honors. Delta is a mutated strain of the parent coronavirus. There are other strains, but Delta is the most dangerous of all to us. This type of mutation will continue as long as people still have the virus. So, even a child at low risk of dying or even getting very sick can still get the virus, and see the virus mutating in them. They can then spread this mutated strain. It doesn't look so good now, does it?

This is why the VRBPAC voted 17 to 0 to 1 for the vaccine to be approved in this age class, judging that the potential benefits outweighed the risks.

The next was to get FDA and ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) approval, which the vaccine got. ACIP is basically the body that advises the CDC on immuniza-

tion practices. Now, the CDC recommends the vaccine for children within 5 and 11.

There always will be the debate of whether parents should risk their kids getting myocarditis. I don't know why this is a debate at all, considering you have higher chances of getting the condition from COVID than from the vaccine. Nonetheless, according to Pfizer trials, there were no recorded cases of myocarditis. There's no indication whatsoever that there will be.

The vaccine is approved, which means you can safely get it now. And you should - for the sake of everyone in the country. Stay safe.

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

References

- <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1102-PediatricCOVID-19Vaccine.html>

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NEWARK AND THE VIOLENCE

By Thomas Ellis II

Since the "24 Hours of Peace Event" in Newark, there have been several shootings, killings, strong arm robberies, and God knows how many car-jackings throughout the city.

On November 16 around 6:30 pm, two people were shot in the area of 39 Lincoln Street. One was a female, and the other victim a male, with one dying from their injuries. The ages ranged from 18 to 20, and both was rushed to University Hospital.

A few days ago, there was a shooting on Court Street. The police canvassed the area, but no victims were found.

It would take me a while to write about all the shootings that happened just this week alone and the week isn't even over yet, but what I do have time to write about is how all the violence in Newark makes the residents feel unsafe, and question how safe the city is.

It has been reported that

crime is down, but many of the residents that I have spoken with are not buying that, and are saying that there are too many shootings and killings going on in the city, no matter what ward.

We have now reached the end of daylight saving time, and it gets darker earlier, so people should be more aware of their surroundings and stay in a lighted area for their safety.

Of course, crime is not only occurring at night. On November 17, in the morning hours, Wendy's on Chancellor Avenue in the South Ward was robbed at gunpoint, with the robber taking \$5,000 after putting a gun to the employee's head.

It's really a shame what's going on with the crime and violence in the city, and there should be people all over the city speaking out, and coming up with a plan to address this serious public safety issue in the city of Newark. Many of the residents in the city feel like there is no plan, and the violence is getting out of hand.

SHOCKING TURN IN

MISSING GIRL CASE

(Continued from page 1)

rectional Facility She has been held on two counts of endangering the welfare of a child.

Moore was to face Superior Court Judge Michael L. Ravin 9 a.m. Nov. 17 in a pre-trial and bail hearing. Moore's attorney Duraan Neil, saying she just received discovery materials, sought and received the five-day postponement.

ECPO arrested the mother on a complaint based on the daughter's testimony. The daughter said that her mother had physically abused her for at least the last two years. That abuse includes pulling braids out of her hair, spraying bleach in her eyes, striking her head with a frying pan, stabbing her and putting her knees on her back and neck until she had difficulty breathing.

Jamie Moore had effectively kept her out of high school for 18 months. She had logged her out of remote learning in the

2020-21 school year and did not register her for 2021-22. The daughter's "free time" went to babysitting her younger brother, housekeeping and begging for change on city streets.

Stephens added that "CP&P had no open case file on Moore" from before or during the disappearance.

Stephens, Nov. 12, had indicated that ECPO's investigation was considering Moore's case as "a runaway" rather than "foul play." He said that there was no evidence of an abduction or a kidnapping, which kept Jashyah's name being put on Amber alert.

That Jashyah lost Jamie's debit card on way to a Central Avenue delicatessen 7:30 a.m. Oct. 14 became the last straw or shiver of fear remains to be heard.

Jamie said that she had sent her out to Poppie's Deli, 522-B Central Ave., to buy orange juice and paper towels. The daughter returned a few minutes later, saying she had lost the card.

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'backtrack you steps' to the deli," said Jamie several times. "She went back out - and that's the last I saw her."

A video surveillance recording at U.S. Quick Food Mart, 478 Central Ave., had Jashyah entering with "an older man." They both went to the counter, where the man paid for her purchases.

"The video showed no indication that she and the man left together," said East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi at a Nov. 5. press conference. "He has been fully cooperative with law enforcement; he is not a person of interest."

Nor is it known whether Jashyah's scheduling to testify against her ex-stepfather before a Newark grand jury Oct. 18. Her aunt, Yolanda Moore, told WPIX-Channel 11 Nov. 4 that her niece got the notice from New Jersey Superior Court regarding a simple assault charge going back to 2020 while the family had lived in Irvington.

Yolanda said that she saw the then stepfather twice strike

Jashyah back then. The stepfather, who has since separated from Jamie, was an East Orange police officer until his May 2020 firing.

It is not known whether the ex-police officer's indictment was handed down or not, or whether a new grand jury has been emplaned, as of press time.

"At this point, the domestic violence assault and the status of the missing person don't appear to be related," said ECPO spokeswoman Katherine Carter Nov. 4. "The domestic violence case against the defendant is proceeding. The missing person's case is being handled by East Orange."

Jamie Moore said she began searching local delis for Jashyah an hour after her not returning. She flagged down an EOPD squad car along Central Avenue and told of her missing daughter.

"This isn't like Jashyah," said Jamie. "She doesn't stay out at night. She's a homebody, likes to play video games with her younger brother."

(Continued on page 11)



BANNON INDICTED

UNITED STATES

On Nov. 12, one of former President Trump's closest advisers paid for his noncompliance.

Stephen K. Bannon was indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts of contempt of Congress stemming from his failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the House Select Committee investigating the Jan. 6 breach of the U.S. Capitol.

Bannon, 67, is charged with one contempt count involving his refusal to appear for a deposition and another involving his refusal to produce documents, despite a subpoena from the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol. An arraignment date has not yet been set in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

"Since my first day in office, I have promised Justice Department employees that together we would show the American people by word and deed that the department adheres to the rule of law, follows the facts and the law and pursues equal justice under the law," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "Today's charges reflect the department's steadfast commitment to these principles."

"As detailed in the indictment, on Sept. 23, 2021, the Select Committee issued a subpoena to Mr. Bannon," said U.S. Attorney Matthew M. Graves for the District of Columbia. "The subpoena required him to appear and produce documents to the Select Committee, and to appear for a deposition before the Select Committee. According to the indictment, Mr. Bannon refused

to appear to give testimony as required by subpoena and refused to produce documents in compliance with a subpoena."

In its subpoena, the Select Committee said it had reason to believe that Bannon had information relevant to understanding events related to Jan. 6. Bannon, formerly a Chief Strategist and Counselor to the President, has been a private citizen since departing the White House in 2017.

Each count of contempt of Congress carries a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of one year in jail, as well as a fine of \$100 to \$100,000. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

An indictment is merely an allegation and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The case is being investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office. The case is being prosecuted by the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

PFIZER SHARING COVID-19 DRUG

WORLD

Access to a new COVID-19 drug will be expanded in low- and middle-income countries following a voluntary licensing agreement between the pharmaceutical company Pfizer and a UN-backed global health initiative, announced in Geneva on Nov. 16.

The oral antiviral therapy PF-07321332 is designed to block the activity of the SARS-CoV-2-3CL protease, an enzyme the coronavirus needs to replicate.

It is administered together with low dose ritonavir, used in some treatments for HIV and hepatitis C.

The agreement will allow the

UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) to sub-license PF-07321332 for production and distribution by qualified generic medicine manufacturers worldwide, pending regulatory authorization and approval.

"This is the first license allowing generic manufacturing of this drug," said Hervé Verhoosel, spokesperson with Unitaid, the global health agency that created the MPP a decade ago.

"It is an important first step to help ensure that the latest tools for fighting COVID-19 are available in low- and middle-income countries at the same time as they become available in the wealthiest nations."

PF-07321332 is administered with ritonavir so it can remain active in the body for longer periods of time at higher concentrations to help combat coronavirus.

The combination was found to reduce risk of hospitalization or death by nearly 90 per cent, according to an interim analysis of phase two trials of non-hospitalized high-risk adults with COVID-19.

Under the agreement, qualified generic medicine manufacturers that are granted sub-licenses will be able to supply PF-07321332, in combination with ritonavir, to 95 countries, covering around 53 percent of the global population.

They include all low- and middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as nations which have achieved upper-middle-income status in the past five years.

Mr. Verhoosel said Pfizer will not receive royalties on sales in low-income countries. The company will also waive royalties on sales in all countries covered by the agreement while COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, as classified by the World Health Organization (WHO).

DEATH PENALTY FOR ABORTION?

MIDDLE EAST

A new Iranian law that raises the prospect of the death penalty for abortion has been condemned by independent human rights experts, who have declared that is in "clear contravention of international law."

In a statement released on Nov. 16, the experts called on the Iranian authorities to repeal the 'Youthful Population and Protection of the Family' law, which was ratified by Iran's Guardian Council on the first of November.

The law, said the experts, severely restricts access to abortion, contraception, voluntary sterilization services and related information, in direct violation of women's human rights under international law, and contains a provision stating that if carried out on a large scale, abortion would fall under the crime of "corruption on earth" and carry the death penalty.

"The Iranian Government is taking further steps to use criminal law to restrict the rights of women, for the sake of increasing the number of births, which will effectively force many women and girls to continue unwanted pregnancies to term which would be inherently discriminatory," the experts declared.

Abortion in Iran is effectively banned, apart from a few exceptions. The new law puts the final decisions on therapeutic abortion - in case of threat to the life of the pregnant woman or fetal anomalies - in the hands of a panel consisting of a judge, medical doctor and forensic doctor, rather than on the pregnant women, supported by the medical doctor.

For the UN experts, the law violates the rights to life and health, the right to non-

(Continued on page 15)

GARDEN SPIRES

(Continued from page 1)

According to ApartmentFinder.com, the building was built in 1963. Located at 175-199 1st Street, Newark, New Jersey, the property is managed by Reliant Realty Servicers, LLC. According to nj.com, Reliant is the property management company of Omni America, which is based in New York. Monthly rent at Garden Spires varies between \$1,192 - \$1,653 for one to three bedrooms. The size of these bedrooms is 801 - 1,241 square feet.

Lease terms are for twelve months. Expenses include utilities, such as gas, water, electricity, heat and trash removal. According to ApartmentFinder.com, laundry facilities, high-speed Internet access, heating, smoke-free areas, a security system, oven and refrigerator are all available at Garden Spires Apartments. No pets are allowed. The building is located next to the Orange Street light rail station and five minutes away from NJIT, Rutgers, and Essex County College.

The Garden Spires buildings underwent renovations that cost at least \$172 million, nj.com reported in its October 18 article. As reported by nj.com, Omni America purchased Garden Spires from its controversial former owner, First King Properties, for \$45.3 million in 2018. Extensive renovations, at Garden and Spruce Spires included new flooring, appliances, and fresh coats of paint, nj.com reported.

Ron Torossian, the Garden Spires spokesperson, told nj.com that the cost of renovation at Garden Spires was \$57.8 million.

On November 9, at about 9:44 a.m., "Local Talk" contacted property management by phone. A woman answered. Asked if this was Garden Spires, she said yes. After a reporter identified himself and attempted to ask questions, the woman hung up.

According to Delores Black, President of the Garden Spires Tenants Association, "the problems started again after renovation [March 2020] because it was simply polished over and not completely renovated."

Asked what completely renovated meant, Black said in an email that the job should be done properly.

"Repairs should be repaired. Old rusted and molded pipes should have been removed and not patched. Paint should have been scraped, smoothed and repainted. Mice holes should be covered instead of plugged with steel wool. Whatever is seeping from the walls should be scraped, plastered and painted. Parking should be available for all tenants as stated by management and not just occupied by management and staff."

By way of example, Black pointed to the painting done at Garden Spires. "Paint [is] so thick it begins to peel after a year. There are/were holes in the walls because everything is just patchwork," Black wrote to "Local Talk" in an email interview.

The Garden Spires Tenants Association president was adamant that the property management company, Reliant, owned by Omni America, based in New York, is not doing enough to address tenants' complaints.

"Property management is rude and disrespectful, regularly hangs up," Black told "Local Talk" in a phone interview on November 9.

"It is simply NY business owners here in NJ doing their business with no accountability and oversight."

No heat nor hot water. Supermarket closed.

Black wrote in her email interview that "we [tenants] haven't had heat nor hot water for weeks. By law, heat was supposed to be on October 15, 2021. We are barely notified of the heat, hot water, and sometimes no water at all. We are ONLY notified after complaining and the notices are never dated."

According to the October 18 nj.com article, Garden Spires spokesman Ronn Torossian said that a plumbing issue was found inside Garden Spires' walls that during a September inspection that "could not have been foreseen during the rehab process."

"We have an estimated budget for repairs and maintenance at the property each year; (Continued on page 12)

BANKRUPTCY

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	11-10-2021	Deaths	11-17-2021	Deaths
Belleville	6331	120	6360	120
Bloomfield	6060	127	6091	127
Caldwell	707	16	710	16
Cedar Grove	1756	121	1770	121
East Orange	8251	337	8296	337
Essex Fells	216	2	218	2
Fairfield	1027	33	1052	33
Glen Ridge	474	14	475	14
Irvington	5458	244	5502	244
Livingston	2183	89	2194	89
Maplewood	1593	42	1612	42
Millburn	1040	11	1050	11
Montclair	2708	76	2729	76
Newark	41302	1063	41560	1064
North Caldwell	587	8	590	8
Nutley	3542	68	3574	68
Orange	3934	144	3961	144
Roseland	552	17	559	17
South Orange	1168	17	1178	18
Verona	1195	18	1206	18
West Caldwell	1198	54	1203	54
West Orange	5245	236	5277	236
Total	96527	2857	97167	2859

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of November 17, 2021)
NJ: 1,062,640 cases / 25,401 deaths (Plus 2,819 probable)
United States (approx.): 47.367 Million / 766,700 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 254.81 Million / 5.121 Million deaths

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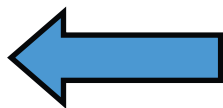
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| Bloomfield: | 135 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite B | Tel. 973-743-2248 |
| Newark: | 202 Stuyvesant Ave. | Tel. 973-374-8807 |
| West Orange: | 77 Main Street (Sleep Center) | Tel. 973-324-2090 |
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TOWN 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 / BELLEVILLE - Columbus Hospital's second name change in 100 years, as unveiled by Newark, Belleville and Bloomfield officials Nov. 11, has some locals turning heads.

Newark North Ward Councilman Anibal Ramos, Jr. Belleville Mayor Michael Melham and Bloomfield Mayor helped celebrate Prime Healthcare's addition of a Dual Diagnosis Department at 495 North 13th St. with a ribbon-cutting that Thursday morning. The cutting was made at the ambulance entrance - and below where the new "Silver Lake Hospital" sign now stands.

Belleville's Silver Lake section stops three blocks northwest of the hospital. It is not known whether Meadow Brook, a long-underground now-sewer that used to feed Second River water for the actual Silver Lake, ever got near the hospital.

Columbus Hospital's founding in 1921 provides a clue. Several Italian Newark doctors first set up shop at North 12th and Beardsley to better serve their communities in North Newark-Forest Hill, Bloomfield-East Orange's Ampere and Belleville's Silver Lake sections. Columbus moved to its present site in 1934.

Cathedral Health East, who bought Columbus, St. Michael's Medical Center and St. James Hospitals, added "Long Term Acute Care Hospital" to Columbus' name in 2010. It, St. Michael's and the St. James Medical Pavillion are now owned by Prime Healthcare, of Ontario, Calif. The now-Silver Lake Hospital continues its LTACH functions.

The namesake Silver Lake

was created in 1730 when wood mill owner Jasper Crane dammed up Meadow Brook at where St. Anthony of Padua Church now stands. It created a pool a half-mile long and 300 feet wide from the corner of North Sixth Street and Heller Parkway and along North 13th Street. It was drained after a July 30, 1889 rainstorm burst the dam.

Patients could have gone to "Sunfish Pond" Hospital - Crane's original name for the lake.

Newark Mayor and Public Safety Director Issue Joint Statement on Shootings

"Newark Police Shooting Response Team detectives are vigorously investigating four non-fatal incidents of gun violence that occurred last night, resulting in eight victims. We are shocked and disgusted by this outrageous level of senseless violence and it will not be tolerated. While we continue to work intensively around the clock with our law enforcement partners, as evidenced made by the illegal guns recovered and arrests in the last 24 hours, we need the entire judicial system to help us as many of these persons involved were released into the community despite having pending criminal cases and previous weapons offenses.

"Without fail, our patrol officers immediately responded to each incident, rendering aid until EMS arrived. This level of gun violence is entirely unacceptable and we implore all concerned community members, who are also rightfully outraged, to come forward with any information that can assist us in identifying these suspects, who have callously inflicted violence on our streets.

"Newark Police are investigating the shooting of two adult males in the area of Lincoln Street and Court Street that occurred just before 6:25 p.m. yesterday (Nov. 16). One victim is reportedly in critical condition, while the second victim's condition is listed as stable.

"Just before 8:10 p.m., two juvenile male victims, ages 15 and 17, were located by police shot while riding in a stolen car in the area of Quitman Street near Montgomery Street. Both

victims are reportedly in critical condition.

"In a separate shooting incident at Maybaum Avenue near Tremont Avenue, police located one male who had been shot just before 8:40 p.m. While police were with the victim at University Hospital, a second shooting victim, a 15-year-old male juvenile, arrived. Both victims are reportedly in stable condition.

"At approximately 10:10 p.m., police responded to the area of 17th Avenue and Hunterdon Street where they located a man who had been shot. The victim was transported to University Hospital, where he is reportedly in stable condition. A second adult male victim arrived at the hospital in a private vehicle. Both victims are reportedly in stable condition.

"Shooting detectives are also investigating incident in the 100 block of Telford Street, where an arrest was made following a firearm discharge.

"Each incident remains under investigation. Updates will be provided as information becomes available."

IRVINGTON - "Local Talk" has learned that a celebration of life service for James and Shenique McGee was held at Newark's Whigham Funeral Home Sept. 24. Their last rites were recorded on Whigham580's Facebook page.

That service for father James, 66, and daughter Shenique, 46, who died during Tropical Storm Ida Sept. 1-2, was made largely possible by contributions from their acquaintances and the Irvington community.

The owner of Manhattan's New London Pharmacy, for example, raised at least \$13,000 for James' widow, Joann. James was a longtime employee of the Chelsea section drug store.

Wonder Foods, Inc., had meanwhile raised at least \$9,000 in honor of Shenique. Shenique was a chef in their Cranford Central Kitchen.

Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss personally gave Joann McGee \$3,400 on Sept. 22 for funeral expenses. Vauss said that the bulk of the contributions were cash donations of \$5 and \$10 from Irvingtonians.

James and Shenique were shoring up the basement of their

Lincoln Place house when a bang was heard and the adjacent overflowing Elizabeth River rushed in Sept. 1. They were two of five identified Essex County Ida victims.

Brother and uncle Darrell is also among the McGee's survivors.

EAST ORANGE - Police have also been looking out for a late model BMW - and the driver who carjacked - since Nov. 8.

EOPD officers, responding to "a carjacking in progress," found a victim along South Harrison Street at 6:35 p.m. that Monday.

The victim said that a male used force to take his car - a 2017 blue four-door BMW with NJ license plate number B80-MVA. The car was last seen driving south on South Harrison "towards Orange."

ORANGE - The Hillsborough County (Fla.) Sheriff's Office has a Plant City man in custody since Nov. 11 regarding the murder of an Orange man there.

Sheriff's deputies said they went to the intersection of North Wilder and Williams roads, in response to a "shots fired" call, 2 a.m. that Thursday in Plant City.

Deputies first found a crashed car there with two men inside. Both men - including Solomon Cohen, 25, of Orange - had been shot. Cohen was declared dead at the scene.

Investigating officers meanwhile interviewed Michael Cappella, 19, of Plant City, at the scene. Cappella told them that he had "an interaction" with Cohen before shooting at the vehicle.

Cappella's shooting caused the driver to lose control and crash. Authorities have not said what the Cohen-Cappella altercation was about, nor had identified whether Cohen or the injured man was the driver.

Cappella is being held on murder, attempted murder and shooting into a car. The unidentified passenger remains hospitalized.

There are no funeral announcements for Cohen, who used to live in the Seven Oakes section, as of press time.

WEST ORANGE / LIVINGSTON - There is one legislator, west of "Local Talk" territory, (Continued on page 14)

SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Keith Munford



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school football state sectional semifinals got the state closer to crowning its champions. First, the East Orange Jaguars remained perfect this past weekend, despite a one hour delay due to thunderstorms. The Jaguars defended their home turf and beat rival West Orange 14-0 at Paul Roberson Stadium.

5 State Championship. PCT recently beat Ridgewood 28-9 to get to the title game. East Orange last appeared in a sectional title game back in 2009, when they were joined by fellow Essex County school West Side in winning crowns at Giants Stadium.

As for another Essex team, the 9-2 Irvington Blue Knights are going to a state championship game thanks to a 14-7 win



The action broke open in the third quarter when Kyle Louis took a punt return 70 yards for a touchdown. Senior Raeden Oliver, who is head coach Rae Oliver's son, added a 3-yard TD run to finish off the Mountaineers.

East Orange is now 10-0 on the season, and for the first time will host the championship game at home on Saturday against a tough Passaic County Tech for the North Jersey Section 1 Group

over Colonia. They will take on Middletown South for the North Jersey Section 2 Group 4 title. With both teams carrying tough defenses, points will be hard to come by.

In the NFL, the Jets were grounded by the Bills 45-17. This result further added to a war of words between current coach Robert Saleh and former coach Rex Ryan, who took exception to people comparing the two.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Orange Township will conduct two (2) Public Hearings for the 2022 Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnership Program applications.

The Public Hearings will be held Thursday, December 2, 2022 (Session 1 - 9:00 am to 11:00 am) and (Session 2 - 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm). Applications can be pick up from Orange City Hall, 29 North Day Street, 1st Floor Security Desk Orange, New Jersey.

Hon. Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. Mayor Marty Mayes Director Wendy M. Sykes, MHS Grants Management/Dir

SHOCKING TURN IN

MISSING GIRL CASE

(Continued from page 5)

"Have You Seen Jashyah?" missing person posters and handbills started appearing online Oct. 25 and physically Oct. 28. The first, family made poster WPIX reporter Mary Murphy's Facebook page that Saturday.

The official poster was put on East Orange City Hall's FB page that Thursday. The poster, over time, would have its \$10,000 Essex County Sheriff's Office CrimeStoppers reward doubled by Nov. 10. The FBI-Newark Office, the State Police, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and, on Nov. 11, ECPO, joined EOPD's search.

Jashyah Moore's disappearance meanwhile got mentioned on the D.L. Hughley Show and by West Orange resident Whoopi Goldberg on "The View."

Volunteers held two Central Avenue handbill canvassing

campaigns, including one with the East Orange Fire Department. Moore's handbills became a common sight along Central Avenue and other commercial areas in East Orange, Irvington, Orange and Newark.

A police search party, assisted by the Orange Police Department, probed the depth of a Monte Irvin Orange Park pond with sonar. The Elizabeth Police Department supplied one of its drones.

Stephens said that 50 officers from various law enforcement agencies were combing for leads. Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green and Bindi were planning to hold 11 a.m. Wednesday Zoom updates on the case for the media.

Those Zoom update briefings and a 6:30 p.m. Nov. 12 prayer vigil for Jashyah, hosted in part by the East Orange Clergy Affairs Alliance, were called off when she was found Nov. 11.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Don't Get Caught In The Crowd

When I awoke this morning to write my reflection on the deceptiveness and destructiveness of crowd mentality, my mind turned to the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse that lasted for two weeks, with dozens of witnesses, photo evidence and video clips, as well as testimony from Kyle himself.

Kyle was accused of fatally shooting two men and injuring a third. At the moment of this reflection, the case is in the hands of the jury that sat in the courtroom and watched intently as the prosecution and the defense delivered dueling narratives in their arguments. At the center of the trial is the question of whether Kyle was reasonable in his belief that shooting the three men was necessary to save himself from death or serious injury.

In taking the witness stand, Kyle insisted, "I didn't do anything wrong; I was defending myself." In his closing argument, the prosecutor, Thomas Binger, urged the jury to "Look for the truth," with the subsidiary comment that, "So many people look at this case, and they see what they want to see."

On the other hand, Mark Richards, the defense attorney, argued that the case was "a political case." "We can take politics out of it," he said, "as in Democrat and Republican, but the district attorney's office is marching forward with this case because

they need somebody to be responsible. They need somebody to put and say, we did it; *he's* the person who brought terror to Kenosha."

My interest in the trial is not so much to report on what took place in the courtroom, to speak of the judge's outburst as he screamed at the prosecutor, by claiming that the prosecutor had been bringing extraneous information into the trial, after being instructed not to do so. Neither am I interested in analyzing whether Kyle's tears in the courtroom were intended to impress the jury or the external world watching on TV. Nor am I interested in whether the jury will find Kyle guilty or not guilty. No! No!

My interest and pity go out to Kyle and all the little persons who are being caught up in the mentality of the crowds that are crying out for justice or what some are not sure of. Yes, it is pathetic that so many in the crowds are crying out, but have no notion what they are crying for. The crowd's mentality is reminiscent of the trial of Jesus when the crowd was saying, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Again, I do not say that Mr. Rittenhouse or all of the little people who get caught up in the crowds should get away without being responsible and accountable, but I think of the injustice when all of the people who inspire the crowds seem to be getting away scot-free.

In thinking of the crowd, my mind rests on an incisive comment that widely known author, speaker and commentator Charles Colson, and a co-author Harold Fickett, made many years ago in their book, *The Faith*. The comment seems very prophetic and contemporary, so I quote it in detail:

reported as saying.

According to nj.com, Torossian said, "this was a significant and necessary repair that was in the best interests of the residents to prevent any further long-term issues."

Torossian told nj.com that Garden Spires does not have control over the on-site supermarket because it is a commercial tenant.

Black told "Local Talk" that

"As we've seen, Satan practices his deception not only on individuals but on entire cultures. He uses *false religions* and *false ideas* to ensnare cultures into evil. If he can turn people toward worshipping a false god, he can compromise millions of consciences at once.

The most tragic instances of this phenomenon come in the form of otherwise decent men and women carrying out crimes against humanity. Hitler was a monster, but thousands upon thousands of normal Germans ran the Nazi war machine and the Holocaust death camps. Ordinary people also carried out the Turk's genocide against the Armenians, ran the Soviet Gulag and China's Cultural Revolution, Pol Pot's Killing Fields, and the Rwandan genocide. . . In our country (USA), slavery turned otherwise good Christian hearts to stone, which continued to manifest itself in segregation and today's racial division." (*The Faith*, 2008, p. 79) (Emphasis mine).

Does the above sound prophetic and contemporary? What Reinhold Niebuhr wrote in his book, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*, is also true. He noted that while many people might do moral things while they are alone, when they are caught up with the crowd, they do evil things. The point I am making is that many people in our society today are just caught up in the crowd, and they are shouting, rioting, getting involved in insurrections, shooting, calling for the death of those they think are standing in opposition to them,

the "supermarket should be owned and operated by those in the community. The store would benefit greatly."

As matters stand, "supermarket has been shut for weeks now," Black wrote in her email. This is major problem for tenants because, as reported by nj.com, they have no way to get to stores. Nj.com reported that the supermarket was closed multiple times due to rodent infesta-

and exhibiting all kinds of destructive behaviors that they might not have done by themselves.

As I have stated, some leaders are urging them on; whether they are standing or sitting in silence or passing laws to protect the outrageous behavior, we are to take note. But do not miss the point that many people are being destroyed because they are standing with the crowd instead of taking time to recognize the demons in these crowds with their satanic beliefs and ideas.

After observing the above, all I can do is issue the following seven points of encouragement to anyone who would wish to be called a child of God:

1. Do not get corrupted in the emotions of a crowd
2. Do not get your mind messed up
3. Do not lose your individuality
4. Do not destroy your good character
5. Do not let anyone steal your sweetness
6. Do not let anyone push you to harden your heart
7. Do not let anyone make you into a monster

Of course, I must add the eighth warning from the writing of the apostle Paul, which he offered to Christians in Rome:

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you (Romans 12:2 TLB).

A final plea is this: Don't get caught up with the crowd.

GARDEN SPIRES

(Continued from page 7)

however, we make all repairs as needed, regardless of any estimated operating budget. In 2021, due to the plumbing issue... and various other items we have addressed to include the increased expenses due to COVID-19, the property expenses have far exceeded the budget," Torossian is

tion. It was closed when NJ Advance Media toured Garden Spires on September 30.

Inspectors do not see full picture

As reported by nj.com, Newark's city code enforcers did an inspection in September. As reported by nj.com, as city spokeswoman said that the inspectors

(Continued on page 14)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS MUNICIPAL GRANT CONSULTANT

The City of Orange Township desires to appoint a firm to serve as a 2022 Grant Consultant to the municipality. The applicant should demonstrate knowledge of and familiarity with County, State, and Federal agencies and procedures related to the identification, research, planning, preparation, and submission of grant-in-aid applications for use in local government.

MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

1. The firm must have at least five (5) years experience in providing the grant consulting services referenced herein.
2. The firm must provide a list of other public entity clients, which the firm either in the past or present has represented with favorable outcomes.
3. Any firm associate who may handle the municipality's grant consulting services must have an identifiable supervisor or managing partner who will be responsible for direct oversight and assistance to the consultant and the municipality.
4. The consulting firm must have a bona fide office registered in the State of New Jersey.
5. The consulting firm must have a representative available to meet with municipality department heads or appointed person(s) to prep for grant submissions and post grant determination conferences.

EXAMPLES OF CONSULTING ACTIVITIES

1. Coordinates with the Business Administrator's Office – Grants Management and Compliance division in the research, acquisition, and follow-up of County, State, Federal and non-government grant pro-

grams that support the City's functions, goals, and objectives.

2. Meets with the Department Heads, or their designees, on a regular basis to review current grant funding activities to ensure that application deadlines are met.
3. Prepares specific applications for grant funds and provides technical assistance to municipal representatives regarding grant applications to improve their chances for success.
4. Maintains an inventory of all grant activity and prepares a monthly status report of all current and pending grants.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

1. The firm must certify that none of its principles or associates has any conflict of interest in providing such services to the City of Orange Township.

SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Respondents must submit an original and five (5) copies of their qualifications to the designated contact person.

City of Orange Township
 Department of Administration
 29 North Day Street
 Orange, New Jersey 07050

Attention: Chris Hartwyk, Business Administrator

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GARDEN SPIRES*(Continued from page 12)*

found violations that included roach and mice infestation, bathroom leaks, defective stoves and overloaded dumpsters, as well as defective entry doors and a number of units that needed to be repainted.

Black says that until all repairs are done properly things will stay the way they are.

"The same patchwork that happened in the beginning is the same patchwork happening 10/28/21 until inspection is complete. ... We had inspectors come out but management controlled what units they went to. [This] is not fair because of course, management sent them to units where folks had no issues. Mainly Section 8 tenants."

"The roach, mice infestations, bathroom leaks, defective stoves and overloaded dumpsters were also patch jobs," Black wrote in her email response to "Local Talk's" questions.

In a phone interview on November 9, Delores Black told "Local Talk" "Section 8 apartments are in better shape than rest of apartments." Black feels this is because management knows that they have to abide by certain criteria for Section 8 tenants.

As cited by nj.com in its October 18 article, according to state Department of Community Affairs spokesperson Tammori Petty, "many tenants are still re-

luctant to let inspectors into their units due to COVID-19."

When asked, Delores Black denied that tenants did not allow inspectors access because of COVID-19. Rather, it was a question of advance notice, the tenant association president said.

"COVID-19 is not to blame for tenants' reluctance. With proper notice, tenants will allow entry into their units," Black said.

Political Stalemate

As reported by nj.com, in 2017 Ron Rice, D-Essex and Jennifer Beck, D-Monmouth, introduced a bill that would cut off rental subsidies to landlords with significant code violations. The bill never made it to a vote of the New Jersey Legislature. Since then, no similar bills have been put forth.

On the city level, nj.com on October 18 reported that Newark mayor Ras Baraka would ultimately want subsidies to the city to be cut off if the company rises to the level of mismanagement. City spokeswoman Crystal Rosa told nj.com "The City is on top of this. Management, Councilmember LaMonica McIver, and code enforcement officers met with Omni... to discuss these issues and Omni has agreed to abate the violations. City Code Manager Thomas McDonald said the meeting was very positive."

Black told "Local Talk" via email, "Councilwoman LaMon-

ica McIver has been involved from the beginning. The city, allegedly "cannot do anything because we're in litigation."

According to nj.com, in 2017 Mayor Ras Baraka's administration filed a lawsuit against the former owner, First King Properties, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which provides subsidies, over the uninhabitable conditions. As reported by nj.com, the lawsuit was dismissed, and federal officials previously said First King Properties agreed to pay \$800,000.

According to nj.com, Olga Alvarez, the HUD spokeswoman, expressed confidence in Omni, despite complaints from some tenants.

"The new owner has been working to ensure that the units are decent, safe, and sanitary. Omni America is responsive and is addressing tenant concerns," Olga Alvarez is reported by nj.com as saying.

Harassment of vocal tenants. Litigation

Delores Black, the Garden Spires Tenants president said that vocal residents who complained about problems were harassed.

"Yes, other vocal tenants are being harassed and threatened with eviction. Management have MRT put "Lease Violation" notices on the vocal tenants' doors," Black wrote in her email.

Asked about litigation, Black

Some 60 SOMEA members, several of which had to stand in the outside hallway, took up most of the seats in the SOMSD Administration Building board conference room Monday evening. Members, led by SOMEA President Rocio Lopez, took two-minute turns decrying the lack of a new contract and its ramifications.

SOMEA and SOMSD are at a negotiations impasse since earlier this fall. They are being paid as per the expired contract. The Orange Public Schools and the Orange Education Association are the only other "Local Talk" school district who have started the 2021-22 year without a new contract.

Lopez distributed charts of salary ranges compared against West Orange and Montclair.

said that "there are several litigations going on with landlord tenant and criminal municipal court. They [Reliant and Omni] are represented by Sung Lo Yoon with Ehrlich, Petriello, Gudin, Plaza and Redd firm from 60 Park Place, Newark. They just hired them this year because the New York attorney they had was not registered in New Jersey. [This] means all of the settled and eviction cases from last year should be dismissed as my [case] was," Black wrote in her email.

Black said that she filed a lawsuit about parking. "They [management] countered and I was banned from parking on the premises as a tenant with my 3-month-old baby girl. I sat in my truck with my baby during Hurricane Ida because security was told by management not to allow me on premises.

The other litigations are criminal with management Angeli Ross and Rachel Pichardo. Both filed charges after I filed harassment. One [charge] is for "terroristic threats" and the other I am not sure of", Black wrote in her email.

Lastly, Black denied Ronn Torossian's allegation, first reported in nj.com, that her rent was not paid.

"Also, my rent is paid in full to 1/1/22. I am not a menace just because I address issues. How childish of the spokesperson. How disrespectful of management to revoke the parking space and ban a tenant/mother who had just given birth by C-section."

SOMEA teachers with a bachelor's degree in their third year earn \$53,660. Similar West Orange teachers make \$57,681 and Montclair teachers \$59,895.

SOMSD Board President Thair Johnson said, in an October statement, that the board declared an impasse after the union rejected two offers. The latter offer was a three-year contract with annual two-percent increases. The first was a one-year contract with a salary increase.

The union, between the BOE Negotiations Committee's offers, proposed a four-year contract featuring a 6.14 percent increase the first year and 3.3 percent annually the other three years.

Johnson said that 6.14 percent was "almost double the current average of 3.13 percent an-

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TOWN WATCH*(Continued from page 10)*

who is more than taking comments and complaints from Community Coach 77 riders along its route.

Livingston Township Councilman Michael Vieira told "Local Talk" in September that he was taking remarks from West Orange, Orange and East Orange who take the 77 along its route. The complaints included late or missing buses and communication problems with 77 parent CoachUSA. The July 15 death of dispatcher Maurice "Moe" Butler from COVID was another setback.

An Oct. 5 Vieira meeting with CoachUSA General Manager William Pelzer resulted in

WORLD NEWS (Continued from page 6)

discrimination and equality, and to freedom of expression by making it illegal to access a range of reproductive health services and share reproductive rights information.

The law also prohibits free distribution of contraceptive goods, and imposes a ban on voluntary sterilizations for men and women, aside from very exceptional cases. The

move, said the experts, will disproportionately impact women in situations of marginalization, and victims of sexual violence.

The package of measures contained in the law could, therefore, amount to gender-based violence because women denied safe abortions can incur mental and physical suffering, according to the UN experts.

Moreover, the criminalization of abortion can constitute cruel, degrading, and inhu-

mane treatment, and may amount to torture.

"We urge the Government to immediately repeal the law on 'Youthful Population and Protection of the Family' and to take measures to end the criminalization of abortion and to ensure that all women can access all necessary health services, including sexual and reproductive health care, in a manner that is safe, affordable, and consistent with their human rights," the experts said.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

nual salary increases negotiated between school boards and local education unions throughout the state."

BLOOMFIELD - Township police detectives are asking for the whereabouts of a 16-year-old resident, last seen here Dec. 6, in Irvington, East Orange, Newark and Passaic.

BPD top brass said that Xamavi Wilson, 16, was known to frequent neighborhoods in those four municipalities. She was last seen getting into a white Jeep here Dec. 6. (The Jeep's license plate number is not known.)

Wilson's foster parents here said that she would run away but return later that day or the next day.

BPD said, however, that Wilson was under N.J. Department of Children and Families Division of Child Protection and Permanency custody Dec. 6, 2020. DCP&P officials told police that Wilson had run away from previous foster families for months at a time.

Camden County authorities had found Wilson, who was reported missing from Winslow Township March 7, 2020, "in North Jersey" 48 hours later.

Xamavi Wilson is described as 5-ft., 7-in. African American weighing 160lbs. Wilson has dark brown eyes but was known to wear lighter-colored contact lenses.

Wilson, on Dec. 6, wore a black sweatshirt, black pants and black sneakers. She does not have a cell phone.

MONTCLAIR - A proposed ordinance that would have made additional Montclair Public Library funds' release contingent upon greater township financial control was tabled at Nov. 15's council meeting.

Mayor Sean Spillar, calling the township-library relationship "a collaborative process," asked the council to table their Nov. 1 resolution. Spillar announced that \$245,638 of the MPL budget, held since August, will be released.

Spillar's actions were the result of a three-week-long reaction to an Oct. 19 \$31,500 forensic audit made on MPL's 2019 and 20 budget and expenses. The PKF O'Connor Davies-Benecke Economics report found, for example, that MPL

fell short on its revenue by \$160,000 in 2019 and \$100,000 by overbudgeting.

The Nov. 1 resolution followed Bob Benecke and PKF's David Gannon's recommendation to have the township withhold the library's budget above the state minimum until MPL's board of Trustees turn over financial oversight to township administrators.

Montclair is obligated by state law and funding formula to supply MPL \$2,680,152. The council added \$419,848 in part to reopen the COVID-closed MPL's Bellevue Branch. Montclair's elders called the auditors when savings from when the Branch was closed and 32 MPL employees were furloughed in April 2020 were not found.

The post-audit release included the trustees disagreeing to the resolution and 10 people protesting before the Main Library Oct. 14.

GLEN RIDGE - That Gov. Phil Murphy had committed \$65 million towards the purchase of the former "Lower Boonton Line" from Norfolk Southern Nov. 12 may come as a welcome relief to Mayor Stuart Patrick and the Borough Council.

That sigh of relief could have been heard from Borough Hall that Friday a quarter-mile southwest to the Bloomfield Public Library, where Murphy (D-Rumson) made the announcement. The \$65 million, some of it coming from NJDOT and the newly-signed federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Patrick and the council, on June 22, 2020, approved applying for an NJDOT bicycle grant that would make its part of the 8.4-mile Montclair-Jersey City right of way.

Glen Ridge's bike grant application was two months ahead of the August 2020 agreement by NS to sell the right of way to the Open Space Institute. The freight railroad gave that third party until Jan. 1, 2020 to come up with the money.

The borough's application was also ahead of a two-year chorus of municipal and county officials who want the "Essex-Hudson Greenway." Resolutions were since passed by elders from Montclair, Bloomfield, Belleville, Newark and Jersey City plus Essex and Hudson counties.

The greenway started life as the Erie Railroad's Greenwood Lake Division from Jersey City. What was called the "Lower

Boonton Line" branched off the trunk line at Newark's Forest Hill Junction. Respective passenger and freight service ended Sept. 20, 2002 and 2010.

Buying the right of way from NS is the first step. Adaptive work includes making the WR Passaic River Drawbridge between Newark and Kearny safe for walkers and making a detour around the DB Drawbridge that has been left open for Hackensack River marine traffic between Kearny and Secaucus.

NUTLEY - The township held a community "Coach D. Memorial Day," honoring the late Nutley High School head football coach and U.S. Government teacher Steve DiGregorio, here on the Park Oval gridiron Nov. 14.

DiGregorio, 60, who guided the NHS Maroon Raiders to an 85-58 win-loss record over 11 seasons, died Oct. 12. His three-year battle against a rare pancreatic cancer called Ataxia-Telangiectasia caused him to temporarily turn over his whistle and clipboard to JD Vick in 2019. He came back for an undefeated 6-0 season in 2020, NHS's first since 1939, before retiring March 4.

"Digger" DiGregorio was a Maroon Rader and NHS Class of 1969 graduate who came back to coach 2004-11, 2017-18 and 2020. His teams reached as far as the 2009 NJSIAA North Jersey Section 2 Final game at Giants Stadium.

Wife Nadia, sons Zack, Derek and Aaron and sister Lynda are among his survivors. Derek, 24, has been battling A-T for half his life.



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