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INDEX Editorial & Weather - 02 The Doctor Is In - 04 Sports Wrap - 05
 World News - 06 Town Watch - 10 Winter Special - 11
 Pastor's Heart - 12

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NEWARK RANKED AS AMERICA'S DIRTIEST CITY



NEWARK - A lawn care matchmaking company has ranked the City of Newark, N.J. atop its Jan. 23 list of "2022's Dirtiest Cities in America."

LawnStarter, of Austin, Texas, placed New Jersey's largest city first among the 87 most populous in the U.S. it had surveyed late last year. The rankings, which covered cities in 26 other states and Washington, D.C. were given overall scores based on pollution, living conditions, infrastructure and consumer satisfaction.

Newark, whose 2020 Census population was 311,549, was given an overall score of 52.97. Houston, Texas (2,304,580) was ranked second at 50.12.

Jersey City (292,449) came in 27th at 39.45. New York City (8,804,190) landed 14th at 42.19. Norfolk,

(Continued on page 13)

BARAKA EXTENDS COVID-19 ORDERS



LOCAL GROUNDHOG SPREADS MISINFORMATION ABOUT WEATHER





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Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Is Newark the “Dirtiest City” in the country? According to The Center Square New Jersey on January 24, 2022: “Newark, New Jersey, tops the list as the dirtiest city in America” “Newark, New Jersey, according to a new analysis, is the dirtiest city in the country.

According to the 2022 Dirtiest Cities in America rankings from LawnStarter, the Gateway City edged out Houston and Los Angeles to earn the distinction... Newark ranked No. 13 for pollution and No. 21 for living conditions. Meanwhile, its infrastructure ranking came in at No. 43, while its customer satisfaction was second. Elsewhere in New Jersey, Jersey City ranked No. 27 on the site’s list.

In the region, New York City ranked No. 14, while Philadelphia ranked No. 31.”

Tom Brady has retired after 22 seasons and 7 Super Bowl rings. The greatest quarterback of all time won titles in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021. He won his first 6 Super Bowls with the New England Patriots, a team he played 20 years for. He signed a 2 year contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2020. Within a short period of time, he won another Super Bowl and made the Bucs very happy campers. In 2022 he brought the Bucs to the conference semifinal game, but lost a very exciting contest to the Los Angeles Rams. This year, due to the extended 17 game season, the Super Bowl will be on February 13th. The Los Angeles Rams will play the Cincinnati Bengals on the Rams’ home field in California.

As per CBS News on Monday January 31, 2022; ‘Cheslie Kryst, the 2019 winner of the Miss USA 2019 pageant and a correspondent for the entertain-

ment news program ‘Extra’ has died at age 30. Police said Kryst jumped from a Manhattan apartment building and was pronounced dead at the scene Sunday morning. Her family confirmed her death in a statement. ‘In devastation and great sorrow, we share the passing of our beloved Cheslie. Her great light was one that inspired others around the world with her beauty and strength,’ her family said.”

The atmosphere of fame and reaching the top in no time can contribute to suicide. Also, a lot of people do not understand that with fame, comes lots of pressure to maintain status, and lots of enemies created by jealousy in a race to reach the top.

Whoopi Goldberg has been suspended from ABC network’s “The View” for 2 weeks for her comment about holocaust and race. I don’t think her intention was to criticize the Jewish community. She apologized immediately as well. Some say that the 2 week suspension is too harsh of a punishment.

CNN President Jeff Zucker resigned Feb. 2 after revealing he failed to disclose a romantic relationship with a colleague, who was once the communications director for former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the older brother of Chris Cuomo, who the network fired.

Local elections are four to five months away. From the middle of February, it will start shaping up soon. As per the news by New Jersey Globe, former Mayor Sharpe senior is thinking about running for the upcoming Newark election as a councilman at large. James went to jail for 18 months and would need something like an expungement or pardon from the governor to run again for any public office. If Sharpe cannot run, he might try to bear his weight on the upcoming election. It will be interesting to see how the election take a turn in Newark, Orange, Irvington and Belleville for May 10, 2022.

Have a wonderful week.

I’ll talk to you next week.

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- Editors : Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah
- Journalists / Writers : Kristopher Seals | Walter Elliott | Bro. Thomas Ellis | Dhiren Shah | William Hathaway Jr. | Dr. Daniel Louis | Ahmed Screven, Esq. | Anuj Shah | Lev Zilbermints | Kinjal Shah | Asha Shah | Akshat Shah, MD | Ivy Mahabir | Kalindi Bhatt | Dr. Robert Kennedy
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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Rain, Some Fog	Rain, Ice in the PM	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
HI 44	HI 42	HI 30	HI 33	HI 43	HI 40	HI 44
LO 40	LO 20	LO 14	LO 21	LO 25	LO 23	LO 28

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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Post COVID Exposure and Mental Health

The World Health Organization conducted a study in 2020 to evaluate the major disruptions to critical mental health services. The study involved 130 countries, and the result showed that over 60% had disruptions to

mental health services for vulnerable people.

What's more damning about the research is the spread across children and adults. 72% reported disruptions to mental health services for children, 70% for older adults, and 61% for women requiring antenatal and postnatal services.

Now, this is a report from August 2020. Back when we were still a few hundred thousand in global deaths. Fast forward to 2022, and more than 5.6 million people have lost their lives from 363 million cases.

Let me riddle you with this. Back when "only" hundreds of thousands of people had died from the virus, many countries had disruptions in their mental health services. These would have only gotten worse as the strain on hospitals increased, and beds were stockpiled with infected individuals. Then, many people that needed mental health services couldn't access them. And, remember, that was at the begin-

ning stages of the pandemic. So, how much more people do you think will have been deprived of mental health services as the pandemic worsened and the death toll increased?

One way or the other, COVID has affected us all - physically, financially, academically, and, of course, mentally. But I believe many people underestimate the mental stress the virus has taken on many of us. Yes, I'm saying us because I identify with mentally challenged individuals. But, seriously, imagine going to packed emergency rooms every day for months, and when we eventually got a solution to the problem, many kicked against it because they didn't want to be "zombies."

875,000 people have died in the United States since the start of the pandemic. This means at least 875,000 families have suffered a loss. And when you start to draw lines, you'd see that far more families must have been affected by these losses. The feeling of losing a loved one is dreadful. Some lost more than one. Some had their entire family wiped from the earth's surface. Eventually, this would have taken some kind of toll on their health - physical and mental.

Imagine the children that have become orphans because of the pandemic. Or the wives who have become widows. Or the parents who have become childless. Or... I could go on all day, but you get the point by now. Many have suffered great losses because of the pandemic. These losses have brought negative emotions, represented by a barrage of mental challenges.

Speaking about mental health is always tricky because of how crazy the subject is. You may have a mental disease without you even realizing it until it's too late. There's even this saying that "we all have something."

COVID is not going away anytime soon; probably never,

in fact. So we have to find a way to deal with the mental challenges it brings. There's no trivial mental challenge. Estimates suggest that 14.3% of deaths worldwide, which corresponds to about 8 million deaths annually, is attributable to mental disorders. Starting from the commonest ones, like depression and anxiety, to the rare ones, like Koro syndrome, they are all terrible.

The effect of the coronavirus on adults and children alike is one I cannot overstate. So you may beat the virus, but not its mental accomplices. At this point, it becomes pertinent to get our mental services working on overdrive. It's time to start cutting our losses.



If you need help, please seek help. I beg you. 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.

It's Essex County Tournament time, and a lot of teams took to the court this past week. In girls' action, Newark Tech defeated the Orange Lady Tornados 52-28. Makiyay Williams led her Tech with 13 points and 5 rebounds. Also, the Irvington Lady Knights lost to Livingston 38-19, and the Caldwell Chiefs beat North Star Academy.

In boys' action, Payne Tech beat West Market Street rival Science Park 46-31. Also Montclair and Nutley were winners, while West Caldwell slipped by Cedar Grove 49-47. In a South Ward rivalry game, the Shabazz Bulldogs took the win over Weequahic 73-70. Jamaal Ndiayle had 18 points 19 rebounds.

The Orange boys basketball team beat Montclair Kimberley 65-59, thanks to 8 points and 15 rebounds from Paul Metelos, Jayden Livingston's 16 points,

and Gregory Burton's five 3 pointers and 21 points.

In NFL news, the Super Bowl is set as the Cincinnati Bengals will play the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LVI. For the second straight year, the game will be played in the home stadium of one of the participants, as SoFi Stadium is home to the Rams.

Also, legendary quarterback Tom Brady has decided to call it a career, retiring after 22 seasons, 7 Super Bowl wins, multiple MVPs, and owning virtually every QB record. He will miss out on playing the Commanders, the new name for the Washington Football Team.

Finally, former Dolphins head coach Brian Flores has filed a class action lawsuit against the NFL for its hiring practices. As of press time, the league only has one African American head coach, Mike Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers.



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ECC MEN'S RELAY TEAM

WINS AT MILLROSE GAMES

Caption: Top, from left, Carl Drakes and Khabeeba Mills. Bottom, from left, Mohamed Soumare and Daniel Cunningham. Photo Courtesy Essex County College



Essex County College's Men's 4x400 meter relay team reigned supreme at the prestigious Millrose Games, held Saturday, January 29, at The Armory, New York City. The Wolverine team captured the title in the 4x400 meter College Relay, besting a field of 4-year

colleges and universities.

"Congratulations to our student-athletes on such a great showing," ECC Athletic Director Michael Doughtie said of Carl Drakes, Khabeeba Mills, Mohamed Soumare and Daniel Cunningham. The team, coached by Lionel Leach, won

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the relay with a time of 3:20.83, a full second ahead of the second-place team from St. Francis College of Brooklyn.

The full race is available for viewing here: <https://vimeo.com/672001897>

"The sky is the limit for these young men; few athletes can lay claim to winning the Millrose Games 4x400 meter College Relay. I am so proud of them. Many more titles will follow if they stay the course," said Coach Leach.

"A wonderful showing by our outstanding student-athletes. I applaud our team, Coach Leach, Athletic Director Doughtie and our entire College Athletic Department. We are very proud of you," said ECC's President, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

The ECC Women's 4x400 meter relay team finished fourth in their race. Delverna Broomfield, Kayla Charles, Megan Thompson, and Zoey-Ann Wint ran for Essex.



MODERNA VACCINE GETS FULL APPROVAL

UNITED STATES

For those who withheld trust for one particular COVID-19 due to its emergency use authorization, that decision may change after a major announcement.

On Jan. 31, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a second COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has been known as the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine; the approved vaccine will be marketed as Spikevax for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older.

Key points:

- Spikevax meets the FDA's rigorous standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality required for approval.

- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine has been available under emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 18 years of age and older since Dec. 18, 2020.

"The FDA's approval of Spikevax is a significant step in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, marking the second vaccine approved to prevent COVID-19. The public can be assured that Spikevax meets the FDA's high standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality required of any vaccine approved for use in the United States," said Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, M.D.

"While hundreds of millions of doses of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine have been administered to individuals under emergency use authorization, we understand that for some individuals, FDA approval of this vaccine may instill additional confidence in making the decision to get vac-

inated."

Spikevax has the same formulation as the EUA Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and is administered as a primary series of two doses, one month apart. Spikevax can be used interchangeably with the EUA Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to provide the COVID-19 vaccination series.

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine remains available under EUA as a two-dose primary series for individuals 18 years of age and older, as a third primary series dose for individuals 18 years of age and older who have been determined to have certain kinds of immunocompromise, and as a single booster dose for individuals 18 years of age and older at least five months after completing a primary series of the vaccine.

It is also authorized for use as a heterologous (or "mix and match") single booster dose for individuals 18 years of age and older following completion of primary vaccination with a different available COVID-19 vaccine.

"The FDA's medical and scientific experts conducted a thorough evaluation of the scientific data and information included in the application pertaining to the safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality of Spikevax. This includes the agency's independent verification of analyses submitted by the company, our own analyses of the data, along with a detailed assessment of the manufacturing processes, test methods and manufacturing facilities," said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research."

FRIGHTENING LIGHTNING

WORLD

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has established two new world records for so-called megaflashes of lightning, in notorious hotspots in North and South America.

In the southern United

States, WMO's Committee on Weather and Climate Extremes on Feb. 1, officially recognized a single flash that covered a horizontal distance of 768 ± 8 km (477.2 ± 5 miles) on April 29, 2020. This happening between the states of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

"This is equivalent to the distance between New York City and Columbus, Ohio in the United States or between London and the German city of Hamburg," said WMO in a press release.

The other record announced was for the greatest duration for a single lightning flash - of 17.102 ± 0.002 seconds from the flash - that developed continuously through a thunderstorm over Uruguay and northern Argentina, on June 18, 2020.

The new record for the longest detected megaflash distance is 60 kilometers more than the previous record, which was recorded with a distance of 709 ± 8 km (440.6 ± 5 mi) across parts of southern Brazil on Oct. 31, 2018.

Both the previous and new record used the same maximum great circle distance methodology to measure flash extent, said WHO, meaning the shortest measurable distance between two points on a sphere.

The now runner up for the longest duration megaflash record, stood at 16.73 seconds which was derived from a flash that developed continuously over northern Argentina on March 4, 2019 - that's 0.37 seconds shorter than the new record announced on Feb. 1.

The findings were published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

Other previously accepted WMO lightning extremes have been far more deadly, than spectacular: in Zimbabwe, in 1975, 21 people were killed by a single flash of lightning as they huddled for safety in a hut.

And the grim record for fatalities caused by an indirect lightning strike, saw 469 people killed in Dronka, Egypt when lightning struck a set of oil tanks, causing burning oil to flood the town in 1994.

The previous assessments

that established the flash duration and extent records, used data collected by ground-based Lightning Mapping Array (LMA) networks.

Many lightning scientists acknowledged that there are upper limits for the scale of lightning that could be observed by any existing LMA, and that identifying megaflashes beyond these extremes, would require a lightning mapping technology with a larger observation domain.

FRAUDSTERS TAKEN DOWN

EUROPE

Judicial and law enforcement authorities in Bulgaria, supported by Europol and Eurojust, have taken down a network of online investment fraudsters involved in money laundering. On the action day on Jan. 26, officers from the Bulgarian National Police arrested one suspect for defrauding mainly German and Greek investors of at least EUR 10 million. During the action day, a total of 24 locations were searched, while officers interrogated 66 witnesses in Sofia and Burgas. Furthermore, a variety of electronic equipment, financial information and recordings were seized.

Europol deployed two experts on the ground in Bulgaria to facilitate the information exchange and provide real-time operational analysis and technical expertise. Eurojust coordinated the joint action day and provided cross-border judicial support. The national authorities deployed around one hundred officers and prosecutors during the action day.

The scam was exposed after complaints were made by German and Greek investors who had lost all of the deposits they had invested in the online scam. The organized crime group responsible had set up websites and call centers that appeared to be legitimate but were actually fraudulent.

The fraudulent activity was

(Continued on page 14)

LOCAL GROUNDHOG SPREADS MISINFORMATION ABOUT WEATHER

WEST ORANGE - Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. introduced Essex Edwina as the new weather prognosticator during the Groundhog Day event at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo on Wednesday, February 2nd.

Essex Edwina took over for Essex Ed, who has entered retirement after having Edwina as his apprentice during the pandemic. During the 10 a.m. event, Edwina did not see her shadow which means spring weather is expected to come six weeks early. In addition, she picked the Los Angeles Rams to win Super Bowl LVI.

"I appreciate Essex Edwina's prediction and look forward to spring," said DiVincenzo, who disagreed with Edwina's Super Bowl pick. "It may be cold outside, but it's still a great time to come out and Experience Essex, and our wonderful Turtle Back Zoo and South Mountain Recreation Complex. Waiting for Essex Edwina on Groundhog Day creates excitement about Essex County's Turtle Back Zoo and highlights its role as an educational resource," he added.

Essex Edwina's prediction is as follows:

Hello Essex Family! So happy you could attend,

I'm nervous, but excited, to take over for my friend.

Ed joined the Great Resignation, he cares no more for changing weather,

He's got a beach house down in Boca, where the snowbirds hang together.

Now, though I'm new to the job, my prognostications are true,

It's not just about shadows, there's more to what I do.

Models and Maps, hours studying in my hut,

But for this first prognostication, I'm gonna go with my gut.

I see tulips and daffodils, cherry blossoms too,

Sunshine and warm weather, that's what's in store for you.

Early Spring is in the forecast, under this ice,

So let's look forward, not back, that's my 2022 advice.

Now that's out of the way, I've got football to cheer,

Rams' defense will secure the win, that's my prediction this year.

This is the first year that Essex Edwina has made mid-winter and Super Bowl forecasts. Her predecessor, Essex Ed, had been predicting the mid-winter forecast since 1997 and the Zoo had various other groundhogs predict before him. New Jersey weather is not always in line with Pennsylvania's after all, and Ed could easily see his shadow while Punxsutawney Phil does not or vice versa. In the mid-2000s, Essex Ed started adding Super Bowl predictions to his prognostication.

Legend has it that if a groundhog sees his/her/their shadow on February 2nd, the winter chill will continue. If the weather is cloudy and he doesn't see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and an early spring.

With all that said, one person disagrees with the tradition.

"I do not subscribe to the notion that a groundhog can accurately forecast the weather," said "Local Talk" Content Editor Kristopher Seals. "This is a classic case of misinformation, alternative facts, and 'fake news.' Also, I'm just going to go out on a limb and say that there's a 50-50 chance that she will correctly prognosticate the winner of the Super Bowl.

"Don't get me wrong. I fully support Essex County employing its first female groundhog (that we know of). That said, if this friendly neighborhood rodent can predict the weather, then I predict I'm going to marry Scarlett Johansson."

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	10011	137	10102	139
Bloomfield	11124	146	11231	148
Caldwell	1419	17	1433	17
Cedar Grove	3449	127	3506	130
East Orange	16529	358	16613	362
Essex Fells	438	2	440	2
Fairfield	1757	35	1789	35
Glen Ridge	1040	18	1056	18
Irvington	11330	263	11418	268
Livingston	5404	97	5482	98
Maplewood	4291	43	4363	43
Millburn	2717	14	2782	14
Montclair	5784	82	5860	82
Newark	75731	1159	76256	1176
North Caldwell	1093	8	1124	8
Nutley	5964	75	6038	77
Orange	7760	158	7836	158
Roseland	1225	21	1238	21
South Orange	2816	20	2848	21
Verona	2837	22	2885	22
West Caldwell	2370	58	2381	60
West Orange	11912	253	12034	259
Total	187001	3113	188715	3158

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of February 2, 2022)
NJ: 1,832,198 cases / 28,744 deaths (Plus 2,919 probable)
United States (approx.): 75.542 Million / 893,300 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 383.803 Million / 5.696 Million deaths

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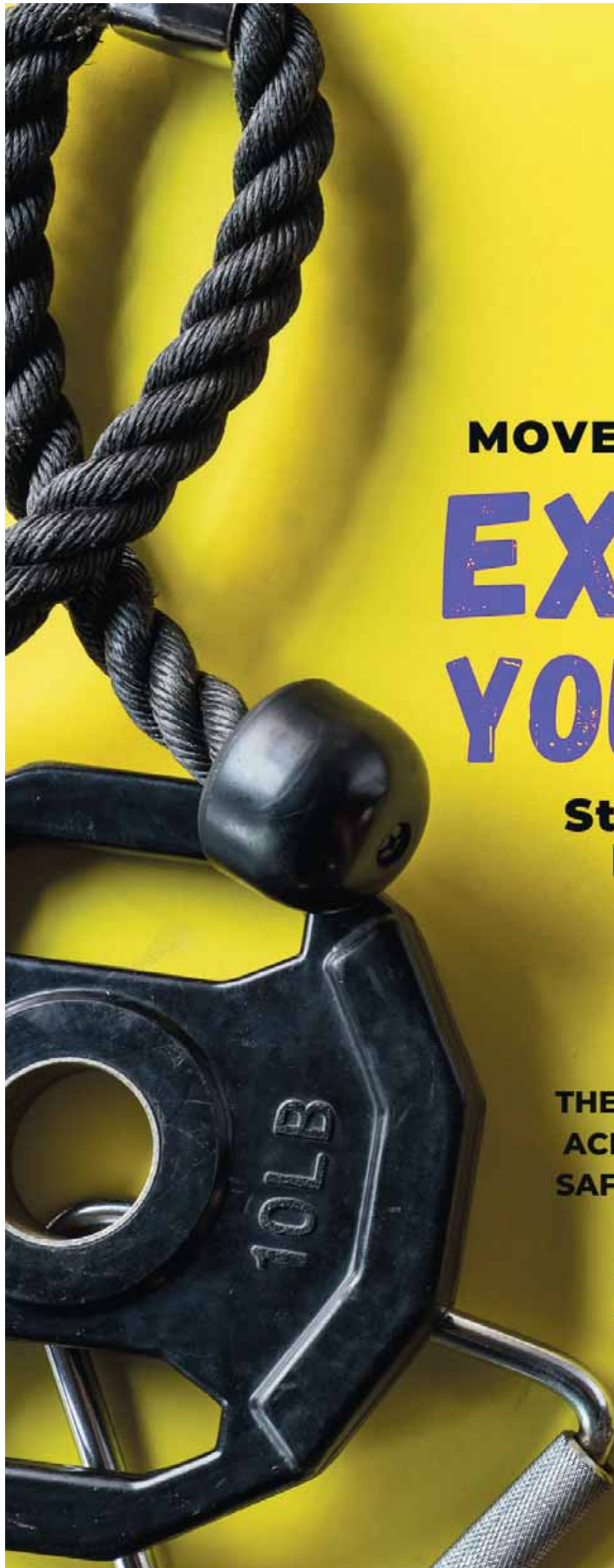


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TOWN WATCH

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 - The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association has not released its review on the brawl that erupted after one of Jan. 17's basketball games here in West Side High School's Dr. E. Wyman Garrett Gymnasium.

The WSHS varsity boys' basketball game against the visiting Paterson JFK HS team's final score remains 61-59 with Kennedy the winner. The game still counts on the Rough Riders (3-5 as of Jan. 27) and Knights (12-3) respective win-loss season records.

No one has been charged among the players or spectators in the bench-clearing fight that interrupted the five-game Freedom Fighters Hoops Challenge program. While Newark Police reported no arrests or serious injuries, referees handed down five technical fouls, mostly against JFK, during the game.

West Side, looking to end a three-game season-opening slide, had been leading Kennedy for three of the game's four quarters. The 7-2 Knights, thanks to one of its players catching a pass and sinking a final buzzer-beating basket, won 6:52 p.m. that Monday.

One WSHS and one JFK HS player immediately began shoving each other - which led to blows. Respective head coaches Akbar Cook and Tommie Patterson, Newark Public School Security and Newark Police, within seconds, found themselves separating players and spectators who had spilled onto the hardwood floor.

Officers and coaches restored order so that the challenge's final game, Paterson Charter vs. Newark Central HS,

could be played. NJ Legacy, West Side Athletic Department and Paterson Division of Recreation had been holding the annual tournament in part to honor the federal observance of the late nonviolent human rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Central won the nightcap over Paterson Charter, 73-59 after Essex County West Caldwell Tech won the opener over Passaic County Technical Institute, 67-66. Newark Arts HS won over Bayonne, 52-41 and Montclair's Immaculate Conception topped Newark East Side, 61-48.

IRVINGTON - Police here, in Maplewood and Newark are looking for a serial armed robber who had struck women nine times Jan. 22 and fled to adjacent borders.

Maplewood Police Chief Jim DeVaul said that they have the late model grey Infiniti that was used in the robberies. The car, which was found in Newark, has been towed and impounded.

Irvington, Maplewood and Newark detectives are looking for the driver and the passenger/robber. The suspects had likely stolen the Infiniti - who told Newark police that it was taken with the keys in its ignition switch.

DeVaul said their first of three reports was from a 64-year-old woman along the 120 block of Jacoby Street at 10:10 a.m. that Saturday She told MPD officers that she was thrown down from behind, punched in the face - and saw the robber run into a waiting car. She was taken to Newark's University Hospital for treatment.

A 44-year-old Irvington woman along the 90 block of Franklin Terrace told MPD that an armed man exited a dark-colored car, snatched her purse after a struggle and fled at 11 a.m.

A 35-year-old Newark woman along the 100 block of Irvington Avenue said that she was stuck up by a gunman who exited a similar car at 1 p.m. She handed over her purse.

An Irvington Police spokesperson said they had six similar armed robberies on women the same Saturday. IPD would not give details beyond that the same car was involved and that none

of their victims were physically injured.

EAST ORANGE - County authorities are looking for information regarding the recent murder of a city resident - and have posted a \$5,000 reward for that info on Jan. 25.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Sheriff Armando Fontoura put up a \$5,000 reward on the latter's Crime Stoppers for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Alfred Cheatham's murderer.

Cheatham, 55, was found shot near his home on the 50 block of Whittlesey Avenue Nov. 2. He was declared dead at the scene at 2:23 p.m. that Tuesday.

Witnesses that day told a reporter that suspects approached him and had tried to steal certain items. The attempted robbers then shot him and fled.

Cheatham owned and operated his AJ Construction contracting business here since 2002. The Jersey City native had studied at the Hudson County School of Technology, New Jersey State University and Montclair State University.

Cheatham had posted a Tik Tok video earlier that Nov. 2. He sang along to Marvin Sapp's "Never Would Have Made It" and talked about his open heart surgery and living with a pacemaker. His last rites were held Nov. 19 at Orange's Cotton Funeral Service.

ORANGE - City detectives have been searching for a pair of vehicles involved in a South Ward car theft at gunpoint here since Jan. 19.

The driver of a black 2013 BMW 328i told responding OPD that he was sitting in his car along the 600 block of Argyle Avenue at 9:40 p.m. that Wednesday.

He added that "two black males" got out of "a dark-colored four-door vehicle." One of them showed a handgun and demanded money and the BMW's keys. The victim handed over the key and watched the pair flee onto northbound Valley Road.

The stolen BMW has NJ license plate L10-PHM. The other car was either a Nissan or a Honda.

Clarification

The African American Heritage Fund, which the late Hon. Bob Pickett cofounded, is at 132 So. Harrison St., East Orange, NJ 07018.

WEST ORANGE - When members of the township's March 13 St. Patrick's Day Parade end their run and repair to Quigley's Tavern, they may well leave a chair empty in memory of Thomas Quigley.

Quigley, 89, second-generation proprietor of the family tavern and an early supporter of the parade committee, died at home here Dec. 29.

Thomas John Quigley was born in then-East Orange General Hospital June 20, 1932 and served Uncle Sam during the Korean Conflict 1950-53 - but was otherwise a lifelong West Orange resident.

Tom joined father John as a licensed plumber and in working in the tavern until he left for military service. He had also met Catherine McCormack at his going away party there - and kept overseas correspondence.

Tom returned with an honorable discharge to resume as a Local 24 plumber and tavern operator until his 1997 retirement. He married Catherine Aug. 4, 1955 and raised John, Thomas, Robert and David.

Three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren are also among Quigley's survivors. Sister Norma Bell predeceased him.

Quigley, after a Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, was buried Jan. 4 at East Hanover's Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

SOUTH ORANGE - A village man is now facing 15 counts of sexual assault on some of the students of the afterschool STEM program he had cofounded.

A Union County grand jury had indicted Christopher P. Marbaix, 60, Jan. 13 of on six second-degree counts of endangering the welfare of a child, five second-degree counts of sexual assault of a child under 13-years-old and three fourth-degree counts of criminal sexual contact with a child.

Marbaix, said Union County Prosecutor William A. Daniel

(Continued on page 12)

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*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Curse On The Earth

There was a time in the history of our world when people sang concerning the beauty of the earth, and one could hear in Christian churches:

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our
birth
over and around us lies.
Refrain:
Christ, our Lord, to you we
raise
this, our hymn of grateful
praise.*

At such times people would also recite creation poetry such as Psalm 19, a part of which I quote:

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
² Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
³ There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.*

*⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.
In them, He has set a tabernacle for the sun,
⁵ Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.
⁶ Its rising is from one end of heaven,
And its circuit to the other end;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

Yes, not only in the churches did they recite and sing creation poetry that spoke of the beauty of nature, but in schools, homes and everywhere, where there was a high respect for the God of nature. It was done from a faith perspective. People believed then that God made the world and everything in it, and they revered the God of nature whose character they could see stamped on nature.

Unfortunately, things have changed, profoundly, as we have gotten more sophisticated with our technologies. The more we become technocrats, the more we think we have the right to dominate the earth and everything in it. The more we claim how much we own where we live and have the right to do what we are doing, the more we create curses on the earth that we are passing on to the next generation.

Many economists are talking about "the resource curse(s)." They speak of it in places on earth, especially in African countries, such as South Africa, Nigeria, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the paradox of plenty and the poverty paradox are profoundly expressed, in corruption, in continuous conflicts and foreign competition. Of course, we can also see it in Europe and America where the rich are abusing the resources that is to be shared with all others. Yes, it is ever more evident that God's resources have been turned into more and more curses on the earth.

Let me admonish that our children are watching the curses on the beautiful earth and are crying as they come to realize that they might not have a future earth to live in. When they hear that the largest iceberg on record, measuring more than 4,200 square miles (11,000 square kilometers), broke off in Antarctica in 2021 and that a larger iceberg, with a surface area of around 4,320 square kilometers, holding enough frozen water to lift oceans a dozen meters (40 feet), drowning cities and redrawing the planet's coastlines, broke away from Greenland and is currently afloat in the Atlantic, they will think that our world has a rather frightening prospect of survival.

Our children need comfort, and I hope that we can give it to

them by helping them to know that we who are passing off the scene of action are willing to do all we can to stop the curses on the earth that we have done so much to perpetuate. But, of course, I wish that we do not give our children any false hopes.

As messed up as things are, it seems impossible to think that we will be able to remove the curses on our own. Even if we destroyed all nuclear arsenals and the poisons of biological weaponry that have been stockpiled across the world, we would still be in a world where self-centered humanity will find a way to make a mess of things.

So here is what I want to say, while we do our best to contain the curses, while we try to control our self-centered ways, we need to pray hard: "Lord, let your kingdom come and let your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Let your rule begin now. Please come soon and bring about the new creation, for only thus will the curse(s) be lifted."

The above prayer is not a fiction of our imagination for anyone who loves the Lord. The prayer is based on the promise that God has made. God says, "Look, I will make all things new" (Revelation 21:5), and then, "There will be no more curse." (Revelation 22:3)

I want to live in that new earth where the curse(s) will be removed. How about you?

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

and Acting Summit Police Chief Steven Zagorski, is accused of inappropriately touching six children through their clothes "on multiple occasions September 2015 through December 2018."

The said incidents allegedly happened to students nine-to-15-years-old while at the Robot Revolution in Summit, which Marbaix had co-founded in 2013. The largest robotics school in N.J., which has taught 3,000

students, severed ties with Marbaix upon his since learning of the allegations by Dec. 31, 2018.

"Davin Czukoski, the other partner, reinvented the program, made strict policies and procedures and instituted numerous safety measures," said Robot Revolution in 2020. "His wife, Bonnie Liberman Czukoski, was brought on as his new partner."

Marbaix was arrested and first charged with eight counts from three students Nov. 18, 2020. Six more charges were added, when three more children came forward, in January 2022.

Convictions of a second-

degree offense carry a five-to-10-year prison sentence. Information regarding this case is to be sent to Summit Police Capt. Ryan Peters at (908) 277-9380.

MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education formally hired Christopher Stephens on Jan. 24 to succeed Christopher Faraone as Columbia High School boys indoor track coach for the remaining season.

CHS Principal Frank Sanchez confirmed, on Jan. 14, that seven-year coach Faraone had resigned. Sanchez said that

Stephens, who was hired as an assistant coach and "our current coaches" will continue with the winter season and that "we'll be looking for a Spring track replacement for next season."

Faraone came to CHS Feb. 22, 2016 with nine years' experience as Union HS track coach. He succeeded Lisa Morgan, who left to become head men's and women's track and field coach at Bloomfield College. Morgan, whose runners earned various Essex County, state and national titles and records, left in 2019 to start Bloomfield College's wom-

(Continued on page 13)

NEWARK MAYOR BARAKA EXTENDS COVID-19 ORDERS

Vaccination requirement will be re-evaluated after February 16; Mask mandate will be reviewed after March 4

NEWARK - On Feb. 2, Mayor Ras J. Baraka announced that under a new Executive Order, the City of Newark will extend the requirement of proof of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for entry into certain establishments and facilities for an additional two weeks, to Wednesday, Feb. 16.

The Order also extends the

requirement for the wearing of face masks for residents and visitors while indoors. The City will continue to monitor the impact the change in the COVID-19 positivity rate is having on its residents, and will consider the impact and effectiveness of the vaccination requirement after Feb. 16; and of the indoor mask mandate after Friday, March 4.

"The data shows that we are heading in the right direction. Our latest three-day test positivity rate, from Jan. 28, shows a rolling average of 5.73 percent," said Mayor Baraka. We need to continue wearing our masks and getting vaccinated, as another form of protection, to remain on this path of progress. We will continue to be guided by data,

and do what is necessary to prevent further spread to protect the people of Newark, those who work here, and visit."

Establishments affected by this Executive Order must prominently post signage at their entrances notifying the public of the vaccination entry requirement.

NEWARK RANKED AS

AMERICA'S DIRTIEST CITY

(Continued from page 1)

Va. (238,005) placed 87th and last at 15.78.

Newark received this dubious distinction after ranking third in LawnCare's July 1, 2021 survey. Palmdale, Calif (152,921) took that top spot with Los Angeles (3,898,747) second. Los Angeles is third Jan. 23 at 49.87 and Palmdale dropped off the "worst 87" chart.

LawnStarter, founded in 2013, brings homeowners and lawn mowing/landscaping companies together online. Its website lists insured "Lawn Care Pros" in 60 cities or metropolitan areas among 17 states and D.C.

Only 35 cities or metro areas LawnStarter serves, however, are among Jan. 23's list of 87 surveyed. LawnStarter does not appear to serve Newark, Jersey City, New York City, Los Angeles, Norfolk or Palmdale.

LawnStarter has also posted nine other surveys, from "2021's Best Cities for Remote Workers" to "2021's Most Festive Cities."

The Jan. 23 survey, according to LawnStarter.com's blog, uses 23 metrics among its four categories. There are four metrics, including the median air quality index, in "Pollution." "Living Conditions," including residents per square mile, have nine.

Infrastructure, including tons recycling and refuse collection or sent to landfills per 100,000, has six metrics. Consumer Satisfaction, including "share of residents dissatisfied with garbage disposal," has four.

Some of LawnStarter's metrics, like garbage disposal satisfaction, are drawn from Numbeo.com's data. Numbeo calls itself the world's largest crowd-sourced cost of living database.

Newark, according to the latest survey results, ranks 43rd

worst in Infrastructure. This score includes the city's 52nd ranking for tons of waste in landfills per 100,000 residents in terms of Infrastructure and 68th for recycling and refuse collections per 100,000 in the same category.

Newark ranks second-worst in Customer Satisfaction. It is first in the percentage of residents dissatisfied with garbage disposal and residents who consider the city as dirty or untidy. It is ranked second in the percentage of residents dissatisfied with parks and greenery.

Jersey City, by comparison, was ranked seventh in Customer Satisfaction, 50th in Infrastructure, 10th in Living Conditions and 55th in Pollution.

"As lockdown restrictions eased, pollution returned to pre-pandemic levels in many urban areas; U.S. emissions shot up by 6.2 percent compared to 2020," said LawnStarter in its release statement. "In many cities, peo-

ple deal with much more than pollution - pests, litter and bad waste management. Dirty cities are unappealing to residents and tourists and can be a huge drain on municipal budgets."

Newark, despite ranking first in opportunities, lands 63rd in cities for remote workers. It also ranks eighth, behind Jersey City, among the most festive cities.

Whether Palmdale responded to last year's top-ranking with improvements or by supplying insufficient data for the Jan. 23 survey is not known by press time. A Feb. 1 email to the Palmdale City Clerk remains unanswered.

LawnStarter, in its Jan. 23 release, initially surveyed 200 cities or metropolitan areas. They narrowed their list to 87 after the other 113 lacked data in one or two metrics.

An email to Mayor Ras Baraka's Office of Public Information was not immediately responded to.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

en's program.

Faraone was originally hired to head the girls' outdoor track and field program. The UHS Class of 2000 and St. Peter's University Class of 2004 graduate had also been a long-distance runner there.

Faraone remains a teacher of U.S. History and AP Government at UHS.

BLOOMFIELD - The 2020

Census-based redistricting process has arrived in Bloomfield as of Jan. 21 with some good and perhaps not so good results.

A good result is that the township is now all in Mikie Sherrill's 11th Congressional District. Bloomfield was divided between the 11th and Cong. Donald M. Payne, Jr.'s 10th CD since 2012.

A maybe not-so-good result is that two of Bloomfield's polling station districts have gone to new wards. The following shifting is in response to the township growing from 47,315 resi-

dents in 2010 to 53,105 in 2020.

The former Third Ward's 14th District, including The Green Historic District, has been moved to the First Ward. The former First Ward's 12th District, including Glendale Cemetery, has gone to the Second Ward.

All of this district shifting and redrawing is part of the once-a-decade population balancing act. All population-based political offices - from Bloomfield's three wards to the Congressional House of Representatives - are to be evenly distributed.

Mayor Michael Venezia said that the new polling station locations will be posted before the June party primary elections. Questions may be put to Municipal Clerk Louise Palagano's office: (973) 680-4015.

MONTCLAIR - A pedestrian-train collision here Jan. 27 sent the former to a local hospital and delayed the travel of the latter's passengers and crew.

New Jersey Transit reported that Montclair-Boonton Line Train No. 6230 had struck "an
(Continued on page 15)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

Mic Snatchin...

It was hilarious how the subject matter presented itself as this week's submission. There I was, transporting my students to school. The usual daily regimen while driving, despite the radio play going on in the vehicle. (Most of the aides like listening while were in transit.) I'm listening to my audiobooks in the left ear on my earphones.

But on this morning, something happened. Surprisingly, my focus had been snatched away from my studies by SWV as they crooned "Weak," one of my favorite songs! Although I quickly shoved myself back into the learner's seat of my developing discipline when I realized that it meant literally. It was amazing to see how quickly a simple tune can make one stray, and the rest is history.

Snatching the mic is when you hear your favorite song, rap, jingle or etc, and if you were in the room or arena on that stage with the artist of that particular whatever. You'd Snatch that mic and sang, spit a rap or hee and haw or hum that tune as you owned it. You'll perform that thang harder than they ever do. Might even help em off the stage

if ya have to. Because that's your whateva man!!

Anything bubbling up in the ol dome for you yet. What songs or whatever are surfacing? Surely, something has shown up. SWV's song "Weak" may have made me so for a moment. But if Anita Baker, I'm talking her entire albums, Oleta Adams with that "Get Here" or LL Cool J's "Around the Way Girl" just to name a few. If they donned that stage with yours truly likely, somebody somehow trips or something and need be carried off when I snatched it, and I get to pushin, swayin and singing or when I get the urge to sang our songs. By the way, Salt N' Pepa's "Push It" just showed up. Don't judge me, lol.

Below, you will find Artist proof that makes each of our participants like myself an unapologetic culprit. I also had each contributor participate in a little mini-survey. The title choices were: Mic Grabbin, Snatch the Mic, Mic Snatchin, and Grab the Mic. By popular demand, one made the cut. But, Mic Snatchin is 'what we're doin!

ASKIA GRAY - Teacher

Mic Snatchin

Snoh Aalegra definitely; I love "The Alarm" and "Temporary Highs" (no skippin front to the back) "H-E-R" Her whole album. The front, the back everything, and I don't skip, but there's always one that you can relate to, like "Exhausted."

These two albums are in my high rotation. Janet Jackson is one of those artists. All of her albums are wonderful. Choose one of Janet's that you like to sang I said! Oh lord...She said!

PHENOM - Student

Mic Grabbin

WORLD NEWS FLASH (Cont. from page 6)

conducted by two call centers. While acting as financial consultants, call operators speaking German, Greek, English and Spanish contacted potential investors with promises of significant profits. As a result, several hundred victims made substantial invest-

ments but subsequently lost all of their money.

In 2019, Bulgarian authorities started investigations and Eurojust set up a joint investigation team (JIT) between Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Serbia and Europol. Following five coordination meetings with Europol and Eurojust, the JIT members were

able to identify the two fraudulent call centers in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian police, supported by the Serbian* authorities, dismantled both call centers on the action day.

In 2020, a similar modus operandi was used in another case and a coordinated action day led to the dismantling of two other call centers.



"What is your behavior like when you hear something that you like?"

I'm more of a chill kinda person. I can get a little hyped even when its hype music but not really. It's not a lot of music that move me like that ,but J. Cole's is the only artist that I relate to. I vibe with "Intro" and "January 28," "St. Tropez" I also like.

"Missing My Idols," By Trippy. He also has two others that I like. Called "Can You Rap Like Me" Part one and two. Tyler The Creator I kinda like, but his stuff is kinda weird. Yep, He's kinda of weird. I asked my grandson if he can rap like me and he said... Nada , I heard crickets lol!

PAM BROWN - Entrepreneur

Grab The Mic

I start my day off with music. I dress to it and drive to it. I listen to gospel; this is my driving music and I also listen to my meditative music (usually instrument 432 hertz meditation music) while driving. But for anything else. All of Sade's music. Anything, every word stuff like "Smooth Operator," Prince's "Purple Rain." Maroon 5's, "She Will Be Loved," Martika's "Toy

Soldie," "Careless Whisper" by George Michael.

I love the classics songs like Lisha Fischer's "How Can I Ease the Pain." The Culture Club. I love the Gospel Song by Tasha Cobbs, "Break Every Chain." As far as rap goes, I like Pop Smoke's "Dior," Gunna's "Top Off." I used to listen to a lot a Reggae; artist like Super Cat, Shabba Ranks and Patra. OMG!

WILLIAM - Music Enthusiast

Grab The Mic

I love "Changes" by Tupac. I blast it so loud that you can see people bopping the heads to it outside. The other is Tupac's "Life Goes On and "Dear Mama!"

I also like Lucky Dube's "It's Not Easy and "I've Got You Babe. Google him. His music is life changing. He's like a Bob Marley type of guy. He was a Bob Marley type he's gone now.

I like music that I can resonate with. Songs like Jerusalema - Master KG featuring Nomcebo, Diamond Platnumz - Marry You featuring Ne Yo and Diamond featuring Davido, Number One.

NEWARK PHYSICIAN CHARGED WITH HEALTH CARE AND WIRE FRAUD CONSPIRACY

A Newark physician and West New York man have been charged with defrauding New Jersey state and local health benefits programs and other insurers out of more than \$3.4 million by submitting fraudulent claims for medically unnecessary prescriptions, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Kaival Patel, 53, of West New York, New Jersey, and Saurabh Patel, M.D., 51, a Woodbridge, New Jersey, resident, are charged in a 12-count indictment with conspiracy to commit health care fraud, and wire fraud and four counts of health care fraud. Kaival Patel is also charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering, substantive counts of money laundering, and making false statements to federal agents. The defendants appeared by videoconference before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sharon A. King and were released on \$250,000 each unsecured bond.

According to the indictment: Kaival Patel and his wife - referred to in the indictment as

"Individual 1" - operated a company called ABC Healthy Living LLC (ABC) to market medical products and services, including compound prescription medications. Saurabh Patel is a medical doctor who owned and operated a clinic - referred to in the indictment as "Medical Practice 1" - in Newark.

Saurabh Patel is related to Kaival Patel and Individual 1. Paul Camarda, a pharmaceutical sales representative who is listed as a conspirator, pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler in Camden federal court on July 6, 2021, to health care conspiracy and conspiring to commit money laundering and obstruct justice and is awaiting sentencing.

Compounded medications are specialty medications mixed by a pharmacist to meet the specific medical needs of an individual patient. Although compounded drugs are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), they are properly prescribed when a physician determines that an FDA-approved medication does not

meet the health needs of a particular patient, such as if a patient is allergic to a dye or other ingredient.

Kaival Patel, Saurabh Patel, Camarda, and others learned that certain state and local government employees had insurance that would reimburse up to thousands of dollars for a one-month supply of certain compounded medications. The defendants submitted fraudulent insurance claims for prescription compounded medications to a pharmacy benefits administrator, which provided management services for certain insurance plans that covered state and local government employees.

The defendants steered individuals recruited to receive medications from the compounding pharmacies to Saurabh Patel's medical practice, which enabled him to fraudulently receive insurance payments for those patient visits and procedures. The conduct caused the benefits administrator to pay out \$3.4 million in fraudulent claims.

The health care fraud and

wire fraud conspiracy count carries a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison; the health care fraud charges carry a maximum potential penalty of 10 years in prison; the false statement count carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison - all of these counts are also punishable by a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gain or loss from the offense, whichever is greatest. The money laundering charges carry a maximum term of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense or not more than twice the amount of the criminally derived property involved in the transactions.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christina O. Hud and R. David Walk Jr. of the Criminal Division in Camden.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 13)

adult male pedestrian" near North Fullerton Street just after Noon that Thursday.

MBL No. 6230 was to stop at Walnut Street Station at 12:01 p.m. The 11:47 a.m. departure from Montclair State University Station had picked up 50 passengers by then. It was to make all local stops to New York Penn Station.

The incident brought NJTransit and Montclair police to the scene. The transit spokesperson did not have the extent of the man's injuries.

6230's run was canceled and its passengers were put on later trains. Train Nos. 6237 and 6241 to MSU were respectively delayed up to 70 minutes or held a Newark Broad Street Station; No. 6234, MSU-NY Penn Station, was also delayed until NJTPD's field investigation was completed.

BELLEVILLE - The decades-long saga of The Great Lawn may have entered a new chapter, thanks to a resolution the Township Council had passed Jan. 24.

The council passed a resolution that Monday night, as part of its consent agenda, "Authorizing preliminary studies and relates expenses and good faith negotiations, in advance of condemnation proceedings to acquire Block 2501, Lots 1.03 and 2, located at 233 Franklin Ave., and

580 Belleville Ave."

The zoning map and address numbers are the southern and eastern parts of The Great Lawn that fronts the historic Essex County Geriatric Center. The eight-story SoHo landmark 1929 building, which started life as a Newark isolation hospital, is well on its way to becoming an apartment building. It appears, however, that the council is considering taking the overall 7.91 acres from by eminent domain if necessary.

Alma Realty, of Long Island City, had its redevelopment plan approved by the Belleville Planning Board on the condition that The Great Lawn is kept as-is. The condition was meant to end proposals to build commercial/retail space there going back into the 1990s.

The council's Jan. 24 resolution comes 35 days after the creation of a "Real Growth for Belleville" Facebook page. RGB wants "Responsible mixed-use development around the old Essex County Geriatric Center."

Such redevelopment, the page argues, "will allow seniors to stay in Belleville," "gain 800+ jobs that were promised in some proposals," "increase the values of properties all across Belleville" and "for the town to come out of debt."

Details on the study's timetable and criteria were not immediately available.



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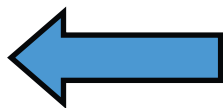
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