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NEWARK RUNOFF ELECTIONS FILL THREE COUNCIL SEATS

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Nearly 8,500 voters among Newark's three wards chose on June 14 who would fill their open seats before July 1.

A majority of participating East, South and West voters, as of 9:49 p.m. Tuesday, favored candidates who were either on Mayor Ras Baraka's Moving Newark Forward 2022 ticket and/or were endorsed by the mayor and a constellation of elected officials.

The 8,464 voters among the three wards, as recorded by Essex County Clerk Chis Durkin Tuesday night, were 9.16 percent of the 92,437 registered voters.

The above and below figures remain unofficial until June 28's certification date.

There are Vote By Mail Bal-

lots with Tuesday's postmark that have to arrive at Durkin's Election Division office here at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Building, 395 MLK Blvd. by 4:30 p.m. June 21. The arrival deadline was made 24 hours later due to March 20's inaugural federal Juneteenth holiday observation.

What provisional ballots that were cast among the 102 voting machine polling stations in the three wards Tuesday will then be counted. There were no polling stations open June 10-12 for early in-person voting.

Durkin, should there be no challenges or recounts, will then be poised to certify the runoff elections June 28 or earlier.

Baraka's inauguration team, barring the unexpected, will likely add the names of Michael J.



Silva, Rev. Patrick Council and Dupre L. Kelly on their ceremonial invitations.

Silva became East Ward Councilman-Elect by voters giving him a 378 vote edge over former Newark Police Director Anthony Campos.

Silva drew 1,509 votes for 57.16 percent of the vote. Campos carried 1,131 for 42.84.

The 28-year and retired Newark Police Division detective and

its Community Service Officer barely topped Campos in the May 10 nonpartisan municipal election. Neither, however, received 50 percent-plus-one vote that Tuesday to prevent a runoff.

Silva, before May 10, had the retiring Councilman Augusto Amador and State Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor-Marin (D-Newark)'s endorsement. Baraka, after seeing his own endorsed

(Continued on page 5)

LOCAL STAR SET TO COMPETE IN NATIONALLY TELEVISED EVENT

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Jonathan Tarver

ROBESON CLASSIC RETURNS

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Photo By Keith Munford



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Turn To PAGE 16



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-in-Chief

Hello Readers,

The Federal Reserve has realized the importance of controlling inflation and raised interest rates 3/4% (.75%) to help that effort. Now, the Fed rates are between 1.5% to 1.75%. This is a transaction between the banks and that will impact our interest, including mortgage rates. In 1994 under the Clinton administration, Alan Greenspan raised interest by 3/4% when the inflation rate was 2.56% versus the current inflation rate of 8.6%. The more inflation there is, the more a recession is definite.

We saw the last full-on recession after the real estate crash in 2008-2009. Suddenly, the real estate market dropped drastically. Alan Greenspan had something to do with it. He allowed the investors to give loans over the market price. Some of the investors were giving 125% loan

over the market value in 2006. All of a sudden, foreclosures and bankruptcies were on the rise and most of us felt the pain of the recession in 2008 and 2009.

The pandemic has affected the economy as well but giving out and distributing money by printing bills to promote popularity is hurting us. PPP loans were the only successful program until today. They gave the first PPP loans to large corporations, which was a mistake and was corrected in the second round of PPP loans. It was good, but not enough for many smaller businesses. Also, the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program (FPUC) gave an additional \$300 per week and after June 2021, \$600 per week for 13 weeks, which boosted inflation as well. Jerome Powell, the current federal reserve chairman has to say no to the president, rather than printing bills and letting inflation go sky high.

Hardship continued with the rise of gas prices. Oil shortages have been created by politics and the most benefits went to middle eastern countries. Stopping Russian oil and gas did not help us. The demand for the oil and gas was diverted from Russia to oth-

er countries. America used to be self-dependent for oil in the last few years. Self-dependent meaning the exports should be more than imports for the similar products. Under Trump, it was self-dependent. Under the Biden administration, export are still more than the imports. So why are we screaming?

I understand the people's outburst. Gas prices over \$5, grocery prices on the rise, travel costs are rising. It is getting harder to live comfortably for the majority of the working middle class and working poor class. The government is controlled by our elected officials, who make sure that when the government needs money, they collect directly or indirectly from the people. Raising sales taxes, raising property taxes, raising fines, raising income taxes, and many indirect ways of collecting money. I haven't seen the reduction of taxes in most of the items. When there is a public outcry for something, they will reduce taxes on one and raise another to compensate their budget.

We need to overhaul our system. If any law was made, but not used for five years, that must be rescinded. I have not seen any

elected leader suggest starting a rescind department or appoint one person, who can do search for laws not used in five years. Then prepare the resolution for the council or house of congress to rescind the law. That way, it does not go against any person when they do need it.

In Orange, there was a law passed approximately in 1994 to have a key box outside of any shop. There was a protest by businesses and the chamber of commerce. They have not acted upon it and let it go. After about eight years, then Mayor Mims Hackett circulated a letter to implement the law which is on the books already. After eight years, it is harder to get together all the businesses, so with the dissatisfaction of the businesses, it was implemented. Also, in that law it was not clear who pays for it, the landlord or the tenant. For the city purpose, the landlord has to give the money to the city and many landlords collected from the tenants as per my knowledge. So, if the law is not useful it should be deleted from the books to protect the citizens and businesses as well.

*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>
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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP / ED

Health Insurance Companies And Monopoly

America's health care system is failing; this is no longer news. The system is not working as well as it can, or rather, as well as it should. The United States of America holds the title of the largest economy in the world, and what do we have to show for it - a dysfunctional healthcare

system. Prices of healthcare, a basic need, keep increasing every day, and we seem to have just taken it as the norm. It shouldn't be. It mustn't be.

For so long, we have just sat and watched our healthcare system plummet into disarray. The fight against the increase in prices of healthcare is one we are losing. Then comes the next question - Who is to blame for the state of the broken healthcare system? There is no one answer to that, but I can give you the most dominant one, healthcare insurance companies. Yes, healthcare insurance companies. They are ruining the healthcare system, and many of us don't even know it.

One of the major contributors to the problems of the healthcare system is lack of competition. Health insurance companies are essentially removing competition to force a system where they can have total control of the market. The power these insurance companies are gaining seems to be increasing each year exponentially and this is corresponding to high prices of healthcare.

By health insurance companies merging, the competition at the top is reducing. There is already a total monopoly in some parts of the country. The power health insurance companies wield in these regions is simply shocking, which makes it even scarier to consider that this power is only going to increase. Very soon, a monopoly will not even be able to justify this power; it'd be more like a monopsony.

A monopsony is basically a market structure where only one buyer controls the market. The buyer has captured enough control over a market to dictate terms to its suppliers. The level of power such a buyer will have over the market is staggering. An example of a company that wields this power is Walmart. Some experts argue that a monopsony is not bad for the healthcare system as it helps to restrain the cost of healthcare. Don't even buy that at all. A monopsony in the healthcare system will ruin everything. Let me break it down.

If a company has a monopsony over a market, it will be able to dictate terms to its suppliers. The suppliers have no choice because there is only one buyer. Consider ten people selling the same good, and there is only one buyer. The buyer will be able to force price concessions and discounts out of the sellers because the sellers have no other choice. They either accept these concessions or run out of business. Walmart has used this strategy to drive down prices of goods for the public for years. This is why many experts believe monopsony is not as bad as it seems.

The only issue is that when it comes to healthcare insurance companies, it is not a power you want them to have. Seriously, I can't even begin to imagine these companies having that amount of power. The power they have now has crippled the healthcare system, how much more with more power. I don't even want to think of it. These companies are ruthless. The problem many have with the kind of power Walmart has is that while the general public is

benefitting, the suppliers are usually not. Many suppliers aren't able to maximize their profits, with some having to settle for almost negligible profits to stay in business. This doesn't seem fair enough. But, trust me, if health insurance companies get this level of power, this will pale in comparison.

If they get this power, both the suppliers and the public will suffer because of their insatiable want to suck out every last penny in profit. They will force suppliers to make price concessions, but these concessions will not reflect on the general public; no, it will only reflect in the bank accounts of their CEOs. How can I make such a bold statement? How can I be so sure? Well, in 1999, Aetna and Prudential merged. After the merge, a study showed the income for hospitals and doctors reduced, as expected, but the premiums they charged the public also increased. Where do you think all those extra profits went?



You may be thinking that it's just one case. It shouldn't dictate how others may act. Okay, consider this. In 2016, CEOs of health insurance companies took home a total of \$171.8 million in compensation. For context, that money will have covered the costs of sixty thousand people that year. Sixty thousand people! So, think again.

Do you now see my problem with these companies having so much power? There is absolutely no guarantee that they will benefit the public or the providers. It's a win-win for them. And they know it, which is why many of these giants are coming together. These giants are no longer fighting themselves; they are joining forces to fight us. In 2015, Aetna and Humana tried to tie-up in a deal worth \$37 billion. The deal failed because a federal court blocked it on the basis that it would harm competition, and rightfully so. The federal court did what it should have done a long time ago.

Many hospitals are merging today and absorbing many practices for a variety of reasons, but

(Continued on page 5)

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COUNCIL (Continued from page 1)

candidate finish fifth that Tuesday, threw his support to Silva.

Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura (D-Fairfield) and County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo (D-Roseland) were among those who also endorsed Silva.

South Ward voters meanwhile favored the Rev. Patrick Council over Terrance Bankston by a nearly seven-to-three ratio.

Council - who is Newark's Director of Recreation, Cultural and Senior Citizen Affairs and the South Ward Democratic Committee Chairman - carried 1,847 votes for 71.42 percent.

Bankston, who was an aide to former Mayor Cory A. Booker for seven years, drew 739 or 28.28.

Council was endorsed by retiring South Ward Councilman

John Sharpe James and ran all along on the "Moving Forward" ticket.

West Ward voters selected Kelly over lawyer and former State Department of Community Affairs official Chigozie U. Onyema by a 546 vote margin.

Kelly, a platinum record-selling rap artist and community activist, caught 1,858 or 58.61. Onyema amassed 1,312 or 41.39.

"DoItAll" Kelly is to succeed two-term Councilman Joseph McCallum, who became a lame duck after he had pleaded guilty to charges of bribery and official misconduct.

May 10's election and June 14's runoffs were Newark voters' once-every-four-years opportunity to select its mayor and all nine Municipal Council members.

NEWARK MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR MURDER OF EAST ORANGE STORE MANAGER

NEWARK - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, announced today that Roberto Ubiera, 59, of Newark, has been sentenced to life in New Jersey State Prison for the murder of Tarlok Singh, 55, of East Orange.

In the early morning hours of Aug. 16, 2018, Singh was fatally stabbed by Ubiera, a former employee who came to the neighborhood grocery store and attacked Singh.

At trial the state presented evidence showing Ubiera handcuffed the victim behind his back and isolated him in an employee bathroom in the rear of the store, where he later stabbed Singh twice in the back non-fatally before cutting Mr. Singh's throat twice with a knife and leaving him to bleed to death on the floor of the small bathroom with his hands still cuffed behind his back.

Ubiera was seen in the store by customers who came in during the crime and he attempted to pretend to be working there, but the customers recognized that something was amiss. Ubiera fled the scene after a customer who had seen Singh there earlier returned and called out for Singh and discovered him in



the bathroom as Ubiera fled.

In March, Ubiera, was found guilty of first-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping, robbery, felony murder, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose following a trial before the Honorable Christopher S. Romanyshyn, Judge of the Superior Court. Due to the circumstances of the crime, today Judge Romanyshyn sentenced Ubiera to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"Mr. Ubiera tortured and killed a kind and generous man, Mr. Singh. He has earned every day of the sentence imposed," said Assistant Prosecutor Adam B. Wells, who tried the case.

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THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

majorly to combat the power of health insurance companies at the negotiating table. These health insurance companies saw this and decided to join forces to gain an advantage again at the negotiating table. Everything is just about the money for them, like many other businesses in America. It's just that there is a difference here - human lives are actually on the line. The patients in dire need of assistance have to

bear the brunt of their lust for money.

Competition is necessary to keep businesses in check. If there is a monopoly, a firm doesn't have to bother about a reduction in prices. The push for quality and better services becomes relaxed because the public has no other choice. They don't have to come up with fresh ideas of staying relevant because there is virtually no need to. The whole system is going to get very messed up. Physicians that

(Continued on page 12)



BUFFALO SHOOTER HIT WITH HATE CRIMES CHARGE

UNITED STATES

On June 15, Payton Gendron, 18, of Conklin, New York, was charged by criminal complaint with hate crimes resulting in death and hate crimes involving bodily injury and attempt to kill, use of a firearm to commit murder during and in relation to a crime of violence, and use and discharge of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

The announcement was made by Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Attorney Trini E. Ross for the Western District of New York, and FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate.

The complaint alleges that on May 14, at approximately 2:30 p.m., Gendron, a white male, committed a mass shooting targeting Black people at Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, New York. The mass shooting, which Gendron livestreamed on the Internet, resulted in the deaths of 10 Black people and injuries to one Black person and two Caucasian people. The complaint further alleges that Gendron's motive for the mass shooting was to prevent Black people from replacing white people and eliminating the white race, and to inspire others to commit similar attacks.

At the time of the attack, Gendron was wearing a tactical-style helmet, camouflage clothing, body armor, and a GoPro video camera, and carrying a loaded Bushmaster XM-15 .223 caliber rifle and multiple loaded magazines. After parking and exiting his vehicle, Gendron shot and killed three Black people in the Tops' parking lot and injured a fourth Black person. Gendron then fired several shots through the front window of the store before entering, where he imme-

diately shot and killed two more Black people. At that time, Gendron and an armed Black security guard exchanged gunfire. Gendron aimed at, shot, and killed the security guard.

After Gendron killed the security guard, he turned and aimed his rifle at a white male Tops employee who, at some point during the attack, had been shot in the leg and injured. Rather than shooting him, Gendron said, "sorry," to the employee. At some point during the attack, one of the shots also struck and injured a white female Tops employee in the pharmacy area of the store, which is located near the checkout lanes. Gendron then walked through a checkout lane, and shot and killed a Black person, before moving through the aisles of the store and shooting and killing three additional Black people. Gendron ultimately returned to the front of the store where members of the Buffalo Police Department took him into custody.

When he was taken into custody, officers recovered the rifle used by Gendron in the attack. The rifle had various writings on it, including racial slurs, the statement "Here's your reparations!," and the phrase "The Great Replacement." Investigators have determined that Gendron fired approximately 60 shots during the attack. Two other firearms, a loaded 12-gauge shotgun and a loaded bolt-action rifle, as well as three loaded rifle magazines, were recovered from Gendron's vehicle after the attack.

Subsequent investigation determined that in the months preceding the attack, Gendron wrote a self-described manifesto containing a detailed plan to shoot and kill Black people at Tops using a Bushmaster XM-15 rifle, a diagram of the interior layout of the store, a discussion of the clothing and equipment that he would use during the attack, and statements that his motivation for the attack was to prevent Black people from replacing white people and eliminating the white race, and to inspire others to commit similar racially-motivated attacks.

Gendron also wrote that he selected the zip code 14208 because it has the highest percentage of Black people close enough to where he lives and

that he selected the Tops store because it is where a large number of Black people can be found. The investigation also determined that Gendron traveled to Tops to scout the location on several occasions prior to the attack, including on May 14, 2022, only two and a half hours before the attack.

Upon conviction, the charges in the complaint carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment or the death penalty. Gendron is currently in state custody pending state criminal charges.

The criminal complaint is the result of an investigation by the Buffalo and Albany Offices of the FBI, the Buffalo Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Buffalo Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Erie County Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph M. Tripi, Brendan T. Cullinane and Brett A. Harvey of the Western District of New York, and Trial Attorney Shan Patel of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

More information about the department's hate crimes efforts, including facts and statistics, case examples, and a searchable collection of the department's resources for law enforcement, community groups, researchers, and others, are available at www.justice.gov/hatecrimes.

WORRIES GROW OVER UK AND RWANDA

EUROPE / AFRICA

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, on Monday dismissed the British Government's proposal to process United Kingdom-bound asylum seekers in Rwanda, describing the offshore deal between the two countries announced in April, as "all wrong."

The development comes as senior judges in the UK ruled that the Government's first flight taking asylum seekers to the African nation, could go ahead.

A High Court judge refused a temporary injunction on June 10 to halt the first flight, due to

take place not long after, according to news reports, the Court of Appeal upheld that decision.

A full legal hearing on the controversial policy is reportedly due to take place next month.

"On Rwanda, I think we've been so clear over the last few weeks that we believe that this is all wrong, for so many different reasons," UNHCR chief Mr. Grandi continued.

Underscoring that the UK is a signatory to the International Convention on Refugees, the High Commissioner maintained that trying to "export" the responsibilities that this entailed, "runs contrary to any notion of responsibility and international responsibility-sharing."

Rwanda had a strong history in welcoming and processing tens of thousands of Congolese and Burundian refugees in the past, Mr. Grandi continued, insisting that the country did not have the capacity or infrastructure to carry out the refugee status assessments that were required on a case-by-case basis.

"If it were the other way around, maybe we could discuss, but here, we are talking about a country (the UK) with structures that is exporting its responsibility to another country, Rwanda."

Speaking in Geneva, the High Commissioner also dismissed the UK Government's assertion that the policy's aim was "to save people" from dangerous boat journeys across the English Channel, from the coast of mainland Europe.

"I mean, saving people from dangerous journeys is great, is absolutely great," Mr. Grandi said, "but is that the right way to do it? Is that the real motivation for this deal to happen? I don't think so."

Urging greater communication between the UK and French governments on the issue, since the majority of refugees likely to be impacted came via France, the High Commissioner noted that France also had the structures in place, to help asylum-seekers.

When the policy was announced, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the \$160 million scheme would "save countless lives" of migrants who often put themselves in the hands of illegal people traffickers.

(Continued on page 11)

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

Two big local football games were held recently, highlighting the area's best high school talent. First, the 27th Annual Paul Robeson football classic was held in East Orange at Paul Robeson Stadium. The East All Stars versus the West All Stars has been an annual football classic for years. Over the past two years, the game was not played due to COVID-19.

Leading the West All Stars was Kennedy Ladorien Ladsen who caught a 14 yard touch-

The second half saw more dominance from the West. Ash-in Jacobs got the last score of the game, a 3 yard touchdown from Joe Rina, to put the West up for good in a 19-0 win. The game was comprised of players from Essex County schools like West Side West Orange, Orange, East Orange, Verona, Caldwell, Montclair, East Side High in Newark and Shabazz.

In the other annual high school showcase, the North-South took place on Sunday night at Kean University. The Phil Simms Football Classic fea-

Photos By Keith Munford



down pass from Joe Rina. Wayne Hills running back Amir Smith scored on an 8 yard run in the first half, and the West team 12-0 at halftime. During the half, the Essex County Football Coaches Association honored former high school football leaders. Among those honored were Chris Ostrowsky, Dave Curtin, Julius Montford, and former East Orange Head Coach, Marion Bell of the East Orange Jaguars in 2004, Tom Lamont the former head coach of the Caldwell Chiefs.

tures the best football players from all over. In this annual game, leading EOCHS star Raedon Oliver led a big 21-16 comeback victory. The South team led for nearly the entire game until late in the second half, when Oliver tossed a touchdown pass to Seton Hall Prep's Nick Dunneman for a score. Like the Robeson game, local stars were honored, including Dominick Verducci and others.

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	11,369	150	11,434	150
Bloomfield	12,635	160	12,718	160
Caldwell	1,684	17	1,713	17
Cedar Grove	4,052	136	4,094	136
City of Orange	8,521	171	8,567	171
East Orange	17,811	377	17,897	378
Essex Fells	525	2	530	2
Fairfield	2,067	37	2,085	37
Glen Ridge	1,311	18	1,330	18
Irvington	12,144	281	12,214	281
Livingston	6,865	105	6,938	105
Maplewood	5,486	48	5,561	48
Millburn	3,847	18	3,906	18
Montclair	7,195	86	7,261	86
Newark	81,586	1,248	82,007	1,249
North Caldwell	1,500	10	1,506	10
Nutley	6,936	83	6,983	83
Roseland	1,469	21	1,482	21
South Orange	3,672	22	3,714	22
Verona	3,500	22	3,522	22
West Caldwell	2,823	61	2,850	61
West Orange	13,920	265	14,024	264
Total	210,918	3,338	212,336	3,339

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of June 15, 2022)
NJ: 2,094,994 cases / 30,815 deaths (Plus 3,081 probable)
United States (approx.): 85.817 Million / 1.012 Million deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 536.954 Million / 6.313 Million deaths

STATE LEADERS ANNOUNCE HISTORIC PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

ANCHOR Expansion Builds on Program Announced Earlier This Year, Making Over 2 Million Rebates Available to New Jersey Residents



TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Scutari, and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin today announced the expansion of the ANCHOR Tax Relief Program, making the relief program one of the largest in state history. ANCHOR, which stands for Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters, was announced by Governor Murphy in March as part of his Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) Budget Proposal.

The expansion of the program will increase this investment from the nearly \$900 million proposed in March to over \$2 billion and will reduce property taxes for over 1.16 million homeowners and 900,000 renters beginning in FY2023.

"I am proud to stand alongside Speaker Coughlin to announce the delivery of \$2 billion in direct property tax relief, which will provide over 2 million rebates to New Jersey households. This is a truly his-

toric tax relief program for our state," said Governor Murphy. "Today we take a step forward on this administration's promise to make New Jersey a stronger, fairer, more affordable state for our middle-class and working families."

"It is extremely important to ensure that these programs are sustainable and any additional tax cuts and investments continue beyond this fiscal year and I know I have that commitment from the leaders to do that," said Senate President Scutari. "While

we're announcing a two billion dollar program today, I continue to look forward to additional targeted programs helping middle-class taxpayers."

"New Jerseyans need tax relief now," said Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. "It is my priority to enact the largest tax relief program in our state's history and I am pleased that our \$2 billion ANCHOR program puts us on course to deliver the boldest and most robust affordability agenda for our working and middle-class families for years to

come. With \$1,500 and \$1,000 in direct property tax rebates for homeowners and \$450 for renters, more than two million New Jerseyans will see money back in their pockets - relief they will be able to count on into the future and relief that builds on the existing 14 tax cuts enacted since 2018, which together affirm our commitment to position all of New Jersey as a more affordable place to live. My thanks to Governor Murphy and Senate President Scutari for working with me to achieve this expanded plan."

Under the expanded ANCHOR Property Tax Relief Program proposal, there will be a full phase-in of rebates and the benefits will be simplified:

- 870,000-plus homeowners with a household income of under \$150,000 would receive a \$1,500 property tax credit on their property tax bill each year
- 290,000-plus homeowners with a household income between \$150,000 and \$250,000 would receive a \$1,000 property tax credit on

(Continued on page 14)

NEWARK MAN CONVICTED OF KNIFEPOINT ROBBERY

NEWARK - A federal jury convicted an Essex County man for his role in the knife-point robbery of a Harrison, New Jersey, taxi company, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Alfuquan Turner, 46, of Newark was convicted on June 7, 2022, of Hobbs Act robbery following a four-day trial before U.S. District Judge William J. Martini in Newark federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and the evidence at trial: On Sept. 23, 2019, Turner walked into the Harrison Cab Company armed with a knife and covering his face with a plastic bag. He demanded money from the cab company's dispatcher. After the victim informed Turner that there was no money in her office, Turner continued his threats and demands.

Ultimately, after Turner attempted to stab the victim and the victim fought back, Turner took the victim's cell phone and attempted to leave. When the victim tried to get her phone back, Turner hit her in the

face, pushed her to the ground, and asked her if she wanted to die. Turner then choked the victim until she lost consciousness, after which he stole her jewelry, cell phone, and other items.

The count of Hobbs Act robbery is punishable by a maximum of 20 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 25, 2022.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Jesse Levine in Newark; investigators of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey under the direction of Superintendent Edward Cetnar; officers of the Harrison Police Department, under the direction of Chief David Strumolo; and investigators of the N.J. Transit Police Department, under the direction of Chief Christopher Trucillo, with the investigation leading to the guilty verdict.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Shontae D. Gray and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sophie E. Reiter.

TWO HOMICIDES UNDER PROBE

ESSEX - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, and Irvington Police Director Tracy Bowers announced that the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force is investigating an apparent murder suicide.

Irvington police made a welfare check at a home on Adams Street during the predawn hours of Thursday, June 9, and discovered Daquasha Jackson, 31, Dane Lawrence, 29, both suffering from gunshot wounds. Both were pronounced dead at the scene at 3:53 am. The preliminary investigation indicates it was likely a murder/suicide.

Also, Stephens and Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara announced that the Task

Force, which includes detectives from the Newark Police Department, is investigating the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Nyasia Peppers of Newark.

On June 8 at approximately 11:15 pm police were dispatched to the 100 block of Goodwin Avenue in Newark. When they arrived, the victim had already been transported to Beth Israel Hospital where she subsequently died from her injuries.

Both investigations are active and ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force tips line at 1-877-847-7432 or 1-877-TIPS-4EC. Calls will be kept confidential.

LOCAL TALK WEEKLY PRINTING

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TOWN WATCH

DISCLAIMER: The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

NEWARK - The University Heights Charter School community is hoping that June 24 will only be the last day of its 2021-22 school year - and not its last day of existence.

60 Sixth Grade students, chaperoned by teachers and cheerleaders marched from UHCS's Elementary School at 66-78 Morris St. through the University Heights neighborhood and back early June 13.

UHCS Head of Schools Dr. Christy Oliver-Hawley was interviewed by "Spotlight NJ" June 6. "Audrey," who identified herself as a school parent, brought up its scheduled closing to Gov. Phil Murphy's WBGO-based "Ask the Governor" show June 7. A change.org "Save UHCS" petition, as of June 14, is 122 signatures away from its 1,000-signature goal.

The UHCS community is appealing to Murphy and Acting Education Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillin to reconsider the state education department's office of charter schools' June 2 decision to revoke its charter June 30.

NJDOE, in its June 2 announcement, cited the school's 2018-19 test scores as part of its reason to close. Oliver-Hawley countered that the scores did not reflect progress made with the May 2022 scores nor 10 other points of progress since her and other key administrators' 2020 arrival.

UHCS members feel "blindsided" in such a late closure call, the school having held 2022-23 open enrollment. Gov. Murphy did say that he would ask Allen-McMillin to reopen Newark area school enrollment for the some 700 to-be-displaced

students.

The Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade independent charter school, sponsored by nearby Bethany Baptist Church in 2006, has grown to 700. It had opened a "Lower School" for PreK-Second Grade students at 74 Hartford St., and, on Sept. 4, moved its Middle School students to the second floor of 570 Broad St./Gibson Blvd. NJDOE, however, had placed it and the now-closed METS on academic probation for 2018-19.

IRVINGTON - The second annual Nashawn Brooks Day, held here on the Irvington High School field June 9, built on its newly-formed tradition.

The 2022 edition, like last year's inaugural, started with a balloon launch and ended with a flag football game. That Thursday afternoon/night edition, however, tripled its football games to three.

Host Irvington FMBA Local 14 and Irvington BPA Local 29 squared off in the night's first fire versus. police game. A men's versus women's game also debuted, although it was hard to tell on the May 10 poster which match that was among the other three games. The football program included "Leather Heads vs. Youngins" and "Pretty Good vs. Been Good."

The program ended with the naming of four IHS Class of 2022 seniors who received the Local 14-sponsored Nashawn Brooks memorial scholarship.

It has been two years since Brooks, 20, IHS Class of 2019, died from his injuries from a June 9, 2020 car crash. He and two other young passengers were returning home from a Point Pleasant Beach pop up party when the Cadillac CTS they and two survivors were in crashed and burned along Newark's stretch of US Route 22 East.

Brooks was a distinguished scholar-athlete, making more than 100 tackles as a football tight end and reaching the NJSI-AA 2019 Wrestling finals in the 220-lbs. weight class. The graduating Blue Knight joined the Wagner College Eagles football squad whenever he was not pursuing a business administration degree and a minor in information systems.

EAST ORANGE - Five people, including three East Orange Fire Department members, were treated for injuries after their truck, a car and a dump truck collided and hit a Brick Church storefront here June 7.

The three EOFD members plus the male driver of the dump truck and the female driver of the car were treated and released from Newark's University Hospital later that Tuesday.

A preliminary investigation has the fire pumper truck turning north onto Lincoln Street after going west on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard/Main Street at about 11:45 a.m. that Tuesday. City officials said that the truck had left its King Boulevard/Main Street headquarters on an emergency call.

An initial account has the driver of the black late model car somehow being in the fire truck's path. The truck had its lights and siren on. Other motorists had pulled over to expedite the truck's call response.

The pumper's driver swerved west to avoid the car - which put it into the path of a southbound dump truck. The truck was empty, carrying no load, at the time.

The dump truck struck the pumper cab's right front corner, sending the latter into the Lincoln Street side of Olive May Natural Foods. Olive May, which has been serving the area since 1924, had moved to its current corner site after its Prospect Street block made way for the Brick Church Shopping Plaza around 1972.

That store was closed for minor repairs the rest of June 7. No charges have been filed against any driver as of press time.

ORANGE - A city man remains in South Kearny's Hudson County Correctional Center since his May 19 arrest at the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office that day. Org man arrested, charged in October North Bergen hit-and-run.

Thomas Adedeji, 42, said Hudson County Prosecutor Esther Suarez, was taken into custody in relation to a July 3 hit-and-run in North Bergen. Adedeji is accused of striking a 50-year-old Fairview man on North Bergen's Bergenline Avenue by 74th Street at 2:15 a.m.

North Bergen police and

HCPO's Regional Collision Investigation Unit detectives had been seeking the driver of a silver late model Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck that kept going north on Bergenline. Suarez did not say how Adedeji and the pickup truck were linked.

The 50-year-old man was rushed to the Hackensack University Medical Center for treatment of serious bodily injuries.

Adedeji has been charged with third-degree charges of knowingly leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident that had caused serious bodily injury and endangering the welfare of the victim. His first Superior Court-Jersey City appearance was initially set for late May.

Suarez also thanked the Cliffside Park and Guttenberg police for their parts in the investigation.

WEST ORANGE - A youth basketball team forfeited their participation in a Union County tournament last month when one of its hosts took exception to the words on their warmup t-shirts.

Sen. Richard Codey (D-Roseland) said he was coaching his squad of seventh graders when he was approached between games by Calvin Harper, director of tournament organizer Top Shelf Athletics. Codey's team had been using the hour-long break to follow the tournament from the Clark Community Center to the Arthur L. Johnson High School gymnasium.

"We played the first game and there was an hour before the next one," said Codey. "The person in charge of the tournament approached the (players') parents and said we couldn't wear them (the shirts.)"

The light green t-shirts Codey's team was wearing during warmups bore "End Racism" on one side and "Equality" on the other. Harper later told a reporter that he saw the shirts as a protest against Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso's racist remarks recorded in April.

Clark Recreation and the Clark Board of Education rent out gym space for the likes of Englewood-based Top Shelf.

"I told them I didn't want my event used for their protest," said Harper. "Our event has no attachment to politics or to the

(Continued on page 15)

LOCAL STAR SET TO COMPETE IN NATIONALLY TELEVISED EVENT

New York, NY / Santa Clara, CA / Round Rock, TX - The Electronic Gaming Federation (EGF), the leader in season-long varsity high school and collegiate esports competition, announced Intel® Corporation and Alienware as sponsors of the 2022 Walt Disney World® EGF High School National Championships. The event will be staged and streamed live from ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort on June 17-19, 2022.

One of the young people competing in the event is none other than Jonathan Tarver, a senior with a 3.56 GPA at the STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges, and son of proud parents Tyrone and Germaine Tarver of Orange.

Jonathan has been accepted to NJIT's Ying Wu College of Computing, with a Major in Gaming Programming. Also, he is the first student in Orange Public Schools to qualify for the Electronic Gaming Federation (EGF) High School National Tournament.

The Walt Disney World® EGF High School National Championships features over 100 of the best high school esports teams from across the United States who have advanced this school year through the regular season and regional

finals to qualify in Overwatch, Rocket League, and Super Smash Bros. Teams will go head-to-head on Alienware gaming systems powered by the latest 12th generation Intel® Core™ processors.

"Intel has led the way in esports since day one, so the chance to work with EGF, the recognized leader in interscholastic esports, and sponsor its high school National Championship with our OEM partner Alienware, is an exciting opportunity and a great way to celebrate the gaming community," said Jeffrey R. Clark, US Retail Advocacy Manager at Intel. "Gamers of all ages and levels shop with our retail partners for desktops and laptops and trust that the Intel brand will take their game to new heights."

In addition to helping high schools and colleges organize esports programs and team competitions, EGF works closely with member schools to create experiential learning opportunities for career development in related pursuits, such as broadcasting, content creation, marketing, and management.

"EGF is thrilled to have gaming-industry leaders, Intel and Alienware, partnering with us this season to fully empower our student-athletes and member schools highlighted by this showcase in-person event," said

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

MONKEYPOX BECOMING MORE OF A THREAT

WORLD

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) announced on June 14 that the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee has been convened due to the spread of the Monkeypox virus to 32 non-endemic countries.

The experts will meet on June 23 to assess whether the continuing outbreak represents a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the highest level of global alert, which currently applies only to the COVID-19 pandemic and polio.

So far this year, more than 1,600 confirmed cases and almost 1,500 suspected cases of Monkeypox have been reported to WHO, across 39 countries - including seven countries where monkeypox has been detected for years, and 32 newly-affected nations.

At least 72 deaths have been reported from previously affected countries. No deaths have been registered so far from the newly affected countries, but the agency is seeking to verify news reports of a related death in Brazil.

"The global outbreak of Monkeypox is clearly unusual and concerning", said WHO director Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus, calling to step up the response and international coordination.

Ibrahima Socé Fall, WHO Deputy Director for Emergency

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Public Notice is hereby given that the East Orange City Council will commence Department Budget Hearings as it relates to the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget at 6:00 PM on the following dates in June;

- Wednesday, June 8th
- Thursday, June 9th
- Tuesday, June 14th
- Wednesday, June 15th
- ~~Thursday, June 16th~~
- ~~Tuesday, June 21st~~
- Tuesday, June 21st
- Wednesday, June 22nd
- Tuesday, June 28th

The June 16th and June 21st previously scheduled Budget Hearings are cancelled.

The Hearings will be held at East Orange City Hall, 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, New Jersey 07018 in City Council Chambers.

Formal action may be taken.

Christopher Awe Vernon Pullins, Jr Cynthia S. Brown
City Council Chairman Finance Chairman City Clerk

Eric Johnson, CEO of EGF. "And to have many of our universities joining in-person to support and promote their programs proves that this educational path is available now as a reality."

The 2022 Walt Disney World® EGF High School Na-

tional Championships for Rocket League will be streamed live on the ESPN App, with the Finals airing on ESPNU. All competition will also stream on the Official EGF Twitch and YouTube channels.

Response, explained that the risk of spread in Europe is considered "high" while in the rest of the world "moderate" and that there are still knowledge gaps regarding how the virus is being transmitted.

"We don't want to wait until the situation is out of control," he said.

WHO has published recommendations for governments regarding case detection and control.

Speaking to journalists in Geneva, WHO Smallpox expert Rosamund Lewis, said it was crucial to raise awareness in the population about the level of risk and explain the recommendations to avoid infecting close contacts and family members.

Dr. Lewis explained that, although the disease sometimes only produces mild symptoms, such as skin lesions, it can be

contagious for two to four weeks.

"We know that it is very difficult for people to isolate themselves for so long, but it is very important to protect others. In most cases, people can self-isolate at home and there is no need to be in the hospital," she added.

Monkeypox is transmitted through close physical contact with someone who has symptoms. The rash, fluids, and scabs are especially infectious. Clothing, bedding, towels, or objects such as eating utensils or dishes that have been contaminated with the virus can also infect others.

However, it is not clear whether people who do not have symptoms can spread the disease, the expert reiterated.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Throwing Away The Idols

Do you realize that one of the greatest tendencies of humanity is idolatry? Francis Bacon, the great English statesman, essayist, and philosopher of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, concluded that at least four idols arise in the minds of human beings. These idols form our worldview and impact all of our relations. His effort was to make his audience aware of them by noting how they shape and distort or corrupt our perceptions.

I will not expand on Bacon's idols here, but I list them for anyone who does not know about his considerations and for any who would seek to investigate them further. But I argue in listing them that although Bacon would not call his concepts idols, in the way that I am thinking of idols here, that is as idolatry - idol worship, I argue that since they often reflect the things we cherish in absolute terms, they might be equated with my reference of idolatry. Here is his list:

1. **The idol of the tribe.** That is the human tendency to group

think. Once an idea is perceived and gets into a group, it is easily idolized as if it were the truth. This is equivalent to worshiping our traditions and cultural values.

2. **The idol of the cave.** That is the tendency to think our enthusiasms, passions, and devotions are the most important things in the world. This is equivalent to self-worship.
3. **The idol of the marketplace.** That is our daily words and phrases, the jargon we use to sell the products we create. Here is where people are led to believe that products are to be cherished over people. It is equivalent to worshiping the "stars" of the culture. We use slim (sexy) girls to sell cars, for instance.
4. **The idols of the theatre:** That is our propensity to follow certain dogmas and not ask questions about them. We turn ideas into ideologies and worship them.

What Bacon has said might be of interest to you. Of course, I call it a great intellectual exercise, in which he only reflected on our tendencies and biases and called us to be conscious and critical. But let me lead you along the more radical path named in the Bible. The Bible notes that God is calling us to put aside our idols, not only the physical ones - the material images that are used as replacers of God, but it takes us to that which

we need to cast aside, namely, THE IDOLS OF THE HEART. That is, they need to be ripped out and destroyed.

The concept of the IDOLS OF THE HEART comes from the prophet Ezekiel speaking to certain elders in Israel whom he argued had set up idols in their hearts (Ezekiel 14:3). Although they were maintaining the outward practices of true worship, they were worshiping false gods in their hearts. We could look at what those elders in Israel were doing; however, we need to see that it's a common reality. John Calvin rightly stated that "man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols."

Thus we might say that a person can maintain all the external features of the faithful worship of God while harboring in their heart a pantheon of false gods. Jesus said that there are people who draw near to him with their mouths and honor him with their lips, but their hearts are far from him (Matthew 15:8). He also called out some of the religious leaders of his time when he said, "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34 NKJV)

My point of interest is to state that idolatry is profoundly destructive to us human beings. When we turn to idols in whatever form, we put God in a lesser place. We put our trust in our small images and think they will protect us, but then we end up

with the greatest frustration, for the images are powerless and cannot help us. Bacon took note of the fantasies of our idolatries and was trying to correct them in his way. But let me offer that the Bible, that all the prophets, the apostles, and Jesus were very radical in their assessment and did all they could to help those about them and us to get rid of them.

In Deuteronomy 11, God promised Israel that He would bless them if they remembered His command to "love your God, and serve Him with all your heart and soul." He warned them of the judgment that would come upon them if they "turn aside, serve other gods, and worship them."

This reflection is intended to call us to do what Jacob called his family to do as they went up to Bethel, where he was to build an altar where they were to worship the true God. "So Jacob said to his household and all who were with him, 'Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes.'" (Genesis 35:2 NIV).

Therefore, we must cast aside the idols of the mind, the tribe, the cave, the marketplace, the theatre, the heart or other idols not named in this reflection. The point is to get rid of all idols so that the curses they bring into our lives will be removed and that the blessings of God might come on us.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 5)

stand up to these healthcare insurance companies are getting dropped.

The implication of dropping these physicians is that the ties they have established with their patients get destroyed. These ties take years to build and is the reason many patients are even adhering to medical advice in the first place. On the other hand, Patients cannot afford to leave these insurance companies because there are no other viable choices. Whichever way you consider it, it doesn't look good.

The summary? Health insurance giants are no longer

fighting one another; they are joining powers to crush smaller forces, and in the process, hurting patients. The few independent physicians that remain are putting up a fight, but it's not looking promising. If you think the healthcare system of America is bad now, wait till these insurance companies get the power they are aggressively seeking. They will redefine bad.

Again, I hope it doesn't get to this level. I'm not banking on it, though.

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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NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER HOSTS 8TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY

NEWARK (June 4, 2022) - Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, hosted its 8th Annual Women's Health Day at the Newark International Airport Marriott Hotel.

More than 300 women attended the event, which included a panel discussion on health and wellness moderated by special guest host, four-time Emmy Award winning news anchor and entrepreneur Brenda Blackmon.

"Empowering our community with the tools they need to lead a healthy lifestyle; and increasing access to preventative care is essential to creating a healthier community, and it is a fundamental part of our mission," said Darrell K. Terry, Sr., MHA, MPH, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, and Children's Hospital of New Jersey.

The panel of women's health



From Left to Right: Nicola Pemberton, MD; Rashmi Aggarwal, RN, BSN, MSN, APN-c, FNP; Brenda Blackmon; Mahtab Ayatollahi, MSW, LCSW; Safiyya Quintiliani, MD; Rebeca Kane, DNP, APN-c, CCRN; Molly Fallon Dixon, MS, RDN; Atiya Jaha Rashidi, MHA, RN

experts from Newark Beth Israel included, Rashmi Aggarwal, RN, BSN, MSN, APN-c, FNP, AVP of Network Management & Population Health; Rebeca Kane, DNP, APN-c, CCRN, AVP, Heart & Lung Transplant, Pulmonary Medicine, Advanced Heart Failure, and Ambulatory

Cardiology; Molly Fallon Dixon, MS, RDN, Manager of Community Wellness Services; Mahtab Ayatollahi, MSW, LCSW, Director of Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services; Nicola Pemberton, MD, Obstetrician and Gynecologist at Artemis OB/GYN and The Birth

Center of New Jersey; and Safiyya Quintiliani, MD, Chief Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow.

"After a two-year hiatus, it is very exciting to gather for an in-person event with our clinical leaders, physicians, experts, and our attendees. We are proud to offer this day filled with health and wellness activities," said Atiya Jaha Rashidi, MHA, RN, Chief Equity Officer and Vice President of Community Relations, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, and Children's Hospital of New Jersey.

The panel discussed a range of women's health issues including, heart health, reproductive health, nutrition, behavioral health and family health and wellness issues.

Attendees received free health screenings, fitness demonstrations, paint and sip sessions, Reiki, meditation, door prizes and more.

NASA TO SET UP INDEPENDENT STUDY ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

NASA is commissioning a study team to start early in the fall to examine unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) - that is, observations of events in the sky that cannot be identified as aircraft or known natural phenomena - from a scientific perspective. The study will focus on identifying available data, how best to collect future data, and how NASA can use that data to move the scientific understanding of UAPs forward.

The limited number of observations of UAPs currently makes it difficult to draw scientific conclusions about the nature of such events. Unidentified phenomena in the atmosphere are of interest for both national security and air safety. Establishing which events are natural provides a key first step to identifying or mitigating such phenomena, which aligns with one of NASA's goals to ensure the safety of aircraft. There is no evidence UAPs are extra-terrestrial in origin.

"NASA believes that the tools of scientific discovery are powerful and apply here also," said Thomas Zurbuchen, the as-

sociate administrator for science at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "We have access to a broad range of observations of Earth from space - and that is the lifeblood of scientific inquiry. We have the tools and team who can help us improve our understanding of the unknown. That's the very definition of what science is. That's what we do."

The agency is not part of the Department of Defense's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force or its successor, the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group. NASA has, however, coordinated widely across the government regarding how to apply the tools of science to shed light on the nature and origin of unidentified aerial phenomena.

The agency's independent study team will be led by astrophysicist David Spergel, who is president of the Simons Foundation in New York City, and previously the chair of the astrophysics department at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey. Daniel Evans, the assistant deputy associate administra-

tor for research at NASA's Science Mission Directorate, will serve as the NASA official responsible for orchestrating the study.

"Given the paucity of observations, our first task is simply to gather the most robust set of data that we can," said Spergel. "We will be identifying what data - from civilians, government, non-profits, companies - exists, what else we should try to collect, and how to best analyze it."

The study is expected to take about nine months to complete. It will secure the counsel of experts in the scientific, aeronautics, and data analytics communities to focus on how best to collect new data and improve observations of UAPs.

"Consistent with NASA's principles of openness, transparency, and scientific integrity, this report will be shared publicly," said Evans. "All of NASA's data is available to the public - we take that obligation seriously - and we make it easily accessible for anyone to see or study."

Although unrelated to this

new study, NASA has an active astrobiology program that focuses on the origins, evolution, and distribution of life beyond Earth. From studying water on Mars to probing promising "oceans worlds," such as Titan and Europa, NASA's science missions are working together with a goal to find signs of life beyond Earth.

Furthermore, the agency's search for life also includes using missions such as the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite and Hubble Space Telescope, to search for habitable exoplanets, while the James Webb Space Telescope will try to spot biosignatures in atmospheres around other planets - spotting oxygen and carbon dioxide in other atmospheres, for example, could suggest that an exoplanet supports plants and animals like ours does.

NASA also funds space-based research that focuses on technosignatures - that is signatures of advanced technology in outer space - from other planets.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

TRAVEL LOG ...

**PAGE JACKER:
ROLAND AKA SLUGGA
RESERVE. LOUISIANA
PATH CROSSING:
@ NEWARK AIRPORT
BRAND: BLU CLOTHING
(BALANCE LYFE
UNTOUCHED)**



KICKS & TRADE

Sneaker collecting

Sneaker collecting is the acquisition and trading of sneakers as a hobby. It is often manifested by the use and collection of shoes made for particular sports, particularly basketball and skateboarding. A person involved in sneaker collecting is sometimes called a sneakerhead. - Wikipedia

Authenticity Guarantee

Verification - which all the big resell players, such as StockX, Kick Game, eBay, Goat and Klekt, now provide - is key. Experts can sniff out fakes, sometimes literally. "There is a certain smell to Nike sneakers from the glues they use and the factories they are made in," says Brandt.



Off White Jordan 1
White Euro EU Exclusive

HE SAYS, SHE SAYS

Andrea: I was heading down to my sister Tamie's house to see the fam and before entering Newark airport I promised my-

self that I wouldn't be conversing with anyone that day. I was to stay in the moment by being quiet as a mouse supposedly usta be. (I've never known them to be that quiet by the way) I found a quiet little spot. I had made it through the corridors and safety check and all, sticking to my guns and this sista was proud. I gave myself that mental high five as I positioned myself in my seat. Shortly after I would kick back as leaning in the chair, like someone I likely shouldn't be mimicking at the time would do.

Then I began to scan the room. I said I wasn't talking I never said that I wouldn't be on the hunt for a good mental glean of something or someone intriguingly interesting. Nothing had registered on the radar and as I repositioned myself dropping my head down to do that quick scan of the floor from left to right then to left again, "Bam" it hit me. On the left, I spotted the most peculiar thing worn by the guy two seats over. There were these sneakers right.

A basic pair of Nikes so I thought then something caught my eye. It looked as if the Nike swoosh was dangling off the shoe like some cut-out one of those youngins made at camp. That shady-looking art project was now hanging on their mama's fridge. I gave em a once over than a twice over then.... You get the pic. Let's just say I couldn't figure that thing out and luckily my life hadn't depended upon it. So I found myself breaking vow once again lol.

Me: "Hey, how much did you pay for those sneakers. Is

that a cut-out? It looks like it's just dangling there. What the heck!" (Let's just say heck for now lol!)

Him: "Guess."



Me: They look like they will be a bit more than usual I guess uhhhhh \$200. He snickered. \$400.00. He snickered again, wise guy. You paid 5 or \$ 600.00 for those sneakers? He laughed!

Him: " More!"

Me: I know you didn't pay 1,000.00 for those sneakers I scolded. Once again he said more and after my initial shock the ol deer in headlight thing weighed on him and he says....

Him: Let me show you how much I paid for these sneakers.

Mr. Cool aka Slugga whose cell phone was already in hand. Worked the usual finger glides and then "bam" the second slap really hit me. You sitting down? Now factor in this cost. \$7,000.00 plus! ...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/ or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

TAX RELIEF (Cont. from page 8)

- their property tax bill each year
- 900,000-plus renters with incomes up to \$150,000 would receive \$450 each year to help offset the rent increases caused by increasing property taxes

The average New Jersey property tax bill was approximately \$9,300 in 2021. ANCHOR's direct property tax relief rebates could offset over 16 percent of the average property tax bill in New Jersey for some homeowners. For a middle-class family receiving the \$1,500 in direct relief, the average bill will effectively become \$7,800, a property tax level New Jersey has not seen since 2012.

"Helping people keep up with their bills and giving them more breathing room has

never been more important than it is right now," said Assemblyman Freiman. "Two billion dollars in direct property tax relief to New Jersey residents is monumental. Taxpayers will see the impact of this kind of investment on their property tax bill and in their wallets."

"We are proud to stand with the Governor and Speaker Coughlin today for the announcement of the ANCHOR Program," said Assemblywoman Sadaf Jaffer. "We are all committed to ensuring that New Jersey is an affordable state to live and work in. Direct and tangible property tax relief is one important way we can make that goal a reality."

"I want to give credit where it is due, and to thank Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari and Speaker Coughlin for coming together to recognize that many New Jersey residents are still struggling to make ends

meet in the aftermath of the worst days of the COVID 19 pandemic," said Senator Andrew Zwicker. "The ANCHOR program promises timely relief to millions of homeowners and renters, putting money back into their pockets, and helping to keep our state affordable, and our economy strong and competitive in both the short- and long-term."

The ANCHOR program expands on and replaces the Homestead Rebate Program, which serves 470,000 homeowners annually and provides an average benefit of \$628. Renters are not eligible for the current Homestead program, but ANCHOR recognizes that rents are often raised to offset rising property taxes. ANCHOR will make over four times more New Jerseyans eligible to receive a property tax rebate when compared with Homestead.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

mayor of Clark. Yet, it was intentionally used to fill an agenda, without concern for me, the other teams or the community of teams I'm trying to work with."

Codey, an Orange native and former township resident, may be better known as being a longtime state senator and former governor than as a decades-long youth basketball coach. Bonaccorso, a Republican, is midway through his mayoral term.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - South Orange-Maplewood Superintendent of Schools Ronald Taylor's May 16 report on the seven-month temporary moratorium on student suspensions and school removals, depending on the observer, drew good to fair grades.

Taylor, in his report to the SOMSD Board of Education, said that the moratorium decreased suspensions and removals among most student body demographic groups.

What suspensions that were made since the Oct. 18 moratorium amounted to 36, compared to the 115 made during the 2019-20 school year. (Suspensions were not ordered during the 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic.) The 36 suspensions came from Columbia High School (17), South Orange Middle School (11), Maplewood Middle School (seven) and Clinton Elementary School (one).

A 20-member panel - including Taylor, principals and assistant principals from CHS, MMS and SOMS and two student representatives - implemented restorative justice and classroom community building in most cases.

The school board, in a split Oct. 18 vote, granted the moratorium as a means to correct a racial imbalance among suspensions. Taylor in his report, said that African American students who were suspended dropped from seven percent to three.

Taylor, however, noted that suspensions of Hispanic students rose 1.2 percent. The superintendent said he was examining the data to see how that happened.

Board member Courtney Winkfield, that Monday night, expressed concern that administrators will follow "the elastic band effect" and mete out suspensions as before 2020-21. The moratorium is to lapse June 30.

BLOOMFIELD - Neighbors and NJTransit Route 94 bus riders, after seeing the former Watsessing Methodist Episcopal Church and School buildings get demolished last winter, are awaiting the Dodd and Lawrence streets corner

lot's next use.

The 135-year-old sanctuary at 49-55 Lawrence St. - including its 50-foot steeple, and its 98-year-old school building - plus an adjoining house on 22-24 Arch St were taken down Feb. 27 - March 28.

The just over one acre lot has been cleared so that 3X Dodd LLC can build a four story residential-commercial mixed use building. The Passaic developer received Bloomfield Planning Board approval Dec. 17, 2020.

It is doubtful that those who get onto 3X Dodd's roof will get the same view that celebrants had in 1894. WMEC, as part of a three-day sanctuary opening, charged people 10 cents to climb the steeple for a lookout.

Nathanael Lawrence donated the corner lot for a chapel to be built there in 1871. "The Little White Church in the Woods" was a mission of the now-Park United Methodist Church. The chapel was eventually replaced with a school building in 1924.

WMEC's membership, however, declined from 806 members in 1928 to 378 in 1966. The sanctuary and school were sold to Living Water Church - who then sold it to Bethel Church of Love and Praise by 2000. Bethel, which had apparently moved to Shrewsbury, sold it to 3X Dodd in 2017.

MONTCLAIR - "Nothing's official until the paperwork is completed," may well sum up Ascend of Montclair's June 7 false start in recreational adult cannabis sales.

Ascend, which had been selling medicinal marijuana products since taking over the former Greenleaf Compassionate Care store in April 2021, ended its recreational sales by 1:30 p.m. that Tuesday.

Interim Township Attorney Paul Burr told Ascend's owners at 1:15 p.m. that its application process has not been completed. Tuesday's rec sales were unlawful and must cease; continued sales may bring on township code enforcers and police.

Ascend, which also has a similar store in Rochelle Park open since April 21, had been striving to expand their Cannabis Based Business since last August. Its owners targeted June 7 for rec sales after receiving a resolution of support from the Township Council May 17 and a conditional township permit on May 24.

The problem, however, lies with the availability of a final township application that was to have been posted on its website June 6. That application form was not posted until after business 7 p.m. that Monday. Montclair Communications Director Katya Kwok, on June 8, said that a software vendor's problem had caused the late posting.

Ascend of Montclair meanwhile delivered a copy of its paperwork, two \$15,000 checks for CBB and business licenses and

a note to Burr of its intention to expand June 7 in the Municipal Building night drop box.

Ascend, which is still open at 395 Bloomfield Ave. for medical sales, may have to wait until mid-summer to start its rec sales. Its owners have learned that it has to seek Montclair Planning Board approval at either its June 20 or July 11 meetings and wait for that panel's memorialization 30 days later.

BELLEVILLE - A family is in mourning over the June 7 death of their 13 year old son while law enforcers are investigating his fatal circumstances here.

A Belleville police spokesman said that officers, township firefighters and local EMS responded to a 5:30 p.m. Tuesday call of a motorcycle accident at Joralemon Street and Garden Avenue.

They found an unconscious boy at the T-intersection, a dirt bike and damage to a utility pole. The boy was rushed to RWJBarnabas Health Clara Maass Medical Center, where he later died.

A preliminary investigation has the rider losing control on the dirt bike and striking the pole. Details, including whether the bike was registered or whether the rider was wearing a helmet, were not immediately available.

NUTLEY - A delivery van fire was the likely reason why some local United States Postal Service Customers did not get their mail June 11.

Nutley Fire Chief Henry Meola said that his firefighters had responded to a car fire report in front of 558 Franklin Ave. earlier that Saturday. They found a USPS Ford Transit delivery van parked in the northbound curb lane with its engine compartment fully engulfed by fire.

NFD firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze, which was restricted to its engine bay. There were no injuries reported. Local traffic, including buses on NJTransit's No. 74 route were detoured.

USPS sent one of its tow trucks to retrieve the late model van. What mail that was on board was delayed but not damaged.



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