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## SUPREME COURT CHANGES THE LANDSCAPE OF AMERICA



WASHINGTON - That sound you hear is a nation changed - millions of women screaming at the top of lungs - with a little bit of Ruth Bader Ginsburg rolling over in her grave - people afraid that guns would become more prevalent, and the separation of church and state eroded.

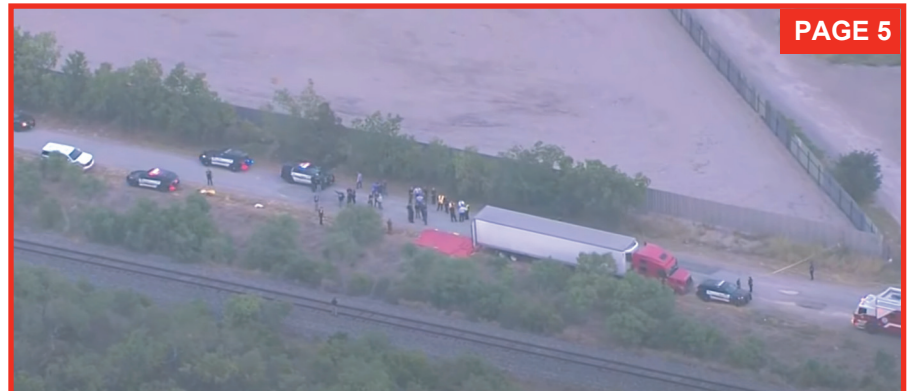
First, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court struck down the decision of Roe v. Wade by a 6-3 majority. The Justices in favor were all conservatives: Chief Justice John Roberts, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett, with the latter three all appointed by former President Donald Trump.

Those opposed were liberals Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and the retiring Stephen Breyer.

The case that led to this outcome was Dobbs, State Health Officer of The Mississippi Department of Health, \*Et Al. v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Et Al. - or Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization for short. The focal point of the matter was about the constitutionality of a 2018 Mississippi state law that banned most abortion operations after the first 15 weeks of a pregnancy. (\*Et Al. is short for "et alia" meaning "and others.")

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## OVER 50 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN TRAILER



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## AMTRAK TRAIN DERAILS AFTER COLLISION WITH DUMP TRUCK




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The aftermath of the train hitting the truck. Photo via Dax McDonald Twitter

## NEWARK POLICE CAPTAIN CHARGED WITH DWI AT CRIME SCENE

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Turn To PAGE 16



**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Roe v. Wade was struck down by SCOTUS. Now, only the states can decide abortion. However, the states do not have money enough to fund Planned Parenthood and other organizations. If some states approve abortions to be legal, then it should be up to the people to pay for their own abortions. If there is rape or incest, then the states should consider allocating money for abortions, or also if the person is under the age 15, or as they are too young to understand the life changing severity after the birth of a child.

Planned Parenthood received \$528.4 million from the government, \$391.8 million from private supporters, \$305 million from non-government services and \$77.9 million from other sources according to news. They contributed to Federal candi-

dates through the Planned Parenthood PAC, about \$746,595 in 2021, as well as all contributions given to the Democratic candidates, including President Biden.

Also, many top executives donated much more money to candidates. That is why democrats are eager to support abortion programs. If abortion is a right, as they say, then 0 dollars should be given to anyone, including the insurance companies. Those who wants to have an abortion must raise their own money (not supported by taxpayers), other than the mentioned exceptions, and let's find out how many abortions will be done in a year, compared to 2021.

Per Independent UK News: "Texas attorney general Ken Paxton says he is planning to prosecute corporations that pay for employees to travel interstate to access abortion care. 'It's actually a new concept for us - these corporations deciding to pay for people to go get their abortions,' Mr Paxton said in an interview with NewsNation. He said the penalties for businesses that support their employees having abortions could be in excess of \$100,000. 'We're looking at

that literally as we speak,' he said. Dozens of American companies including Disney, Apple, JP Morgan Chase, Adidas and Airbnb are guaranteeing abortion benefits for their employees in the aftermath of the US Supreme Court voting to overturn Roe v Wade."

The gun law passed in New York that placed restrictions on carrying guns has been reversed by SCOTUS. It is hard enough for elected officials to restrict guns on the streets of the United States. I believe that by implementing a no guns policy for those age 20 and under and complete verification to issue guns for those above 21 will immediately solve a lot of problems. The next step would be to control the street guns.

Also, SCOTUS made rulings allowing states to intervene on Native American land, and that it is allowable to pray in a school setting, after ruling in favor of a football coach who prayed on the field. The real test will be when someone of a non-Christian faith (Islam, etc.) wants to pray, as according to SCOTUS, they should be allowed to do so now.

Company with over 100 employees will have a new rule un-

der OSHA reporting to protect employees for work related injuries. The coalition-backed new rule would update current reporting regulations with important new amendments that call for more extensive reporting to OSHA by employers. Among other things, the rule would require certain employers with more than 100 employees in high-risk industries to annually submit three forms to OSHA 3 pages form electronically - a Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (OSHA Form 300), an Injury and Illness Report (OSHA Form 301), and the summary information (OSHA Form 300A).

Finally, R. Kelly was sentenced to 30 years in prison by a Brooklyn, which does not include what he faces in Chicago when a trial begins there. Also, Ghislaine Maxwell, a former confidant of Jeffrey Epstein, got 20 years in prison. Both of them went from lifestyles of the rich and famous to decades behind bars for sex crimes.

*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>
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Scattered T'Storms	AM Rain	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	PM Storms
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**SUPREME COURT CHANGES**

**LANDSCAPE OF AMERICA**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Lower courts prevented enforcement of the law with preliminary injunctions. Those injunctions were based on the ruling in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, a case from 1992 which basically affirmed *Roe v. Wade* and stopped states from banning abortion before fetal viability, usually within the first 24 weeks. This is on the basis that a woman's choice for abortion within that period is protected by rights to privacy under the Fourteenth Amendment in the Constitution.

In writing the majority decision, Justice Alito said, "Roe was egregiously wrong from the start. Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, Roe and Casey have enflamed debate and deepened division.

"It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected

representatives. 'The permissibility of abortion, and the limitations, upon it, are to be resolved like most important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting.'"

Needless to say, the national response was swift and intense. Among the conservatives praising the decision were former Vice President Mike Pence, who said, "Today, life won" and his running mate, former President Donald Trump.

"This is following the Constitution, and giving rights where they should have been given long ago," Trump told Fox News.

The "giving rights where they should have been given long ago" refers to state being allowed to dictate whether or not they wish to have abortion legal in their states. Ironically enough, the Court said that states did not have the right to determine the status of concealed weapons in their states just the previous day.

Of course, liberals did not take too kindly to the ruling. Among those were former President Barack Obama.

"Today, the Supreme Court not only reversed nearly 50 years of precedent, it relegated the most intensely personal decision someone can make to the whims of politicians and ideologues - attacking the essential freedoms of millions of Americans," Obama posted on Twitter.

"The Republicans are plotting a nationwide abortion ban," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in response to the decision. "They cannot be allowed to have a majority in the Congress to do that. But that's their goal.

"Because of Donald Trump, Mitch McConnell, the Republican Party and their supermajority on the Supreme Court, American women today have less freedom than their mothers... Today, the Republican-controlled Supreme Court has achieved the GOP's dark and extreme goal of ripping away women's right to make their own reproductive health decisions."

Last but not least, current President Joe Biden gave remarks on the Court's decision.

"They took it away... Now with Roe gone, the health and life of women in this nation are now at risk... It was three Justices named by one President, Donald Trump, who eliminated a fundamental right of women of this nation. It's a realization of an extreme ideology... The court decision will have real and immediate consequences... It's a sad day for the country, but that doesn't mean the fight is over. The only way to protect women is Congress to restore the rights of women as federal

law. Voters need to make their voices heard."

Right now, 26 states have legislation on the books to end abortion. Half of them have "trigger laws" which go into effect immediately upon a Supreme Court decision striking down *Roe v. Wade*.

While this was the biggest decision levied by the Court, it was not the only one of great significance. As mentioned, the Court said that New York's law banning concealed carry guns was unconstitutional. Basically, unless the location is deemed "sensitive" a person can carry a concealed handgun in a place like New York state - and even New York City.

Needless to say, the decision was met with disapproval. NY Gov. Kathy Hochul and NYC Mayor Eric Adams blasted the ruling, saying that the Court put millions of New Yorkers at risk.

In another big ruling, on June 27, the Court ruled in favor of a high school football coach in Washington state, stating that he did have a right to pray on the field while kneeling immediately after games. The heart of the matter was the long standing tradition of separating church from state, but Justice Gorsuch wrote in the majority Opinion that the prayer is protected under the First Amendment.

There is no word on whether or not Colin Kaepernick has a case considering what happened to his pro football career after expressing his First Amendment rights by kneeling.

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**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 CY2022 Budget Deliberations on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. During deliberations, Council may go into Executive Session to discuss those topics permissible.

These deliberations will take place at 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, New Jersey 07018 in City Council Chambers.

Formal action may be taken.

Christopher Awe  
City Chairman

Vernon Pullins, Jr.  
Finance Chairman

Cynthia S. Brown  
City Clerk

## OVER 50 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN TRAILER

A group of people trying to enter the country by unscrupulous means have paid the ultimate price.

On June 27, a worker in San Antonio heard noise from the back of an 18-wheeler. Upon opening the rig, a gruesome discovery was made: dozens of dead people who attempted to cross illegally into the country. Their deaths were caused by heat stroke due to no ventilation or air conditioning in the rear. A few children and adults survived, but had to be taken to the hospital for sever complications from the heat.

In all, 53 people died, 40 males and 13 females. Of the deceased, 46 were dead in the trailer, while the other seven

died at a nearby hospital. At present, 13 others who survived are recuperating under medical care. So far, it has been determined that those in the trailer came from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

“We are heartbroken at the loss of life discovered in a tractor trailer yesterday evening, and grateful to all who responded to this horrific scene. Our team is caring for two patients at University Hospital: 23-year-old woman, serious condition, Adolescent male, critical condition,” University Health of San Antonio tweeted.

Meanwhile, three suspects, including the driver, are in custody, but Homeland Security

*(Continued on page 7)*

## TWO INDIAN NATIONALS ADMIT RECEIVING OVER \$1.2 MILLION IN GLOBAL ROBOCALL SCAM THAT DEFRAUDED ELDERLY VICTIMS

**NEWARK** - Two Indian nationals admitted to conspiracy to commit wire fraud by accepting illegally obtained \$1.2 million in wire transfers from victims across the country, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Arushobike Mitra, 27, and Garbita Mitra, 24, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Esther Salas in Newark federal court to an information charging them each with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: As part of an international fraud scheme, criminal India-based call centers utilized automated robocalls to victims across the country with the intent of defrauding U.S. residents, particularly the elderly. After establishing contact with victims through these automated calls, other members of the conspiracy would coerce or trick the victims into sending large sums of cash through physical shipments or wire transfers to other

members of the conspiracy, including the Mitras.

These conspirators used a variety of schemes to convince victims to send money, including impersonating government officials from agencies such as the Social Security Administration, or impersonating law enforcement officers from the FBI or DEA, and threatened victims with severe legal or financial consequences if they did not comply. Another method utilized by the callers involved convincing the victim they were speaking with someone from a tech support company and coercing the victim into granting the caller remote access to their personal computers.

The caller would then access the victim’s bank accounts and make it appear to the victim that the caller had inadvertently added money to the victim’s bank account, when in fact the caller had simply transferred money from another one of the victim’s own accounts. The caller would

*(Continued on page 12)*



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## AMTRAK TRAIN DERAILS AFTER COLLISION WITH DUMP TRUCK

### UNITED STATES

Tragedy struck in the Midwest after an unfortunate meeting between two massive mobile objects.

On June 27 at 12:42 p.m. local time, an Amtrak Train, identified as Southwest Chief Train 4, derailed after striking a truck that was obstructing a public crossing near Mendon, Missouri. The eight-car, two locomotive train was traveling eastbound on BNSF track from Los Angeles to Chicago, had approximately 275 passengers and 12 crew members onboard.

Local authorities responded to the scene to provide assistance and care for our customers and employees. Emergency personnel was dispatched to the scene to help support passengers and employees with their needs.

In response, Amtrak issued the following statement: "We are deeply saddened to learn that the Missouri State Highway Patrol is now confirming that four people, three passengers and the truck driver, have lost their lives as a result of this grade crossing incident. There are also several reported injuries among the passengers and crew members traveling on the train. Amtrak is working with local authorities to make sure those who are injured get medical care and everyone else receives services and transportation.

"We are grateful for the support from the local authorities who provided assistance and resources for our customers and employees. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has activated, and we will fully support the NTSB with its inves-

tigation. Additional details will be provided as available."

As of this posting, 50 injuries have been reported, with 40 still hospitalized. The level crossing in question had been flagged as dangerous because of its lack of gates and lights, and the way that trucks had to climb an embankment to cross. According to reports, the work required would cost \$400,000.

## RUSSIA STRIKES SHOPPING MALL

### WORLD

At least ten people have reportedly been killed by what Ukrainian authorities have said was a Russian missile strike on a crowded shopping center, and attack which the UN condemned on June 27 as "utterly deplorable."

The mall in the eastern city of Kremenchuk - a city which has largely escaped being targeted - was hit in the late afternoon, with reportedly 1,000 or more shoppers inside.

At least 40 were injured in the strike, said authorities, and the number of dead and injured is likely to rise. Footage from the scene showed buildings on fire and widespread destruction.

United Nations Spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, told correspondents at the daily briefing in New York that although casualties still had to be verified.

"Any sort of civilian infrastructure, which includes obviously shopping malls, and civilians, should never ever be targeted," he added.

Mr. Dujarric said there had been "disturbing reports of a new wave of airstrikes and shelling over the weekend and again today, with civilians having been killed or injured. Homes, health facilities and other civilian infrastructure were reportedly damaged."

In a statement issued later in the day, Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator for Ukraine, said she was appalled at news of the airstrike on the mall.

"My thoughts and my heart

are with the families and loved ones, of the people that have been killed, with those injured, and with the people of Kremenchuk and Ukraine, that had to witness another tragic event."

She said it was one more example "of the massive suffering that Russia's war on Ukraine is causing on the people of this country."

During the weekend, the capital, Kyiv, was hit again, and a residential building was damaged, with some people trapped in the debris, he added.

"Loss of life, injury, destruction of homes across Ukraine, wreak havoc in the lives of individuals, families, communities," said Ms. Lubrani, in a tweet. "Civilians must be protected wherever they are."

Meanwhile in the Donbas region on the front lines between the invading Russian forces and Ukrainian defenders, fighting has continued, with UN humanitarians facing "tremendous challenges" reaching civilians, "who are facing increasing needs," said Mr. Dujarric.

## UK TO TRESPASSERS: LEAVE OR ELSE

### EUROPE

Trespassers who set up camp illegally on other people's land or in local communities could face up to three months in prison from June 28, as a new criminal offence becomes law.

Cracking down on antisocial people causing misery by setting up illegal camps and refusing to remove their vehicles, delivers on a key government manifesto commitment.

Made possible by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, police in England and Wales will be given new powers to limit the harms caused by such unauthorized encampments and new statutory guidance will be published.

Police will now be able to ban trespassers from returning to a patch of land for a year, rather than just three months. And the definition of harm will be broad-

ened, so that police can take more decisive action to tackle unauthorized encampments when necessary.

They will be able to intervene where unauthorized encampments are causing environmental damage or distress to the community - not just the landowner.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said, "No one should have unchecked rights to trespass on other people's land, or cause misery in communities without consequence. The position in law is now very clear - trespassers must move their vehicles when asked to do so, or face jail time and a hefty fine.

"Illegal encampments cause misery for thousands of people: they damage and pollute environments and often result in local residents facing unacceptable intimidation on their own doorstep. Delivering on our manifesto commitments, this government will always stand on the side of the law-abiding majority and on the side of the police."

Under the new guidance, the harms potentially caused by unauthorized encampments could include - but are not limited to - instances where: there is excessive littering, noise or smell - including from bonfire smoke; a local resident is verbally abused or intimidated, or fears leaving their house to avoid walking past an encampment; local communities are prevented from accessing sports fields, parks or car parks; property on the land, or the land itself has been damaged - including farmland.

For the first time, unauthorized encampments on highways will be covered, as well as on public and private land.

The new criminal offence will be punishable by a prison sentence of up to 3 months, or a fine of up to £2,500, or both, and/or seizure of the vehicle.

The conditions of the offense are clear - if people leave when asked to by the police or landowner, they will not risk having their vehicle seized, a fine or prison time.

(Continued on page 14)

# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2022 NBA Draft was held this past week, with both rounds taking place at the Barclays Center. Duke Forward Paolo Banchero was the surprise 1st overall by the Orlando Magic. Projected #1 Jabari Smith, a forward from Auburn, was taken 3rd overall by the Houston Rockets, while Gonzaga's Chet Holmgren was picked #2 by the Oklahoma City Thunder. Rounding out the top five were Iowa forward Keegan Murray to the Sacramento Kings at #4, and Jaden Ivey, a point guard the Knicks coveted, landing at #5 to the Detroit Pistons. Once Ivey was off the board, the Knicks basically just traded draft picks for future selections. They did however take guard Trevor Keels from Kentucky with the 42nd pick in the second round.

Some local talent who did not hear their names called on draft night still have a shot at the pros. In addition to Murray, Seton Hall's Jared Rhoden was signed by the Kings, while Rutgers standout Ron Harper signed

a two way deal with the Toronto Raptors. Harper is the son of Ron Harper, Sr., a five time NBA Champion who played for the Bulls, Lakers, and others.

In other sports news the New York Yankees have the best record in baseball. Also, they agreed to a \$19 million deal to finish out the year with slugger Aaron Judge to avoid arbitration. This was good for the Yanks, as Judge hit a walk-off three run homer to beat the Astros a day after they were the victims of a combined no-hitter by Houston - for the second time.

Finally, after two straight years of the Tampa Bay Lightning as the champs, there is a new NHL Champion. The Colorado Avalanche beat the Lightning in six games, winning the last one 2-1 to take the Stanley Cup. This postseason, Colorado clinched all four series on the other team's home ice. The win marks the third championship for the Avalanche franchise, which at one point was known as the Quebec Nordiques.

## OVER 50 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN TRAILER

(Continued from page 5)

has not divulged their identities after taking over the investigation from San Antonio and Border officials.

President Biden, who is currently attending a G7 Summit, gave the following statement:

"The tragic loss of life in San Antonio, Texas that took place is horrifying and heartbreaking. Our prayers are with those who lost their lives, their loved ones, as well as those still fighting for their lives. As always, I am grateful for the swift work of all of the Federal, state, and local first responders.

"While we are still learning all the facts about what happened and the Department of Homeland Security has the lead for the investigation, initial reports are that this tragedy was

caused by smugglers or human traffickers who have no regard for the lives they endanger and exploit to make a profit.

"This incident underscores the need to go after the multi-billion dollar criminal smuggling industry preying on migrants and leading to far too many innocent deaths. In Los Angeles two weeks ago, I announced that the United States has launched a first-of-its kind anti-smuggling campaign with our regional partners. In the first three months, we have made over 2,400 arrests, and that work will only intensify in the months ahead.

"Exploiting vulnerable individuals for profit is shameful, as is political grandstanding around tragedy, and my Administration will continue to do everything possible to stop human smugglers and traffickers from taking advantage of people who are seeking to enter the United States between ports of entry."

# BANKRUPTCY

## CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	6-22-2022	Deaths	6-29-2022	Deaths
Belleville	11,493	150	11,575	150
Bloomfield	12,808	160	12,932	161
Caldwell	1,747	17	1,758	17
Cedar Grove	4,129	136	4,166	136
City of Orange	8,617	171	8,678	173
East Orange	18,006	378	18,108	379
Essex Fells	535	2	546	2
Fairfield	2,104	37	2,135	37
Glen Ridge	1,337	18	1,357	18
Irvington	12,272	280	12,335	281
Livingston	7,029	105	7,121	105
Maplewood	5,628	48	5,690	48
Millburn	3,961	18	4,008	18
Montclair	7,367	86	7,481	86
Newark	82,498	1,252	83,051	1,252
North Caldwell	1,521	10	1,540	10
Nutley	7,030	83	7,070	84
Roseland	1,495	21	1,511	21
South Orange	3,743	22	3,788	22
Verona	3,575	22	3,620	22
West Caldwell	2,893	61	2,932	63
West Orange	14,129	264	14,262	264
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,917</b>	<b>3,341</b>	<b>215,664</b>	<b>3,349</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of June 29, 2022)**  
**NJ: 2,125,934 cases / 30,948 deaths (Plus 3,088 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 87.336 Million / 1.017 Million deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 546.075 Million / 6.334 Million deaths**

**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION  
FISCAL YEAR 2022 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (IIJA), Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and under provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 federal financial assistance, Federal Fiscal Year 2021, Federal Fiscal Year 2020 and Federal Fiscal Year 2019 carryover funds from the following programs: \$525.833 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating and capital assistance; \$238.622 million under Section 5337 State of Good Repair; \$33.471 million under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities; \$12.320 million under 49 U.S.C. Sections 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program; \$125.000 million under Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA); \$87.214 million of Federal Highway Authority; and \$0.470 million of Discretionary funding for a total of \$1.023 billion.

Federal operating funds will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipients in conformance with Federal and State guidelines. NJ TRANSIT intends to provide the non-Federal share of capital projects through credit for toll revenues. The Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Federal program is described below.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022 FEDERAL PROGRAM  
Proposed Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program  
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>	<b><u>FEDERAL</u></b>
ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul	12.466
Capital Lease Payments	116.803
Cumberland County Bus Program	2.040
Elizabeth Intermodal Station Reconstruction	25.085
HBLRT Weehawken Tunnel Repairs	4.827
Lyndhurst Station Reconstruction	22.708
Mechanical Equipment Inspection Improvements	1.300
Network Resiliency	4.470
Newark Penn Station (Escalator/Elevator/Fire Ext.)	7.117
New Brunswick Escalator Upgrade and Inbound Platform Extension	2.551
Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements	10.695
Preventive Maintenance - Bus	196.899
Preventive Maintenance - Rail	87.846
Roselle Park ADA	2.860
SANDY Rsl 08MAS 4 ROC Unit Substations	6.420
SANDY Rsl 15R 4 MMC Building Perimeter Flood Protection Center	4.800
Track, Bridge, Mobility, and Capacity Improvements	1.350
Traction Power, Catenary, and Control System Improvements	1.500
West Summit Interlocking Improvement	14.096
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$525.833</b>

**Proposed Section 5337 State of Good Repair  
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>	<b><u>FEDERAL</u></b>
ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul	21.350
GP-40 Diesel Locomotive Overhaul (7)	23.435
Lackawanna Cutoff Port Morris Andover	40.671
Preventive Maintenance - Bus	0.623
Preventive Maintenance - Rail	146.907
RiverLine Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) Mid-Life Overhaul	5.636
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$238.622</b>

**Proposed Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities  
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>	<b><u>FEDERAL</u></b>
Greenville Bus Garage	6.279
HQ-GOB Parking Lot Replacement – Design	8.645
Nabi Bus Overhauls	18.547
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$33.471</b>

**Proposed Section 5310, 5311  
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>	<b><u>FEDERAL</u></b>
Local- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Ind.w/Disabilities	7.733
Local- Rural Transit Program Contracts	4.587
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12.320</b>



**Proposed Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)  
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
Portal North Bridge	125.000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$125.000</b>

**Proposed Federal Highway Authority (FHWA)  
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
CMAQ/5307 Local Initiatives DVRPC	1.102
CMAQ/5307 Local Initiatives NJTPA	1.887
CMAQ/5310 Local Initiatives DVRPC	1.294
CMAQ/5310 Local Initiatives SJTPO	1.096
Hoboken Terminal Substructure Repairs	4.251
Multi-Level III Rail Car Purchase (113)	75.000
New Brunswick Escalator Upgrade and Inbound Platform Extension	2.584
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$87.214</b>

**Proposed Discretionary Funding  
(in Millions of Dollars)**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>
U.S. Route 9 Bus Rapid Transit	0.470
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$0.470</b>

**A. Property Acquisition/Environmental, Economic, and Social Aspects**

Any property acquisition or relocation that may be required will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the law and regulatory requirements. As appropriate, the social, economic, environmental, and relocation aspects of the projects will be investigated. If required under applicable laws and regulations, interim findings may be presented at a future public hearing and further public comment will be solicited. Prior to the implementation of any of the projects and to the extent required, NJ TRANSIT may prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Federal regulations. The availability of this document will be made known by publication in the same manner as this notice. NJ TRANSIT will adhere to all Federal statutes and regulations affecting structures or properties eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places.

**B. Comprehensive Planning**

NJ TRANSIT projects are developed in coordination with the following planning organizations: The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Northeast New Jersey urbanized area; the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which is the designated MPO for Camden, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester counties; and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, which is the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forums for local decision-making concerning the proposed projects. The projects are developed in consultation with local elected officials, interested citizens, and providers of private bus services.

**C. Private Enterprise Participation**

Through the comprehensive planning process administered by the MPOs and ongoing communication with NJ TRANSIT's Office of Private Carrier Affairs, NJ TRANSIT continues to discuss with private carriers their participation in the capital program. In addition, NJ TRANSIT encourages, to the maximum extent possible, the participation of the private sector in the development and implementation of public transportation in the State of New Jersey.

**D. Senior Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities**

Services to be provided will be consistent with NJ TRANSIT's program of reduced interstate and intrastate rail and bus fares for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Every reasonable effort will be made to plan and design program elements involving facilities generally available to the public with careful consideration of the special needs of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.

**E. Public Input**

NJ TRANSIT invites public comments on the above projects and its performance. Request for additional information on NJ TRANSIT's program of projects, written comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Rocio Munoz, OPRA Manager, OPRA Office, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246 by August 15, 2022.

Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may modify the above program before final submission to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will make a determination, pursuant to FTA regulations, as to whether a public hearing is in order. The above list of proposed projects will become the final list of projects unless notification is provided in the same manner as this public notice.

Kevin S. Corbett  
President & CEO  
New Jersey Transit Corporation

# 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 300 nurses and 60 technicians who make up the Jersey Nurses Economic Security Organization have been back on their jobs since they and the St. Michael's Medical Center had agreed on a new contract here June 23.

JNESCO, affiliated with the AFL-CIO, ratified their part of a new three-year contract June 22, ending a 31-day strike against St. Michael's.

"While it is unfortunate that we couldn't have negotiated this agreement without a strike," said St. Michael's CEO Dr. Alan Sickles, "we're looking forward to having our nurses and medical staff return to their jobs."

UNESCO members walked off the job May 23, three weeks after their last contract had expired on May 4. Differences between the two percent wage increases St. Michael's parent, Prime Healthcare, was offering, and the six percent JNESCO negotiators were seeking to break down March 28-May 13 talks.

The union-management pact was shepherded by a mutually agreed-to federal mediator. Prime Healthcare recently added St. Michael's to its chain of 41 hospitals in 14 states.

**IRVINGTON** - Township police officers had responded to gunfire reports at Grove Street and 17th Avenue here June 18 - a block south and 38 days after a fatal gas station shooting.

Responding IPD officers responded to the 5:45 p.m. gunshot report from that intersection that Thursday. They found several shell casings along that block, prompting a several-hour street

closure. NJTransit's No 1 and 90 buses were among the detoured traffic.

Officers also found two unnamed adults who suffered gunshot injuries. The victims were taken to a local hospital for treatment and release.

The victims and witnesses said that the suspect who fired the shots had fled.

Police had responded to what turned out to be the fatal shooting of an off-duty gas station attendant at the corner of Grove Street and 16th Avenue 10:41 p.m. May 11.

Both cases are being actively investigated.

**EAST ORANGE** - Investigators are trying to find the cause of a two car collision by a Central Avenue intersection that injured four people and knocked down a corner traffic signal late June 24.

City police officers and firefighters, responding to an accident call by 26B Central Ave., found two cars on the Central Avenue Plaza sidewalk and the southwest corner traffic light pole down by 10:18 p.m. Friday. They also found a driver and a passenger trapped in each car.

EOFD personnel extricated all four occupants, who were taken to local hospitals for treatment on non-fatal injuries.

A Public Service Electric & Gas work crew temporarily shut off power at the intersection until a temporary signal was installed.

NJTransit police assisted with rerouting traffic around the Central Avenue/South 18th Street/Steuben Street intersection. Buses on CoachUSA's Nos. 24 and 44 routes were among the detoured traffic. Central Avenue is also known as Essex County Road 508.

**ORANGE** - The city's fire chief said that the cause of two fires in a pair of historic structures may not be definitively known for two separate reasons.

Orange Fire Chief Derrick Brown told the City Council here May 17 that the cause of April 19's Masonic Temple fire "seemed it started in the sign above YummyYo's restaurant." An internal investigation for arson could not be conducted there

"due to all the collapse that happened there."

The 1886 landmark temple building at 235 Main St. suffered the collapse of its roof and third floor before the fire could be contained. The building, including its three storefront businesses and six-story tower, had to be demolished.

The fire had apparently started in a sign of a business that had been open for less than six months. Municipal, county and state fire officials or their designees conduct arson investigations at fire scenes as a standard operating procedure.

Brown, however, said the cause of an April 29 carriage house fire at 408 Heywood St may never be known. Although the chief said he considered that blaze "very suspicious," he added that the ECPO Arson Investigation unit did not show. The ECPO, said spokeswoman Katherine Carter May 27, that its unit was "not alerted to a suspicious fire" there.

OFD personnel battled the two-car garage's structural fire that Friday night. The three-story house at 408 Heywood was built in the now-Seven Oaks Historic District in 1879.

Brown, an at-least 12-year OFD member, has been Orange's top firefighter since Kenneth M. Douglas' Aug. 1 departure. Douglas, who was fire director here since Jan. 1, 1915, took a similar position in Trenton.

**WEST ORANGE** - NJDOT and its contractors are hoping that a month-long closing of a Pleasant Valley Way ramp to Interstate 280 here will complete a pesky sinkhole problem.

NJDOT, since 7 a.m. June 24, has closed the ramp that brings southbound Pleasant Valley Way/Essex County Road 636 traffic to Eastbound 280 "and lasting for approximately four weeks." The closure is to repair "the damage of a stormwater pipe caused by Tropical Storm Ida" and the resulting sinkhole.

The sinkhole, caused by undermined earth, have partially closed that said ramp since Ida struck the Northeast Sept. 1. Another sinkhole had cratered part of 280 West Exit 10 ramp onto Northfield Avenue/CR 508 on

April 14, prompting overnight detouring and repairs.

Those who are used to taking the PVW/280 East ramp are to take PVW past 280 and take the ramp to 280 West, get off at Exit 6A for Laurel Avenue and then take Laurel Avenue to get onto 280 East.

This repair is being paid from a \$10.5 million state contract to "repair stormwater and drainage structures" among eight Northern New Jersey counties.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - A majority of the South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education, after their June 27 meeting, is leaning toward replacing the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School name with Winnie Delia Bolden's name.

The board, which passed a split-vote resolution to replace Jefferson's name Aug. 16, favored Bolden's name in a non-binding informal straw poll. Bolden, Class of 1912, was the first African American to graduate from Columbia High School.

The Jefferson PTA and the at-large two-town community, said Board Member Courtney Winkfield, wanted the panel to choose from a name list compiled by students. That student list includes: Bolden, Olympian track and fielder Joetta Clark-Diggs (CHS Class of 1980), U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, inventor Erna Schneider Hoover (Class of 1944) and U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Amalya Lyle Kearse (Class of 1955).

Board President Thair Joshua, earlier this month, suggested that the "retiring" Jefferson name be delegated to a plaque or statutory in the building. Last August's board, citing the third President of the U.S. and author of the Declaration of Independence's owning of slaves, voted to start replacing his name.

Jefferson descendant Sally Unsworth, who has a rising fourth grader in the Jefferson School, said, on Aug. 16, that she supported the renaming. Unsworth called Jefferson "a deeply flawed historical figure and, while no part of his contribution

(Continued on page 15)

# NEWARK POLICE CAPTAIN CHARGED WITH DWI AT CRIME SCENE



By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - Residents and colleagues of a prominent police captain have been seeing less of him since June 25 while investigators sort out the facts behind his allegedly drunken and combative presence at an Ironbound crime scene.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Fennelly had confirmed early June 27 that NPD Capt. Omar Diaz had been charged with DWI while being at a scene investigation after 4:30 a.m. June 25.

Diaz, a 23-year career officer and commander of NPD's Metropolitan Division, was so arrested and charged based on breathalyzer test results conducted by a New Jersey Transit Police Department detail at the scene.

Diaz was most likely put on administrative leave since Monday while ECPO detectives and prosecutors conduct their probe. Law enforcement officers are generally subject to admission to a substance abuse program or a range of penalties, including dismissal, if found or had pleaded guilty.

ECPO, as of press time, has not confirmed whether Diaz is also being investigated for allegedly attempting to assault an NPD police sergeant who was the crime scene's lead investigator.

The sergeant and a female officer were among several from the 3rd Precinct who arrived at 195 Ferry St. 4:30 a.m. Saturday on an assault report. They found a man whose stomach had been stabbed. The victim suffered a non-fatal wound.

Nuestra Casa Cafe and Bar at 195 Ferry, where the victim was found in front of, had been closed since 3 a.m.

The sergeant was conducting the crime scene investigation when witnesses said that Diaz arrived in a non-NPD vehicle.

Diaz has been the Metro division's

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commander since July 2020. The division includes the Arena Unit, which provides traffic and security services for events at the Prudential Center Arena, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Symphony Hall. The Metro Division is therefore operating within the 3rd Precinct.

Diaz, however, was off-duty as of 4:30 a.m. Saturday.

Witnesses said that Diaz exited the car and became angry. He spoke "abruptly and weirdly" to the female officer. He then "cursed, spat and attempted to assault" the sergeant.

Two NPD officers had to restrain Diaz until the scene had calmed down. The unidentified sergeant radioed to 3rd Precinct Headquarters that "a drunk captain" tried to attack him.

NJTPD was then called in for the sobriety test. Transit officers, on one hand, were asked to be an outside third party. It is not known, on

the other hand, whether any NJTransit Nos. 1 or 25 buses had to be detoured around Ferry Street between Van Buren and Polk streets.

Diaz, according to his LinkedIn page, was a senior N.J. Department of Corrections guard who joined NPD in January 1999. Patrolman Diaz became sergeant in 2007 and detective lieutenant in 2013.

The former 5th Precinct commander also holds bachelors degrees in history and administration and a masters of public administration - all from Rutgers.

Diaz, as per LinkedIn, is a member of the Superior Officers Association of the Newark Police Department and of Newark FOP Local 12.

His last public function appearance was when Mulberry Commons held a Casino Night May 24.



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### Embrace God's Formula For Rest

It was a bright Sunday afternoon, and my wife and I had to rush to the nearest Home Depot. That was not out of character for us, for Sunday is a work day. But we were forced to notice as we went into the Home Depot parking lot that several people entering the store were dressed in their "Sunday Best."

They were pouring into the Mall from a nearby church that had just concluded its services. I whispered to my wife, "These people do not rest. They do not appreciate the blessings of the rest that God has given to them. They are working on a day they call a day of rest."

If you are wondering where I am going with this reflection, let me state that I find it a point of interest that since human beings have rejected the day of rest that God gave at the creation (Genesis 2:1-3) and have made up their own day of rest they treat the rest in a most irreverent, and secular way. That is, they go to church for a few moments and worship but then return to the mundane, quotidian, routine, everyday life as if their day of rest were any other day.

If you are wondering why there is so much stress and sickness in today's world, you have the answer if you say that, among other things, "People will not rest." One article I read some

time ago stated that about 33 percent of people in America report feeling extremely stressed. Up to 73 percent of individuals report stress is impacting their mental health. The article went on to state that so many Americans are dying of stress because they are caught in the grind of work, family responsibilities, and other busy activities. Many individuals only allow themselves to rest on holidays or if they can afford a vacation. But the majority do not rest.

If left untreated, stress can cause chest pain, headaches, digestive issues, anxiety, depression, sleep loss, brain dysfunction, memory loss, lack of proper concentration, weakened immunity, metabolic challenges, changes in sexual desire, and the inability to focus.

On the other hand, it has been discovered that rest promotes reduced stress and anxiety, improved emotional tone, decreased blood pressure, reduction in chronic pain, improved immune health, stronger cardiovascular system, better mental health, increased concentration and memory, a better metabolism, and better spiritual and relational connection.

While it might be difficult to define rest for everyone, rest is any behavior aimed at increasing physical or mental wellbeing. It can be active, such as going for a walk outside, or passive, such as taking 10 minutes to sit down and breathe deeply. Such daily behaviors can help us recover and recharge from physical and mental efforts. That's why better rest is linked to better physical and mental health. For this reason, it is said; however, if you decide to rest, take some rest.

Let me lead you back to the point that I wanted to make from

the start, namely that apart from the little breaks that we might select to rest, God has given humanity a pattern for rest that has been established from creation.

Firstly, God has given the days to work and the night to sleep. Study after study has shown that working the **night shift** negatively **impacts** people's mental health. Working against a person's natural sleep cycle **causes many sleep disorders, fatigue, depression**, decreases cognitive abilities and reflexes, and makes people more vulnerable to disease. Do I need to say more than that? I have never worked nights but have worked late nights, traveled cross country on the "red-eye" flights, and know what happened to my brain in the days following. I can leave it at that and get on to the second fact.

Secondly, God has given humanity a Sabbath rest. I am speaking about the creation Sabbath, just as it says in the Bible (Genesis 2:1-3). "Six days you shall work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God." (Exodus 20:9-11; cf. Mark 2:27, 28). Do I need to say more on this? Let me remind you of one of the promised blessings for those who keep the Bible Sabbath:

If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,

From doing your pleasure on My holy day,

And call the Sabbath a delight,

The holy *day* of the Lord, honorable,

And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,

Nor finding your own pleasure,

Nor speaking *your own* words,

Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord;

And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,

And feed you with the heritage of Jacob, your father.

The mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 58:13, 14 NKJV)

The curse of humanity is that it has not accepted God's formulas for resting. Instead, humanity has created its own Sabbaths - Sundays or Fridays or whatever suits the moment, and then they keep them in the ways they formulate. The example that I gave at the beginning of this reflection tells that people go to church, get a little hype, and then after an hour or so, return to the routine of every day or other activity that has nothing to do with the kind of rest that God gave at the start of the creation for the total health and wellbeing of humanity.

Think about it, how much we curse ourselves when we do not do what God asked us to do. The book of Hebrews tells how the Ancient Israelites were cursed in the wilderness because they rejected God's rest (Hebrews 4:1-11). What happened then is what is happening today. In our contemporary world, we are losing God's blessings of rest because we have created our own formulas of rest and despised the rest of God.

We really need to ask God to help us to accept his formula of Sabbath rest. That is, if we want to eliminate the curses, we have put on ourselves by adopting our own formulas of rest. To enjoy the blessings that God has put in his formula of rest, let us return to His creation plan and rest on the Sabbath. I mean true rest, worship, serve those about us, and fellowship.

### NATIONALS CHARGED

(Cont. from pg. 5)

then instruct the victim to "return" the money by way of mail or wire transfer to other members of the conspiracy, including the Mitras. Arushobike Mitra and Garbita Mitra are charged with receiving fraudulent transfers of cash from 48 victims across the country totaling more than \$1.2 million.

The conspiracy to commit

wire fraud charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine of twice the amount of the loss, whichever is greater. Sentencing for both defendants is scheduled for Dec. 13, 2022.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations, New York Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge

Sharon MacDermott; special agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, Cyber Intrusion Group, and El Dorado Task Force Asset Identification & Removal Group, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge, Peter C. Fitzhugh in New York; postal inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Newark Division, under the direction of Inspector in Charge Damon Wood, Philadel-

phia Division, with the investigation leading to the guilty pleas. He also thanked the Hoboken Police Department, the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, the New York City Police Department, and the Brunswick County, North Carolina, Sheriff's Office for their assistance.

The government is represented by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Meriah Russell of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

TOSS IT! PART 2

Waste in all its many forms is a pet peeve of mine. Thus, saving those proverbial babes is a rule that triggers the use of these thumbs. Because the 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.

If you have had the pleasure of stumbling across the L.I.T MUSES lending their image to change as donning some found object or as utilizing something from our treasure trove as a prop, you'd agree that dumpster divin and/or trash pickin from one lady or gentleman's trash has many times become treasure. To encourage, inspire and motivate is the law which is our message when performing out there in those streets.

Being Eco-Friendly in many

respects is an ongoing project so, "Why Toss It?" The muses found donning this page once more are in support of our Eco-Friendly campaign which is even more intriguing when adding a bit of Q&A. Check out the Go-To Squad's cast away confessions and perhaps you'll find that sometimes it pays to grab what's being tossed and use it. By the way, which is your favorite look created with our nontraditional fabric and/or which of these two lovelies is your favorite Muse?



Photo Credit & Styling: Andrea Dialect  
L.I.T Editorial Muse: Blackberry Sweet

Q & A

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

My virginity is the answer to that question. I would have loved if the adults in my life would have talked about abstinence. But, I find that due to them being a little bit more conservative they didn't talk about anything. They didn't talk about sex until my virginity was already gone. But I would have loved to have had a conversation about how precious it was and how giving it to somebody that

you want to marry is such a precious gift and once it is gone it is gone. You never go back to that time of innocence. Signed: Nikki Vante

The thing I regret throwing away now was potentially intimate or romantic relationships of romantic interest where knowingly there was the proper go-ahead signaling and due to my own insecurities and doubts, I did not pursue throwing them away before they could happen! Signed: Ken Speaks

I regret leaving at times when I and artists were at our peaks doing shows, being on the radio, etc. The bonds we had; all of that. I feel like my leaving time after time, had ruined our momentum and that, to me, created rifts like the splitting of the groups, ppl losing drive and the vision, and overall the lack of musical content. Signed: 1st



Photo Credit & Styling: Andrea Dialect  
L.I.T Editorial Muse: Recording Artist Gail Campbell

Throw away, give away, same difference. I wish I would never have given away "The Giver" part of me. Over the

years I have found that whether it be in my ministry or personal life I have allowed my own dreams to take a back seat to further someone else's. Which in turn I'm left unappreciated and feeling undervalued. I have given mentally, physically, and even financially to people, places, and things and those that do the bare minimum and I've watched them receive greater accolades. I just want to stop myself from loving and caring so much. I want to be a nonchalant cold-hearted individual, but caring is a big part of my fabric. It's what makes me, me. So lots of the times I hurt in silence, cry in silence and watch my energy dissolve. I am who I am, but I'm learning to be more cautious per se. My name is Scott and I am a giver! Signed: Scott Troublefield

The thing that I tossed was life. I would not have given my life over to the system had I known what I know now. I would have definitely found another way to deal, cope and confront things. But I most definitely would not have given away my life for almost 23 years! Signed: Barry Alston (Author/ Actor) ...

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).

WORLD NEWS FLASH (Cont. from page 6)

400 KILOS OF COKE SEIZED

CARIBBEAN

On June 27, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Operations (AMO) agents interdicted a vessel with two occupants transporting 902 pounds (409 kilos) of cocaine near Desecheo Island in the western coast of the island. The estimated value is approximately \$ 9 million.

"Smuggling organizations are attempting to disguise their illegal activities as normal small vessel operators or fishermen," Augusto Reyes, Director of the Caribbean Air and Marine Branch. "AMO agents are highly

skilled, able to see through their tactics, and committed to use all our capabilities to interdict them and stop their illegal smuggling ventures."

On June 27, Mayaguez Marine Interdiction Agents conducting a patrol approached for inspection a vessel navigating near Desecheo island. The two occupants indicated that they were fishing.

The AMO agents escorted the boat and its occupants to the Mayaguez Marine Boat-house for further inspection. On shore a US Border Patrol K9 alerted to the presence of a smell for which it is trained.

A more intrusive inspection resulted in finding a hidden compartment where 339 bricks of a white powdery substance which tested positive for the properties of cocaine.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) took custody of two men and the contraband for prosecution and investigation. On June 22, AMO agents intercepted another vessel attempting to smuggle 289 pounds of cocaine towards Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico.

AMO safeguards our Nation by anticipating and confronting security threats through our aviation and maritime law enforcement expertise, innovative capabilities, and partnerships at the border and beyond. With approximately 1,800 federal agents and mission support personnel, 240 aircraft, and 300 marine vessels operating throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, AMO conducts its mission in the air and maritime environments at and beyond the border, and within the nation's interior.

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

to the founding of the U.S. should be erased, no part of the entire truth of who he was, how he lived and who he harmed should be ignored."

**BLOOMFIELD** - 99 Cent Dreams at 33 Broad St. and Bob's Sweet Shop at 1032 Broad St., among 13 DeCamp Bus Lines agents, will start selling tickets with an 11 percent increase on July 5. The rates for single intra and interstate, half-fare, 10-trip and 40-trip tickets will rise across all 10 zones, from Union City to the Meadowslands.

Bloomfield, Belleville, Glen Ridge and Montclair - who are all in Zone 6 - will cost \$8.20 for single fare, \$4.20 for half-fare, \$75.35 for 10-trip and \$269 for 40-trip tickets.

Nutley, in Zone 5, will cost \$7.10, \$3.55, \$63.25 and \$231. Local intrastate single rides are estimated to cost an estimated \$1.35.

Upper Montclair, Zone 7, is to now cost \$8.50, \$4.25, \$76.45 and \$282.

Zone 8 - Montclair, East Orange, Orange and West Orange east of Prospect Avenue - is to cost \$8.75, \$4.35, \$77.55 and \$286.

Zone 9 - West Orange west of Prospect Avenue - is to cost \$9.05, \$4.50, \$79.75 and \$291.

Montclair-based DeCamp has not said why it has boosted its fares. Unused or current tickets are to be honored until their printed last day. There will be no commuter bus service on July 4.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The Borough Municipal Building is open to receiving "fire suppression" and George Washington Field use requests from its Bloomfield and Montclair municipal government neighbors now through Aug. 18. Both current contracts expire Dec. 31; the RFP was posted on June 8.

Glen Ridge's administrators and elders are asking the Montclair and Bloomfield fire departments how they will serve the borough - including scope and pricing - 2023-32. The proposed contract includes an extension option for 2033-37.

Montclair has consistently provided firefighting and prevention services under 10-year contracts since the GRFD was dissolved in 1992.

The proposed GWF contract is also for 10 years with a five-year extension option. Bloomfield and Montclair recreation are being asked what services they would provide for the field and its recreational facilities.

George Washington Field, 268 Baldwin St., has also been co-managed by the

Glen Ridge and Montclair recreation departments. The unlighted turf field abuts the Montclair border since its 2015 grand opening.

**MONTCLAIR** - The mother of a Buzz Aldrin Middle School student and their lawyer made good their two-year-old tort claim by filing a 50-count complaint against the Montclair Public Schools June 17.

Natalie Hackett and attorney Jeffrey R. Youngman, in their June 17 filing in State Superior Court-Newark, charge that MPS and Aldrin Middle School officials had failed to prevent the bullying and racial harassment by several of her daughter's classmates between September 2018 and June 2020.

The plaintiffs further assert that, when their complaints were made to middle school staff members, the staffers accused the daughter of provoking the harassment, requesting that she go to counseling and to move to another district.

Hackett, then an MPS employee, asserted that former schools superintendent Kendra Johnson had blocked her email, "made veiled threats against her employment and frequently called security when she entered the school building."

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, acting on Hackett's 2019 complaint, found that the school frequently failed to address harassment, intimidation, bullying and retaliation, placed MPS on a corrective action plan and to address the agency's findings. Youngman said, however, that the district has so far denied the complaints and tort action.

The suit names as respondents former superintendents Johnson and Nathan Parker, current super Jonathan Ponds, the Montclair Board of Education, Aldrin School former and current principals Jill Sack and Major B. Jennings, several current and former school staff members and students.

MPS and the named respondents have 60 days to file a response. MPS, through superintendent executive assistant Nina DeRosa, said it will not comment on litigation.

**BELLEVILLE** - A township woman involved in the June 7 fatal collision with a 13-year-old dirt biker, said Belleville police, had surrendered herself June 16 - three days after the boy's visitation.

Marilyn J. Quisepe-Falcon, 36, said the ECPO, was released on her own recognizance for a future court date. She has been charged with second-degree leaving the scene of a fatal accident plus third-degree counts of endangering an in-

jured victim and being an unlicensed driver involved in a fatal accident.

Quisepe-Falcon's Ford Explorer was identified as the SUV that had struck Belleville Middle School seventh grade student Victor Huaranga-Alvez and his Yamaha in the intersection of Joralemon Street and Garden Avenue 5:30 p.m. June 7.

Quisepe-Falcon drove away before BPD officers' arrival. Huaranga-Alvez was rushed to a local hospital but died of his injuries 45 minutes later.

Belleville Public Schools held a district-wide dress-down day June 20. Participating adults donated \$5 and students \$3 towards the Huaranga-Alvez family's expenses.

It is to the understanding of "Local Talk" that West Orange's Edison Middle School also held a fundraiser. Sixth Grade social studies teacher Anton Carrera said that Huaranga-Alvez had started this school year there.

Huaranga-Alvez, who was born Sept. 13, 2008 had his visitation at Newark's Alvarez Funeral Home June 14.

**NUTLEY** - Officers reviewing the Nutley Public Library's surveillance recordings for June 20 quickly recognized the 32-year-old man sleeping on a bench near its main entrance at 93 Booth Dr.

The detectives reviewed the tape at the request of NPL employees. They said that they had noticed a man sleeping there earlier that Saturday.

Police had matched the man's looks with the description of one who was found unconscious on the library's 1914 original building's steps June 18. The man, who has been described as homeless, had climbed the locked front gate before passing out.

Responding NPD officers that Thursday had to climb the fence and, with evidence that he had overdosed, administered naloxone Narcan. A Nutley Fire department crew had arrived to cut the gate's padlock and to take him to a local hospital.

NPL's original front entrance had been gated and locked when a new addition and main entrance had opened in 1990.



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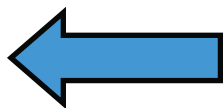
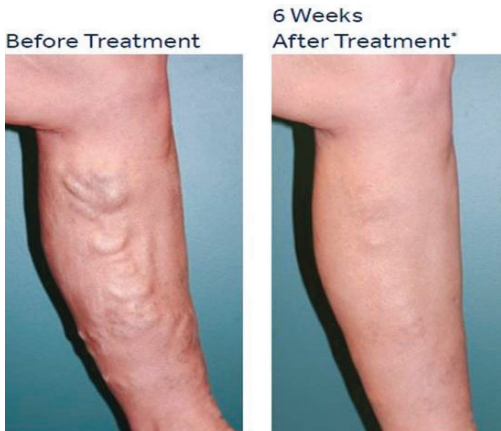
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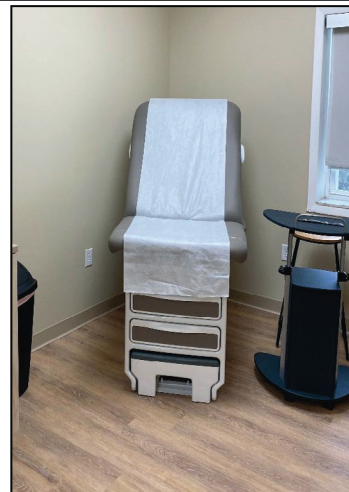
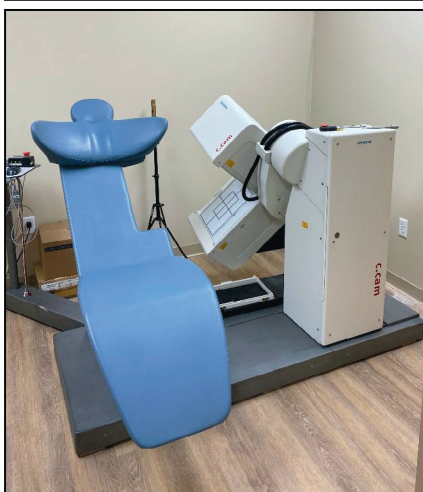
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