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## NEWARK CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS WALK OUT

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - Those who noticed several hundred students walking out of a nearby charter high school to City Hall's front steps after March 18's morning rush hour witnessed a familiar, yet unique, sight.

The students left North Star Academy's Lincoln Park Campus building at 377 Washington St., at about 9 a.m. that Friday and walked a block east to City Hall. They then held a rally for about 90 minutes to air their grievances.

The City Hall steps have been the focal point of five protests by mostly high school students 2010-18. Student participation ranged from 300 to 1,000.

Two were held March 14 and April 20, 2018 as National Schools Walkout Day in the wake of 17 people gunned down in Parkland, Fla.' Marjorie Stoneman High School. American History High School students, teachers and administrators walked out to defeat a Newark Public Schools' intended relocation.

The bulk of the five protests was over state education

aid cuts and the implementation of then-NPS State District Superintendent Cami Anderson's controversial One Newark Plan. One Newark included targeting 20 schools for "turnaround," closing and/or consolidation.

Friday morning's students, however, were from a high school overseen by the Uncommon Schools charter schools network. Charter school students leaving classes to protest are rare occasions.

There was one protest, before Friday, where a non-Newark public school took part involved the March 14, 2018 national school gun violence walkout. Students from St. Vincent's Academy - an Archdiocese of Newark parochial high school - joined public colleagues from Arts, Central and Science Park high schools at City Hall.

One has to cross multiple state lines to find charter high school student walkouts or protests 2018-22. Charter highs in Kansas City, Mo., and Miami, for example, joined in the March 14, 2018 national walkout.

(Continued on page 5)

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## NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER HONORED AGAIN




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## FDA SET TO DISCUSS MORE BOOSTERS



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**Editorial**

**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

The war between Russia and Ukraine has no end in sight. The problem stems from NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) countries, especially the US, wanting Ukraine to be a part of the group. Right now, there are 30 countries that are part of NATO. The alliance has an agreement that if any country gets attacked, NATO countries will protect them by political and weaponed means as well. It's good to have an alliance with many countries. However, when we are offering \$800 million worth of weapons to make another country a member of NATO, it is not just to protect, but to fight in my opinion.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy already an-

nounced that if Russia is ready for a ceasefire, he will think positively for not joining in with NATO. However, he has not committed that he will not be part of NATO. So, it will be very difficult for anyone to believe and trust a politician. Russia is wrong for targeting civilian buildings and hospitals with missiles. Putin is a crazy guy while quietly doing his job. He will not announce when he fires nuclear missiles. He might just do it. He is dangerous.

The hearing for the first African American woman to be nominated as a Supreme Court Justice, is a proud time for all minority communities. She has faced pressure for her judgement as a judge on child pornography cases. Her judgement was very lenient, and she has awarded lower sentences to predators of child pornography, rather than the minimum sentence written in the law books. Also, she has not given any answer for the meaning of "woman." That might hurt her. However, with the party line style of Democrats and Kamala

Harris's tie-breaking vote, that may still make Ketanji Brown Jackson the first African American woman to gain a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court.

According to CNN: "Madeleine Albright, the first woman US secretary of state, who helped steer Western foreign policy in the aftermath of the Cold War, has died of cancer. She was 84 years old. Albright's family announced her death in a statement Wednesday (March 23). Albright was a central figure in President Bill Clinton's administration, first serving as US ambassador to the United Nations before becoming the nation's top diplomat in his second term. She championed the expansion of NATO, pushed for the alliance to intervene in the Balkans to stop genocide and ethnic cleansing, sought to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons, and championed human rights and democracy across the globe." She leaves behind a powerful legacy of accomplishments.

We are spending a lot of taxpayer money as far as congress-

sional elections are concerned. Every two years, the congresspersons have to contest in an election. However, there is no term limit. In my opinion, the congressional election should be for 3 or 4 years, so we can save 33% of election cost for congress.

Most of the congresspersons get elected time and time again without any problem. Also, for this country to improve, it is very important is to have term limit for senators, representatives of congress, and any position, including governors, mayors and councilpersons. The term in my opinion should be 12 years. For local leaders, they will have a maximum of three terms and senators will have a maximum of two terms. That way, new blood and less politics will reduce the lobbyists and bring in people who may think about improving the nation.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Rain	Partly Cloudy	PM Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy / Windy	Mostly Sunny	Cloudy
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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Long COVID: Risks, Symptoms, and Recovery

Getting infected with the coronavirus is no longer something many people fear, especially vaccinated people. And that makes sense, considering the almost negligible chance of dying or even getting hospitalized when vaccinated people get the virus.

Unlike typical vaccines that prevent people from getting infected in the first place, the COVID vaccine cannot assure that, at least, not anymore. Rather, it only ensures there is a minimal practical risk of dying or even getting seriously ill from the virus. Again, it is, therefore, very understandable that people don't fear getting infected anymore.

However, there is something to be concerned about for both the vaccinated and unvaccinated, and that is long COVID. Long COVID is short for the "long-term effects of coronavirus." Medically, the condition is known as post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC).

Now, it is only the effects of the coronavirus that last long and not the duration of the infection itself. To put it in a simple way, long COVID refers to symptoms of the coronavirus that last long after the infection has gone. It is important to make this distinction, as many people believe that long COVID is a coronavirus infection that lasts very long.

Why does this happen? Well, there is no definite answer to that question, as researchers only recently started studying the condition. However, from the studies that have been conducted, the four main risk factors are the presence of particular autoantibodies, a high viral (RNA) load, Type 2 diabetes, and the reactivation of the Epstein-Barr virus, which sits latent in the blood of most people following a childhood infection.

While these factors don't necessarily mean you will have long COVID, it indicates people that are at a higher risk of having the condition. This is one study - a relatively small one at that - though, and it will be irresponsible to make bold assertions, but it's nice to see science making progress about this condition.

I understand that it may be frustrating not to have all the answers about any COVID-related condition, but you have to remember that COVID-19 is a novel condition. Scientists and researchers don't have previous research and studies to examine when things get cloudy.

Since we have the risk factors out of the way, let us consider the symptoms of the condition. According to the NHS, common long COVID symptoms include extreme tiredness (fatigue), shortness of breath, chest pain or tightness, problems with memory and concentration ("brain fog"), difficulty sleeping (insomnia), heart palpitations, dizziness, pins and needles, joint pain, depression and anxiety, tinnitus, earaches, feeling sick, diarrhea, stomach aches, loss of appetite, a high temperature, cough, headaches, sore throat, changes to sense of smell or taste, and rashes.

These symptoms may last only a few days or weeks in some people but may persist for more than three months in others. Interestingly, the chances of having long COVID do not seem to be related to the severity of the coronavirus infection. In other words, people who only

exhibited mild symptoms can still have long COVID, and for months too.

As of right now, there is no proven effective drug treatment plan for managing long COVID. The only treatment plan available is a supportive care regimen where the symptoms are managed to prevent them from interfering with the lives of affected individuals.



Before I forget - yes, vaccines help, unsurprisingly. Studies have shown that vaccinated people are less likely to develop long COVID. Also, unvaccinated people who catch the virus and get symptoms of long COVID do better if they then get vaccinated. Vaccines helping the fight against long COVID are possibly the least surprising thing I have written today and again echoes my pleas to get vaccinated if you haven't. 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.

The NCAA tournament is underway, and has lived up to the nickname "March Madness." One of the biggest upsets in the first round came from a New Jersey based Cinderella team, the St. Peter's University Peacocks out of Jersey City. The #15 seed stunned the basketball world by taking down one of the sport's blue blood schools in an 85-79 overtime win over #2 Kentucky. After that shocker, the Peacocks then took down the #7 Murray State Shockers 70-60. St. Pete's will now take on high powered #3 Purdue in the East Regional Semifinals, known as the Sweet Sixteen, in Philadelphia on Thursday.

Every win in the big dance is "the first ever" for the 21-11 Peacocks are coached by none other than St. Patrick's High and Seton Hall legend Shaheen Holloway, who could wind up as the Pirates new head coach after Kevin Willard took the Maryland job. SHU could use him, as Willard's last game was a 69-42

loss to TCU in the first round of this year's tournament.

St. Peter's is the only local team left alive, not considering Villanova. Connecticut lost to New Mexico State 70-63 in the first round, while Rutgers had already lost 89-87 to Notre Dame in one of the play-in games. #12 Richmond defeated #5 Iowa 67-63, and Coach K's last season is still alive, as Duke has advanced.

In the women's tournament, Steph Curry level shooter Caitlin Clark and the #2 Iowa Hawkeyes were stunned by #10 Creighton 64-62.

Finally, in NFL news, the Cleveland Browns stunned everyone by trading three first round picks for controversial quarterback Deshaun Watson, and then giving him a 5-year, \$230 million contract - with ALL of the money guaranteed. Watson, who is facing over 20 civil suits for alleged behavior with massage therapists, now has the most guaranteed money in league history.

## STUDENTS WALK OUT

(Continued from page 1)

Students left their Las Mesa, Calif. CHS an hour before dismissal Jan. 24, 2018 to protest the police department's handling of an arrest of a student. Sacramento (Calif.) CHS students, on Sept. 9, 2018, similarly protested St. Hope's Charter administration's summertime firing of teachers and having to wear long pants on 100-degree days.

The Mast Academy joined other public high schools in walking out and converging at Miami City Hall March 10. The protest was over the Florida Senate's passing what some have called the "Don't Say Gay" bill.

There have been no previous high school walkout or protest reports involving North Star Academy's Washington Park HS. There are no reports of such occasions among the seven other privately run but publicly funded high schools North Star parent Uncommon Schools has in Boston, New York City and Roches-

ter and Troy N.Y.

LPHS students, student organizers and a former teacher came to City Hall steps to publicly decry what they call North Star's mistreatment of African or African American teachers and students. The speakers said that North Star has developed "a culture of anti-Blackness" despite Uncommon Schools President Julie Jackson's seven-point "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan" she had announced in July 2020.

LPHS senior L. Drummond was among several students who said they have seen a significant number of African American teachers telling their charges that they were leaving for being undervalued and overworked.

"It's very upsetting for us to build to build bonds with our teachers, to build relationships and connect," Drummond told a reporter, "and then see them chased out by the school."

"You deserve Black educators who don't get pushed out by these systems," said Tasha

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Grant, who taught theater at North Star until 2020. "You all deserve to be in classrooms that nurture you and keep you safe."

"We're tired and fed up," said senior Kwadjo Otoo. "No they're trying to pretend like something changed - but we know it's the same school we've been going to forever."

Otoo was referring to Jackson's seven-point DEI plan, which she said in July 2020 was in response to George Floyd's May 25, 2020 murder and her reading "of negative experiences

about our schools."

It is not clear whether Jackson had visited the "Black at Uncommon" Instagram account and/or Facebook page. The two-year-old account includes stories from former teachers systemwide plus a link to a Change.org "Hold the Uncommon Schools Network Accountable" petition.

Jackson's plan to all 57 schools in Newark, Camden, NYC, Rochester, Troy and Boston focused on meeting and talk-

(Continued on page 12)



## FDA SET TO DISCUSS MORE BOOSTERS

### UNITED STATES

On March 21, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is announcing a virtual meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) on Wed., April 6, to discuss considerations for future COVID-19 vaccine booster doses and the process for selecting specific strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus for COVID-19 vaccines to address current and emerging variants.

Along with the independent experts of the advisory committee, representatives from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health will participate in the meeting.

“As we prepare for future needs to address COVID-19, prevention in the form of vaccines remains our best defense against the disease and any potentially severe consequences,” said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. “Now is the time to discuss the need for future boosters as we aim to move forward safely, with COVID-19 becoming a virus like others such as influenza that we prepare for, protect against, and treat.

“Bringing together our panel of expert scientific external advisors in an open, transparent discussion about booster vaccination is an important step to gain insight, input and expert advice as we begin to formulate the best regulatory strategy to address COVID-19 and virus variants going forward.”

The April 6 VRBPAC meeting is intended to assist the agency in developing a general framework that will inform its regulatory decision-making on what might warrant updating the composition of COVID-19 vaccines to address specific variants, as well as timing and populations for COVID-19 vaccine booster doses in the coming

months.

No vote is planned at this meeting and there will not be any discussion of any product-specific applications.

The FDA intends to make background material available to the public, including the meeting agenda and committee roster, no later than two business days before the meeting.

In general, advisory committees include a Chair, members with scientific, medical and public health expertise and a consumer and industry representative.

The FDA intends to livestream the VRBPAC meeting on the agency’s YouTube channel Disclaimer; the meeting will also be webcast from the FDA website.

## MILLIONS DISPLACED BY WAR IN UKRAINE

### EUROPE

As the total forced to flee their homes in Ukraine rises above 10 million, attacks on healthcare facilities there due to Russia’s continuing bombardment are averaging more than two per day, the UN warned on March 21.

“We, along with our partners, remain deeply concerned over the impact of reported fighting on civilians trapped in cities in eastern, northeastern and southern Ukraine, including in Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Izyum, Donetsk, Mykolaiv, and Mariupol,” said UN Spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, briefing correspondents at UN Headquarters in New York.

Since Feb. 24 when the invasion began, more than 10 million people have now been forced from their homes in search of safety and security - nearly a quarter of the population of Ukraine.

This includes an estimated 6.5 million men, women and children who are internally displaced, said UN migration agency, IOM, on Monday, and nearly 3.5 million people who have crossed international borders out of Ukraine as refugees, according to UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

IOM’s data show that 13.5 percent of those newly displaced had already had prior experience with displacement during 2014

and 2015, when Russia’s military annexed the Crimea from Ukraine, and backed separatist militants in the eastern regions of Luhansk and Donetsk.

“Many of those displaced are particularly vulnerable, pregnant and breastfeeding women, elderly persons, those with disabilities, chronic illnesses and people directly affected by violence,” reported IOM. More than 60 percent of heads of households surveyed, are accompanied by children, and more than 53 percent of internally displaced people are women.

The agency said the most pressing needs include medicines, health services and financial resources. Some 186,000 of the displaced are third country nationals.

“The scale of human suffering and forced displacement due to the war far exceeds any worst-case scenario planning,” says IOM Director General António Vitorino.

“Responding to the needs of those internally displaced and stranded within Ukraine is our top priority. Our teams have been reaching thousands of people with essential aid, but we need hostilities to cease, in order to be able to reach people in severely affected areas.”

Humanitarian organizations are concerned about the risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation and IOM has scaled up its trafficking prevention measures, providing verified and safe information to refugees and third-country nationals on the move.

The World Health Organization says it has verified six additional reports of attacks on healthcare facilities in Ukraine on March 20, Mr. Dujarric said.

“As of March 20, WHO has verified 52 attacks on health care in 25 days. WHO notes that this is more than 2 attacks per day, stressing that this, of course, is unacceptable and that health care must always be protected,” added the UN Spokesperson.

## NORTH KOREA TIGHTENS GRIP ON CITIZENS

### ASIA

In North Korea - also known as the “Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” (DPRK) - human rights violations remain

systematic, and the authorities’ grip on the population has “tightened,” the Human Rights Council heard on March 21.

The forum’s UN-appointed independent expert Tomas Quintana, reported that the situation had worsened as a result of COVID-19 prevention measures, exacerbating a suspected humanitarian crisis.

More than 10 million people - more than 40 percent of the country - are also food insecure and fewer than three in 10 infants receive a minimum acceptable diet, said Mr. Quintana.

“Draconian measures have further strengthened the State’s control over the population, such as the policy of shooting individuals who attempt to enter or leave the country” without permission, said the expert, in reference to buffer zones set up on the border with China and Russia.

Mr. Quintana, whose official title is Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, told the Geneva forum that new legislation introduced in December 2020 in an attempt to keep the coronavirus at bay, had allowed for “grossly disproportionate punishments - including the death penalty - for accessing forbidden information, particularly of foreign content.”

The alert follows concerns already raised by the Special Rapporteur about the country’s “coercive system of governance” that deprived people of their fundamental freedoms.

“This situation has not improved during the time of my mandate,” he said. “On the contrary, control over the population has further tightened, particularly since the beginning of 2020 in the context of COVID-19 prevention measures. The prolonged border closures and restrictions on movement in-country have decimated the market activity that has become essential for the general population to access basic necessities.”

Although present at the Human Rights Council, North Korea’s representative declined to respond to the allegations.

Listing some of the abuses faced by the country’s people, Mr. Quintana highlighted arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment, restrictions on freedom of expression, religion

(Continued on page 15)

# BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

EST. 1996

## Message For You

Greetings all, and I hope all has been well. The weather has been okay, so hopefully you all have been catching that breeze.

The first thing I want to say for all the drivers routing through Branch Brook Park is, please slow down. There are ducks, and yes, they will hold up the traffic, but please be kind to god's creatures. They all stick together. I catch a lot of folks lately impatiently blowing their horns trying to make them go. That is scaring the ducks, along with pressing your gas hard and all, SMH.



Just the other day, I was in Belleville and there were deer holding up traffic. But how cold can we be; the next thing you know, two cars impatiently started ramming again and again the innocent deer. Lord, did I lose my mind.

See once again, I tell you all we are on their land, building properties where their natural habitat is. How can we try to force something out that was there first? Along a Paterson road, deer are laying in the street, just sad and pitiful. Where is traffic control in such environments. This isn't right. So please everyone just slow down. Thank you.



Now, 23 year old Taneasha Chappell was arrested, and for 16 hours this young black woman was in pain. She let the guards know and one of the guards in the facility where she was being held tried to get some help after seeing her continuously and hearing her say the same thing. Out of all that, one officer did try to get some medical attention. He called his supervisor, who sadly said she would just have to wait until the morning. Therefore, no EMT came to get this young woman once his supervisor said that. The poor woman was just left in pain.

At just 23 years old and due to stupidity and ignorance, she lost her life, and these are the people who are to serve and protect us. No, all they do is kill us into they own control, because this woman was black of color. Dark and brown people, we seem to be left for bait or overlooked. This world has been at war for years dark and brown; is it really a crime to be black?



This is how they make us feel. Looking closely at the picture, it's covered up with black squares that the young woman was in a pained position and clearly shows this is serious. This jail has been reported numerous times, with a list long and a high death toll makes you wonder what is really going on in there.

It's sad to say that not only they were watching her in the cell on camera but there also is the recording of her voice very clearly. I mean that woman should've quickly received what she needed if you ask me, but it seems like they would rather see suffering until nothing else could be done. Justice is called for us every day, but when will action take hold?

Until next time everyone, peace and love.

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	3-16-2022	Deaths	3-23-2022	Deaths
Belleville	10602	147	10639	147
Bloomfield	11575	157	11566	157
Caldwell	1461	17	1459	17
Cedar Grove	3588	132	3596	132
East Orange	16843	373	16861	374
Essex Fells	458	2	459	2
Fairfield	1875	35	1886	35
Glen Ridge	1096	18	1099	18
Irvington	11588	280	11596	281
Livingston	5698	100	5723	100
Maplewood	4481	46	4527	46
Millburn	2976	17	2994	17
Montclair	6054	84	6077	84
Newark	77316	1233	<b>77426</b>	<b>1235</b>
North Caldwell	1176	10	1195	10
Nutley	6236	81	6254	82
Orange	7994	167	8003	168
Roseland	1275	21	1279	21
South Orange	2922	22	2951	22
Verona	2994	22	3008	22
West Caldwell	2452	60	2455	60
West Orange	12311	263	12358	263
<b>Total</b>	<b>192971</b>	<b>3287</b>	<b>193420</b>	<b>3293</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of March 23, 2022)**  
**NJ: 1,891,517 cases / 30,204 deaths (Plus 2,988 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 79.823 Million / 974,200 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 474.898 Million / 6.102 Million deaths**

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## RUTGERS

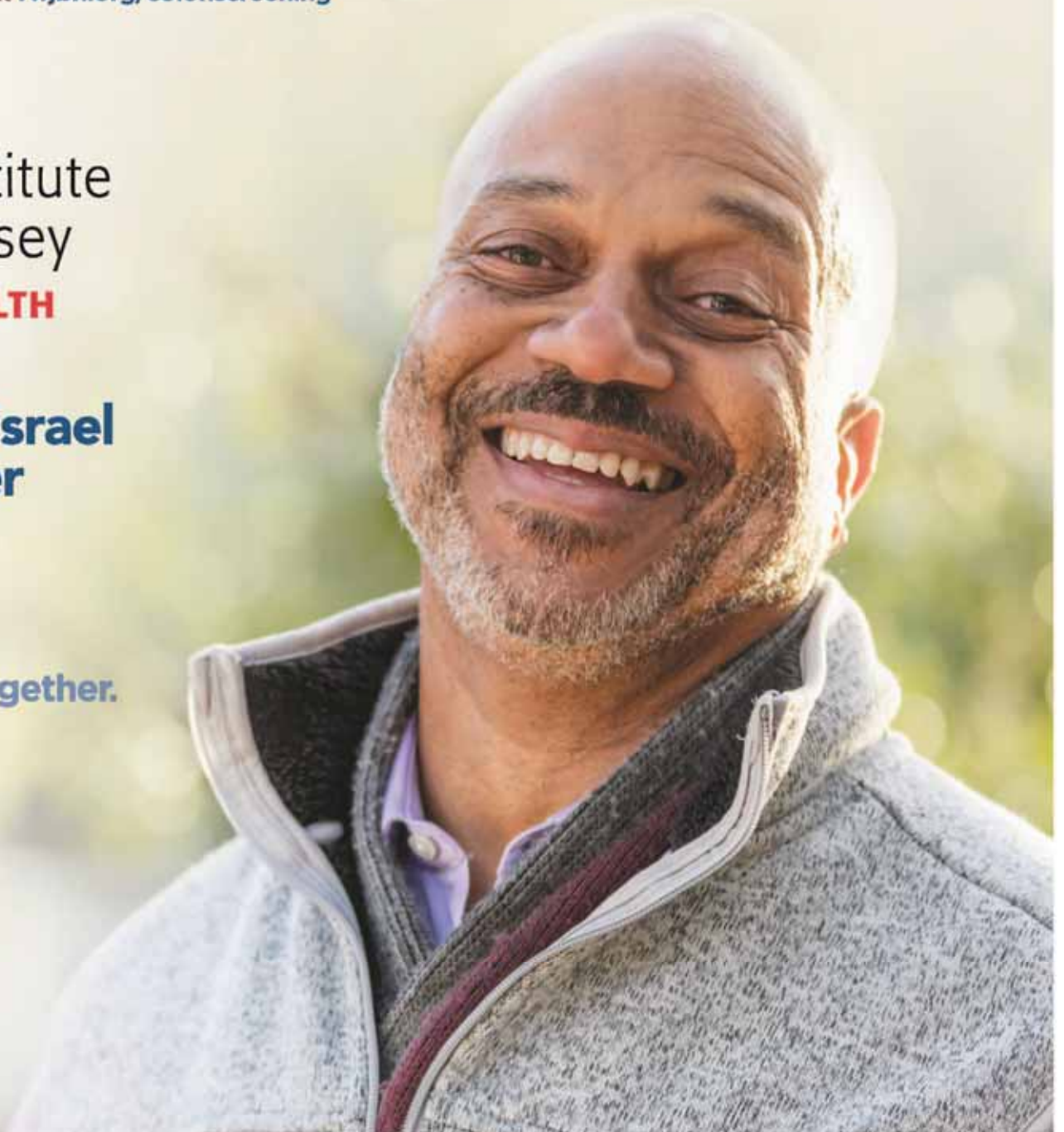
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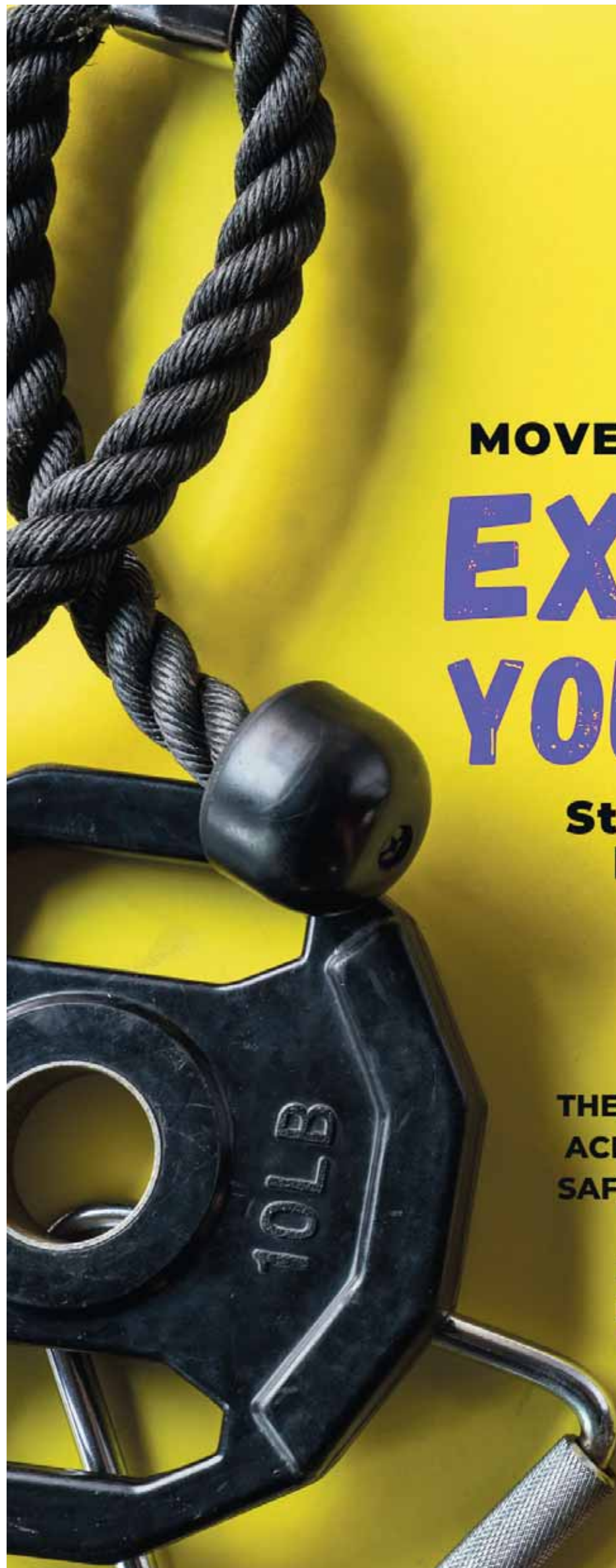


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# TOWN WATCH

**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** - A walk-through viewing for the doubly retired Newark Police officer and West Side High School Principal Fernard M. Williams, Sr. was set here at Whigham Funeral Home March 23.

Williams, 76, whose devotion to community service took three forms, had died March 15 in Piscataway. The former Orange and East Orange resident's cause of death was "complications from an unspecified illness."

Born May 1, 1945, Williams was a WSHS Class of 1963 graduate who returned to his alma mater as a substance abuse awareness counselor. He was a Weequahic High School vice principal when Newark Public Schools State District Superintendent Beverly Hall appointed him WSHS Principal in 1997.

Williams, before his late 2000s retirement, renovated the 1925 building, improved attendance and test scores and revamped the school's curriculum.

Williams, who enlisted into the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam era, returned to Newark to join the police department. His patrolman beat included Hill Manor and would first retire as sergeant.

Wives Shirley A. and Cheryl Williams, brother Samuel Gordon Williams, sons DuJuan D. Williams and Kyle Dargan, daughters Taryn Williams Walker, Latonya R. Joyner and Nikeysha S. Neal, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren Jada N. Williams are among his survivors

Son Fernard M. "Jay" Williams, Jr., 54, a retired ECPO detective, died Sept. 21, 2017.

**IRVINGTON** - The Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force detectives are investigating a March 16 quadruple shooting near the Newark border that left three men injured and a fourth dead.

IPD officers, responding to gunfire reports at 18th and Isabella avenues, found four men shot in the area of 862 18th Ave at 10:47 p.m. All four, said Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers, were immediately taken to Newark's University Hospital.

ECPO's homicide unit was called in when one of the quartet - Fuquan Davis, 44, of Irvington - had died. Davis' funeral arrangements have not been publicized as of press time.

The other three victims had suffered non-life-threatening injuries and are expected to recover.

The 18th Avenue fatal shooting was one of three unrelated ones here, in East Orange and Orange that day. (See related stories below.)

**EAST ORANGE** - County and city law enforcers are searching for the person or persons who fatally shot a man on a Doddtown street here after Midnight March 16.

Stephens and East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi said that East Orange Police officers had responded to gunfire reports from Hilton Street early that Wednesday. They found "a severely injured male victim of gunshot wounds" along that street's 50s block.

The male was rushed to a local hospital - where he died. Authorities have not released the deceased's identity or further details as of press time.

This shooting appears to be unrelated to two others - a second in Irvington and a third in Orange - that happened March 16. (See above and below stories.)

**ORANGE** - City residents may still be talking about the fatal March 16 shooting here at a major South Ward intersection while law enforcers search for the victim's killers.

Stephens and Orange Public

Safety Director Todd Warren said that Orange Police officers had responded to gunshot reports from Tremont Avenue and Scotland Road at 5:18 p.m. that Wednesday.

OPD officers found a man in the area "suffering multiple bullet wounds," including one to his head. The man - later identified as Anton Douglas, 24, of Orange - was rushed to University Hospital but died at 5:35 p.m.

The area was promptly taped off and ECPO homicide detectives called in. Buses on NJTransit's No. 92 and CoachUSA's No. 24 routes were detoured. The scene was visible to riders on NJTransit's Morris & Essex Line trains.

Witnesses said that "masked shooters" had fled west on Tremont. One neighbor, at March 19's "Save the Orange Public Library" rally, said the suspects and OPD officers had run through several backyards.

Douglas' funeral arrangements were not announced as of press time. His shooting, plus Fuquan Davis' shooting in Irvington and a fatal shooting in East Orange are unrelated except that all happened on March 16. (See above related stories.)

**WEST ORANGE** - Outgoing West Orange Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Scott Cascone has passed on his office keys to interim superintendent Dr. C. Lauren Schoen on March 1.

The WOPS Board of Education has hired the 30-year education administrator while it looks for a more permanent successor. It is not clear whether Dr. Schoen will be considered as a candidate.

Dr. Schoen was most recently superintendent for the Mahwah School District. She had been superintendent or interim super at the Ramapo-Indian Hills Regional High School District, and the Rochelle Park and Fort Lee districts. She has been a past president of the Bergen County Association of School Administrators.

Schoen was awarded the 2015 New Jersey Association of School Administrators Northern Regional Superintendent of the Year. She was hailed in part for enacting the Effective Schools Solution program at Mahwah.

Schoen was a West Point

Academy graduate who attained an education and political science degrees from then-William Paterson College. She earned her master's degree in administration and supervision from St. Peter's University.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - "If it's not one thing, it's another," may sum up the recent state of Morris & Essex Line riders here March 19.

NJTransit repaired enough from the downed trees, overhead power wires and a support truss taken down during March 8 and 12 storms to resume full regular service at the start of March 19's morning rush hour.

"Local Talk" took two Friday morning post-rush hour trains between Maplewood and Newark Broad Street to survey the repairs.

The tree that fell March 12 across all three M&E tracks south or west of South Orange's Mountain Station had been cleared and its stump remained on the railroad right of way and a backyard border.

NJTransit had removed the truss that supported the overhead wires just south or west of Jefferson Avenue and Dunnell Road along with the tree that had damaged it during the March 8 storm. The tree stump appears to be on private property.

"Local Talk" found, however, that westbound trains were using the center track between rush hours between Newark Board Street and Summit that Friday. Several work vehicles were on the regular outbound track headed to their assignments.

M&E riders, along with those on the Montclair-Boonton Line and those using Newark Penn Station, found themselves taking cross-honored rides on PATH Friday from midday to 10:30 p.m. "Amtrak signal issues" near Secaucus prevented direct New York Penn Station access until they were rectified.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Township police officers are on the lookout for "three white males in their twenties," who shoplifted or tried to shoplift more than \$3,000 worth of merchandise on March 7.

Responding BPD officers  
(Continued on page 13)



PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

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## **OBSERVANCE OF THE 54th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**



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## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### When Parents Curse Their Children

Because of its epoch-making nature, I know many people watched or listened to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee for her appointment to the United States Supreme Court. If confirmed, Jackson will fill Justice Stephen Breyer's upcoming vacancy and become the first Black woman to serve on the nation's highest court.

At the end of each day's hearing, many news analysts were asked to examine or asked, "What are the takeaways for the day?" And the answers were diverse and interesting because they seem to be affected by the varied political perspectives. I do not know how you will judge me, but I too have my takeaways and will not be repeating them all here, but there are two that appealed to me most: (1) The constant reference of Judge Jackson to her grandmother and parents regarding the contributions that they have made to her drive for education and the consistency of her faith. (2) The calmness of the Judge under the

crudeness of certain Senators who questioned her.

I linger on the second take-away, for Judge Jackson met the rudeness of one senator who seemed so overwhelmed by his resentment toward her that he stormed out of the confirmation room. Another senator seemed quite agitated as he posed several questions about "Critical Race Theory," and Judge Jackson responded that such a concept did not come up in her work. As I watched how agitated he was, I wanted to intervene and offer an answer that had nothing to do with CRT, although I was not in the room. I wanted to tell the senator that children learn what they see and hear, racism or anything else from their parents.

Here is what Dorothy Law Nolte says:

*If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.*

*If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.*

*If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.*

*If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.*

*If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.*

*If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.*

*If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.*

*If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.*

*If children live with toler-*

*ance, they learn patience.*

*If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.*

*If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.*

*If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.*

*If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.*

*If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.*

*If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.*

*If children live with fairness, they learn justice.*

*If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.*

*If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.*

*If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.*

One other senator later joined the others, in the same strain of dander pretending that they were profoundly concerned about Jackson's lenient judgment against porn offenders. The Judge finally had the chance to address what many have said to be the most contentious allegations levied against her, namely that the claims that she's soft on child porn offenders is a myth that has been debunked again and again. She stated that "nothing could be further from the truth."

I have listed the two takeaways, the one that I consider a profound blessing on Judge Jackson and all who have grandparents and parents like hers. The second that I consider a curse on those trying to peddle falsehoods to score political points and gain an advantage so they can use for political advertising. The particular curse I reference is that on many children who might have been watching or listening or who will read the transcripts of the hearing for historical reports. It gives me pause as I think of how much children will learn about the crudeness or rudeness of the adults in the room.

When I see the negative actions of such adults or parents in general, I reflect on the biblical phrase used by fathers in the nation of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." The fathers (parents) were the ones who ate the sour grapes, but the children's teeth were set on edge. Another way that the Bible records the saying is that the iniquity of the fathers (parents) would be passed on to the third and fourth generations (Cf. Exodus 20:5; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9).

The above is of interest because, in the prophetic writings such as Ezekiel and Jeremiah, when the parents seemed to have been using the phrase to make excuses for their lack of responsibility for the waywardness of their children, the prophets' chal-

*(Continued on page 14)*

### STUDENTS WALK OUT

*(Continued from page 5)*

ing and listening to with teachers, parents and students in-person and during professional development days and on other occasions.

Other points in Jackson's plan included hiring consultant Promise54 to review Uncommon Schools' policies and practices, create a parents advisory group and review its Kindergarten-12th Grade curriculum "to ensure it's culturally responsive and prepares students to be future changemakers."

LPHS junior and student council member Aubria King

was among several students who said that there had been a few in-school improvements since 2020. Those steps include teachers having to read a book on harsh disciplining of African American students.

North Star, they however said, has changed their sending students home to serve their suspension to "on-site learning," which is spending suspension in a room all day.

"They do provide us with good education and we're getting into these great schools - but it comes at a cost," said King. "That cost is our mental health and the way we're being treated."

Uncommon Schools and

North Star, from opening its first school here in 1997, have had a reputation of rigorous instruction, including Saturday classes, longer school days and years and requiring greater parental involvement.

North Star also has a "No Excuses" discipline policy. A 2019-20 state report on discipline found 19 percent of North Star students being suspended. The rate was six times higher than in Newark overall and across New Jersey that year.

North Star spokeswoman Barbara Martinez, to King's mental health point, said that Friday afternoon that it has hired a company that provides student

access to counselors.

The charges and criticism may give those who are casually familiar with North Star Newark pause.

Uncommon/North Star enrolls K-12 6,200 to 6,823 students in its 14 Newark and five Camden schools for 2021-22. Many of those students are from Newark or Camden. UC supplied the higher number; the N.J. Department of Education uses the lower figure. (The school network tends to combine Camden and Newark statistics.)

North Star Newark and Camden's student body makeup in 2019-20 (the latest NJDOE stats)

*(Continued on page 15)*

# NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER MAKES NEWSWEEK'S WORLD'S BEST HOSPITAL LISTING FOR 4TH YEAR IN A ROW

Newark, NJ (March 23, 2022) - Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, has been designated one of the World's Best Hospitals-USA by Newsweek. This is the fourth-consecutive recognition for Newark Beth Israel.

Newark Beth Israel ranked among the top 250 U.S. hospitals and is one of only five New Jersey hospitals on this prestigious list, which also includes The Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Johns Hopkins and Massachusetts General.

"It is truly an honor to receive this designation for a fourth time. This designation reflects our steadfast commitment to delivering world class,

high quality, safe care to our patients," said Darrell K. Terry, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey.

"The medical community has been under an unprecedented level of stress over the past two years, and the ability to consistently maintain excellence is a testament to everyone working in this area," said Nancy Cooper, Global Editor in Chief, Newsweek. "This list is meant to identify quality care and provide a guide for patients and their families."

Newsweek created the World's Best Hospital listings in partnership with Statista Inc., a respected data-

research firm. Their researchers and experts assessed public data, surveyed medical professionals and patients, and found that Newark Beth Israel Medical Center sets the standard for excellent care.

## TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

met with the hardware store's loss prevention officer that Monday who told of a man who just took away a flatbed cartload of goods. The items included bleach, laundry detergent and rolls of paper towels.

The suspect in the before and after pictures that Monday is of a "Hispanic male around 35-40-years-old wearing a black baseball cap, a gray shirt and gray sweatpants" plus gray Crocs shoes.

But there was one or two other "shopliftings in progress" while officers were taking the LPO's account.

An employee told them that two other men had just tried to leave with \$3,065.98 worth of power tools without paying. The duo, when stopped by the employee, dropped the tools and fled the Watsessing big box store.

BPD, while taking Home Depot employees' account of cartload shoplifting, nab two others trying to take \$3G worth of goods.

**MONTCLAIR** - The Montclair Public Library's interim director, who weighed in on its discretionary funding request to the Township Council March 15, is

no stranger to the dual branch system.

Janet Torsney, who was appointed by the MPL Board of Trustees Feb. 22, was its assistant director 2017-18. Torsney upgraded the Bellevue Branch's services and programs, secured grants for the Summer of Shakespeare and the Great American Read and managed the Montclair Literary Festival.

Torsney, who was a township resident to raise her two daughters 1992-2010, had also worked with MPL's last director, Peter Coyl, at the start of his five years at the helm. Coyl, who was appointed March 1, 2017, left to head the Sacramento Public Library system Dec. 10.

The 24-year library administrator and Asbury Park resident was last interim director of the Caldwell Public Library and previously the director at the Bradley Beach, Brielle and Keyport libraries. The MPL trustees are meanwhile pursuing a search for Coyl's ultimate successor.

Torsney, who had asked for \$500,000 above the state-formulated township minimum of \$2,887,767 March 10, is to receive an overall \$3,367,267 in Mayor Sean Spillar's March 15 introduced Calendar Year 2022 Municipal Budget.

Spillar, pending Township Council approval, will be drawing \$500,000 from the tempo-

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rary 2022 budget's discretionary fund plus \$15,000 from the interim budget's special events line item.

The library trustees, as represented by President JoAnn McCullough, had first asked for \$561,581 above the state mini-

mum last month.

**GLEN RIDGE** - A memorial service for Phyllis J. Dominic was held in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, a place where she was most familiar,  
(Continued on page 14)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

Portfolio Review

What is a soulful person?

A presence that is timeless, reliably calm and detached from the daily drama that pulls us in many directions. A person who can be in touch with the Self throughout most days is what we call a soulful person: a personality of inherent beauty and serenity.

What does it mean to have soul in singing?

Music that originated in African American gospel singing is closely related to rhythm and

blues and is characterized by intensity of feeling and vocal embellishments.

What is a soulful song?

Something that is soulful expresses deep feelings, especially sadness or love.

The adjective soulful is used to describe things that express strong emotion, especially a kind of sadness or tenderness. You might enjoy soulful poetry - Andrea Dialect Googled That!

Powerful vocals and a soulful voice; wow what a combo. In all honesty, I felt that all the above pretty much encompasses the persona of the lovely Gail Campbell. She has a very earthly quality about herself and genuine appeal. All in-which resonates boldly in her life and her music. Here today in this space we get to take a peek into the world of Lady Gail!



SOULFUL SYNERGY...

Gail Campbell: Recording Artist, Songwriter, and Performer

Debut Album: *Bloody Waters*  
Sophomore Album: *due to drop June 11th Entitled: Let My People Go*

Singing is a part of my identity and DNA. My mother is a singer, and we have other singers in our family. So I kind of grew up around singing. I grew up in Essex County throughout my life living in Newark, Irvington, and East Orange. When I started grade school, there was a choir and a chorus, and that's when I started to sing. I think that's also when I started to identify with being a singer. When I became a high schooler, I became a soloist in the school's choir, which began to fortify my identity even more. It was around that time that I started singing professionally.

The first time I sang in front of an audience other than at the school was when I used to hang out with a bunch of rappers. We were like a collection of groups. At the time, I was in a group with a female rapper named Pretty Vain, and during that time, there were a lot of talent shows at clubs like Club Eighty-Eight and Elaganza and stuff like that. Rappers from the area

would come on the nights of those talent shows. Those shows were where it began. But I wasn't singing; I was rapping. The first time I sang in front of an audience was around my twenties.

Unlike most singers, I wasn't raised in the church; for me, there was no church choir. My grandmother was saved and in the church and I went with her a few times but that was about it. But now, I can truly say that church has had the most profound impact on my life and my singing. I mean by its building me up as a person and a singer. I found Christ in my early thirties. I found God for myself, and I began to sing in church. In a short amount of time I realized that I was anointed, and God changed my voice from what it used to be. That's when I learned how to worship with my gift...

Remember, due to space this article can be read in its entirety on our website: [www.localtalk-weekly.com](http://www.localtalk-weekly.com). You can search Observation Booth Section on the search bar, or you can go directly to the Entertainment section which is found on the home page on the far right under Categories.

If you are interested in participating in one of the challenges or projects or if you have any questions or comments, send them to: [localtalkandrea@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 13)

March 19.

Dominic, 88, who died in Cary, N.C. Feb. 25, was GRCC's featured choir soprano soloist, Sunday worship collection accountant and materials provider for Advent candle table wreaths and the wreath workshops. She and her late husband Joseph A. Dominic, Jr. ran the concession kitchen during the annual rummage sales.

The Dominics were longtime church members while they raised son Jeff and daughters Jody Giodano and Caroline Schol-

te-Dominic in West Orange. Phyllis was the West Orange Public Schools' executive secretary and a Washington Street Elementary School PTA member. The Mountain High School/New West Orange High School Music Booster designed the inaugural marching band and color guard's uniforms.

The former Phyllis Jeffreys was born Dec. 27, 1933 in Washington, Pa. before the family moved to Montclair. The Montclair High School Class of 1952 graduate married Joseph and briefly moved to Cedar Grove before settling in West Orange.

Phyllis and Joseph retired to the Poconos

in 1995. Joseph predeceased her. Brother Tom Jeffreys, sister Jeanne Dominic, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren are also among her survivors.

Memorial donations may be made to GRCC, 195 Ridgewood Ave., 07028.

**BELLEVILLE** - Attorney Gregory J. Skiff could have announced, "I interrupt this Township Council meeting to serve papers," during his part of the March 8 public hearing of citizens.

Skiff, of his same-name Whippany law  
(Continued on page 15)

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

(Continued from page 12)

lence to them was that a time would come when people will no longer say, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' (Jeremiah 31:29 NIV).

In following the prophets, I acknowledge that if our children break away from their parents' cursed patterns, their lives will turn out to be a blessing. The fact of intergenerational sin, guilt, and punishment is not a fiat

accompli. However, that does not deny that what we do as adults and parents greatly influence our children. As most educators will share, "Education is caught, not taught."

It's hard to find fault with the truism that children usually do suffer from their parent's mistakes. Ancient Israel embedded its own communal experience of intergenerational guilt and punishment in its understanding of God's justice, which "visits the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation" (Exodus 34:7).

And while, in many cases, we might not seek to attribute children's behavior and suffering to their parents, we cannot deny the impact of our negative behavior on subsequent generations. If you doubt my analysis, please visit a psychologist's or psychotherapist's room and speak with them. They will tell you that "As the root, so grows the tree."

Let's endeavor to think more carefully about what we pass on to our children. A blessing or a curse?

**WORLD NEWS FLASH** (Continued from page 6)

and thought, access to information, freedom of movement and forced labor.

Camps for political prisoners - known as kwanliso - "represent the worst excesses" of the DPRK's control of the population, who fear arbitrary detention and mistreatment in far-flung locations, the rights expert continued.

Noting that in 2021 President Kim Jong UN had acknowledged that the country faced some of its worst-ever difficulties, Mr. Quintana explained that there had been no reform of the public distribution system to provide adequate and nutritious food for the most vulnerable populations.

**LIBYAN COAST PROVES DEADLY FOR MIGRANTS**

**AFRICA**

Over the past two weeks, at least 70 migrants have gone missing at sea and are presumed dead off the coast of Libya, the UN migration agency said on March 17.

"I am appalled by the continuing loss of life in the Central Mediterranean and the lack of action to tackle this ongoing tragedy," said Federico Soda, Libya Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

On March 12, a boat reportedly carrying 25 migrants capsized near the Libyan coast of Tobruk and while authorities rescued six people and recovered seven bodies, 12 others remain missing.

The latest incident brings the total number of migrants reported dead or missing in the Central Mediterranean up to 215 this year, according to IOM's Missing Migrants Project.

Libya has long been a springboard for people fleeing from countries ravaged by

war and poverty with the hope of reaching Europe for a better life.

IOM continues to call for concrete action to reduce the deaths in the central Mediterranean route through proactive, dedicated search and rescue missions along with a safe disembarkation mechanism, in accordance with international law.

"More than half of this year's deaths have been recorded near the Libyan coast," said the IOM official.

The most recent shipwreck follows devastating reports of Feb. 27 incident in which a fiberglass boat left Sabratah port and was capsized by waves just four hours later.

While 15 bodies, including one baby, were washed ashore over the following days, no survivors were found, and some 35 migrants are still missing.

"Each missing migrant report represents a grieving family searching for answers about their loved ones," Mr. Soda reminded.

**STUDENTS WALK OUT**

(Continued from page 12)

have 83 percent African or African American. and 15 percent Hispanic or Latin American. Of the students, 86 percent are economically disadvantaged, based on reduced or free breakfast and/or lunch applications.

Martinez, on March 18, said that 47 percent of its staff identify themselves as African or African American and 67 percent as

"non-white."

"We believe in and tell our students that their vice matters and we respect their peaceful protest today," added Martinez. "We look forward to listening and working/ discussing in the coming days to address student concerns."

Many of the protesting students, however, found themselves locked out on their post -10:30 a.m. return. The purpose-built Lincoln Park Campus building, which also

houses the same-name elementary and middle schools- went into lock down after 9:15 a.m.

That lockdown meant that no one could enter or leave the building until their scheduled dismissal times. North Star's 2020-21 Student and Family Handbook states that students who are not in "structured and supervised activities" are to vacate the building within 15 minutes after their scheduled dismissal time.

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 14)

firm, told Mayor Michael Melham. the council, the gallery audience and cable television viewers that he was there on behalf of township business owner Keith McKeon.

Skiff, on McKeon's behalf, then read his client's cease and desist order against Michael Sheldon into the public record. He then handed the legal papers to Sheldon in the gallery.

Sheldon, a former Belleville Public Schools school board trustee, is one of several volunteer watchdogs who question the township government while videotaping or otherwise recording council meetings.

Skiff told one of the other watchdogs that his client had objected to his characterization made by Sheldon on his Facebook post. Sheldon has since removed that post.

The attorney added that he so served the papers on Sheldon since he regularly attends council meetings and "to ensure (Sheldon) understood the seriousness of the order."

Cease and desist/restraining orders, subpoenas, warrants and similar documents are normally delivered either by registered mail or personally by legal couriers.

**NUTLEY** - There are six reasons why a Superior Court-Newark judge released a township man from jail March 18 on the condition that he stay away from Nutley High School and minors.

Substitute teacher Richard Dunn, 58, had been in Newark's Essex County Correctional Center four days after Nutley police officers had arrested him without incident along Prospect Street March 15. The judge had conditionally released Dunn during his Friday pretrial hearing; he has had no prior arrests.

Nutley police, after a four-day investigation, charged Dunn with four counts of second-degree endangering the welfare of a minor and two counts of lewdness.

Four female NHS students told the Main Office March 10 that Dunn had exposed himself and masturbated behind a desk during that day's digital music class. Their statements became part of an NPD complaint and an affidavit.

The second lewdness count stemmed from Dunn allegedly doing the same thing while in NHS Feb. 1. Details of that incident, except that a student had recorded him "performing," are currently unavailable.

Nutley detectives' investigation was done in cooperation with Nutley Public Schools and ECPO. A school spokesman said that counseling is available.

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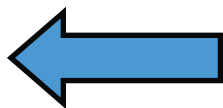
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