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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NEWARK MAYORAL CANDIDATE SHEILA MONTAGUE

Dhiren Shah: Welcome to this interview. Why are you running for mayor of Newark?

Sheila Montague: With my background and my skill set, I can make a difference that's needed in our city. One of the ways I can be an asset to our community is that I've had some extensive training in politics, and I'm a native Newarker. The three issues I'm concentrating on is education, public safety, and housing.

DS: What are the duties of a mayor?

SM: Basically, to hear what the council is saying, because there are members for each ward and at large. You either go along with

the legislation and pass it, or you don't. You make sure things are running right in the city. You make sure there is a balance in the development of the city for the actual residents that live here. You look out for the best overall interest of the city.

DS: How can you help the people of Newark in a real sense?

SM: The first way I can help is to be a voice. Currently, we do not have a voice because of the amount of money that comes through corporations and developers that feed the campaigns. As a homeowner for over 20 years and a lifelong Newarker,

(Continued on page 8)



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR... ORANGE CORRUPTION - PART V




I am a long-term resident of the City of Orange. I had, for many years, steadfastly set in of our town's council meetings, attempting to be an informed resident, and with some regularity posing public questions about the resolutions and ordinances of the agenda, to also benefit other interested residents who did not have the time to follow those in writing.

This way, around year 2013, I became aware that our City Clerk at the time, Dwight Michell, who was noticed having been absent from work for a couple of years, was still receiving his regular salary. Upon questioning the Council, I was told that those were disability payments. I wanted to know more and requested further information under our state's Open Record Act, or OPRA. When the City refused my inquiry, I dug my heels in and complained to the Government Records Council, the state agency tasked to resolve OPRA-related complaints.

Long waits and what I deemed unfair decisions followed, and the case has been litigated ever since through different courts, back-and-forth. At least, under litigation the City acknowledged that the prior Clerk has not been awarded disability payments. The city, to my knowledge, has never attempted to request or litigate back the

(Continued on page 5)



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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Rutgers Business School is creating fake jobs as reported by nj.com. Whistleblower Deidre White, a human resource manager, filed a lawsuit against the Rutgers Business School accusing Rutgers of creating fake jobs and hiring students back to the university to create the number one business school in the Northeast US. This fake job creation has worked, and Rutgers has received such a prestigious ranking.

Per nj.com: "It proclaims its No. 1 ranking this year by Bloomberg Businessweek as the top Public Business School in the Northeast. Fortune bestowed a similar honor in 2021. And U.S. News & World Report rated its MBA program among the top ten for Best Overall Employ-

ment Outcomes in the U.S., as well as No. 12 for its Supply Chain Management MBA program."..."The university, in a statement, said as a matter of policy it would not comment on the specifics of the litigation. "We will say without equivocation, however, that we take seriously our obligation to accurately report data and other information to ranking and reporting agencies," the university said. "The Rutgers Business School strictly follows the MBA Career Services & Employer Alliance guidelines in submitting MBA statistics and similarly follows the appropriate guidelines in submitting undergraduate statistics." By going through an outside temp agency, White's lawsuit claimed the university was able to circumvent restrictions in the ranking systems that do not allow universities to count internal hires for purposes of their employment statistics."..." White, 54, who alleged she was the subject of retaliation over health and other issues aimed at forcing her resignation or termination, said the university used more than \$400,000 of its endowment to

fund the fake positions and to pay what she called "kickbacks" to the employment agency."

New students apply for admission based on this fake information, with the perception students worked hard to achieve their goals. Once they graduate, they might get a temporary job at the university, and then a gloomy future is against them. If a singular person does this, the person goes to jail. But now it's a powerful state owned university. Let's see how power can change the perception.

The election is only a few days away for Newark, Orange, Irvington and Belleville on May 10th, 2022. These are non-partisan elections. Non-partisan election means an election where none of the candidates are to be nominated or elected as representing a political party, and an election involving a question or issue which is not specifically identified with a political party. Many cities are directly or indirectly not following the purpose of non-partisan. They make groups and some of the powerful politicians' crews openly advocate to elect their candidate. It

might not be a party affiliation, but is indirectly known as party support. This kind of election defeats the purpose of making laws as non-partisan. The purpose is to elect the candidate best suited for the job, not best suited for the party bosses.

Also, as soon as the election is over, some of the candidates join hands with the party bosses, even though they have promised otherwise. Once they join hands with the power, it defeats the purpose of a non-partisan election.

In the upcoming weeks, Roe v. Wade, which protects the rights of women to choose abortion, will lie in the balance. However, as I have mentioned before, there should be a restriction after a certain number of weeks in pregnancy. After that time, it should not be allowed, as the baby is already moving around in the womb, and it is equal to killing a life.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Partly Cloudy	PM Rain	Sunny	Clouds and Sun	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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WILL THE UPCOMING ELECTION CONTESTS DRAW VOTERS?

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - There is no question that there are contests for mayor and/or council membership - some more heated than others - here and in Irvington, Orange, and Belleville for voters to consider on or before May 10.

Newark's voters have the every-four-year opportunity to endorse or change its mayor and nine Municipal Council members at the polling stations or via Vote By Mail Ballots. There are races in four of the city's five wards, in the wake of their incumbents' opting not to run for re-election, that are up to the voters.

Irvington voters have two slates - one of the incumbents, the other of their challengers - to choose from for mayor and three at-large council members.

Voters in three of Orange's wards have incumbents and challengers to pick plus a successor to the outgoing fourth ward councilman.

Belleville voters, like their Irvington colleagues, have two competing slates for mayor and at-large council to select.

The overall question, however, is: how many of the registered voters will press machine buttons or mark their ballots?

The number of registered voters and participating voters in the 2018, '14 and '10 elections in all four municipalities, going by Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin's results data, have declined over those nine years.

There were 40,653 voters who had turned out for the May 8, 2018 election, which was 19.17 percent of the registered pool of 212,015.

60,627 voters from among 220,701 registered turned out on May 13, 2014 - which comes out to 27.47 percent.

May 11, 2010 saw 57,582 voters from a pool of 228,285 take part - or 25.36 percent.

Concerns over the dwindling percentage of participating voters

in May nonpartisan municipal elections were heightened in the wake of April 19's Newark and Irvington boards of education and budgets elections.

Durkin is poised to certify the two-town elections by press time - if he has had not already. The results were drawn from a 2.6 percent turnout from a combined pool of at least 210,234.

The April 19 turnout was initially 2.35 percent until Durkin's Election Division workers were given State Superior Court-granted access to 30 otherwise impounded Newark voting machines for counting.

Granted, comparing two-town April school board elections and four-town May municipal elections are not "apples to apples." The April elections, as "Local Talk" demonstrated in its April 21 election results article, suffered a parallel decline since 2016.

There may be several reasons for the declines in voter registration and participation. There are two studies that link registration to the percentage of homeownership within Essex County since the 2007-08 recession. The recession was particularly hard on African American and Latin homeowners who lost their property through ballooning subprime mortgages and foreclosures.

A recently-published Rutgers-Newark study, "Who Owns Newark? Transferring Wealth from Homeowners to Corporate Buyers," found that 53 percent of 2,500 houses sold 2017-20 went to individual residents and 47 percent to corporate buyers.

Newark, Irvington, Orange and Belleville voters still have the opportunity to retain their incumbents or change municipal course May 10.

The following summary lists most candidates in alphabetical order - and not in ballot order. A more detailed preview is found in the April 14 "Local Talk" edition.

In NEWARK, incumbent Mayor Ras Baraka is seeking

his third term against challenger Sheila A. Montague.

Five of Baraka's "Newark Forward 2022" Municipal Council slate - barring unforeseen write-in campaigns - appears to be running unopposed.

All four NF 2022 at-Large Council candidates - C. Lawrence Crump, Carlos Gonzalez, Luis Quintana and Louise Rountree - are running unopposed on the citywide ballot. Incumbent North Ward Councilman - and 2014 mayoral candidate - Anibal Ramos, Jr., is similarly running unopposed.

Contests in the Central, East, South and West Wards may result in the seventh straight June runoff election and/or an upset.

Incumbent Central Ward Councilwoman and MF2022 member LaMonica McIver is on the ballot with challenger Shawn McCray.

MF2022 runner Michael J. Silva is vying to succeed the retiring East Ward Councilman Augusto Amador against Anthony Campos, Jonathan T. Seabra and Luis Weber.

MF 2022 candidate Patrick Council - plus independents Christina Cherry, Douglas H. Freeman, Trenton Jones and Cynthia Truitt-Rease - are seeking to succeed the retiring South Ward Councilman John Sharpe James.


Lyndon F. Brown, Oscar James II, Lavita Johnson, MF2022 member Dupree Kelly, Michelle Lynn Middleton and Chigozie U. Onyema are looking to replace James McCallum as West Ward Council Member.

In IRVINGTON, Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss is seeking his third term. Challenging is former East Ward Councilman Paul Inman. Vauss and Inman are also heads of their respective at-large council slates.

Incumbents Renee C. Burgess, Charnette Frederic and October Hudley are running with Vauss and "Team Irvington Strong."

(Continued on page 5)

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

Over the past weekend, the National Football League hosted its annual draft, and for the first time in Las Vegas. As predicted here last week, the Jacksonville Jaguars took Tavon Walker out of Georgia with the first pick, while the Detroit Lions took Michigan defensive end Aidan Hutchinson with the second pick, and the Atlanta Falcons took cornerback Derek Stingley, Jr. out of LSU with the third pick.

Then, the New York Giants and Jets would dominate the draft from here on. First, the Jets took Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner with the 4th pick. The now-former University of Cincinnati cornerback did not allow a single touchdown in coverage last season. With the next pick, the

Giants took edge rusher Kayvon Thibodeaux from Oregon. After the sixth pick went to Carolina, the Giants were up again thanks to the trade with Chicago last season which gave the Bears Justin Fields. This time, Big Blue took tackle Evan Neal from Alabama.

After picks from Atlanta and Seattle, the Jets were up again at #10. This time, Gang Green took Ohio State wide receiver Garrett Wilson. Later on, the Jets jumped back into the 1st Round with the 26th pick, taking defensive end Jermaine Johnson II, out of Florida State.

Finally, Newark native Jahan Dotson was picked 16th overall by the Washington Commanders. Dotson played four years at Penn State, tallying 183 catches for 2,757 yards.

ELECTION

(Continued from page 4)

Running with Inman's "Irvington Needs New Leadership" banner are Yasmina King, Allison Morris and Durrell Watford.

In ORANGE, there will be at least one newcomer from the West Ward on its City Council dais. Jonathan Beckford, Quantavia L. Hilbert, Genora L. Jenkins and Mohamed L. Toure are vying to succeed the retiring Harold Johnson, Jr.

East Ward incumbent Kerry Coley is competing against Tyrone J. "Boom" Tarver and Fatimah Z. Turner.

North Ward incumbent Tency Eason is up against Sharief A. Williams and Kami A. Willis.

South Ward incumbent Jamie B. Summers-Johnson is competing against Lynval H. James and James H. Ward III.

In BELLEVILLE, voters may be holding a referendum on Mayor Michael Melham and his "A Better Belleville" team after

their four years in office.

Melham, a former councilman, is seeking his second term Second Ward Councilman Steven J. Rovell is challenging under his "Belleville Families First" banner.

The two At-Large Council contests are between ABB incumbents Naomi DePena and Thomas Graziano and BFF challengers Charles Hood and Tracy Juanita Williams.

Durkin and Essex County Board of Elections Superintendent Linda von Nessi will have mailed out VBMBs and deployed voting machines in selected polling station locations by now.

Those who have received VBMBs may mail them in or deposit them in designated drop boxes now until 8 p.m. May 10. Polling stations are to be open 6 a.m.-8 p.m. May 10.

Details - including locations of dropboxes and polling stations and BVBM problems - are found at essexclerk.com and/or essexboardofelections.com.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 1)

several hundreds of thousands of dollars it has paid out of our tax money to the absent Clerk. Partially because the residents should have an insight how our tax moneys are being used, and also because along the long litigation process, I have gained a lot of insights about the acting of the state agencies I have come in contact with.

I would be interested to share my story in a step-by-step

manner with the readers of this paper in the future, upon your permission. My oral argument in the case, in front of the Appellate Court, is going to be held on May 11, 2022, at the Veterans Courthouse, Part G, 11th fl, 50 W Market St, in Newark. Time: 9:30 am. All interested are welcome to provide support or to listen to the proceedings.

Sincerely,
Katalin Gordon
Orange, NJ, 07050



SUPREME COURT LEAK OVER ROE V. WADE IGNITES FURY

UNITED STATES

A shocking upcoming court decision has been exposed by an even more shocking act.

Politico obtained a draft of a Supreme Court ruling deciding the fate of Roe v. Wade, the case that ensured a woman's right to an abortion. The outlet is reporting five of the six conservative Justices want to overturn the landmark ruling, with Justice Samuel Alito writing the opinion.

While the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is stunning in its own right, the fact that Politico got their hands on an unreleased Court opinion is even more stunning, as it means that someone had leaked it, which is an unprecedented breach of ethics. Chief Justice Roberts, who was likely the lone conservative Justice who dissented, vowed to find whoever was responsible.

As conservatives were incensed by the leak, liberals were far more incensed by the destruction of the abortion rights decision. Among those is President Joseph R. Biden.

"First, my administration argued strongly before the Court in defense of Roe v. Wade. We said that Roe is based on "a long line of precedent recognizing 'the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty'... against government interference with intensely personal decisions." I believe that a woman's right to choose is fundamental, Roe has been the law of the land for almost fifty years, and basic fairness and the stability of our law demand that it not be overturned," Biden said upon learning of the Court's intended decision.

"Second, shortly after the enactment of Texas law SB 8 and other laws restricting women's reproductive rights, I directed my Gender Policy Council and White House Counsel's Office to prepare options for an

Administration response to the continued attack on abortion and reproductive rights, under a variety of possible outcomes in the cases pending before the Supreme Court. We will be ready when any ruling is issued.

"Third, if the Court does overturn Roe, it will fall on our nation's elected officials at all levels of government to protect a woman's right to choose. And it will fall on voters to elect pro-choice officials this November. At the federal level, we will need more pro-choice Senators and a pro-choice majority in the House to adopt legislation that codifies Roe, which I will work to pass and sign into law."

Vice President Kamala D. Harris also chimed in, saying, "The United States Supreme Court has now confirmed that the draft opinion that would overturn Roe v. Wade is genuine.

"Roe ensures a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. It also, at its root, protects the fundamental right to privacy. What is clear is that opponents of Roe want to punish women and take away their rights to make decisions about their own bodies. Republican legislators in states across the country are weaponizing the use of the law against women.

"The rights of all Americans are at risk. If the right to privacy is weakened, every person could face a future in which the government can potentially interfere in the personal decisions you make about your life. This is the time to fight for women and for our country with everything we have."

New Jersey Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz issued the following statement on the draft Supreme Court opinion that would overturn Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey:

"I went to bed early and woke up in the middle of the night to the news that we could be facing a nightmare. In New Jersey, we prepared for the possibility that Roe v. Wade would be overturned. I am grateful that Senator Loretta Weinberg championed a bill that I co-sponsored that protects a women's right to choose in New Jersey. But this isn't just about us. This is about every woman in America and the future of our daughters. This pending U.S. Supreme Court

decision is a step backward on our reproductive freedoms."

JOURNALISTS HONORED

WORLD

The Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ) was named on April 26 as the winner of this year's UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, following the international jury's recommendation.

The BAJ was formed in 1995 as a non-governmental association of media workers with the objective of promoting freedom of expression and independent journalism in Belarus.

It brings together over 1,300 associated journalists, and is a member of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ).

Since the disputed presidential election in Belarus in August 2020, which drew millions onto the streets in protest during the ensuing months, basic human rights have been in the cross-hairs.

In March this year, the UN human rights office produced a Human Rights Council-mandated report on the situation in the European nation, which said the Government's continuing crackdown had violated the rights of hundreds of thousands.

"The examination not only lays bare the violations inflicted on people trying to exercise their fundamental human rights, but highlights the inability of victims to access justice," said UN rights chief, Michelle Bachelet.

In August 2021, following a police raid on the office of the BAJ, the Supreme Court of Belarus ordered the dissolution of the organization, at the request of the country's Ministry of Justice.

"By awarding the prize to the BAJ, we are standing by all journalists around the world who criticize, oppose and expose authoritarian politicians and regimes, by transmitting truthful information and promoting freedom of expression", said Alfred Lela, Chair of the Prize's international jury, and founder and director of an Albanian media organization.

"Today we salute and praise them; we find a way to say: we

are with you, and we value your courage."

The head of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, noted that for 25 years, the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Prize "has been calling the world's attention to the bravery of journalists around the world who sacrifice so much in the pursuit of truth and accountability.

"Once again, we are inspired by their example and reminded of the importance of ensuring the right of journalists everywhere to report freely and safely."

The \$25,000 Prize recognizes outstanding contributions to the defense or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger. It is named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia, on Dec. 17, 1986.

It is funded by the Guillermo Cano Isaza Foundation (Colombia), the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation (Finland), the Namibia Media Trust, Democracy & Media Foundation Stichting Democratie & Media (The Netherlands), and the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The 2022 World Press Freedom Day Global Conference will take place from May 2 to 5 under the theme Journalism under Digital Siege.

The Conference will discuss the impact of the digital era on freedom of expression, the safety of journalists, access to information, and privacy.

INDIA & PAKISTAN HEATING UP (AND NOT ON A CRICKET PITCH)

ASIA

With extreme heat gripping large parts of India and Pakistan, the two countries are working to roll out life-saving health action plans to combat the heatwave, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on April 29.

The extreme heat is impacting hundreds of millions of people in one of the most densely populated parts of the world, threatening to damage whole ecosystems.

Working closely with health and disaster management agencies
(Continued on page 12)

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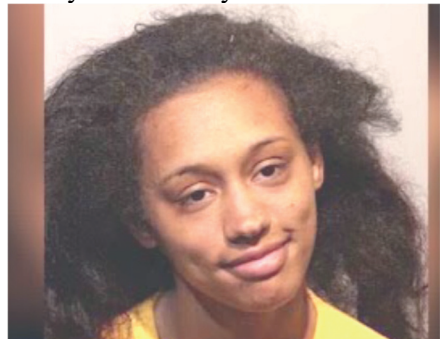


By Michelle Lowe

EST...1996

Message for you

Greetings to all. Hope all is well. We are in the times today dealing with a lot of heavy weight, meaning the days we're living in today carry lots of weight, but let us be strong and stay focused. Distraction comes from all ways and angles. So folks don't let nothing stop you or stand in your way of life. Keep striving and going 'til you get where you want to be comfortably. No one's perfect. I'm surely not perfect. Mistakes come where you live and learn, but not giving up is the key. You can't fix yesterday or the last, but you can definitely change for the present and future. Today is a new day.



A pretty young mother. Sometimes everyone, we can't just point the finger. You must look deeper into certain situations. This young woman clearly needed some attention and help. What and why she hit her 1 year old baby daughter - child abuse.

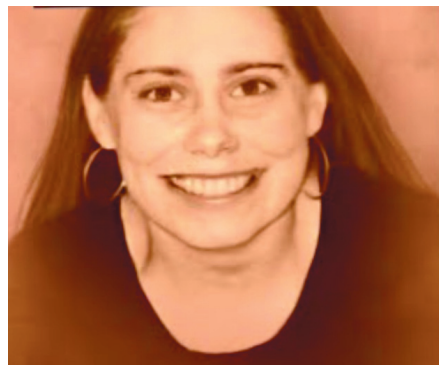
I don't have any kids of my own yet but when the time is right, it will be the most beautiful blessing to my own family. I would love my child and show my child the best and more of what I couldn't have in my own life, and give my own child a better establishment of love and living for my own. I work with kids as one of my occupations and these are our leaders for the future. Do not neglect your child.

This is not the only story, as

plenty more young women are abusing their own children. They take their anger out on the innocent baby because of the baby father they can't stand, and these kids are small and helpless, suffering from all this madness. No one should have that much control over how you react on your child in that way. If you look at your child and want to cause bodily harm to them because you can't stand their appearance because of the father or mother upsets you, that is not right at all.

Know who you're with, and know that you both agreed to having children and it wasn't just because one wants a child. It takes two, and men, if you're not going to step up and be there, wrap it up. Ladies as well, take caution to know that the life process is 9 months full, no going back.

Single mothers and single fathers of someone don't want to be with you and leave you managing everything on your own. It doesn't stop since the kids still need a role model in life, so parents, please don't give up or lose yourself. Life is precious, so cherish it and know your worth.



A 36 year old woman that was found rotted in the couch. Just a shameful, horrifying wrongful death. Another neglection where parents leave their daughter. Her body must have been on that couch for longer than what they say, and sadly they were very aware of what was going on. I mean their daughter was sickly and they were responsible for her health and care as well. Once she had gotten sick, her own parents neglected her and left her. Her own father and mother; just awful and stomach turning again. No care, no love. They just let her body sit, decay melt and rot. What a disgrace. Shame on this woman's family.

P.S. Let us all be grateful for life and loving and caring. If you have not yet, well start now if there is someone special in your life. Don't give up on them; keep it together, stay strong everyone. 'Til next time peace and love.

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David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency. A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	4-27-2022	Deaths	5-4-2022	Deaths
Belleville	10,887	149	10,954	150
Bloomfield	11,916	158	12,034	159
Caldwell	1,521	17	1,536	17
Cedar Grove	3,701	136	3,746	136
City of Orange	8,123	170	8,172	170
East Orange	17,070	374	17,185	376
Essex Fells	484	2	486	2
Fairfield	1,946	36	1,959	36
Glen Ridge	1,161	18	1,177	18
Irvington	11,684	279	11,747	280
Livingston	5,982	100	6,082	100
Maplewood	4,903	46	4,993	47
Millburn	3,256	17	3,311	17
Montclair	6,431	84	6,540	84
Newark	78,278	1,242	78,674	1,243
North Caldwell	1,306	10	1,334	10
Nutley	6,474	83	6,541	83
Roseland	1,338	21	1,350	21
South Orange	3,172	22	3,268	22
Verona	3,161	22	3,216	22
West Caldwell	2,576	60	2,602	60
West Orange	12,759	263	12,961	263
Total	198,129	3,309	199,868	3,316

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of May 4, 2022)

NJ: 1,957,938 cases / 30,421 deaths (Plus 3,046 probable)

United States (approx.): 81.584 Million / 996,200 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 515.297 Million / 6.243 Million deaths

MONTAGUE (Continued from page 1)

I've watched us go from having a say-so about what comes thought our community to having none.

As a mom, I've seen where, right now, our kids need self-esteem. Right now, escalating crime is not being addressed at all, probably because they are branding the city as crime being down to look inviting to people who don't live here - like those who can afford the "affordable housing" starting at \$1,800 for a studio apartment. There should be adequate income housing.

Homeless shelters have become problem ridden because they don't have the adequate oversight. People get kicked out in the morning. Some of those people actually have jobs. Also, containers are not an adequate replacement for legitimate housing for the homeless. I don't even know if they have bathrooms.

DS: How can you stop the inflow of high

paying renters, which can make it harder for Newarkers to live in the city due to higher cost-of-living expenses, including groceries?

SM: I would first do an audit of the expenditures. Then I would like to reappropriate some funds, because we have \$800 million to help tackle that. The money for the mayor's security team alone is \$1 million. That's absurd.

DS: Why do you think you are better for Newark than Mayor Ras Baraka?

SM: I know I am a better choice because I am a native Newarker that has been homeless before, and I can relate to those issues. A native Newarker who knows poverty. Newark is a very transient location, and my family has been in every ward. I am a mentor that would never have my character questioned as one involve in any type of questionable street organization. I can relate to Newarkers as a native, homeowner, mother,

educator.

DS: How will you work with the council to achieve your goals, especially if they disagree with you?

SM: One thing I depend on is data. Right now, they are not gaging anything on data. They are working under fear, being "yes men" to the current mayor. One thing I advocate for is democracy. If most of my council does not want something, then maybe I need to go back and rethink what we need as a collective. A big disconnect concerning the council is that people are not engaged right now. They are not attending school board meetings or council meetings. They think they have no voice, and they are right. They feel if they raise their voice, they will get targeted. That's not democracy.

DS: Newark, and most of Essex County, is controlled by big machine politics. How will
(Continued on page 9)

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MONTAGUE (Continued from page 8)

you overcome that?

SM: With a strong grassroots movement that's consistent. Big machine politics don't want to offend the people. If the people stand up and say they want something else, that's when things change. There has to be a balance between what corporations want and what the people want and need, like better schools or activities. We don't have not enough activities, like bowling and things like that.

DS: Being an educator, how will you address education in the city?

SM: By being analytical. Seeing where they are, the students, teachers, and administrators, and working with the superintendent and everyone down to make it better. I would want an education officer, fully involved with education.

DS: Newark is infamous for crime and other public safety issues, such as corruption. What will you bring to the table to fix the problem?

SM: A breath of fresh air. We have been governed since I remember by maybe five or six families. I'm not part of that regime. I'm the dream of democracy. I've been committed to marriage for twenty years, a mother, and a district leader. We have these families, the Jameses, the Crumps, the Barakas. I loved the predecessors like Mildred Crump, Sharpe James, and Amiri Baraka. But then it went to their kids. Sharpe ran again. He should not feel he has to run again.

My house was shot into before. But I'm a big girl; I understand history a lot. I want to look at the bright side of things. I believe anything is possible. We need someone who knows how to be committed to a task. Leaders set the tone. Young people are looking at you to set a new tone.

As for public safety, I was on board for the CCRB to have subpoena power. But then he (Baraka) turns around and supports someone who's against everything we're supporting. I still don't understand that. It's a conflict. Regular civilians should have subpoena power. Street organizations that are too affiliated with the administration should not. There's a conflict there.

Finally, the police need better vehicles. Why do city staffers have better vehicles

than the police?

DS: Other than the usual matters of crime and education, what do you feel is the biggest problem in Newark?

SM: The threat to democracy. The need for one person to control everything is a threat to democracy. It's not just a national problem, but it's a local one too.

DS: If elected, will you promise not to hire a bunch of family and friends?

SM: YES! I definitely promise that!

DS: Do you have a brief message for your constituents?

SM: I believe that people should do their own research on candidates that are running. They should disengage with gossip because there is a lot of word of mouth. As an adjunct professor, I tell my students you have to look at the source. I've been an educator all my adult life. Literacy and language arts. I've worked as a 7th and 8th grade teacher.

On May 10th, vote Line A1 all the way!

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 - Three city teenagers, in a date to be announced, will return to a Mineola, N.Y. courthouse to give an account on an expensive and injurious April 23-24 in Greater Roslyn.

Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick J. Ryan, in an April 26 news conference, said that the 16-year-old-driver and two accompanying 17-year-olds went on a chase that caused \$500,000 in vehicular damage and put three of his officers and two of his detectives in a local hospital.

Ryan said that one of his patrols noticed a blue 2020 Mercedes-Benz GLS 450, with three occupants aboard, 12:10 p.m. April 24 and ran a license plate check. That check identified the Benz as the one that was reported stolen out of Roslyn April 23.

The patrol officers, said Ryan, tried to stop the car - but the driver began pulling away. It rammed a second NCPD car before turning onto Northern Boulevard and the Long Island Expressway.

The Mercedes, who had suffered front end damage and lost a front tire, was stopped in Roslyn's Flower Hill section after colliding with two more NCPD cars. A 9 mm. pistol and 15 rounds of ammunition were found in the stolen car.

Ryan, in a North Bellmore garage April 26, showed off the four damaged cars, two of which have been written off. The commissioner said that two of the five hospitalized officers may have suffered career-ending injuries.

All three teens were charged April 25 with second-degree grand larceny and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose plus third-degree unlawful

weapon possession. The 16-year-old driver also faces five counts of second-degree assault and third-degree unlawful fleeing of a police officer with a motor vehicle. All three were later released to parental custody that Monday afternoon.

"They're hired guns by gangs in Newark," said an angry Ryan. "They're loading them up, driving out here, committing crimes. They are reckless, they are dangerous, they are damaging our vehicles, they are hurting our cops."

IRVINGTON - The love story between Tania Wydra, 64, and Daniel Cassidy, which was formed while they were here in Frank H. Morrell High School, had suddenly ended with Tania's death in Vineland on March 26.

Tania Wydra, who was born in Irvington General Hospital Jan. 24, 1958, met Dan Cassidy while they were going through Irvington Public Schools. They briefly went their separate ways after graduating with the rest of the Irvington High School Class of 1976, only to reunite the next year.

Tania and Dan Cassidy married on June 24, 1978 before Dan joined the U.S. Coast Guard. The couple lived in several East Coast ports of call before settling in Vineland after Dan's honorable discharge.

The high school art and photography student died suddenly at home. Her memorial service was held in Vineland's DeMarco-Luisi Funeral Home April 2.

Dan, son Dan, Jr., and sister Luba Pimenidis are among Tania's survivors. Son Alexander, twin brother Lubomyr and sister Vera predeceased her.

Memorial donations may go to Save the Children for Ukrainian Relief Fund.

EAST ORANGE - Last rites were held April 28 for Albert Prince while county homicide and fire investigators were seeking answers to his April 11 death by house fire.

The first East Orange Fire Department personnel who arrived at 51 Hawthorne Ave. 2:15 a.m. April 25 found flames at all sides of the 2.5-story wood frame house. The commander on scene pulled a second alarm. East Orange police then closed the intersection of Hawthorne

and Winthrop Terrace.

Firefighters knocked back flames enough to access the 1925-built house. They found an "unidentified, unconscious and unresponsive man" inside and brought him out. The man, who would be identified by the Essex County Prosecutor's Office that Monday afternoon, was declared dead at the scene.

Firefighters would bring the blaze under control by 4 a.m. Prince, who was born Aug. 1, 1945, was listed as 51 Hawthorne's owner and sole resident.

Prince, who was a musician, had his funeral here at Calvary Baptist Church before his interment at Newark's Fairmount Cemetery. Wife Jeanne, sons Damon and Glenn, daughter Elyse, brother John, sisters Jean Webb, Doris Patrick and Maude Prince and five grandchildren are among his survivors.

ORANGE - The 120 residents of a North Ward garden apartment building may have settled in new lodging by now while city and county fire investigators seek the May 3 blaze's cause.

The first Orange Fire Department units arrived at The Platinum at 431 Park Ave. 12:25 a.m. and found three top floor apartments engulfed in flames. The tour commander immediately ordered an evacuation, close Park Avenue between High Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue and pulled three additional alarms.

Although mutual aid from West Orange, East Orange, South Orange, Newark, Nutley, Millburn, Verona and Fairfield swiftly responded, it took until 6 a.m. to bring the fire under control. The 70-unit Platinum is among several garden apartment buildings that replaced Victorian era houses in the neighborhood in the 1960s.

Orange Masonic Temple (1887-2022)

The six-story Masonic Temple Building, after 135 years here at 235 Main St., may become a memory by press time. Masonic Lodge 11, who built the structure, merged with the Livingston Lodge in 1972.

A pair of contracted excavators have been tearing down the building's Philadelphia pressed

brick front with its claws since May 2. Westbound Main Street between Park Street and North/South Center streets is closed - as it had been since an April 19 fire devastated the building. The fire remains under investigation by city, county and state fire marshals.

WEST ORANGE - Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility may have received a township resident, accused of a March 15 fatal shooting in East Orange, when you read this.

ECPD spokeswoman Katherine Carter said that Darneill Thomas, 22, was arrested in Danville, Va. April 26. Thomas has been charged with two counts of attempted murder plus a count each of murder, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession thereof for an unlawful purpose.

Thomas is accused of shooting and killing Joshua Dessin, 19, of Orange, while he and two groups of people along East Orange's Hilton Street at 10:31 p.m. March 15. Dessin, who was found shot there, died at Newark's University Hospital at 11:22 p.m. Thomas shot Dessin in what witnesses were saying was a "friendly fire" incident against the other group.

Dessin's funeral was held at East Orange's Island Memorial Funeral Home April 1. The Oct. 6, 2003 Newark native was an East Orange STEM Academy 2018 graduate and attended East Orange Campus High School. Parents Jionas Dessin and Irilande Cioneas, sister Jennifer Resouls and brothers Daniel Resouls and Geraldson Cineas are among the karate black belt and aspiring musician's survivors.

Pleasantdale School Bomb Threat

The students and faculty of the Kelly Elementary were taken across Pleasant Valley Way to West Orange High School's auditorium for two hours while authorities searched for a bomb here April 29.

Interim WOPS Superintendent C. Lauren Schoen called in township police and the Essex County Sheriff's Department's Bomb Unit after receiving word from Kelly Elementary's Main Office. Kelly officials said they

(Continued on page 15)

NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER OPENS NEW DEDICATED GERIATRIC UNIT

NEWARK - Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, has opened a new comprehensive geriatric unit.

The new dedicated geriatric unit consists of 24 private rooms, spanning 2 floors of the hospital, and specifically outfitted to meet the unique needs of older adult patients.

“This new unit is part of our ongoing commitment to delivering world class care to our patients at every age and stage of life,” said Darrell K. Terry, Sr., MHA, MPH, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children’s Hospital of New Jersey. “We have equipped every room and hallway to ensure that older adults and their loved ones have an excellent experience and receive the highest quality care in the safest environment.”

The new geriatric unit features rooms large enough to accommodate physical therapy activities, beds specifically designed to reduce pressure injuries and reduce fall hazards, cushioned slip resistant flooring, sliding doors to private bathrooms, with bathroom guard rails for ease of access. In addition,



Princess Agwu, BSN, RN meets with Joanne Dixon a patient on Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's new geriatric patient unit

select rooms have been outfitted with equipment to support patients who are not ambulatory.

The hallways are brightly colored with color blocking patterns that help guide and orient patients. Hallways are also fitted with guardrails, pull out seating, a centralized nursing station and dimmable lighting. The unit also features wheelchair accessible family visitor lounges.

“Our goal is to exceed the individual expectations of each patient, to decrease the stress commonly associated with older adult care and to promote wellness in older adults,” said Amy Doran, RN, MS, APRN-BC,

Chief Nursing Officer, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children’s Hospital of New Jersey (CHoNJ).

The new geriatric unit further enhances patient care for older adults at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Newark Beth Israel is a NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) Exemplar hospital. In addition to specialized inpatient care, the hospital offers specialized emergency care for older adults in the Donald M. Payne, Sr., Geriatric Emergency Department.

This new geriatric unit is part of an extensive \$150 million ex-

pansion project, The Newark Strong project is the largest expansion of the hospital in more than 50 years. Once complete, it will transform the Lyons Avenue landscape and create a more welcoming space for the surrounding community and patients, a space that reflects the level of care delivered as well as the hospital’s commitment as an anchor institution in the city of Newark and the South Ward.

A key component of the project will be the hospital’s new main lobby, an estimated 17,000-square-foot, glass-enclosed space, that will move the hospital’s front entrance back onto Lyons Avenue. The project also includes expanded adult and pediatric emergency departments, new hybrid operating rooms, a new critical care unit, and a brand-new renovated maternity unit.

For more information about Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, please visit: <https://www.rwjbh.org/newark-beth-israel-medical-center/>. For more information about the Newark Strong project, please visit: <https://www.rwjbh.org/nbinewarkstrong>.

NEWARK MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR REC CENTER CONSPIRACY

NEWARK - A Newark man was sentenced May 3 to 120 months in prison for his role in a drug trafficking conspiracy, U.S. Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Rahim Jackson previously pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District Judge Brian R. Martinotti to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute heroin. Judge Martinotti imposed the sentence in Newark federal court.

According to the documents filed in this case and statements made in court: From 2018 through July 31, 2019, Jackson and others conspired to distribute and possess with intent to distribute at least one kilogram of heroin. Jackson admitted using the Rotunda Recreation and Wellness Center on Clifton Avenue, where he was employed, in furtherance of the conspiracy.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Martinotti sentenced Jackson to five years of supervised release.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Susan A. Gibson in Newark; members of the Newark Department of Pub-

lic Safety, under the direction of Director Brian O’Hara; and the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Col. Patrick J. Callahan, with the investigation leading to the sentencing.

He also thanked the Essex County Sheriff’s Office, under the direction of Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura, the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II, the Rockaway Township Police Department, under the direction of Chief Martin McParland, and special agents from the ATF, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey L. Matthews in Newark.

The Broadway Townhomes investigation was part of the Newark Violent Crime Initiative (VCI). The Newark VCI was formed in August 2017 by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey, the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, and the City of Newark’s Department of Public Safety for the sole purpose of combatting violent crime in and around Newark.

As part of this partnership, federal, state, county, and city agencies collaborate and pool resources to prosecute violent offenders

who endanger the safety of the community. The VCI is composed of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the FBI, the ATF, the DEA New Jersey Division, the U.S. Marshals, the Newark Department of Public Safety, the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, the Essex County Sheriff’s Office, New Jersey State Parole, Union County Jail, New Jersey State Police Regional Operations and Intelligence Center/Real Time Crime Center, New Jersey Department of Corrections, the East Orange Police Department, and the Irvington Police Department.

This case is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kendall Randolph of the U.S. Attorney’s Office’s OCDETF Unit in Newark and Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather Suchorsky of the Economic Crimes Unit.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Hate That Brings The Curse Of Murdering

We are in the midst of protests. Almost two years ago, the protest was about "police brutality" against black and brown skin people, triggered by the murder of George Floyd. Remember it? Police, Derek Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck for about eight minutes until Floyd stopped breathing. Some people say that the police were controlling crimes, others say the police were murdering.

This week the protests concern the leaked document from the Supreme Court majority opinion that is likely to remove the rights of abortion that had been in place for about 50 years. And it is interesting that while one group of individuals is rejoicing that "the freedom to kill babies" has been stopped, another group is saying that the opinion is designed to stifle "the rights of women" to have control over their own bodies.

The argument is that the opinion, as written if carried out, opens the way for removing many other rights by the fiat of

the Supreme Court. I heard one individual mockingly asking if the Supreme Court has lost its character as the "Supreme" Court or whether it is becoming a "Kangaroo Court, being manipulated by politicians to win elections? It is an interesting question that we might answer at another time, but here the interest is to provoke us to think about whether we see the abortion debate as an issue about "Murder" or the preservation of freedom and the resolution of economic interests for people to carry on their lives?

While thinking about the above, let us not forget the protests concerning the war in Ukraine. While Mr. Putin and some Russians argue that they have entered into the war to liberate Ukraine from Nazi control (an idea called a demonic false flag), much of the world sees Mr. Putin and his Russian generals and fighters as murderers and war criminals. As the people in Ukraine are arguing, the violent actions of the Russians are so egregious that the perpetrators need to be tried at the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

At the moment of writing, attorneys are investigating and documenting the cases across Ukraine to establish all the facts they will present to some Court. After one mother saw the dead bodies in the streets of Mariupol, she cried out, "I am going to teach my child to hate the Russians." And when I heard her

outbursts, I mused, "this is the cycle creating murderers worldwide." But in my situation, who am I to blame that woman when I have not lived with her pain of losing a brother, a sister, or some other relative or friend in the war.

My point is that as we reflect on the cases from the above, we also need to think more personally about the causes of our anger and hatred so that we can stop the killing, even that we are perpetuating, through what some are calling "systemic racism."

Or let me state it as Jesus spoke of it in the Gospel of Matthew 5:21-22 NKJV: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says You fool!' shall be in danger of hellfire."

As is said, in His effort to prevent crimes of violence such as murder, Jesus sought to root out the attitudes and emotions that drive us. Jesus reached back to the sixth commandment that says, "You shall not kill" (KJV) or "You shall not murder" (in most other translations). In this, Jesus was imposing a positive obligation of the spirit of the law when he traced murdering or killing to its source(s). Jesus spoke of the source(s) in the

above in three categories, namely: 1) anger, 2) hatred, and 3) the spirit of competition and aggression.

It is the maintaining of anger and hatred that lead to murders and wars. Even getting angry - with or without a "justifiable" cause - puts us in danger of breaking the commandment that says, "You are not to murder." In fact, even when causes are justifiable, we need to be careful that we understand where our anger is leading.

I know of a woman who used to excuse her anger by saying, "Offense will come, but woe unto the one that causes it." After saying that, she would pronounce her "curses" on those she claimed to have caused her to hurt. I used to wonder at her attitude but must admit that I have been tempted to do the same at times.

At those times, I had to hold back and reflect on the words of Jesus: "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:44-45 NKJV).

The Lord knows that I want to be free from being a murderer, so I have to control my anger and anything that would lead to violence. Can you join me in making a pledge?

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

cies, the national meteorological and hydrological departments in both countries, plan to roll out heat health action plans, which have been successful in saving lives in the past few years, said the UN weather agency in a statement.

Extreme heat has multiple and cascading impacts not just on human health, but also on ecosystems, agriculture, water and energy supplies and key sectors of the economy.

WMO reiterated its commitment to "ensuring that multi-hazard early warning services reach the most vulnerable."

Both India and Pakistan have successful heat-health early

warning systems and action plans already in place, including those specially tailored for urban areas.

They reduce heat mortality and lessen the social impacts of extreme heat, including lost work productivity.

Important lessons have been learned from the past and these are now being shared among all partners of the WMO co-sponsored Global Heat Health Information Network, to enhance capacity in the hard-hit region, WMO advanced.

The India Meteorological Department said that maximum temperatures reached 43-46°C in widespread areas, on April 28, and that this intense heat will continue until May 2.

Similar temperatures have also been seen in Pakistan, with

daytime temperatures likely to be between 5°C and 8°C above normal in large swathes of the country, said the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

They also warned that in the mountainous regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkwa, the unusual heat levels would accelerate snow and ice melt, with the possibility of triggering glacial lake floods - or flash floods in vulnerable areas.

Air quality has also deteriorated, and large swathes of land are at risk of fire outbreaks.

According to WMO, "it is premature to attribute the extreme heat in India and Pakistan solely to climate change", however, the agency continues "it is consistent with what we expect in a changing climate."

Furthermore, heatwaves are

more frequent and more intense and starting earlier than in the past. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its recent Sixth Assessment Report, also said that heatwaves and humid heat stress would be more intense and frequent in South Asia this century.

The current heatwave was triggered by a high-pressure system and follows an extended period of above average temperatures.

India recorded its warmest March on record, with an average maximum temperature of 33.1 °C, or 1.86 °C above the long-term average.

Pakistan also recorded its warmest March for at least the past 60 years, with a number of stations breaking March records.

(Continued on page 14)

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The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

IN MY OPINION

Unfortunately, I will no longer have the luxury of shunning those oversized trash bags which despite that mandate will still align those supermarket shelves as all else. My children have always made suggestions from a stance of curiosity or even sarcasm when offering tips that were to aid in my giving up the ghost. They couldn't quite understand my opting to use my beloved supermarket plastic bags as opposed to the normal store-bought garbage bags when disposing of waste.

Thanks to my parents I don't like to waste and because of that, I am into the reuse thing pretty heavy. So there is a method to my madness. Number one, it

made taking out the trash less of a task. Number two, the ol garbage in, garbage out thang was worth its weight in gold all by itself. Because the ol fill it up, take it out rule was solid a few times a day, on any given day. Logically, when those cans awaited DPW's well-anticipated pick up our trash contributions could be picked out in any lineup. But so what it worked. so I worked it and every little bit counts when it comes to ...

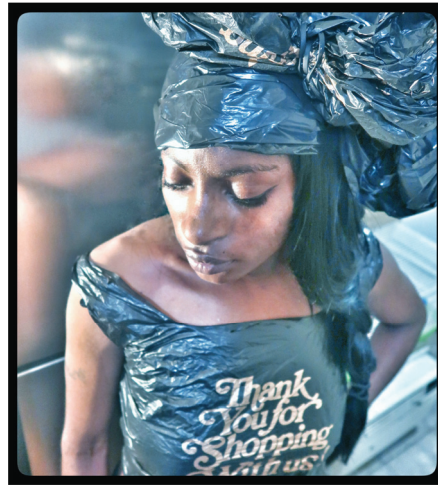
Global warming. ...Waste disposal. ...Ocean acidification. ...Loss of biodiversity. ...Deforestation. ...Ozone layer depletion.

Clean Ocean Action has been fighting for decades to ban the plastics that, lightweight as they are, amount to millions of pounds of trash every year, winding up in oceans and landfills without breaking down. This is our world and I believe that we all should do our part. Thank God for those forward-thinkers who continue to make this focus.

THROW IT IN THE BAG!

And that's exactly what I did when I grabbed all those extras the other day during a supermarket run. I couldn't help myself as noted here with my plastic bag creation that my muse is wearing. I felt as if one of those little numbers should be utilized as a resource one last time. Fabolous's song "Throw It In the

Bag" kinda popped in my head out of the blue along with a pretty interesting question that has become this week's topic.



L.I.T Muse: Blackberry Sweet Blackberry Studios Plastic bag top and headwrap/ Photo credit: Andrea Dialect

My co-worker Skeet (a retired draftsman) was there during the time and was the first person I'd solicit a response from. "Knowingly the plastic bag ban will be coming into effect on May 4th. If you could get rid of anything that is a nuisance or threat to our world, community, family, or anything else. What would it be? He was rapid with his response "Trump!" "If I could get rid of anyone that is Id, wrap him up, open the bag, tie it up and toss him.

Ironically everyone that had been questioned responded just as expediently. I felt that Aisha Coston (founder & Administrator of Newark's Fallen Soldiers

Facebook Grief page) issue of choices which was "Violence" was the ultimate contributor to trail behind Skeet lol.

Nikki Vante (Social Worker, Health & Wellness Coach) says let's ban "Bad parenting!" this is a huge issue in our society that will cost us. Timiyah Henry (my niece & a student from North Carolina) wants to rid of all her excess clothing that's never worn)

My good friend Ken Stevens (Ken Speaks) wants to chuck those fast-food restaurants which add to our health crisis.

Appolon "Chap" Noel one of my biggest supporters states (D2 Studios & A+ Media) "Inequality is and has always been my core focus. As a kid, I always fought for fairness. "Somebody has to." Mama D one of my dearest friends says, (Health Care Provider) "Can we get rid of hate. Can everybody come together we need each other?" ...

Remember, due to space this article can be read in its entirety on our website: www.localtalkweekly.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.

WORLD NEWS (Continued from page 12)

In the pre-monsoon period, both India and Pakistan regularly experience excessively high temperatures, especially during May.

HEALTH EXPERTS FRET OVER OBESITY

EUROPE

Obesity rates have reached "epidemic" proportions across Europe and are still rising, the World Health Organization (WHO) Office for the region said in a report published on May 3.

Nearly two thirds of adults, 59 percent, and almost one in three children - 29 percent of boys and 27 percent of girls - is either overweight or obese, the study has revealed.

Being chronically overweight and obesity are among the leading causes of death and disability in Europe. Estimates suggest they cause more than 1.2 million deaths annually,

which corresponds to more than 13 percent of total mortality in the region.

Obesity also increases the risk for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including 13 different types of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and type 2 diabetes. It is likely to be directly responsible for at least 200,000 new cancer cases annually across the region, and this figure is set to rise further in the coming years.

WHO said none of the 53 countries that comprise its European region is on track to meet the agency's NCD target of halting the rise of obesity by 2025.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has also disproportionately affected overweight people and those living with obesity.

WHO said patients with obesity are more likely to experience complications and death from the virus. Many have also experienced disruptions in accessing obesity management services due to the crisis.

Meanwhile, "unfavorable shifts" in food consumption and physical activity patterns

during the pandemic will have effects on health in the years ahead and will require significant effort to reverse.

Obesity knows no borders, said Dr. Hans Kluge, the WHO Regional Director, adding that although European countries are diverse, each is challenged to some degree.

"By creating environments that are more enabling, promoting investment and innovation in health, and developing strong and resilient health systems, we can change the trajectory of obesity in the Region," he said.

The report lays out a series of interventions and policy options for Governments to tackle obesity, emphasizing the need to build back better after the pandemic.

WHO explained that the causes of obesity "are much more complex than the mere combination of unhealthy diet and physical inactivity."

Latest evidence presented in the report highlights how vulnerability to unhealthy body weight in early life can affect a person's tendency to develop obesity.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

had found a "Post-in note with 'There is a bomb in here' message on it" that morning.

SOUTH ORANGE - Village police chief Ernesto Morillo said that his detectives had added their chargers to those from Orange, Mount Olive, Roxbury and Randolph that are holding an East Orange man in the Morris County Jail since April 1.

Morillo said that his detectives had traced the license plate number of the Audi that was left behind on Turrell Drive just after 10:15 a.m. that Friday.

A resident said that the Audi had followed her as she parked her Buick on her driveway. A man got out, demanded the Buick's keys and, when she hesitated, "placed a hand on his pants pocket and threatened to shoot her if she did not comply.

While the Audi was traced to a stolen car report in East Orange, other detectives used the Buick's GM OnStar satellite navigation unit to cart its course to Mt. Olive's Flanders section. SOPD then informed their MOPD colleagues.

Mt. Olive police, while finding the Buick abandoned at a Walgreens, were told of another carjacking on the lot in progress. They, Roxbury and Randolph followed that third vehicle's path until it had crashed on Route 10.

SOPD added carjacking, receiving stolen property, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession thereof for an unlawful purpose onto Howard Parks, 53, of East Orange.

MAPLEWOOD - The township's Quick Chek at Springfield Ave., for the second time in 20 days, was held up at gunpoint on April 29.

Maplewood Police Chief James DeVaul said that two men, wearing hooded sweatshirts and masks, entered the premises at about 3:30 a.m. that Friday. One of them displayed a handgun and demanded that the clerk empty the cash register.

The men were last seen entering a dark-colored SUV - which then fled south on Boyden Avenue.

A pedestrian had fled with \$100 worth of cigarette packs after he announced that he had a gun 12:10 a.m. April 11. Both robberies are being investigated.

BLOOMFIELD - The late 16-year Bloomfield Democratic Committee Chairman Peter S. Strumolo may have a special perch since April 11 to watch the upcoming June 7 party primary elections.

Strumolo, 75, died that Monday at the Morristown Medical Center 35 days short

of what would have been his 76th birthday.

He was born May 15, 1946 and grew up in Newark and Belleville's Silver Lake section. The Belleville High School Class of 1964 graduate went to the Miami Military Academy, where he played football and basketball.

Strumolo returned to Belleville to marry high school sweetheart Naomi Wydra in 1969 and joined the New Jersey Highway Authority. Peter and Naomi then moved to Bloomfield to raise Peter G, Christian and Stephen Strumolo.

Peter advanced from Garden State Parkway toll collector to its Superintendent of Maintenance. He retired to become Supervisor of Job Development in Essex County's OneStop Employment Center.

Sister Marie Strumolo-Burke is Belleville Councilwoman for Silver Lake/the First Ward. Five grandchildren are also among his survivors.

A Funeral Mass was held in Verona's Lady of the Lake Church, after a visitation at Bloomfield's O'Boyle Funeral Home, April 18. His burial followed at Bloomfield's Glendale Cemetery.

MONTCLAIR - Contractors for Bellevue Theatre owners Jesse and Doreen Sayegh are racing to have the movie house reopen on its May 22 grand opening centennial date - while adhering to requirements set by township elders.

The Montclair Planning Board approved a redevelopment plan April 11 that would keep the Tudor-styled building's aesthetics while making it economically viable. The Sayeghs have kept the Bellevue closed since then tenant Bow-Tie Cinemas ran its last show on Nov. 12, 2017.

Bow-Tie took all of the motion picture equipment it could carry out of the Bellevue before its lease expired on Nov. 30. The Sayeghs had canceled another lease with a prospective local redevelopment team in 2021.

The redevelopment plan allows the Sayeghs to waive the four parking spaces per-theater seat requirement and have commercial retail uses on 260 Bellevue Ave.'s first floor -- so long as the structure is at least half-movie theater.

Restaurants, cafes, retail stores, a health club, personal service offices or an educational play center are among the allowed street-level uses. Professional offices and apartment units are allowed above the first floor - but the 101-year-old building must stay at its three-story maximum height.

Some other zoning requirements are being relaxed through last October's "An Area in Need of Redevelopment" designation given by the Township Council. The AINOR act includes a phased-in five-year Payment in Lieu of Taxes plan.

Father and daughter Sayegh are planning on a 400-seat, single-screen theater. Bow-Tie had 885 seats among four screens. The Bellevue had 975 seats, a pipe organ and a second-floor restaurant when it first opened in 1922.

BELLEVILLE - The Township Council, in a 4-3 split April 26, voted to reappoint the six Class IV Planning Board members who were first appointed by Mayor Michael Melham in 2019 and later.

Questions over whether the Township Council or the Mayor has the appointing authority, which had been broached several times since 2019, had prompted Planning Board Chairman Raymond Veniero to suspend the panel's operations April 14 until the questions are answered.

The six resolutions were put on the agenda by Melham and Township Attorney Steven Martino. The mayor had maintained that he had the appointing authority based on a pre-1990 municipal code law. The problem is that Belleville's township government switched from a commissioner format to a Township Manager-Council format that year - where the council has appointing authority.

The council, by the same 4-3 split vote, also introduced a bill that would "cure" the pre-and post - 1990 appointment disparity. It is set for a second reading, a public hearing and a final vote on May 24.

Melham, Deputy Mayor Naomy DePena, Councilman Thomas Graziano and Third Ward Councilman Vincent Cozzarrelli voted for the cure bill and each of the six reappointments. First Ward Councilwoman Marie Strumolo-Burke, Second Ward Steve Rovell and Fourth Ward Councilman John Notari dissented and tried to table the legislation.

It is too early to tell whether the Belleville Planning Board will be returning to work at its scheduled May 12 meeting. That session's agenda had not been posted as of May 2.

There is also the question of whether the dozens of site plan applications approved by the panel over the last three years will cause stop-work orders or otherwise be put into doubt.



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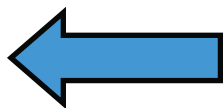
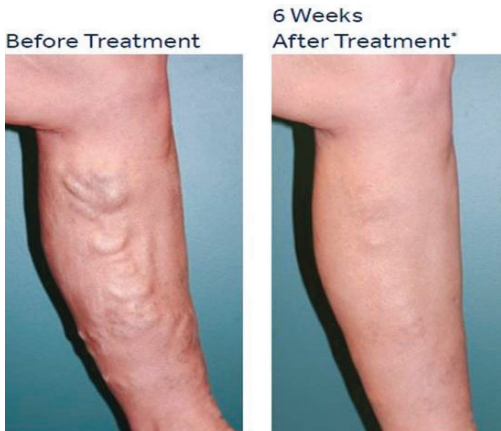
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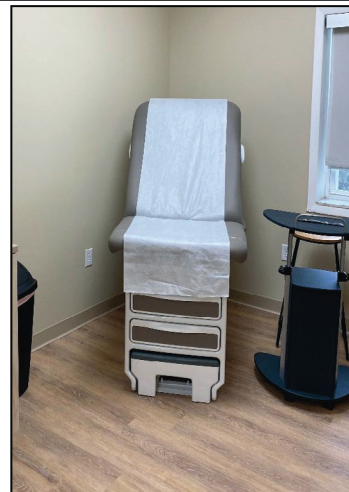
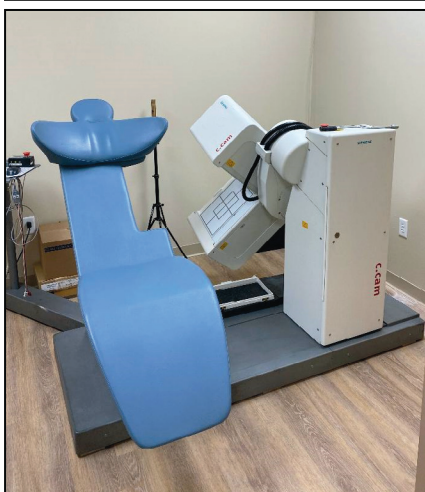
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