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## NJTRANSIT ENGINEERS TAKE HOLIDAY AT RIDERS' EXPENSE



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - U.S. New Jersey District Judge Catherine P. O'Hara may add to her June 19 "cease and desist" ruling against the NJTransit locomotive engineers who called out over the June 17-19 weekend, causing NJTransit to suspend all statewide commuter rail operations for the rest of June 17 7 p.m. Friday.

The June 17 disruption, believed to be over Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen not getting a Juneteenth paid holiday from NJTransit, affected an estimated 100,000 daily riders on the carri-

er's eight class I commuter railroad lines.

Riders - including those on the Morris & Essex, Montclair-Boonton, Northeast Corridor, North Jersey Coast and Raritan Valley lines - experienced further delays and/or cancellations due to further engineer absences Saturday and Sunday.

O'Hara and attorneys from NJTransit and the BLET Locals 171 and 272 were scheduled to reconvene their June 19 hearing in Camden at 2 p.m. June 21.

O'Hara, in a rare Sunday hearing, ruled that those BLET engineers whose calling out June

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## BUS DRIVER GETS FIVE YEARS FOR VEHICULAR HOMICIDE



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## CDC GIVES VACCINE APPROVAL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHANGE IN IRVINGTON



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*Editorial*

Dhiren Shah  
Editor-in-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

An earthquake in Afghanistan killed over 1000 people. However, it was only a 6.1 magnitude earthquake (some sources have 5.9). The largest recorded earthquake was in Chile, 9.5 magnitude on May 22, 1960. The largest earthquake in the U.S. was in Alaska, which was a 9.2 magnitude on March 28, 1964.

Per USGS: Earthquakes of magnitude 10 or larger cannot happen. The magnitude of an earthquake is related to the length of the fault on which it occurs. That is, the longer the fault, the larger the earthquake. A fault is a break in the rocks that make up the Earth's crust, along which rocks on either side have moved past each other. No

fault long enough to generate a magnitude 10 earthquake is known to exist, and if it did, it would extend around most of the planet.

The Supreme Court says Maine cannot exclude religious schools from tuition assistance programs. The 6-3 ruling is the latest move by the conservative court to expand religious liberty rights and bring more religion into public life, a trend bolstered by the addition of three of former President Donald Trump's nominees. "Maine's 'nonsectarian' requirement for its otherwise generally available tuition assistance payments violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the majority. "Regardless of how the benefit and restriction are described, the program operates to identify and exclude otherwise eligible schools on the basis of their religious exercise." Roberts was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy

Coney Barrett. The three liberal justices dissented.

The Uvalde school shooting, where 19 children and 2 teachers were killed, was a tragedy. Out of those children and teachers, some could have been saved if officers responded and opened the classroom doors. Officers with rifles and a ballistic shield were inside the school for 58 minutes according to reports. The investigation is ongoing, and maybe someone will be held responsible for not ordering the officers to enter the classrooms.

President Biden has proposed to have a gas tax holiday for three months. Right now, a federal tax of about 18.5 cents per gallon is charged on our fuels. Something is better than nothing. However, 18.5 cents is about a 3.5% reduction from a \$5 fuel price. It is good on paper, but does not look good in the people's pockets, when the fuel companies raised the price about 200% since the Ukraine and Russia war started. Since Biden took office, he is distributing money

(left and right) with some excuses to protect his declining popularity. Likely, the reduced income for the government will force lawmakers to find new sourced of income from the people by taxing with another source. This is all a game they are playing. So, we can be happy, but not overwhelmed by these benefits. We want not a temporary relief, but permanent relief. They are elected officials; they must find the solution.

Summer is here. We all want to enjoy it, but due to the gas prices, it will be difficult for many of us to adjust to our budget. There are so many places in New Jersey to visit in the summer. If you search for it, you will find all sorts of activities and natural beauty all around New Jersey. So, we don't have to drive a lot and still have the same fun and memorable vacation.

*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**

## 3.4 Million Americans Could Be Diagnosed With Skin Cancer This Year

A lot has happened over the last two years - I really don't have to state the crystal clear obvious, do I?! However, 2022 seems to be the first year back to a degree of normalcy from the ravaging effects of the corona-

virus pandemic. There, I stated the obvious!

Unfortunately, the American Cancer Society and the American Society of Clinical Oncologists, per estimates they compiled, have stated that 3.4 million Americans could be diagnosed with skin cancer in 2022. That's concerning news, and experts have suggested it could get worse, with melanoma becoming the second most common form of cancer in the United States and the first among men. It's even scarier when you consider that melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer - but we'll get there.

Most of the 3.4 million people estimated to be diagnosed with skin cancer this year, 97% precisely, will have basal cell or squamous cell carcinoma. The remaining 3% will develop melanoma. This seems like a good point to introduce skin cancer and its three types.

For starters, skin cancer occurs when skin cells grow abnormally. There are three main types of skin cancers, namely squa-

mous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, and melanoma. Let's briefly overview them.

Squamous cell carcinoma is the type of skin cancer that affects the outermost part of the epidermis. The cells affected here are known as squamous cells. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, this cancer type is the second most common skin cancer.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most popular of all skin cancers, and by a wealthy margin too. The American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 80% of all skin cancers are basal cell carcinomas. This skin cancer type begins in the basal cells of the skin, which are the cells just beneath the squamous cells that eventually replace dead squamous cells.

Last but not most definitely not least is melanoma. This type only accounts for 1% of all skin cancers, but thankfully so because it is the most dangerous of them all. The cells affected here are melanocytes, which are responsible for producing melanin, in turn, giving the skin its color.

As with other cancers, skin cancers are best treated when detected early. The time of diagnosis and onset of treatment is even more critical for melanoma, which can spread to other parts of the body, compounding the problem.

However, treating cancer is not exactly a venture anyone wants to look forward to - not the patient, not the doctor, and certainly not the patient's relatives. It can eat very deep into

the patient's normal life, draining mental and physical energy reserves in the process. For this reason, the utmost should be done to prevent cancers that can be directly preventable. Luckily, skin cancers fall into this category.

The primary culprit responsible for skin cancer is overexposure to ultraviolet rays, often from sunlight. We are approaching the summer season, meaning sunbathing will be more popular than ever. Many resort to sunscreens, but that is not enough.

The best and most obvious form of defense against dangerous ultraviolet rays in sunlight is minimizing exposure in the first place. It is impossible to avoid sunlight completely, I know, but the times of highest ultraviolet rays intensity are between 10 am to 3 pm. Therefore, avoiding sunlight between these times is the first step toward reducing overexposure to sunlight.

Next is wearing appropriate clothing. Typically, summer is dominated by people wearing the lightest clothing to combat rising heat. However, if you are exposed to sunlight, try to cover up as much as possible. This includes sleeves, long pants, hats, and even sunglasses.

Additionally, wearing sunscreens before exposure to direct sunlight can reduce the chances of getting skin cancer. These sunscreens act both as a physical barrier, preventing ultraviolet rays from penetrating the skin, and also chemically absorbing the rays in place of the skin cells. Moreover, the

*(Continued on page 11)*

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# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The Irvington High School Girls Flag football team had a great season under head coach Kyle Steele, winning their first ever flag football championship. The Lady Blue Knights took the crown on June 4th at the New York Jets faculty in Florham Park.

Last year, Irvington made it to the championship game against Passaic County Tech at MetLife Stadium. This year, IHS beat Hawthorne in the title game 33-6. Other teams Irvington beat on the path were Union City 33-

12 and Wayne Valley in the Division Championship 31-13.

In other high school sports news, the East Orange Campus High School track and field athletes won in the Adidas Nationals in Greensboro, North Carolina. The event was held at the Irwin Belk track. Girls and boys team competed in this event.

Finally, the Golden State Warriors won their fourth NBA title in eight years, winning the NBA Finals 4-2 over the Boston Celtics, taking Game 6 on the road. Stephen Curry added the title of Finals MVP to his trophy case.

## NJTRANSIT (Cont. from page 1)

17-19 "can reasonably be construed as a job action." The judge ordered BLET local leaders to tell its marked out engineers to "immediately" end any work stoppage.

The two BLET locals, furthermore, are barred from "calling, permitting, instigating, authorizing, encouraging, participating in, approving or continuing any form of interference with NJT's transit operations, including but not limiting to any strike, work stoppage, sick-out, slowdown, refusal to work overtime."

That bar is in place until NJTransit and the BLET complete their contract negotiations. BLET, the last of NJTransit's 15 labor unions, without a new contract, has been at the bargaining table since 2020.

Both parties, as of press time, were into a third week of compulsory mediation by the National Mediation Board.

Juneteenth - either as a June 17 state or a June 20 federal holiday - became an issue with the BLET in the last year.

Both sides had honored the third-Friday-in June state observance as a paid holiday in 2021 but will "address the holiday" in further contacts. The other 14 unions meanwhile received Juneteenth as a paid holiday (or be paid overtime).

This is why Juneteenth appears as a "major holiday" on the latest NJTransit bus timetables but not its current commuter rail schedules.

NJTransit bus and light rail timetables issued April 2, like for the No. 13 route, include Juneteenth as one of the occasions where a special holiday schedule would be used since the June 19 observance fell on a Sunday.

A June 14 message by SMART-TD (UTU) Local 60, informed its members that they are to run "a regular weekday" schedule on the Friday paid holiday. Newark-based Local 60 covers bus and light rail operators.

Juneteenth, however, is not found among the major holiday list on NJTransit's latest commuter rail schedules.

NJTransit, among its June 17 filings to O'Hara for a court injunction, said they were hearing "rumors" of a sick-out as early as June 14. The nation's largest statewide carrier attached a June 16 mass e-mail from BLET General Chairman Jim Brown to his members.

"NJT has made it clear that Engineers will not be paid for the holiday," declared Brown's message. "Don't let that deter you from celebrating THE HOLIDAY!!!"

June 17, the state's observance, began with the usual volume of canceled bus and train runs like any other recent Friday. The number of commuter rail runs canceled or delayed, however, began to grow after the morning rush hour.

Up to 205 engineers, from a roster of 393, would call out. The 205 are two and a half times above an average Friday "sick-out" rate.



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Up to 70 trainsets would stay in their yards, prompting NJTransit to cancel nearly 300 runs that day. NJTransit, by midday, received cross honoring of rail tickets and passes from its bus routes and light rail lines, most private bus carriers, PATH and PATCO.

The marking out caused NJTransit to replace its NEC Princeton "Dinky" shuttle with buses. Some trains were recast as all-stop locals.

Larger than usual rider volume began crowding New York and Newark's Penn Stations, Ho-

boken Terminal, Newark Broad Street Station and other major rail hubs. Service to New York's Spring Valley and Port Jervis were affected since NJT operates their service on the MTA Metro North Railroad's behalf.

NJTransit at 7 p.m. threw in the railroad towel at 7 p.m. The carrier issued the following last trains of that night:

- From NYPS: MBL Train No. 6291 to Montclair at 7:37
- M&E Train No. 6667 to Dover at 8:05

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## CDC GIVES VACCINE APPROVAL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

### UNITED STATES

On June 18, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that all children 6 months through 5 years of age should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This expands eligibility for vaccination to nearly 20 million additional children and means that all Americans ages 6 months and older are now eligible for vaccination.

Parents and caregivers can now get their children 6 months through 5 years of age vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines to better protect them from COVID-19. All children, including children who have already had COVID-19, should get vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines have undergone - and will continue to undergo - the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Parents and caregivers can play an active role in monitoring the safety of these vaccines by signing their children up for v-safe - personalized and confidential health check-ins via text messages and web surveys where they can easily share with CDC how a child feels after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Distribution of pediatric vaccinations for these younger children has started across the country, and will be available at thousands of pediatric practices, pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, local health departments, clinics, and other locations this week. Children in this younger age group can be vaccinated with whichever vaccine is available (either Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech). Parents can reach out to their doctor, nurse, local pharmacy, or health department, or visit vaccines.gov to see where vaccines for chil-

dren are available.

"Together, with science leading the charge, we have taken another important step forward in our nation's fight against COVID-19. We know millions of parents and caregivers are eager to get their young children vaccinated, and with today's decision, they can. I encourage parents and caregivers with questions to talk to their doctor, nurse, or local pharmacist to learn more about the benefits of vaccinations and the importance of protecting their children by getting them vaccinated," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky said.

## EARTHQUAKE KILLS OVER 1,000

### ASIA

The UN and partners have rushed to support Afghanistan following a devastating earthquake that hit two provinces in the east of the country early on the morning of June 22.

At least 1,000 people have been killed, according to media reports, and numbers are expected to rise. UN humanitarian agency OCHA said the 5.9 magnitude quake struck the Central Region of Afghanistan around 1.30 AM, local time. Four districts in Paktika province - Gayan, Barmala, Naka and Ziruk - as well as Spera district in Khost province, have been affected.

The earthquake registered at a depth of 10 km, OCHA said, and was reportedly felt in neighboring provinces including Kabul, home to the country's capital, as well as in Islamabad, Pakistan, and India.

Immediate needs include emergency trauma care, emergency shelter and non-food items, food assistance, and support for water and sanitation.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense is leading response efforts, OCHA said, and has dispatched five helicopters to Paktika province to facilitate medical evacuations. A medical team was also sent to Gayan district, reportedly the worst affected.

OCHA is coordinating the emergency response on behalf of UN agencies and humanitarian partners, and teams have deployed to the two provinces.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has dispatched several mobile health and nutrition teams to provide first aid to the injured.

Dr. Mohamed Ayoya, UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan, reported that staff are also distributing critical aid, including kitchen equipment; hygiene supplies such as soap, detergent, towels and sanitary pads, as well as warm clothes, shoes, blankets, tents and tarpaulins.

"The de facto authorities have requested the support of UNICEF and other UN agency teams who are joining efforts to assess the situation and respond to the needs of the affected communities," he said.

"We stand in solidarity with the children and families affected during this difficult time."

## NOBEL WINNER ACTS TO HELP UKRAINE

### WORLD

Nobel Peace Prize winner Dmitry Muratov, who auctioned off his gold medal to raise money for child refugees on June 20, has told UN News that the record-breaking sale of \$103.5 million proved that "sometimes humanity can come together, and show solidarity."

The editor in chief of the independent Russian news service, Novaya Gazeta - which was shuttered by the Kremlin in March following sweeping new restrictions on journalists in the wake of the Ukraine invasion - said that he and his colleagues chose the UN Children's Fund UNICEF as the best non-governmental organization for the job of ensuring that the funds would reach all Ukrainian children in need.

"UNICEF is absolutely non-toxic," Mr. Muratov told the Russian service of UN News, in an exclusive interview, following the auction. "They have excellent professionals, they have programs, they report on how and what they do - this is what we need.

"We wrote them a letter, got a response from them, I have it. It was important for me, that UNICEF noted that the money would go to all countries that

border Ukraine, where refugees are located - without exception."

He said he hoped Ukrainian children who were now in Russia, would also benefit: "There are more than one and a half million refugees in Russia, maybe a little less. Therefore, (we chose) UNICEF, which has such opportunities, and which understands very well that it has not a political, but a humanitarian mission."

Explaining the numerous reasons why his publication could not imagine allowing a Russian bidder to enter the running, or why he thought his paper should not hand the money directly to the Ukrainian Government, he said that would be a non-starter given the state of the war.

If at first (Ukrainians) had anger, now they are furious - their country is being torn apart, from the face of the earth... When you see all this every second, you constantly have an alarm sound, you live between an apartment and a bomb shelter...It's my country's fault."

## THE UK'S VERSION OF STIMULUS

### EUROPE

Over 8 million families in the UK getting new cost of living payment from July 14, 2022. This is part of a £1,200 support package made for this year. Initial automatic instalment for means-tested benefit claimants will be £326, with the rest to follow in a second instalment from the autumn.

Tax credit claimants will also receive their first instalment of the cost of living payment from HMRC later this year. It comes as part of £37 billion government package to help families with cost of living pressures.

After ministers confirmed initial payments would begin from July 14, the Department for Work and Pensions has now revealed how many people in each part of the country will receive the new financial support. They have also revealed that the disability top-up will land in bank accounts in September 2022.

These figures show that nearly one in four families will receive the means-tested benefit

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# FORMER BUS DRIVER GETS FIVE YEARS FOR VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

NEWARK - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, announced June 21 that Fayola Howard, 36, of Bloomfield, a NJ Transit bus operator at the time of the crime was sentenced to five years in New Jersey State Prison for causing the death of a passenger, Kevin Thomas, 55, of Newark. The Honorable Ronald D. Wigler, Judge of the Superior Court, imposed sentence June 20. Under the No Early Release Act, Howard must serve 85 percent of her sentence before she eligible for parole.

On May 6, Howard entered a guilty plea admitting she caused the death of Thomas on Dec. 31, 2019, while operating a NJ Transit bus. Thomas stepped off the bus to give a pocketbook to a woman who had left her pocketbook on the bus. When he attempted to return to the front door of the bus, Howard closed the door on Thomas's arm. Rather than release him, Howard pulled away from the stop dragging Thomas even as he and other passengers yelled for her to stop the bus. The bus then turned right, at which point

Thomas came free from the bus, fell, and the bus ran him over.

Thomas died from his injuries on Jan. 6, 2020. At the time of the incident, the bus was near the intersection of Sanford Ave. and Mt. Vernon Place in Newark.

Howard was convicted of reckless vehicular homicide, leaving the scene of the accident resulting in death and tampering with records. At the time of her arrest on Feb. 18, 2020, she was attempting to board a plane at Newark Airport. She is a native of Trinidad and is expected to face deportation proceedings following completion of her sentence.

Assistant Prosecutor Adam B. Wells, who handled the case, said, "Mr. Thomas was a kind and generous man who died acting as a good Samaritan trying to help a stranger. The defendant's crimes robbed his family and community of a loving brother, father and grandfather. While the vehicular homicide statute limits the sentence in these cases, I hope this sentence can bring the family some sense of justice."

# NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES PROBABLE CASE OF MONKEYPOX

TRENTON - The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) announced June 20 the first probable case of monkeypox in the state. A PCR test conducted by the Department's Public Health and Environmental Laboratories confirmed the presence of orthopoxvirus in a North Jersey individual on June 18. A confirmatory test for the monkeypox virus - one of the viruses associated with the orthopoxvirus genus - will be done by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Department of Health believes that the risk to New Jerseyans remains low.

At the direction of NJDOH, the individual is isolating at home. The local health department is conducting contact tracing to identify any individuals who may have been exposed to

the individual. No additional details related to the case will be released due to patient confidentiality.

Most New Jersey residents are not at risk of infection with monkeypox. Monkeypox is rare but can spread through close prolonged contact with an infected person or animal. This might include coming into contact with skin lesions, or body fluids, sharing clothes or other materials that have been used by someone who is infectious, or inhaling respiratory droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact. To date, confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxvirus cases have been reported in 20 states and the District of Columbia, according to the CDC.

In humans, monkeypox symptoms are similar to but

(Continued on page 13)

# BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY  
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ▶ Stop Creditor Harassment
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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	6-15-2022	Deaths	6-22-2022	Deaths
Belleville	11,434	150	11,493	150
Bloomfield	12,718	160	12,808	160
Caldwell	1,713	17	1,747	17
Cedar Grove	4,094	136	4,129	136
City of Orange	8,567	171	8,617	171
East Orange	17,897	378	18,006	378
Essex Fells	530	2	535	2
Fairfield	2,085	37	2,104	37
Glen Ridge	1,330	18	1,337	18
Irvington	12,214	281	12,272	280
Livingston	6,938	105	7,029	105
Maplewood	5,561	48	5,628	48
Millburn	3,906	18	3,961	18
Montclair	7,261	86	7,367	86
Newark	82,007	1,249	82,498	1,252
North Caldwell	1,506	10	1,521	10
Nutley	6,983	83	7,030	83
Roseland	1,482	21	1,495	21
South Orange	3,714	22	3,743	22
Verona	3,522	22	3,575	22
West Caldwell	2,850	61	2,893	61
West Orange	14,024	264	14,129	264
<b>Total</b>	<b>212,336</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>213,917</b>	<b>3,341</b>

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of June 22, 2022)

NJ: 2,109,870 cases / 30,879 deaths (Plus 3,087 probable)  
United States (approx.): 86.579 Million / 1.014 Million deaths  
Worldwide (approx.): 541.032 Million / 6.323 Million deaths

# LOCAL TALK

# WEEKLY PRINTING

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- Demonstrate public commitment to the LGBTQ community

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[rwjbh.org/lgbtq](http://rwjbh.org/lgbtq)





# 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** - Newark Public Library Director Joslyn Bowling Dixon may present the results of June 15's "first Sidewalk Talk" about the Clinton Branch before the Board of Trustees as early as their July 27 meeting.

The talk, which updated interested parties of the branch's status, was also a listening session from the public. Their comments may well have bearing on the future of the Clinton Branch or an alternative.

The branch at 739 Bergen St., had been closed since Sept. 21, 2021. The 1924 two-story brick building was shuttered due to what an NPL posting said "hazardous building conditions which have escalated beyond sustainable remediation."

NPL, at that time, had "permanently closed" that branch. The library administration was also looking for a temporary branch location to fulfill the needs of the South Ward's Clinton Hill community.

Branch patrons and employees were distributed among the Main Library at 5 Washington St. and six other branches. The Weequahic Branch, at 355 Osborne Terr., is the nearest location and the only one serving the South Ward.

**IRVINGTON** - Township police are on the lookout for the occupants of a motor vehicle who robbed a Clinton Avenue gas station at gunpoint here on June 16.

Employees of Irvington Auto Center and Curvington Auto told responding Irvington police that "a white four-door vehicle" had pulled up to 959-61 Clinton Ave.'s pumps at about 6:45 p.m. that Thursday.

One of the occupants, said workers, displayed a handgun. The weapon holder "stole an undetermined amount of cash" from one of the employees and returned to the vehicle. The vehicle then fled.

The filling station and garage on the northeast corner of Clinton Avenue and Harrison Place had, until recently, been Tierney's Exxon Servicecenter.

## **Fallen Tree Injures Child**

Two houses on the 30 block of Laventhal Avenue were evacuated and a child treated for injuries after a tree toppled here June 18.

Responding Irvington police and fire units plus the American Red Cross arrived to find a tree that fell into the upper floors of 37 Laventhal at 5:20 p.m. Saturday. 37 and 41 Laventhal were both evacuated in case the tree would fall onto the latter 2.5-story wood frame house. A child, who was in an upper floor bedroom, escaped with "minor injuries."

**EAST ORANGE** - A N.J. Superior Court-Elizabeth judge had sentenced an East Orange man June 10 to 30 years' state imprisonment for the July 9 murder of his girlfriend - and taking their son and her body to Tennessee.

Tyler Rios, 28, said Union County Prosecutor William Daniel June 14, will have to spend at least 21 years and three months, or at least 85 percent of his aggravated manslaughter sentence. Rios, who also had a Highland Park address, will also have to serve the bulk of a five year sentence for desecrating human remains before being considered for parole.

Rios took a plea bargain on April 5 where he confessed to beating and strangling ex-girlfriend Yasemin Uyar, 24, at her Rahway address July 8, 2021. He admitted putting Uyar's body in the trunk of her 2018 Ford Fiesta, abducted their son, Sebastian Rios, 2, and drove all three into Tennessee.

The killing and kidnapping triggered a regional Amber alert. Uyar's relatives notified RPD when Yasemin and Sebastian had failed to arrive at their respective workplace and daycare center.

Putnam County, Tenn. Sheriff's officers found Rios father-and-son in a Monterey, Tenn. hotel July 10. They had to seize the barricaded T. Rios but found S. Rios unharmed. T. Rios then brought federal and sheriff's officers to where he dumped Uyar's body in the Cookeville woods.

**ORANGE** - A city man has been held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since June 8 in connection of the June 3 fatal shooting of an East Orange man by the Brick Church Shopping Plaza.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens and East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi announced on June 9 that they have arrested Darienne A. Murray, 35, over the killing of Melja T. Oliver, 37, of East Orange. Neither Stephens nor Bindi have said how Murray was connected to Oliver's murder.

Responding East Orange police found Oliver shot and lying on a sidewalk of the 500 block of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard/Main Street 12:51 a.m. June 3. Oliver was rushed to Newark's University Hospital, where he died at 1:31 a.m.

Murray has been charged with first-degree murder, second-degree unlawful possession of a firearm and third-degree possession thereof for an unlawful purpose.

Last rites for Oliver remains unannounced as of press time.

**WEST ORANGE** - The Hazel Avenue Elementary School community may be forgiven for giving one of their own - Principal Ana Marti - a retirement ceremony five days ahead of their own June 22 promotional service.

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade students and teachers, among others, sent off Marti with a "clap out" here June 16. A West Orange Public Schools tradition, the school community applauds and cheers a member on his or her last walk out of their building.

Wearing a tiara and holding a bouquet, Marti wiped away tears while making her way out of the Valley hillside school building.

Marti retires after 15 years with the district, topping out as

Hazel's principal since Aug. 1, 2019. She first came aboard from the Union City district as an English as a Second Language supervisor July 1, 2009.

Marti was named WOPS' first Elementary Schools Assistant Principal July 1, 2013. She floated among several of the district's elementary schools until she was appointed to lead Hazel.

It can be said that Marti was a mid-career changer. The CCNY 1985 computer science graduate got her master's in education diploma from St. Peter's University in 1997 - after 10 years as a programmer in Kearfott's Wayne office.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - The South Orange-Maplewood School District and the South Orange Maplewood Education Association long road to a new teachers contract ended here on May 17.

The SOMSD Board of Education ratified the July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024 contract at their May 16 public meeting. SOMEA members, at an early May meeting, approved the new agreement 297-5.

Negotiation teams from both sides came to a contract agreement on March 28 after a 14 hour marathon bargaining session. It is not clear why it took the parties involved up to seven weeks to give their thumbs up or thumbs down.

Details on what SOMSD and SOMEA had agreed to were not available as of press time - other than whatever raises and new items approved will retroactively take effect from July 1, 2021. The old contract, which expired June 30, 2021, was honored in the interim.

Both sides had declared an impasse Feb. 28 and had sought an impartial fact-finder as a mediator. The fact-finding process, however, would have taken up to a year to conduct.

## **June 27 Jefferson School Renaming**

The SOMSD board may well select a new name for the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School at its June 27 public meeting. The BOE may select from a list submitted by Jefferson School students, take suggestions from

(Continued on page 15)



**THE DOCTOR IS IN** (Continued from page 4)

sunscreens to use are broad-spectrum, water-resistant ones with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30.

Aside from just direct sunlight, overexposure to UV rays may also result from tanning and in laboratories. Seek to reduce that as much as you can.

Conclusively, skin cancer is preventable, meaning we can actually effect a change. Summer is getting increasingly closer, but so are the high-intensity ultraviolet rays. Cover up as much as you can and apply sunscreen on areas clothing does not cover.

*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.*

**References**

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/05/17/skin-cancer-numbers-2022/>



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- <https://moffitt.org/endeavor/archive/3-4m-americans-will-get-skin-cancer-in-2022/>
- <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/15818-skin-cancer#:~:text=Melanoma%20is%20not%20as%20common,treat%20and%20potentially%20life%20limiting.>
- <https://www.healthline.com/health/skin-cancer#types>

**RWJBARNABAS HEALTH COMMEMORATES JUNETEENTH**

*Celebrations to Include Educational Presentations, Performances and Inspiring Speakers*

American history for African Americans in particular,” said Barry H. Ostrowsky, Chief Executive Officer, RWJBarnabas Health.

“We observe Juneteenth, which is extremely significant to the people we work alongside every day, in the spirit of allyship, in honor of our friends, colleagues and other stakeholders who are descendants of slaves, and because we must continually remind ourselves that while slavery might have been declared over, its legacy continues and therefore our commitment to equity must not falter.”

RWJBarnabas Health’s observation of Juneteenth will begin Thursday, June 16, and end on Tuesday, June 21. Planned events include:

- Commemorative Juneteenth celebrations hosted by RWJUH-Rahway and Jersey City Medical Center;
- A Juneteenth Virtual Flag

Display hosted by the Institute for Prevention and Recovery;

- Commemorative celebration hosted by Newark Beth Israel Medical Center with special guest speaker A’Dorian Murray-Thomas, Founder and CEO of SHE Wins, Inc.;
- Employee celebration hosted by The RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center complete with information about Juneteenth, hibiscus tea, and music from the RWJBH Juneteenth Playlist on Spotify;
- Sponsorship of the Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration in Long Branch at the Long Branch Free Public Library, which will include food, vendors, guest speakers, genealogy research, entertainment and children’s games;
- A commemorative celebration hosted by RWJUH-Somerset with music and food trucks, with special

guest Guy Weston, MA Managing Director of the Timbuctoo Historical Society and visiting scholar at Rutgers University History Department as a keynote speaker;

- A virtual presentation on the history behind the holiday hosted by Clara Maass Medical Center with guest speaker Dr. Davis DeLacey;
- The Community Medical Center Black Employees Network for Professional Growth Business Resource Group will host a celebration on the patio outside of the High Tide Café. Attendees may purchase food from the on-site Sutton Soul food truck and enjoy music, vendors, prizes and giveaways.
- The Black Professional Network BRG will be participating in Jersey City’s African Cultural Arts Family Festival Tabling Event offering a

(Continued on page 12)





*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Using God's Name  
As A Curse**

"God Damn it!" "Oh, My God!" I have heard these phrases and others always being used by individuals when they are enraged and feel like they want to curse those they say have offended them. The most widespread situation in which to hear the curse is road rage.

Interestingly, many of those who are using the phrases in such scandalous ways and calling down their curses are often "profane" persons. My view is that they have no reverence for God. But I have also heard people who claim to be religious do the same. One elder, seminary trained, and whom I allowed preaching in a congregation I once pastored, would shock me. In the midst of a few of his sermons, when he wanted to bring out his anger, he would say, "I call God's curse on them."

He felt it legitimate to say what he did. After his sermon, I would try to "take him to task," and he would respond that what he was doing was different from people who were cursing. And would say, I know that you are thinking of the imprecatory

Psalms and other passages in the Bible that talk about bringing curses down on their enemies, but that does not give any legitimacy to our self-righteous indignation. Often enough, we turn our raw emotions of using the name of God to answer our vanity of hatred and revenge. After our dialogue, we would close our conversation with an agreement that our discussion on the theological implications of cursing in the Bible needs further study.

Here what I wish to bring forth is that using the name of God to curse people might make us feel powerful but remember that using such things as our weapon of warfare is irreverent and destructive. Utilizing the name might sound religious, but it is sacrilegious and does not remove the vanity of disrespect against God. The Bible tells us how to respond when people seek to abuse us and curse us.

In Jesus' words recorded in Matthew 5:43-48, we read: You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect,

therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Take note of the instructions in the above, and let me add a few from other parts of the Bible:

1. Love your enemies
2. Bless those who curse you
3. Do good to them who hate you
4. Pray for those who despitefully use you
5. Treat people the same way that you want them to treat you - "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12)
6. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse (Romans 12:14).
7. Give food to those who you might consider your enemies - (Proverbs 25:21)
8. Leave revenge to God - Do not say, "I will repay evil", Wait for the Lord, and He will save you." (Romans 12:19)
9. Quick-tempered persons exult folly (Proverbs 14:29).

Some profound words from a non-biblical spiritual advisor that I have admired, speaks to the use of our tongues thus:

". . . Guard your tongue. Let not your tongue run at random in jesting and joking. These are signs that your heart needs to be cleansed from its defilement...

"Our words index the state of our heart; and whether men talk much or little, their words express the character of their thoughts. The nature of his conversation may quite accurately estimate a man's character. Sound, truthful words have the right ring in them.

"Educate yourself to carry a pleasant countenance and bring all the sweetness and melody possible into your voice. (EGW, *Sons and Daughters of God*, 180)

"The voice and tongue are gifts from God, and if rightly used, they are a power for God. Words mean very much. They may express love, devotion, praise, melody to God, or hatred and revenge. Words reveal the sentiments of the heart. They may be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. The tongue is a world of blessing, or a world of iniquity."

More might be said, about the curse words that we use, but let me cut to the chase with one last point, curses often return and returns to the person who utters them. The point is that we need to get rid of the impulsive words we use to curse, especially those in which we are so prone to use the name of God to make it seem that we are doing a righteous act.

**JUNETEENTH** (Cont. from pg. 11)

range of health screenings and health education;

- A virtual educational discussion on the historical significance of Juneteenth will take place courtesy of Clara Maass Medical Center entitled, "The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth: Never giving up during uncertain times" moderated by Ryan P. Haywood, Esq.

Launched in December 2020, RWJBarnabas Health's antiracism strategy, Ending Racism Together, focuses on creating racial, ethnic and cultural

equity within the health system and supporting communities that are the most disenfranchised and experience poor health, social, economic, and educational outcomes due to the generational effects of racism. The system's journey to ensuring an antiracist enterprise with equitable policies and behavior includes transforming standard practices.

"We can't begin to change our behavior until we recognize the ways we are causing harm," added Mr. Ostrowsky. "In that same vein, we can't celebrate Juneteenth or become true allies with our Black community until we study our history, flaws and all, to put into perspective why

this date must be commemorated."

"Juneteenth gives us all an opportunity to reflect on American history and the ideals of equality and equity, while serving as a reminder of the overt and structural racism still experienced daily by many of our patients, colleagues, and members of our community," said DeAnna Minus-Vincent, Executive Vice President and Chief Social Justice and Accountability Officer, at RWJBarnabas Health, who spearheads Ending Racism Together.

"The expansive legacy of slavery did not end in 1865. The underpinnings of a new nation

were created at a time when an entire group of people, people of African descent, were viewed as property and forced into captivity. We see its grip daily; the vestiges evident and statistics undeniable. Those individuals who identify as Black or African American are disproportionately affected by poor health, social, economic, and educational outcomes, and as an anchor institution in one of the most diverse states in the nation, RWJBarnabas Health's mandate is to build an antiracist infrastructure with permanence, one that will serve as our system's foundation moving forward," Minus-Vincent said.



# FDA GIVES UPDATE ON BABY FORMULA

On June 22, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is providing an update on the steps it has taken, and will continue to take, to ensure that American consumers have access to safe and nutritious infant formula in the coming weeks and months.

“The FDA is working night and day to ensure that parents and caregivers can readily find safe and nutritious formula products for any child who needs it,” said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. “I have personally spoken with infant formula manufacturers over the past several weeks and all have significantly increased their production efforts, which is resulting in more supply that will be available on store shelves moving forward.”

## ***FDA Flexibilities Have Resulted in Approximately 365 Million Bottles Worth of Infant Formula***

In the past month, the FDA has issued enforcement discretion letters for the importation of the infant formula products from six countries, with a total estimated quantity of 17 million cans, or about 365 million full-size, 8-ounce bottles. These products have already started to hit the U.S. market and more will appear on store shelves over the coming weeks and months.

Consumers should have confidence that the infant formula that is being imported to the U.S. through this process involved a thorough review of the information provided by the companies, including details about the product’s nutritional adequacy and safety, microbiological testing results, labeling information, and importantly, details about the manufacturing facility’s food safety production practices and inspection history.

## ***Agency Continues Regular Inspections of Infant Formula Facilities***

The FDA takes its responsibility seriously to ensure the foods we eat are safe and meet our rigorous standards for quality and safety - this is particularly true for infant formula. While the FDA Food Safety Moderni-

zation Act (FSMA) requires the agency to inspect domestic food facilities at least once every 3 to 5 years, the FDA has a policy of annually inspecting infant formula manufacturers because the products serve as the sole source of nutrition for some of our most vulnerable consumers.

This goal of annual surveillance inspections of these facilities has consistently been met over the years with the exception of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA continued to inspect facilities, including infant formula facilities. In fact, we inspected six firms in fiscal year 2020 (Oct. 1, 2019 - Sept. 30, 2020), including several during the height of the pandemic in the summer and fall of 2020. In order to develop a prioritized list of firms to inspect throughout 2021, the FDA evaluated the firms that we did not inspect in 2020 to focus on firms that met certain risk criteria, including a firm’s inspection history, hazard signals such as consumer complaints, and other factors.

While the agency postponed certain food surveillance inspections during the pandemic, the FDA resumed its annual surveillance inspection schedule for infant formula facilities beginning in July 2021. In fiscal year 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021), we prioritized inspections of infant formula firms, conducting 16 domestic inspections throughout the year; including Abbott, Mead Johnson, Gerber, and Nestle. Since the start of fiscal year 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021), we have conducted 10 domestic infant formula inspections and one foreign, including Abbott, Mead Johnson, and Gerber.

Importantly, it is a firm’s responsibility to ensure the consistent quality and safety of the products they produce. In addition to our oversight work, the FDA stresses the importance of a company’s quality systems and culture. Ultimately, when problems are found it is the responsibility of the firm to correct those issues to keep consumers safe.

The City of Orange Township, New Jersey will be participating in the 2022 Summer Food Service Program from June 27, 2022 to August 19 2022.

The Summer Food Service Program is a federal program of the Food and Nutrition Services, United States Department of Agriculture. This program provides all children 18 years of age and under with the same free meal in accordance with a menu approved by the state agency.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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## **MONKEYPOX (Cont. from page 7)**

milder than the symptoms of smallpox, and begin with fever, headache, muscle aches, and exhaustion 7–14 days after infection, according to the CDC.

As a precaution, any New Jersey residents who experience flu-like illness with swelling of

lymph nodes and rash occurring on the face and body should contact their healthcare provider.

NJDOH had alerted local medical professionals and local health departments to monitor for cases. For more information about monkeypox, see CDC: Monkeypox.

## **WORLD NEWS**

(Continued from page 6)

cost of living payment, whilst nearly one in ten of the population will get the £150 disability top-up.

The first cost of living instalment will see millions of low-income households in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland initially £326 better off as the government delivers significant interventions to support groups who are most vulnerable to rising costs. In total, millions of households will receive at least £1,200 from the government this year to help cover rising costs.

Work and Pensions Secretary, Thérèse Coffey said, “With

millions of the lowest-income households soon seeing the first of two cash instalments land into their bank accounts, we are taking action to directly help families with the cost of living.

“This one-off payment totaling £650 is part of our £37 billion cost of living support package that will put an extra £1,200 into the pockets of those most in need.”

The second instalment of £324 will be sent to qualifying low income households from the Autumn. The payments are designed to be deliberately slightly unequal to minimize fraud risks from those who may seek to exploit this system. In April, as “all wrong.”



The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

TOSS IT!

Lord only knows how many babies have been thrown out with the bath water when it really gets down to it; in this thing we call life. Human waste is a pet peeve of mine thus saving those proverbial babes is a rule that triggers the use of these thumbs.

Logically, that day would not differ at all because it was spilling out of a box curbside when I spotted it while in a heavy traffic flow. I parked and walked back for it. Those who peered on were confused by my ascending that trash heap for mere packing paper. A very large piece they might add because it was now trailing behind me. They saw packing paper but I saw something else; I saw fabric.

One Lady or gentleman's trash has many times become treasure. If you have had the

pleasure of stumbling across the L.I.T MUSE lending their image to change as donning some found object or all hugged up with as utilizing somethin from our treasure trove as a prop, you'd agree that dumpster diving and or trash pickin is the way to grow.

That is our message when demonstrating this out in those streets. I love this ongoing project because it is utilitarian and eco-friendly in so many respects. Then I thought why not use it again. "Why Toss It?"



Photo Credit & Styling: Andrea Dialect  
L.I.T Editorial Muse: Nikki Vante

By using the models wearing the packaging paper once more, I could also make it into an Eco-Friendly campaign by adding a bit of Q &A. Check out the Go-To Squads cast away confessions and perhaps you'll find that sometimes it pays to catch what's being tossed and use it. By the

way which is your favorite look created by our nontraditional fabric and/ or which of these two lovelies is your favorite Muse? Inquiring minds want to know!

THE L.I.T PROJECT: ECO-FRIENDLY



Photo Credit & Styling: Andrea Dialect  
L.I.T Editorial Muse: Glam Warrior

What is the definition of eco-friendly?

(Featured snippet from the web) According to Merriam-Webster, the official definition of eco-friendly is: "not environmentally harmful." When it comes to products, that means everything from production to packaging needs to be considered safe for the environment.

Another way for saying it ... **Clean, green, natural, ecological, nonpolluting, biodegradable, natural, organic, uncontaminating**

Q & A  
QUESTION: WHAT HAVE YOU THROWN AWAY THAT YOU WISH THAT YOU HAD KEPT?

I am not the type of person that just throws things away willy-nilly. So when I do discard something I want to get rid of. So I don't really have anything that I wish I'd kept. I honestly love throwing things out because it makes way for the new!  
Signed: Keyasia Dansby...

Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://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](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).



NJTRANSIT (Cont. from page 5)

- NEC 3881 at 7:44
- From Newark PS: RVL No. 5747 at 7:13
- From Hoboken: MBL No. 1085 to Hack-ettstown at 7:22
- M&E No. 443 to Gladstone at 7:44
- Pascack Valley Line No. 1641 to Spring Valley at 7:28
- Bergen County Main Line No. 1127 at 7:46
- Main Line No. 65 to Pt. Jervis at 7:57
- Bergen Co Line No. 1177 at 8:13
- To Hoboken: PVL No. 1634 from Spring Valley at 9:07
- BCML No. 68 fr. Pt. Jervis at 9:22
- M&E No. 948 fr. Gladstone at 9:28

- ML No. 1136 fr. Suffern at 9:47
- BC No. 1186 fr. Suffern at 10:17

NJTransit's Atlantic City-30th Street, Philadelphia Station was also axed Friday night.

"The engineers should've called their stoppage a day ahead so people could have planned," said one NYPS rider to a reporter.

Although NJTransit resumed Saturday operations June 18, 143 engineers called out - 44 percent above that day's average.

There were 133 engineers out before O'Hara issued her order. NJTransit, on its MyBus phone service, said "all railroad lines have resumed regular operations."

Those attempting to reach Newark Liberty International Airport had to take NJT's No. 62 bus, among other alternatives, found

"insult to injury" that weekend. They arrived to find some of their scheduled departures cancelled by airlines due to a combination of staff shortages and bad continental U.S. weather.

A BLET official's message echoed O'Hara's June 19 ruling in that all unauthorized absences were subject to "discipline, fines and jail" under the Federal Railway Act. The same message included the union's prohibition of its members using "self-help" job actions.

The Lackawanna Coalition commuter advocacy group, which represents "Local Talk" area rail riders, will discuss the wildcat strike 6:45 p.m. June 27 at its monthly Millburn town hall meeting.

The NJTransit Board of Directors' next monthly meeting is set for 9 a.m., July 13 here at its One Penn Plaza headquarters.



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT OF IRVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKEN OVER BY THE ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

**ESSEX** - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, announced June 22 that the Essex County Prosecutor's Office has taken over the day-to-day operations of the Internal Affairs unit of the Irvington Police Department.

Personnel from the Professional Standards Bureau of the ECPO will be assigned to the Irvington Internal Affairs unit and will direct the operations of the unit and be responsible for all internal affairs investigations.

Irvington Police Director Tracey Bowers remains in place.

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 10)

the community or hold a proposed new name to a community-wide referendum. The board, citing that Jefferson had owned slaves, passed their renaming Resolution No. 4190 last August.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Those who want to see what the traffic plan will be for what replaces the Friendly's restaurant may be in for a midsummer wait.

Finomus Holdings Bloomfield LLC, for its part, sought and received an extension on presenting its traffic plan from the Bloomfield Planning Board June 10. It is the second monthly postponement since its initial presentation on April 12.

The BPB, without explanation on June 21, has canceled its July 12 meeting. All continuing and new site applications are to be next heard on Aug. 9.

Finomus wants to replace the Friendly's at 1243 Broad St. with a combined Taco Bell and Wendy's. The board, on April 12, had asked the developer to present a traffic flow plan.

Friendly's, from 1969 to its Dec. 19 closing, had its traffic face a "No Left Turn" sign across from it to prevent its departing drivers from taking southbound Broad Street. The 25 mph street, which takes a 90-degree northbound turn towards Clifton, is fronted by Brookfield Elementary School, a Bloomfield fire station, a bank, an auto parts store and the western end of West Passaic Avenue.

**GLEN RIDGE / MONTCLAIR** - The New Jersey Attorney General's office has recently released recordings of the events that led to the fatal May 10 car crash in The Glen and the identities of the car's three occupants.

NJAG's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability detectives showed the seven video, audio and 911 recordings to the survivors of Gregory K. Dukes, 42, and Cecil Richardson, 47, both of Philadelphia, prior to the June 13 public release.

The video footage from three Montclair police cars' dashboard cameras, showed them following a Hyundai Elantra with handicapped Pennsylvania plates turning east onto eastbound Bloomfield Avenue from northbound Maple Street.

MPD officers Michael Kupchack and Brandon Taylor said they began following the Hyundai since its description had matched that of one being involved in a robbery in another part of the township.

The Elantra accelerated to an estimated 64 mph before its driver lost control and plunged into The Glen just east of the Ridgewood Avenue intersection. Two of the dashcam recordings show officers leaving their cars to look down The Glen.

Dukes' visitation was held May 18 at the Victory Garden of Prayer. Richardson's Janazah was held at Lenwood Jones Funeral Home May 14. Both were laid to rest at Cheltenham Cemetery. All locations were in Philadelphia.

Driver Todd Hill, 45, of Philadelphia, was treated for his injuries at a local hospital and was released.

**BELLEVILLE** - Kearny police have not said whether the body of a man found on the Newark side of the Passaic River May 26 was that of Hector L. Nieves, 33, of Belleville - other than saying they had stopped their missing persons search for him.

KPD started their search after Nieves' wife had reported him missing by Noon May 23. She said that she had dropped him off at the LA Fitness parking lot at 175 Passaic Ave. at about 1:15 a.m. that Monday.

He called her minutes later, saying that he was going to swim across the Passaic River and to meet him by Newark's Comfort Inn at McCarter Highway/Route 21.

The owner of a truck parked at that lot told the KPD that he had disturbed a man trying to break into his vehicle at around 1:30 a.m. and scared the suspect off. The owner and the wife gave separate but matching descriptions.

Newark police officers said that they had found a body along Riverbank Park near the Jackson Street Bridge at 11 a.m. May 26. The body was taken to the Regional Medical Examiner's Office in Newark for identification and an autopsy.

There has been no funeral services or obituary announced for Nieves as of press time.

**NUTLEY** - The Nutley Board of Educa-

tion has apparently come from within the district's administration to name a successor to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Julie Glazer.

The NBOE, at its June 27 meeting, is to formally appoint Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kent Bania as its new superintendent effective July 1. Bania's appointment had received the approval of Essex County Superintendent of Schools Dale Zarra, also of Nutley, June 16.

Bania, a 23-year district employee, was brought to NPS' central office as its Grades 6-12 curriculum, instruction and assessment director in 2016. He became Dr. Glazer's assistant when she became superintendent in 2020. Bania was acting superintendent this season while Glazer clocks out her accrued leave time.

The board selected Bania from a field of 27 applicants. The Roland Biondi search firm conducted the advertising, community survey and community and district meetings on its behalf.

Bania started in NPS as a high school and middle school science teacher in 1999 and had been NHS and Montclair State University's lacrosse coach. The Essex County resident holds a masters of arts in educational leadership from Lamar University, a masters of science in biology/science education from MSU and a bachelors in environmental science from Rutgers' Cook College.

"Mr. Bania is ready to lead the district," said NBOE President Daniel Carnicella June 20. "He has a deep and extensive knowledge of NPS and community - and is a forward thinker."



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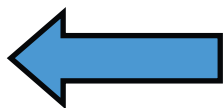
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