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THE HISTORY OF NEWARK'S 1919 AIRPORT

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Newark's first airport opened for business on Dec. 15, 1919 - but was closed before 1921 had ended.

This is not about what is now Newark Liberty International Airport nor its operator, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Although the Port Authority has been celebrating its centennial throughout 2021, the City of Newark did not begin leasing its municipal airport to them until 1948.

Photo from Dhiren Shah's Collection



Newark Municipal Airport was still a South Ward salt marsh when Heller Aviation Field, eight miles to its northwest, officially opened Dec. 15, 1919. Mayor Charles P. Gillen, landowner Peter E. Heller and 1,000 spectators witnessed Post Office Department officials cut a ribbon before Heller Field's hangar off Manchester Place in the

North Ward. Heller Field became part of an inaugural transcontinental U.S. Air Mail system that linked Washington, D.C. and New York City with Bellefonte, Pa. and points west after World War One. Pilots, fresh from the war, were carrying sacks of express mail aboard modified former Martin or De Haviland bombers. The end of the "War to End All Wars" was

in sight when the Post Office Department (now USPS) started looking for places to set up its air express network in late 1918. The Newark Board of Trade and Peter Heller approached them about leasing a 50-acre triangular tract near the city's northwest corner by Belleville.

Peter Heller and his younger brothers owned property in Newark's Forest Hill and Woodside sections and in Belleville. They made

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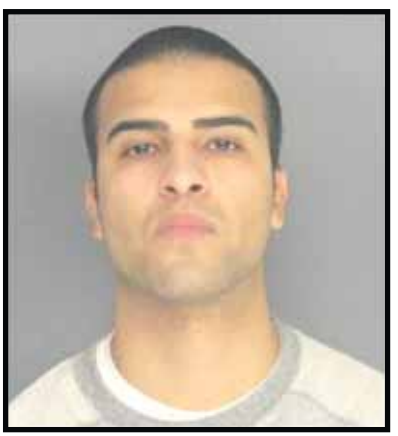
A car goes up in flames on Abinger Place in Newark's West Ward. Photo By Kristopher Seals

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OMICRON VARIANT LEAVES WORLD WORRIED

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NEWARK COP CHARGED WITH VEHICULAR HOMICIDE



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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The U.S. government has paid vaccine development money to Johnson and Johnson, which is \$456 million. The Trump Administration bought 100 million doses in 2020, which is worth \$100 million, so the cost per dose is \$14.50 of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Per the reports, J&J is not as successful as they have announced previously. Johnson and Johnson claimed that they created better antibodies with just one shot. The Biden Administration then bought another 100 million doses from Johnson and Johnson, which is over \$1 billion (maybe \$1.45 billion dollars at 14.50 each). However, it has been proven that Johnson and Johnson's shot is not that effective. Congress and Senate approved conditions that all three vaccination companies (J&J, Pfizer, Moderna) cannot be sued, even though J&J's vaccine is not as effective as they promised. With this

in mind, the Biden Administration must cancel the contract of Johnson and Johnson. It is the taxpayers' money, and they must handle the money to save as much as necessary for the people. However, this is not the case for most governments.

Due to the new Omicron variant, the U.S. has declared that international passengers travelling to the country require a negative Covid test one day prior to coming. This test will be for any passenger, citizen or non-citizen. Also, they need a test within 5 days after landing in the United States. Yes, I agree, but a one-day test is not feasible in many countries. Right now, it is three days, so they can make it a two-day test, but not a one-day test. Also, why not do a test at the airport, immediately after landing? Finally, all of them must self-quarantine for two days until the result comes back, and all passengers must declare where they will be for the two-day self-quarantine, so in case of a positive result, the authorities can locate them easily.

Some groups do not believe in vaccination. They think that it is a hoax, and that it is a money-making and power control program by some of the rich people in the world. When more than 25%

of the people did not want to vaccinate themselves, the Delta variant came into existence. Despite the Delta variant still being in play, the unvaccinated group of people are still not ready to vaccinate. Then came the dangerous new variant called Omicron. The fear is that even vaccination may not protect people from Omicron. Meanwhile, some people think that the booster every six months is a way for certain people and pharmaceutical companies to get more money, with it being billions of dollars. Even though vaccination may not be fully effective for Omicron, Biden and vaccine supporters are insisting that people get vaccinated. In my family, we have so many doctors and medical professionals, so I believe in vaccination to protect ourselves, as well as masks and social distancing to protect others as well. I have taken the Pfizer vaccine and a booster.

The U.S. government spent trillions on vaccinations and COVID-19 expenses since the pandemic came in 2020. And they spent about the same amount for vaccination development and administration. So, everything tied to vaccination is equal to one year of U.S. government spending. My figures might not be accurate, as I have taken those figures from sim-

ple search engines and some government websites. When it comes to these kinds of large-scale money transactions, we must investigate how the money has been spent. How many shares have been bought by big government and non-government leaders who are dire supporters of money to the three vaccine companies? There were about 22 companies that worked on developing vaccines, including some small companies, but the advance money has been distributed to only a few large companies. Why? I have no problem with the government spending money to make vaccines, but I only want to make that is exactly what the money is being set for, and that there is no leakage.

After 400 years of British Rule / British Management, Barbados has been declared independent from British rule now. In 1964, Barbados became independent, but accepted the rule of Queen Elizabeth. Sandra Mason was serving as a governor general and the queen's representative. Mason will be the first president of the independent Barbados, and was sworn in while in the presence of Prince Charles.

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

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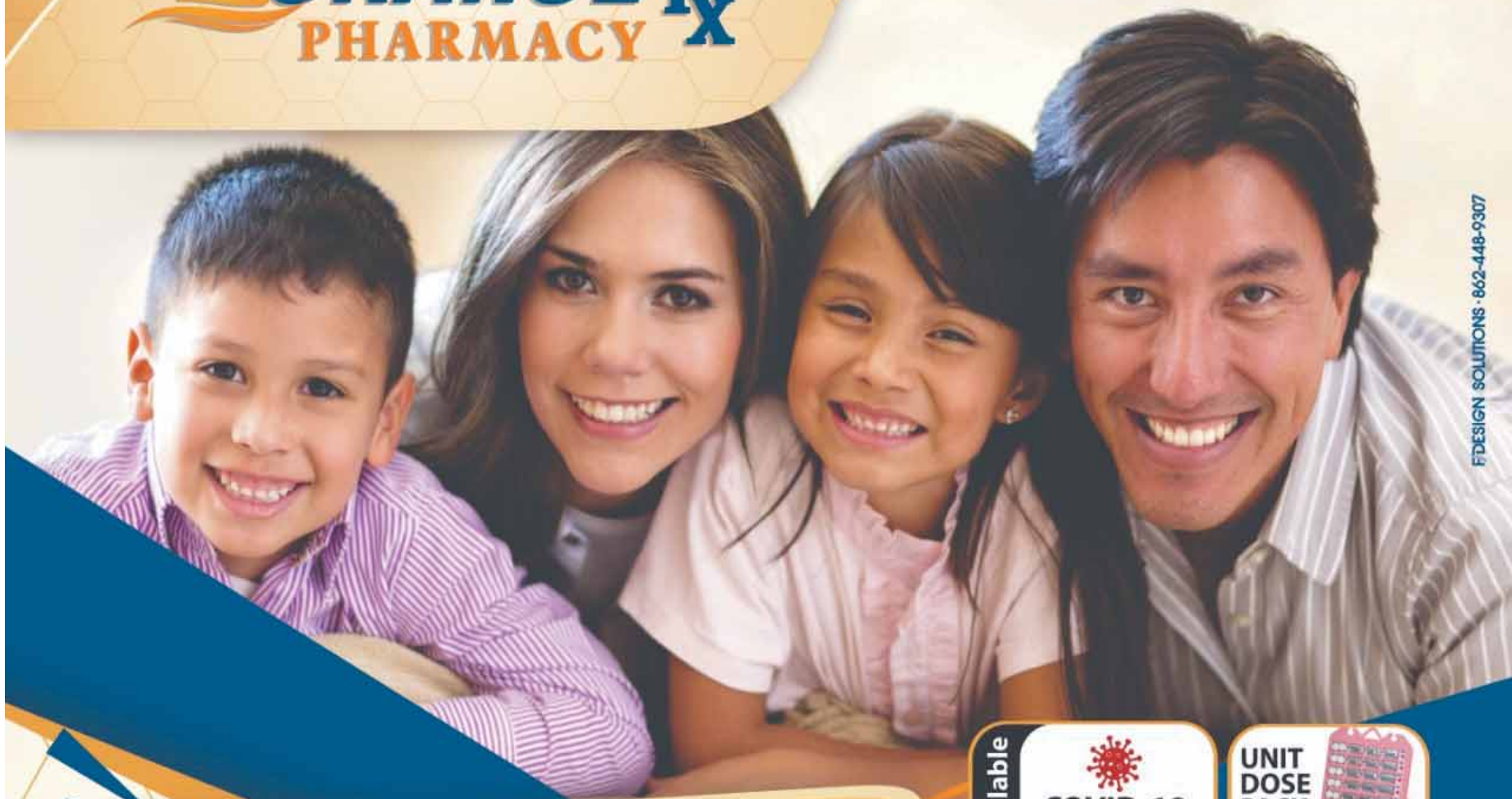
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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Where Are The Antivirals?

Shortly after the coronavirus was declared a pandemic, many pharmaceutical companies and scientists swung into developing a cure or ready treatment. Everyone knew vaccines would take too long to develop - we needed something to control the virus in

the short term to prevent the stockpile of deaths.

Many drugs and treatment options stepped up - or tried to, rather, as most failed. As time progressed and more people died, there was panic about which drugs could get the coronavirus under control. Some of the drugs mentioned showed plausible and mixed results, like hydroxychloroquine, while others were just crazy, like Ivermectin. Note that both are not recommended for treating the virus.

But it was clear that we were desperate for an effective treatment. Even now that we have the vaccines, there are just so many unvaccinated people for us, as a planet, to be considered safe from the virus. Don't let me even get into the fact that variants of the virus are emerging around the globe. Or maybe I should.

The longer the virus persists among us, the higher the chances of new variants and strains developing. Some of these variants, like Delta, will prove to be troublesome and, who knows, may

figure out how to beat our vaccines and drugs.

The need for antivirals is more pressing now more than ever. As the name strongly implies, antivirals are drugs that are used against viral infections. They may either kill the viruses, alleviate the symptoms of the viral infection, or shorten the length of the illness.

Antiviral drugs can be classified into two, namely antiviral therapy and antiviral pills. The former is available in many hospitals today and is usually reserved for the more serious cases of the coronavirus. Antiviral therapy requires the assistance of a health practitioner and is typically given intravenously.

The problem is this form of treatment is quite expensive and also inaccessible to the general population. This is where antiviral pills come into the discussion. They can be purchased in pharmacies and self-administered at home, just like your regular Tylenol. That will be a gamechanger if perfected, right?

Well, I have some good news. Britain has approved molnupiravir, marketed as Lagevrio, as the first antiviral pill for the coronavirus. This drug, developed by Merck and Ridgeback Therapeutics, acts by inhibiting the replication of the virus.

Metabolites of the drug are picked up by the RNA polymerase and incorporated into the viral genome. Here comes the fun part. Incorporation of this metabolite creates errors in the virus's genetic code, which build up to form an "error catastrophe." Eventually, viral replication ceases.

The mechanism of action of this drug is said to be so powerful the virus may never become resistant to it. In fact, the drug was named after Mjolnir - Thor's hammer. For context, Thor is the god of thunder, and that probably tells you all you need to know about how highly the drug is regarded.

There's another antiviral making the news, and that's

Paxlovid, developed by Pfizer. While the drug hasn't been approved yet, it looks very promising. This drug also inhibits viral replication but in a different manner to Lagevrio. Paxlovid disrupts the functioning of protease, which is an enzyme critical to viral functioning.

There are still tests to be run on Paxlovid before it is approved yet, though. And I don't expect this drug to be approved until 2022. But at least there's something to look forward to. There are other antivirals around the block, but none has been approved yet. Again, 2022 will probably be the year antivirals make their grand entrance in the war against the virus.

I expect the CDC to make some announcements soon regarding the new antivirals. Hopefully, it's good news. Till then, though, we still need to get vaccinated and keep the virus from spreading.



Later, folks. 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.

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend in Newark, the best wrestling talent was on the national showcase front of a capacity crowd at the Prudential Center. #15 Rutgers has improved in the past couple of weeks, making the Top 20 ranking with a pair of victories at The Rock. This was part of the inaugural Garden State Grapple, and was their first ever match in the Brick City.

Other top colleges in the country that took part were North Carolina, Wisconsin and Hofstra. Rutgers went over Hofstra and North Carolina at the event.

There were local area high school wrestling teams in action. Livingston and Bloomfield High competed in the Garden State Scrap. Bloomfield's Kira Pipkins, who started as a freshman at the school, is a two time state champion and regional champion. Pipkins also represents the Scorpions wrestling school, where head coach Omar Feliciano gave his thoughts on the competitor.

"She is a tough girl she lives for the moment. It's a long season, and she goes one match at a time," said Feliciano.

Pipkins competed against Auber Krazer from Pennsylvania. She also won over Kayla Vazquez in the 125lb. weight division. Other area kids competed in the national showcase, and there were even some middle school wrestling matches.

In pro football, the Giants and Jets picked up wins on the same weekend. Gang Green went to Houston and beat the Texans 21-14, while Big Blue won at home over Eagles 13-7.

Finally, in big signing news, the Mets have signed star pitcher Max Scherzer to a 3-year, \$130 million contract, while college football saw Lincoln Riley leave Oklahoma for USC and Brian Kelly dump Notre Dame for LSU.

Also, on the same day that the Nets beat the Knicks in a 112-110 slugfest, it was announced that LeBron James tested positive for COVID-19. He will have to sit for at least 10 days according to league protocols.

NEWARK COP CHARGED WITH VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

NEWARK - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, announced that Newark Police Officer Louis Santiago, 25, of Bloomfield has been charged with reckless vehicular homicide, desecrating human remains and related charges for hitting a pedestrian on the Garden State Parkway, leaving the scene, then coming back and putting the victim in his car and then later returning to the scene with the victim's dead body.

Also charged was Albert Guzman, 25, of Newark, the passenger in the car. He was charged with conspiracy to desecrate human remains, hindering apprehension, and conspiracy to hinder apprehension and tamper with physical evidence.

Annette Santiago, 53, of Bloomfield, the mother of Louis

Santiago, was charged with the same offenses as Guzman.

The preliminary investigation indicates that on Nov. 1, 2021, around 3:00 am a 2005 Honda Accord driven by Santiago, who was off duty, was traveling northbound on the Garden State Parkway, near exit 151. Santiago failed to maintain his lane and traveled on the right shoulder of the Garden State Parkway striking Damian Z. Dymka, a 29-year-old nurse from Garfield in Bergen County.

It is alleged that after striking the victim, neither Santiago nor Guzman called 911 or rendered aid but returned to the scene multiple times before Santiago loaded the victim into the Honda and removed him from the scene. Santiago then took the body to his home in Bloomfield where he, his mother and Guzman



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man allegedly discussed what to do with the body. Eventually, Santiago went back to the scene.

Santiago's father, who is a lieutenant in the Newark Police Department, called 911 and reported that his son was in an accident. When the New Jersey State Police arrived, the victim was dead in the back seat of the car.

In addition to vehicular homicide, Santiago was charged with leaving the scene of crash resulting in death, endangering an injured victim, desecrating / moving human remains, hindering

one's own apprehension, conspiracy to hinder prosecution, tampering with physical evidence, obstructing the administration of law, and two counts of official misconduct.

All three defendants have been arrested, charged, and released with conditions.

These are accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they enter a guilty plea or are found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING IN MICHIGAN

UNITED STATES

The nation is dealing with another high school shooting incident, this time in a town that will feel it for a long time.

On Nov. 30, a 15-year-old male entered Oxford High School and opened fire, killing four students and injuring at least eight other people, one being a teacher. Five minutes after the shooting was reported to 911, the shooter was apprehended. So far, there has been no motive given as to why the young man came to school that day and started firing.

Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said in an evening press briefing that the weapon used was a 9mm Sig Sauer SP 2022, which was purchased by the teen's father on Black Friday. The suspect had two 15-round magazines, including one with seven rounds left when he was apprehended.

Before the shooting happened, there were rumors of something happening at the school but nothing for certain. The fervor caused some parents to keep their children home that day.

Oxford is a relatively small town, with around 3,400 residents and roughly 30 miles north of Detroit.

NATIONS DISCUSS AIDS & COVID

WORLD

As the world observes the annual World AIDS Day (December 1), some have linked the deadly disease to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In recognition, the White House issued the following:

“For decades, World AIDS Day has been recognized as an opportunity for people around the world to stand together in the fight against HIV. This year on World AIDS Day, we are focused on addressing health inequities and inequalities and ensuring that the voices of people with HIV are at the center of our work to end the HIV epidemic globally.

“While we have made remarkable progress in the 40 years since the first-known reported case of AIDS, this disease remains a serious public health challenge - and we join the international community to honor and remember the more than 36 million people, including 700,000 Americans, who have tragically died from AIDS-related illness since the start of the epidemic. We also renew our commitment to stand with the nearly 38 million people living with HIV around the world as we pursue our shared goal of ending the HIV epidemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has added to the challenges our heroic health care and frontline workers face, yet they continue to deliver essential HIV prevention services and provide vital care and treatment to people living with HIV. The pandemic has also interrupted HIV research and highlighted the work that still remains to achieve equitable access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment in every community - particularly for communities of color, adolescent girls and young women, and the LGBTQI+ community.”

Also, the United Nations gave this take:

“Two decades since the landmark General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS - the first ever on a health issue - HIV/AIDS has become a preventable and treatable disease.

The Assembly President attested to the importance of learning from mistakes made then, such as hiding diagnoses due to social stigma, misinformation on prevention or treatment, and policymakers who delayed action.

“This meeting is an opportunity to discuss how the experience of fighting against HIV/

AIDS can inform and guide effective, human rights sensitive, and people-centered responses to infectious diseases, such as COVID-19,” said Mr. Shahid. “We have a responsibility to act.”

“I call on all stakeholders to protect the human rights of all and ensure access to health services without stigma and discrimination.”

This year is also the 25th anniversary of the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which united entities across the UN system to mobilize countries and communities globally to take action in combatting HIV/AIDS.

“For four decades the program has provided global leadership, promoted policy consensus, strengthened the capacity of national Governments to develop comprehensive national HIV/AIDS strategies and of the UN system to monitor implementation,” said ECOSOC President Colleen Kelapile.”

FRENCH NATIONAL CHARGED

EUROPE

A French national is in trouble for his alleged role in an attempt to fraudulently gain control of the rights to sell a weight-loss drug in the United States, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Alain Bouaziz, 68, a French citizen and resident of the United Arab Emirates, was arrested at Newark Liberty Airport while attempting to depart the United States. Bouaziz is charged by complaint with making false statements to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He is scheduled to appear today by videoconference before U.S. Magistrate Judge Cathy L. Waldor.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Bouaziz is a French citizen and resident of the United Arab Emirates who represented himself to be the chief operating officer of Hexim Pharmaceuticals (Hexim), a company headquartered in Se-

caucus, New Jersey. Hexim was known as Alkopharma USA Inc. until its name was changed in June 2013.

Beginning in February 2018, Bouaziz submitted forged documents and made false statements to the FDA to fraudulently gain control of Sanorex, a weight-loss pharmaceutical owned by a major international pharmaceutical company (Pharmaceutical Company-1). Bouaziz sent letters and documents by email and in hard copy to the FDA falsely stating that Hexim had purchased the New Drug Application for Sanorex and requesting a meeting about marketing Sanorex in the United States.

Bouaziz knew these representations were false because Hexim had not purchased the rights to Sanorex from Pharmaceutical Company-1. The documents that Bouaziz submitted to the FDA contained multiple forgeries and false statements, including one example where an earlier agreement between Alkopharma and Pharmaceutical Company-1 had been altered to purport to show a sale of Sanorex to Hexim.

The false statements charge carries a maximum term of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss caused by the offense, whichever is greatest.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents of the Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Ebersole, with the investigation leading to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Hayden M. Brockett of the Health Care Fraud Unit in Newark.

The charge and allegations contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

CONCERNS OVER ISRAEL-PALESTINE VIOLENCE

MIDDLE EAST

(Continued on page 12)

THE HISTORY OF NEWARK'S

1919 AIRPORT

(Continued from page 1)

their fortune from the file and hand tool factory their father, Elias, had started at Mt. Prospect Avenue by the Erie Railroad Greenwood Lake Division tracks. (Heller Parkway, back then, was Branch Brook Park's northern border.)

Peter Heller, through the Board of Trade, and the post office signed a two-year lease for \$150,000 (over \$2.367 million in 2021 dollars). A 900-to-1,000-ft. east-west airstrip was carved out, a hangar erected, and a new low-frequency radio transmitter was installed.

The plan was to have pilots be partially guided by radio once they had either spotted the Passaic River or cleared the Orange Mountains. Postal trucks would meet the planes to take mail sacks to the main Newark Post Office at Broad and Canal Streets (now Raymond Boulevard) for sorting and New York delivery.

Pilots Walter H. Stevens and Frederick A. Robinson showed that it could be done at Heller Field. Stevens landed his Martin twin-engined biplane from Washington's College Park Dec. 6; Robinson and his Martin took off for Washington 6:44 a.m. Dec. 8.

The strip and hangar, however, were on a triangular lot whose eastern apex was formed by the Erie Orange Branch to its southwest and the Greenwood Lake trunk line to its northwest. The Morris Canal, Meadow Brook and the First River formed its west and northwest borders.

There were a pair of smokestacks of the Tiffany silver factory, standing 50 and 90 feet tall north from and across the street of Forest Hill Junction Station, to also clear.

Pilots found the landing approaches and takeoffs difficult on clear days, let alone under inclement conditions, year-round. Frequent near-misses, several crashes and three fatal accidents followed.

Stevens was landing his Martin when several children ran onto the field Dec. 13, 1919. He swerved towards a railroad embankment to avoid most of them - but one of his propellers struck and killed a child.

Capt. Harry Conley Sherlock, born in England but an East Orange resident of 15 years, was bringing his De Haviland No. 72 from Bellefonte in for a landing 2:45 p.m. March 30, 1920. He hit the taller smokestack instead, breaking up his plane and scattering bricks.

Factory workers and local boys extricated Sherlock, 22, and took him to the Tiffany dispensary - where he died from a broken neck.

Although Sherlock joined the U.S. Airmail Service Feb. 12, 1920, he had flown 1,000 hours with the Canadian Royal Air Corps over France in 1917. The former Aetna insurance adjuster was living with his mother at East Orange's 26 North 18th St., in 1920.

Mother Sherlock, two weeks later, wrote to 2nd Assistant Postmaster General Otto Prager in Washington, complaining that she had not received a note of condolence and that "everyone knows the approach to Heller Field is a death trap for aviators."

Later, Robinson was flying Clarence Stapleton, Heller's Clerk-in-Charge, when their plane went into a tailspin the pilot could not get out of and the plane crashed nose-first onto the Erie's Greenwood Lake railroad tracks at 4:20 p.m. on April 11.

Stapleton, of 18 Fulton St., Newark, was 23. Robinson was taken to City Hospital with a broken leg and a suspected broken skull, among other injuries. The resident at 113 Broad St. survived.

The neighboring Forest Hill Golf Club (before they moved to Bloomfield) complained to the Forest Hill Improvement Association that day about pilots performing aerial stunts.


Post Office Department higher-ups relented to pilots' demands and moved airmail service to South Plainfield's Hadley Field by May 30, 1921. Newark City Commissioners, wanting the postal service contract back, created Newark Airport in 1928.

Essex County bought part of Heller Field to extend Branch Brook Park in 1931. The park's northern area, also known as "The Four (Baseball) Diamonds," was the site of temporary barracks during World War Two. One report added a temporary airplane strip then and there.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	11-23-2021	Deaths	12-1-2021	Deaths
Belleville	6394	121	6435	121
Bloomfield	6151	127	6216	127
Caldwell	720	16	729	16
Cedar Grove	1804	121	1862	121
East Orange	8341	338	8415	338
Essex Fells	220	2	228	2
Fairfield	1074	33	1101	33
Glen Ridge	479	14	480	14
Irvington	5552	244	5610	246
Livingston	2232	90	2277	90
Maplewood	1631	42	1654	42
Millburn	1062	11	1085	11
Montclair	2748	76	2779	76
Newark	41812	1065	42171	1070
North Caldwell	599	8	607	8
Nutley	3605	68	3628	68
Orange	3988	143	4031	142
Roseland	568	17	585	17
South Orange	1199	18	1216	18
Verona	1213	18	1253	18
West Caldwell	1216	54	1247	54
West Orange	5334	237	5395	237
Total	97942	2863	99004	2869

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of December 1, 2021)
NJ: 1,089,151 cases / 25,582 deaths (Plus 2,827 probable)
United States (approx.): 48.62 Million / 781,000 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 263.292 Million / 5.222 Million deaths

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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.

TWO NEWARK FIRES UNDER INVESTIGATION

NEWARK - A former child welfare headquarters and police substation here in the Vailsburg section, is now a pile of rubble here since its Nov. 26 fire.

The first Newark Fire Division units arrived at 765-67 South Orange Ave. 4:40 p.m. that Friday with the 1900 2.5-story wood frame building with thick smoke and fire coming out of its first and second floors.

The on-scene incident commander pulled a second alarm for all hands while firefighters fought to bring the blaze under control. That control was made by 5:30 p.m. but not before the building had collapsed at 5.

A woman in 765-67 meanwhile jumped from a second-floor window. On-scene EMS took her to University Hospital, where she was admitted in stable condition. She was the only injury suffered by anyone from the incident.

The vacant 765-67 South Orange Ave. used to be Babyland Family Services' headquarters before moving out to allow for the building's renovation. The building's east side had been propped up with wooden beams for several years. New windows were recently installed.

NPD turned the vacant building into its first "storefront" community center in 1986. The West District Community Service Center moved across the avenue before selling it to Babyland in 2011.

NFD personnel stayed overnight Nov. 26-27 to search with the ECPO Arson Unit for any possible victims. Neighbors told firefighters that there may have

been squatters inside.

Meanwhile, on the night of Nov. 27, a vehicle literally exploded in flames by 142 Abinger Place right before midnight. NFD Fire Eng. 26 (from 420 Sanford Ave. Station, also home of Ladder Co. 12 and Battalion Chief 6-Special Operations, arrived on scene in seven minutes after the fully involved blaze was reported.

In 16 minutes, the fire was knocked down. No injuries were reported, and the arson squad did a preliminary investigation, but found nothing of note as of deadline.

Residents in the building were evacuated at the time for safety purposes, but some wondered as to how the car got in the empty lot next to their building and why it was there.

IRVINGTON - A former township resident and NJTransit have reached a \$2 million settlement, in a Nov. 18 announcement, over an injurious 2015 bus collision here.

Kiliek Anthony was 25 years old when he was struck by a NJTransit bus while crossing Chancellor Avenue by Coit Street 6 a.m. Dec. 1, 2015. The New York City Public Schools paraprofessional was coming away from a nearby ATM machine when township police records said he was thrown 15 feet by the bus to the pavement.

Police records and witnesses said that Anthony was returning to his car, where his girlfriend and their infant son were waiting, was in the crosswalk and had the green light. Two passengers aboard the bus told police that they had yelled out to the driver about Anthony, prior to impact.

Anthony, said Roseland attorney Bath Baldinger, suffered head, neck, back and facial injuries and amnesia. Medical records also showed that Anthony also lost frontal lobe brain tissue, resulting in significant cognitive difficulties that keep him from driving and working.

NJTransit had fired the bus driver, who allegedly amassed a poor driving record, after six months on the job.

Anthony now lives in North Carolina. Baldinger - of Mazie, Slater, Katz & Freeman, LLC - said that the settlement was reached in August and the check

sent to her client in October.

EAST ORANGE - The mother of the 14-year-old girl who ran away Oct. 14, triggering a 29-day bistate search for her, is home for at least part of the holidays since Nov. 23.

Jamie Moore, 40, was home for Thanksgiving but without her daughter or her three-year-old son at the dinner table. N.J. Superior Court -Newark Judge Michael L. Ravin released Moore from the Essex County Correctional Facility Nov. 23 on condition that she has no contact with her daughter and son.

Ravin further ordered that Moore be under home confinement until the next court hearing on Dec. 20. That homestay is being monitored by an electronic ankle bracelet she has to wear.

Moore, who is represented by Durann Neil, Jr., Esq., still faces two counts of child endangerment that the Essex County Prosecutor's Office charged her with Nov. 13. She was placed under arrest by 5 p.m. Nov. 12 - 18 hours after the daughter was found in Harlem Nov. 11.

Nov. 12 was also when the daughter and son were placed into state welfare custody. The daughter accused her mother of abuse and neglect going back "several years."

The 14-page ECPO complaint detailed the daughter being struck in the head with a frying pan, stabbed in the shoulder with a steak knife and temporarily blinded with sprayed bleach. Moore is accused of not registering her for the 2021-22 school year so she could babysit the son, run errands and panhandle on street corners.

The filing has the daughter's testimony that the mother said, "If you don't find the debit card, don't come back." The mother had publicly said, "I told her to retrace her steps back."

The daughter had lost the family debit card on her way to a local delicatessen 7:30 a.m. Oct. 14, went back out and disappeared for 29 days.

ORANGE - Public funeral arrangements for Locksley "Slide" Hampton, whose eight decades of jazz trombone netted him an NEA Jazz Master title among other awards, have not been announced as of press time.

Hampton, 89, said son La-

mont and grandson Richard, had died here Nov. 18. He had been playing his trombone in his Walter G. Alexander apartment as late as Nov. 16. The Jeanette, Pa. native who had lived in Brooklyn and Europe moved here in 2012.

Locksley Wellington Hampton was born April 21, 1932 into a family of 14 - including parents who taught them to play musical instruments. L.W. became "Slide" when the family noticed that the six-year-old could adeptly play right- and left-handed slide trombones.

The family band won a 1952 appearance at Carnegie Hall, opening for Lionel (no relation) Hampton. Slide, that weekend, visited nearby Birdland and was exposed to bebop jazz.

Slide Hampton turned to playing and arranging with various musicians, including mentor J.J. Johnson, Dizzy Gillespie, Motown Records and, later, Stevie Wonder and The Four Tops. He formed his own Slide Hampton Octet before joining the Woody Herman band for a 1968 European tour - and staying in Paris until 1977.

Hampton was a man in demand into the 2010s. He taught jazz in Harvard, the University of Massachusetts and Chicago's De Paul University. He won a Grammy each for collaborations with Dee Dee Bridgewater in 1997 and with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra in 2004.

Hampton's wife, Althea, died in 2006 and a son, Gregory, died in 2019. Son Locksley, daughter Jacquelyn, four grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren are also among his survivors.

WEST ORANGE - The township planning board (or adjustment) will continue its consideration of Public Storage's application to build one of its three-story facilities at 424 Eagle Rock Ave. here at their Dec. 16 meeting.

PS Atlantic Coast LLC, at its initial Oct. 28 hearing and Nov. 8 continuance, wants to so replace the Eagle Rock Lanes bowling alley. (Roof damage permanently closed the alley on May 6, 2020.) The Public Storage warehouse's construction includes felling 38 mature trees on the panhandle-shaped lot's south and east sides.

(Continued on page 14)

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From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Omicron Variant And Deception

The word "preparation" has just popped into my mind as the new variant of COVID-19 called Omicron has been announced. Omicron is a letter of the Greek Alphabet. And I do not know that you care to understand what the letter looks like, but I trust that you take the variant seriously as efforts are being made to use it as a tool of deception.

Take a moment to listen to those giving the right information on the direction the variant is going. Let me trust that you are not among those denying the reality or offering insults to people like the older student I met in my college cafeteria line. He was standing ahead of me with an open book in his hands, seemingly studying while waiting to get his meal. I was a college freshman, and in those days, some older guys thought that a new guy was to be seen and not heard. I ignored that unwritten rule and dared to inquire what the guy was studying.

Without lifting his head from the page, he matter of factly

said, "Greek." My curiosity got hold of me, so I looked on the page he was reading and pointed to a word, then asked him, "what does that mean?" His response was, "even if I told you, you would not understand."

I was miffed at his response, but I kept my cool and just stared at him. The next year I was studying Greek, and with advanced studies, my knowledge of Greek outstripped his.

Of course, my point is not to boast about my knowledge of Greek. Instead, my desire is to encourage you to do all you can to understand Omicron and the efforts the scientists are making to beat it. In addition, share your understanding with others as best as possible and help them cooperate with the preparation and efforts to mitigate Omicron and the other Covid variants.

Yes, I know that many people do not understand Greek and do not care to know what Omicron or any other variant with a Greek name means. However, but denying the reality of the virus and its variants will not help with any mitigation. We cannot be sticking our heads in the sand, like the Ostrich, with the hope that by the time we pull out our heads, the danger will be gone. No! We need to acknowledge the reality and do our best to alleviate or lessen the impact.

When the first wave of the COVID-19 started, some sought

to explain it and give clear warnings. Here are some guidelines we were given as we prepared to deal with it:

1. Do not deny the deadly nature of the disease
2. Learn how to clean surfaces
3. Wash your hands thoroughly
4. Change your outer garments when you get to your house from the streets
5. Increase your vitamins intake to build up your resistance
6. Focus on your diet to make sure you have the proper nutrients in your bodies
7. Wear masks to make sure that you protect yourself against particle exchange entering your air passages
8. Keep social distances - 6 feet at least
9. Do not assemble in large crowds
10. Take the vaccination for mitigation
11. Clean your air filters
12. I cannot remember everything, but these guidelines are helpful for our survival

Now that two years have passed since we first learned of the virus and have seen the devastation and death that it has caused, we can say that only a "fool" would keep denying it. Did I say "fool?" Yes, I meant it biblically when it says, "Fools make a mock at sin." (Proverbs 14:9). "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no

God.'" (Psalm 14:1). "The fool does not seek understanding" (Psalm 92:6).

When I see that there are contradictors and rejecters of the virus and people finding every opportunity to deny, defraud and destroy, my heart hurts. But I understand the reality, for the biblical warning is clear "Do not be deceived." (Galatians 6:7)

Yes, the last days are here; and whether we want to observe it from human behavior or climate change, or not, we know that time is running out. An end stands before us. And, we are told that in the last days of earth's history, people will be "deceived." (cf. 1 Timothy 4:1). But, unfortunately, some people are taking the vaccination while telling others that the virus and variants are a hoax. Some might even be willful as the guy I met in the cafeteria line, by saying, "Even if I told you, you would not understand."

Well, the best I can say, go study for yourself; you might not know Greek, but you know the consequences of a disease. Let us not be so arrogant that we think that hiding from the available knowledge does us any favor. Again, the Bible says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge..." (Hosea 4:6)

My point is to ask, to read and listen to authentic sources; and do not be deceived.

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

With violence continuing daily throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process urged the Security Council on Tuesday to adopt a more coordinated approach to the region.

Tor Wennesland told Council Members that "recent developments on the ground are worrying," pointing out the situation in the West Bank and Gaza and the challenges faced by the Palestinian Authority.

"I therefore emphasize again the importance of concerted efforts by the parties to calm things on the ground. I am concerned that if we do not act quickly and decisively, we risk plunging into another deadly escalation of violence," he warned.

He informed that, in the last month, violence resulted in the death of four Palestinians, including two children, and injuries to 90 others - including 12 children - due to action by Israeli Security Forces.

One Israeli civilian was killed in the same period, and nine civilians, including one woman and one child, and six

members of ISF were injured.

Mr. Wennesland said that a severe fiscal and economic crisis is threatening the stability of Palestinian institutions in the West Bank.

At the same time, he added, "ongoing violence and unilateral steps, including Israeli settlement expansion, and demolitions, continue to raise tensions, feed hopelessness, erode the Palestinian Authority's standing and further diminish the prospect of a return to meaningful negotiations."

In Gaza, the cessation of hostilities continues to hold, but the Special Envoy argued that

"further steps are needed by all parties to ensure a sustainable solution that ultimately enables a return of legitimate Palestinian Government institutions to the Strip."

The Special Coordinator also said that "settler-related violence remains at alarmingly high levels."

Overall, settlers and other Israeli civilians in the occupied West Bank perpetrated some 54 attacks against Palestinians, resulting in 26 injuries. Palestinians perpetrated 41 attacks against Israeli settlers and other civilians, resulting in one death and nine injuries.

OMICRON VARIANT LEAVES WORLD WORRIED

On Nov. 26, 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 - named Omicron - a variant of concern, on the advice of WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE).

This decision was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves, for example, on how easily it spreads or the severity of illness it causes. Here is a summary of what is currently known.

Current knowledge about Omicron

Researchers in South Africa and around the world are conducting studies to better understand many aspects of Omicron and will continue to share the findings of these studies as they become available.

Transmissibility: It is not

yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible (e.g., more easily spread from person to person) compared to other variants, including Delta. The number of people testing positive has risen in areas of South Africa affected by this variant, but epidemiologic studies are underway to understand if it is because of Omicron or other factors.

Severity of disease: It is not yet clear whether infection with Omicron causes more severe disease compared to infections with other variants, including Delta. Preliminary data suggests that there are increasing rates of hospitalization in South Africa, but this may be due to increasing overall numbers of people becoming infected, rather than a result of specific infection with Omicron.

There is currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants. Initial reported infections

were among university students - younger individuals who tend to have more mild disease - but understanding the level of severity of the Omicron variant will take days to several weeks.

All variants of COVID-19, including the Delta variant that is dominant worldwide, can cause severe disease or death, in particular for the most vulnerable people, and thus prevention is always key.

Effectiveness of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection

Preliminary evidence suggests there may be an increased risk of reinfection with Omicron (i.e., people who have previously had COVID-19 could become reinfected more easily with Omicron), as compared to other variants of concern, but information is limited. More information on this will become available in the coming days and weeks.

Effectiveness of vaccines:

WHO is working with technical partners to understand the potential impact of this variant on our existing countermeasures, including vaccines. Vaccines remain critical to reducing severe disease and death, including against the dominant circulating variant, Delta. Current vaccines remain effective against severe disease and death.

Effectiveness of current tests: The widely used PCR tests continue to detect infection, including infection with Omicron, as we have seen with other variants as well. Studies are ongoing to determine whether there is any impact on other types of tests, including rapid antigen detection tests.

Effectiveness of current treatments: Corticosteroids and IL6 Receptor Blockers will still be effective for managing patients with severe COVID-19. Other treatments will be as-

(Continued on page 14)

OMICRON VARIANT LEAVES

WORLD WORRIED

(Continued from page 13)

essed to see if they are still as effective given the changes to parts of the virus in the Omicron variant.

Studies underway

At the present time, WHO is coordinating with a large number of researchers around the world to better understand Omicron. Studies currently underway or underway shortly include assessments of transmissibility, severity of infection (including symptoms), performance of vaccines and diagnostic tests, and effectiveness of treatments.

WHO encourages countries to contribute the collection and sharing of hospitalized patient data through the WHO COVID-19 Clinical Data Platform to rapidly describe clinical characteristics and patient outcomes.

More information will emerge in the coming days and weeks. WHO's TAG-VE will continue to monitor and evaluate the data as it becomes available and assess how mutations in

Omicron alter the behavior of the virus.

Recommended actions for countries

As Omicron has been designated a Variant of Concern, there are several actions WHO recommends countries to undertake, including enhancing surveillance and sequencing of cases; sharing genome sequences on publicly available databases, such as GISAID; reporting initial cases or clusters to WHO; performing field investigations and laboratory assessments to better understand if Omicron has different transmission or disease characteristics, or impacts effectiveness of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics or public health and social measures. More detail in the announcement from Nov. 26.

Countries should continue to implement the effective public health measures to reduce COVID-19 circulation overall, using a risk analysis and science-based approach. They should increase some public health and medical capacities to manage an increase in cases. WHO is providing countries with support

and guidance for both readiness and response.

In addition, it is vitally important that inequities in access to COVID-19 vaccines are urgently addressed to ensure that vulnerable groups everywhere, including health workers and older persons, receive their first and second doses, alongside equitable access to treatment and diagnostics.

Recommended actions for people

The most effective steps individuals can take to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus is to keep a physical distance of at least six feet from others; wear a well-fitting mask; open windows to improve ventilation; avoid poorly ventilated or crowded spaces; keep hands clean; cough or sneeze into a bent elbow or tissue; and get vaccinated when it's their turn.

WHO will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available, including following meetings of the TAG-VE. In addition, information will be available on WHO's digital and social media platforms.

U.S. Reaction

The White House is considering guidance to have incoming travelers test negative 24 hours before arrival, and testing sites at local tri-state airports, including Newark Liberty, are expanding testing capabilities.

"First, this variant is a cause for concern, not a cause for panic. We have the best vaccine in the world, the best medicines, the best scientists. And we're learning more every single day," said President Biden in remarks about the variant.

"And we'll fight this variant with scientific and knowledgeable actions, and speed - not chaos and confusion. And we have more tools today to fight the variant than we've ever had before - from vaccines to boosters, to vaccines for children five years and older, and much more.

"A year ago, America was floundering against the first variant of COVID. We beat that variant significantly, and then we got hit by a far more powerful threat: the Delta variant. But we took action, and now we're seeing deaths from Delta come

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

The Our Green West Orange environmental group pointed out, however, that the said trees line Crystal Lake on its south and the cliff face on its east. The eastern cliff face, carved out by the Orange Quarry Company, drops down to a 60-acre lot where Crown View Manor and the Villas at Crown View are. The Manor apartment building was finished in 1998 and the Villas in 1993.

OGWO is concerned that the 38 trees' removal will increase the cliff face erosion - like what may have happened to the Ron Jolyn Apartments' Sept. 1-2 rockslide and Oct. 11-12 condemnation at 275 Northfield Ave.

The group, post-Tropical Storm Ida, considers the township's 25-degree slope ordinance as insufficient.

MAPLEWOOD - Services for Joseph F. Trinity, 94, a 62-year Maplewoodian, was set for Dec. 1 at the Jacob A. Holle Funeral Home and Dec. 2 here at St. Joseph's Church.

Trinity died at home here surrounded by family members Nov. 26. He had been mostly at home, recovering from a broken hip, since before March 2020. No cause of death was announced.

Trinity's 15 minutes of fame may have come during the 1953 Inauguration Day Parade for President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He stood in a cap and gown, waving atop an "Education" float. Trinity recalled that he got paid to ride the float - and that he was a lifelong Democrat in a Republican's inauguration.

Trinity had worn caps and gowns plenty of times before and after 1959 - when he and his newlywed wife Mary moved here to raise five children. Born Aug. 31, 1927 in Philadelphia, Trinity graduated from La Salle

High School there and from Washington, D.C.'s Catholic University.

The U.S. Army veteran and part-time actor taught drama and speech at Springfield's Jonathan Dayton Regional High School 1952-92. He and Mary saw children Mary, Eileen, Joseph, Frank and John graduate from their schools.

JDRHS's play director and Irvington's Good Shepherd Church parishioner was also survived by Sister Eileen Trinity and 12 grandchildren. His beloved Mary, brother Sonny and sisters Honor Mitzak and Sr. Mary Mercita Trinity predeceased him.

Memorial donations may be made to Sisters of Mercy, 515 Montgomery Ave., Merion Station, PA 19066.

BLOOMFIELD - This holiday season will be the first one in 76 years where descendants of Larry S. Wassil know where his remains are.

The Wassil-Loock family announced Nov. 23 what the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency told them July 27. The agency's scientists at their Offutt Air Force Base laboratory in Nebraska used DNA to identify the body brought there from Belgium's Ardennes American Cemetery in April 2019 as Wassil's.

Sgt. Wassil, 33, took part in World War Two's European Theater while assigned to the Army's 8th Infantry Division, 13th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, Company K's reconnaissance unit. He and three other recon members were part of the Hurtgen Forest offensive and were scouting enemy positions near Bergstein when German gunfire scattered and separated them Dec. 28, 1944.

When Wassil's two colleagues reported back that they were unable to find him, their superiors listed him as missing Dec. 28. German forces never

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OMICRON VARIANT LEAVES

WORLD WORRIED

(Continued from page 14)

down. We'll fight the - you know, and - look, we're going to fight and beat this new variant as well.

"We're learning more about this new variant every single day. And as we learn more, we're going to share that information with the American people candidly and promptly.

"Second, the best protection - I know you're tired of hearing me say this - the best protection against this new variant or any of the - of the variants out there - the ones we've been dealing with already - is getting fully vaccinated and getting a booster shot. Most Americans are fully vaccinated but not yet boosted.

"If you're 18 years or over and got fully vaccinated before June the 1st, go get the booster shot today. They're free, and they're available at 80,000 locations coast to coast. A fully vaccinated boosted person is the

most protected against COVID.

"Do not wait. Go get your booster if it's time for you to do so."

New York has already taken emergency measures to expand hospital capacity on the expected arrival of the Omicron variant there.

As of 2:00 p.m. EST on Dec. 1, one reported case of Omicron was announced in California in someone who recently came from South Africa. The person is said to be in fair shape, and suffering no critical side effects.

TOWN WATCH *(Continued from page 14)*

listed him as a POW. The War Department issued him as presumptively dead Dec. 29, 1945.

Wassil's remains, after three postwar searches, was declared unrecoverable in 1951. A Bronze Star and Purple Heart medal were posthumously awarded.

Larry Stanley Wassil was born in Bloomfield July 12, 1911 and graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1929 as a Bengals star Bengals football player. He worked as a machinist on oil drums in Elizabeth Dec. 7, 1941. He and his first wife had son Lawrence L. and daughter Barbara (later Barbara Loock) before their divorce; the latter three lived in Nutley.

A DPMAA historian, in April 2019, had preliminary concluded that the body in Griesheim Mausoleum niche X-1198 may be Wassil and, after informing his descendants, had the remains exhumed and sent to Nebraska.

German woodcutters found that body in 1952. The historian's news came in time for Larry L. Wassil, 80, who died later in 2019.

L.S. Wassil's body has come home to the U.S. - but his last resting place will not be in Bloomfield. His May 22 burial is set for Arlington National Cemetery.

MONTCLAIR - The Township Council will have an outside attorney exploring promotional discrimination claims against the Montclair Fire Department over the holidays - if they have not hired that lawyer last month.

Several council members said to two media sources Nov. 19 that their Civil Rights Commission has awarded such a legal services contract "Local Talk" was unable to find the contract among the council's Nov. 15 meeting agenda packet. That measure may be official when and if included among the council's Dec. 21 to-be-posted meeting agenda.

The Council's commission's intent is to clearly investigate made by two MFD firefighters to the NAACP-Montclair Branch around Nov. 15 that criticized how that department's top brass have handled a Sept. 30 promotional exam.

The complaining firefighters said that

the 100-point exam rubric did not award any points towards seniority. The Sept. 30 exam was to fill vacancies among the ranks of lieutenant, captain and battalion chief. The last exam, held in 2010, gave five points for seniority.

Their claims of "inadequate administration and supervision of the examination" included Fire Chief John Herrmann failing to "recuse himself from his son's MFD promotional activities" and superiors' "selective consideration of minor, decades-old disciplinary incidents and excused medical advances."

BELLEVILLE - The township honored one of its own with an honorary street renaming 10 years to the day of the honoree's death.

A block of Carpenter Street, at Continental Avenue, was renamed Det. Michael Morgan, Jr. Way Nov. 7. That block was where Morgan, 32, used to play whenever he was not attending St. Peter's Elementary School here or North Arlington's Queen of Peace High School.

Although Morgan's performance as a QoP Golden Griffin star football linebacker earned him several scholarships, he attended New Jersey City University and play as a Gothic Knight. He later graduated from the Essex County Police Academy and joined the Newark Police Department in 2005.

Morgan first worked in the Second Precinct's Auto Theft Task Force, earning him a promotion to Detective and the Criminal Gang Intelligence Unit the next year. He was transferred to the Street Crimes Task Force/Gang Unit and, on Nov. 7, 2011, the Special Investigations Unit.

Morgan's end of watch, after 6.5 years of duty, came early and while off duty earlier that morning in Paterson. He and several friends were talking with a Straight Street nightclub employee outside at 3 a.m. when a stranger grabbed a purse and drew a gun in an armed robbery attempt. Morgan was shot while drawing his own gun and later died at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Jerome Wright, who was arrested Nov. 9 in a Philadelphia area motel pleaded guilty to first-degree aggravated man-

slaughter and two counts of first-degree robbery. He is serving a 39-year prison sentence.

Mother Phyllis Ann Morgan, brother Vincent and sisters Dawn Palmieri and Nicole Morgan are among his survivors. His Funeral Mass was held Nov. 12 at Newark's St. Lucy's Church, followed by burial at Glendale Cemetery.

NUTLEY - Two Avondale area schools were briefly locked down and traffic detoured while Nutley police officers handled a domestic violence dispute-turned standoff here Nov. 17.

Nutley's top police brass - Chief Thomas Strumolo and Director/Commissioner Alphonse Petracco - said that traffic was diverted away from the Park Avenue and Humbert Street intersection and having Eastwick College and the Washington School populations staying in place were made as "precautions" that Wednesday morning. A Belleville Fire Department crew assisted with the detouring.

The first NPD units arrived at a Humbert residence shortly after 9 a.m. on a report of a "domestic incident." They found a man barricading himself within. The initial report said that the said man had a gun, and that two people had been injured.

A woman was released to police early in the negotiations; she was taken to a local hospital for treatment of what Strumolo said were serious injuries "not the result of a firearm."



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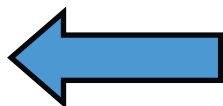
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