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RODWELL SPIVEY COURT MORE DEAD AND INJURED DATE SET FOR JULY 26 IN NEWARK SHOOTINGS



Photo By Lev D. Zilbermints

By Lev D. Zilbermints

NEWARK - A new court date of July 26, at 1:30 p.m. in the Veterans Courthouse, has been set for the four Rodwell-Spivey brothers. Judge Michael L. Ravin set the date in the pre-trial hearing on July 12.

"Local Talk" came upon a group of protesters who were chanting slogans and waving signs in front of the Martin Luther King Jr., Justice complex on July 12, 2022. Video from Instagram and photos taken by "Local Talk" showed multiple signs. These read "Kops Kourts KKKlan Are All A Part of the BOSSSES PLAN, Free Justin! Smash Rac-

ist Terror with Multi Racial Fight Back", Multi Racial Fight Back Only Way to Win," and many others.

After finishing the demonstration, the protesters marched to the Veterans Courthouse in Newark. Filing in an orderly line through metal detectors and security, the protesters took elevators to the 11th floor.

At the Veterans Courthouse, on the 11th floor, the protesters waited for over an hour for the pre-trial hearing to start. The pre-trial hearing was held in the courtroom of Judge Michael L. Ravin.

(Continued on page 13)



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - City and county law enforcers - and the families of 12 gunshot victims - have been dealing with seven reported shooting incidents in New Jersey's largest city in over a 25-hour period here July 16-17.

The shootings, as of July 20, had put nine people in the hospital - and a 10th admitted in critical condition.

Three men's bodies were taken to the Regional Medical Examiner's office here. An Irvington resident and a grocery store owner from Belleville have been identified. Their families are making funeral arrangements.

A third man, found shot dead in a car at a West Ward


intersection, has not been publicly identified as of July 20.

The shootings, on one hand, came between two recorded heatwaves. The National Weather Service defines a heatwave as at least three straight days of 90-degree F. weather. The NWS takes its recordings from Newark Liberty International Airport - known for its acres of paved and impervious surfaces.

The 25-hour crime wave came while Newark's leaders have deployed or are deploying some violence prevention programs.

Interim Public Safety Director and Mayor Ras Baraka, for example, had declared that 410

(Continued on page 11)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

It was a controversial issue when the police arrested bodega clerk Jose Alba. There were protests in support of Alba, who killed ex-con Austin Simon in his own defense. However, it was surprising that he was initially transported to Rikers Island and had a \$250,000 bond for his release. The protests were by mainly Spanish groups as well as others. Everyone made such a huge noise, and after a thorough investigation and video tape, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg dropped the murder charges, not even second degree.

When I saw the video, it was clear that the bodega clerk Mr. Alba was trying to save his own

life. It was clearly self-defense. He did not start the fight and he should not be charged at all. Even the other charges should be dropped. If anything, the most charges should be on the lady who called her boyfriend Mr. Simon over a bag of chips, and ended up getting her boyfriend killed. It's a sad situation. The ego of starting all this over CHIPS will make her life miserable also. I did not hear anyone charge her with any crime, even though she is seen on tape slashing the bodega clerk with a knife.

Fox News: "President Biden will sign an executive order Tuesday that will authorize the U.S. to impose sanctions on foreign nations that wrongfully detain Americans while providing greater transparency to the families of hostages, including intelligence sharing, in an effort to bring Americans home. The State Department will add travel advisory risk indicators for 'wrongful detention' of Americans to China, Iran, Russia, Burma, Korea, Venezuela."

We cannot trust the laws and police of those countries. It is better not to visit any of those countries, even though the travel offers are very cheap; better safe than sorry. If someone has to visit those countries, make sure you read their rules, follow those rules, and do not take a crazy risk for visiting those few days.

This past weekend, nine people got shot in the city of Newark, and out of those two were fatal. Almost every weekend, we are reporting violent news in Newark, but according to the administration the violent crime is going down. Maybe it is, but the perception is going the other way. More and more people are feeling unsafe in the city, as I've heard from some Newark residents. Newark is moving forward, as more affluent people from New York cannot afford the rent over there, so some try to move into Newark, East Orange, Orange, Irvington, Bloomfield, Montclair and nearby areas for easy access to New York City. For New Yorkers, the prices are affordable in these areas, but the

longtime residents are seeing prices skyrocketing from rent, grocery, travelling and more. Of course, there are a lot of people are leaving too, as Newark ranks second only to Jersey City for people leaving the state.

According to Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin, "There will be NO Electronic Voting Machines at your Polling Place on Election Day! You can only vote 3 ways at your polling place on Election Day. 1. Vote on a provisional paper ballot. 2. Vote utilizing the audio component to listen to the ballot and make selections on a hand-held device (only if you are disabled). 3. Bring your Vote by Mail Ballot to your polling place and drop your voted ballot in a Secure Drop Box inside your polling place.

For more information go to <https://www.essexclerk.com>.

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> |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PM Thunderstorms | Mostly Sunny | Mostly Sunny | Partly Cloudy / HOT | Scattered T-storms | Partly Cloudy | PM Rain likely |
| HI 97  | HI 98  | HI 97  | HI 100  | HI 94  | HI 90  | HI 93  |
| LO 76  | LO 77  | LO 79  | LO 80  | LO 74  | LO 73  | LO 73  |

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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Omicron-Specific COVID Boosters Are Coming This Fall

We haven't quite defeated the coronavirus yet despite the reduced media attention. Of course, I know hospitalizations and deaths have significantly reduced, but the fact that there are still cases of viruses beating our vaccines means we're still a way from victory.

Interestingly, experts suggest that we may never be able to eradicate the coronavirus fully, and it would become endemic. This means we may never truly win against the virus, doesn't it? Well, any move that reduces the chances of the coronavirus evolving into a dangerous variant is a win for me. And one such move is the emergence of omicron-specific vaccine boosters.

You know of Omicron, I'm sure. It's the last variant that made a mockery of our original vaccines. This variant caused another spike in the cases graph, and more cases mean a higher chance of even more variants evolving.

Before Omicron, Delta was the first major variant that could evade our vaccines. It did so quite well, too. To combat this, we resorted to booster doses. As the name strongly suggests, these booster doses reinvigorated the immunity the vaccine provided. This way, we could curb the spread and severity of the variant.

A few months later, omicron introduced itself and also proved to be vaccine-evading. The BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants currently account for about 70



percent of new COVID cases in the United States. Now, the plan is to roll out Omicron-specific boosters. These booster doses would go alongside current vaccines that can already prevent serious illnesses and deaths.

Many people, including doctors, had reservations when the FDA broke the news. The argument was that if the current primary vaccine already protects against serious illness, why make an Omicron-specific booster? Here's why.

The longer a variant is exposed to a vaccine, the higher its chances of evolving to a strain resistant to that vaccine. The same applies to the omicron variant too. We saw it with the original strain of the virus. We saw it with the Delta variant. We cannot afford to take chances with the Omicron variant.

If the Omicron variant evolves, it would almost certainly be into a strain resistant to even our third shots. Then it could also have the much-dreaded perk of easy and rapid transmissibility. We don't want that.

One bone of contention, though, is whether the Omicron variants circulation now will be the predominant ones come fall, when the boosters are expected to roll out. However, the FDA states that the Omicron-specific boosters would retain the ability of the current vaccines to prevent serious illnesses.

Right now, Pfizer and Moderna are the two companies expected to drop the boosters by fall. According to Pfizer, their booster would be for people who have been fully vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine. Note that only people who have been fully vaccinated are eligible for the new vaccines.

Studies on the safety and efficacy of the boosters have shown promising results. There haven't been widespread tests and studies, which is unsurprising at this stage. We are limited to what Moderna and Pfizer are

releasing. According to their tests, the Omicron-specific variants can induce levels of neutralizing antibodies up to two times higher than those generated by the companies' existing vaccines. Note that this is for BA.1 variants.

While that sounds good on paper, it doesn't tell the full story. We don't know the exact level of neutralizing antibodies that correlate with disease protection. So, for all we know, increasing antibodies two-fold may not significantly improve protection. Tests are underway for how the booster would react to BA.4 and BA.5, the major problems.

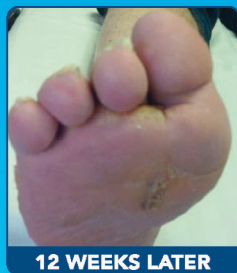
In case you are wondering the age groups the boosters would be available for, we don't know yet. The CDC will give more detailed reports about the new vaccine boosters in due time. For now, though, get fully vaccinated. Stay safe.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.

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MORE PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR MONKEYPOX VACCINE

TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith Persichilli announced on July 19 expanded eligibility for the monkeypox vaccine and the State's distribution plan for the 2,700 available doses.

The vaccine was previously available to residents with known exposure to a monkeypox case. Going forward, the JYNNEOS vaccine will also be available to New Jerseyans who are at high risk of having been exposed to the virus in the past 14 days. There are currently 45 probable and confirmed cases of the virus in New Jersey.

"As cases of monkeypox continue to rise and our state receives additional doses from the federal government, we are taking these critical steps to increase availability of the vaccine to protect the health of residents," said Governor Murphy. "As my administration works to raise awareness about monkeypox, we encourage our health care and community partners to help spread the word about symptoms, risks, and availability of both testing and vaccines. We will continue to prioritize the health of our communities and take steps to assist and reach residents at highest risk for this virus."

"New Jersey has been given a very limited number of doses at this time, and the Department continues to press the CDC on timely delivery of additional necessary doses to meet the needs of our at-risk populations," said Health Commissioner Persichilli. "At the same time, residents should be aware of the signs and symptoms of the orthopoxvirus and take precautions to prevent the spread."

For residents with known exposure to a person with monkeypox, the two-dose regimen for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) continues to be available through their local health department. Anyone with a known exposure within the past 14 days should contact their health care provider or local health department regarding testing and vaccine eligibility. Local health de-

partments will continue to conduct contact tracing and offer the vaccine to anyone identified as a close contact.

For residents without a confirmed exposure who believe they may have been exposed or are at high risk for having been exposed to monkeypox in the past 14 days, the vaccine is now available through three community partners via appointments only.

New Jersey is expecting additional doses from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and as the State gets additional supply, the Department will continue to expand access to the vaccine.

In addition to individuals who have had known exposure to someone with monkeypox, and in accordance with CDC guidelines, the vaccine is now available to:

- Individuals that attended an event where known monkeypox exposure occurred
- Individuals that identify as gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men (MSM), and/or transgender, gender non-conforming, or non-binary and who have a history of multiple or anonymous sex partners within the past 14 days

Persons that have a condition that may increase their risk for severe disease if infected with monkeypox virus, such as a condition that weakens the immune system, or a history of atopic dermatitis or eczema, should be a high priority for vaccination if they have exposure risk as listed above.

For these residents, information on vaccine appointments through the expanded PEP program is available through the three community partners:

- Hyacinth AIDS Foundation/Project Living Out Loud!, Jersey City: 201-706-3480
- The Prevention Resource Network, a program of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, Asbury Park: 732-502-5100

(Continued on page 14)



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DOZENS CHARGED IN \$1.2 BILLION HEALTH FRAUD

UNITED STATES

The Department of Justice announced on July 20 criminal charges against 36 defendants in 13 federal districts across the United States for more than \$1.2 billion in alleged fraudulent telemedicine, cardiovascular and cancer genetic testing, and durable medical equipment (DME) schemes.

The nationwide coordinated law enforcement action includes criminal charges against a telemedicine company executive, owners and executives of clinical laboratories, durable medical equipment companies, marketing organizations, and medical professionals.

Additionally, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Center for Program Integrity (CPI) announced today that it took adverse administrative actions against 52 providers involved in similar schemes. In connection with the enforcement action, the department seized over \$8 million in cash, luxury vehicles, and other fraud proceeds.

The coordinated federal investigations announced primarily targeted alleged schemes involving the payment of illegal kickbacks and bribes by laboratory owners and operators in exchange for the referral of patients by medical professionals working with fraudulent telemedicine and digital medical technology companies. Telemedicine schemes account for more than \$1 billion of the total alleged intended losses associated with the enforcement action.

These charges include some of the first prosecutions in the nation related to fraudulent cardiovascular genetic testing, a burgeoning scheme. As alleged in court documents, medical professionals made referrals for expensive and medically unneces-

sary cardiovascular and cancer genetic tests, as well as durable medical equipment. For example, cardiovascular genetic testing was not a method of diagnosing whether an individual presently had a cardiac condition and was not approved by Medicare for use as a general screening test for indicating an increased risk of developing cardiovascular conditions in the future.

One particular case charged involved the operator of several clinical laboratories, who was charged in connection with a scheme to pay over \$16 million in kickbacks to marketers who, in turn, paid kickbacks to telemedicine companies and call centers in exchange for doctors' orders. As alleged in court documents, orders for cardiovascular and cancer genetic testing were used by the defendant and others to submit over \$174 million in false and fraudulent claims to Medicare - but the results of the testing were not used in treatment of patients. The defendant allegedly laundered the proceeds of the fraudulent scheme through a complex network of bank accounts and entities, including to purchase luxury vehicles, a yacht, and real estate. The indictment seeks forfeiture of over \$7 million in United States currency, three properties, the yacht, and a Tesla and other vehicles.

Some of the defendants charged in this enforcement action allegedly controlled a telemarketing network, based both domestically and overseas, that lured thousands of elderly and/or disabled patients into a criminal scheme. The owners of marketing organizations allegedly had telemarketers use deceptive techniques to induce Medicare beneficiaries to agree to cardiovascular genetic testing, and other genetic testing and equipment.

The charges announced allege that the telemedicine companies arranged for medical professionals to order these expensive genetic tests and durable medical equipment regardless of whether the patients needed them, and that they were ordered without any patient interaction or with only a brief telephonic conversation. Often, these test results or durable medical equipment were not provided to the

patients or were worthless to their primary care doctors.

A complaint, information or indictment is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Any patients who believe that they have been contacted as part of a fraudulent telemedicine, clinical laboratory, or DME scheme should call to report this conduct to HHS-OIG at 1-800-HHS-TIPS.

UK SWEATING OUT HEATWAVE

EUROPE

If you thought the swath of heat cooking the greater NJ / NY area was hot, trying taking a trip across the pond.

The chances of seeing unprecedented temperatures of 40 degree Celsius (40°C) or more in the UK could be up to 10 times more likely in the current climate than under a "natural climate unaffected by human influence," the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) declared.

In a statement, the WMO noted that the UK's Met Office has, for the first time, issued a "Red Warning" for exceptional heat, and forecast temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) on July 18-19.

The current record high temperature in the UK is 38.7 degrees Celsius (101.66 Fahrenheit), which was reached just three years ago.

"Nights are also likely to be exceptionally warm, especially in urban areas", said Met Office Chief Meteorologist Paul Gundersen. "This is likely to lead to widespread impacts on people and infrastructure. Therefore, it is important people plan for the heat and consider changing their routines. This level of heat can have adverse health effects."

The heatwave is also acting as a lid, trapping atmospheric pollutants, including particulate matter, resulting in a degradation of air quality and adverse health effects, particularly to vulnerable people, explained Lorenzo Labrador, Scientific Officer at WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch Program.

"Likewise, the abundant sunshine, high concentrations of certain atmospheric pollutants and stable atmosphere is conducive to episodes of ozone formation near the surface, which has detrimental effects on people and plants," he continued.

Dr. Nikos Christidis, climate attribution scientist at the Met Office, added that a recent study has found that the likelihood of extremely hot days in the UK has been increasing and will continue to do so during the course of the century.

"Climate change has already influenced the likelihood of temperature extremes in the UK", said Dr. Christidis. "The likelihood of exceeding 40 degrees Celsius anywhere in the UK in a given year has also been rapidly increasing, and, even with current pledges on emissions reductions, such extremes could be taking place every 15 years in the climate of 2100."

Extreme heat events do occur within natural climate variation due to changes in global weather patterns. However, the WMO points out that the increase in the frequency, duration, and intensity of these events over recent decades is clearly linked to the observed warming of the planet and can be attributed to human activity.

News of the exceptional highs expected in the northern European country broke amid huge wildfires across the southwest of the continent, which have caused hundreds of deaths, and seen thousands of people evacuated from their homes.

In Portugal, temperatures have reached highs up to around 46°C (114.8 Fahrenheit), and red warnings are in effect for much of the country, as hot conditions increase the risk of wildfires.

More than 13,000 hectares of land were on fire in the French Gironde region, and 15 of France's 96 departments were listed on Red alert and 51 on Orange alert, with residents of those areas urged to be vigilant. Fires have also broken out in London.

NELSON MANDELA REMEMBERED

(Continued on page 12)

SPORTS WRAP



Photo Courtesy Sharief Williams



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past week the Monte Irvin Minors youth baseball team out of Orange captured the Newark League Championship after beating the Newark Ivy Hill team in a Best of 3 game series. Both teams were evenly matched, with the Minors taking the title game by the final score of 5-4.

Parents and others gave great support to the players, and coaches Sharief Williams and Weldon Montague led beautifully. Leading the Minors in the title game it was Mitchell Johnson and Eli Chavis who combined to lead their team to victory. A key moment in the game was Chavis getting a big hit to win the game. Previously, the Minors beat Elizbeth in the semifinal round 4-2.

As for the more seasoned players, the American League defeated the National League 3-2 in the annual MLB All-Star Game. This marked the ninth straight time the AL won the Midsummer Classic.

The NL took a 2-0 lead early, thanks to an RBI from Mookie Betts to drive in Ronald Acuna, Jr. and a Paul Goldschmidt solo homer. Then, Yankees slugger belted a 457 ft. two-run blast to tie the game at 2, before Twins star Byron Buxton - who was an injury replacement for NJ native Mike Trout - went back to back with a home run of his own. Both long balls were hit off of Dodgers pitcher Tony Gonsolin.

For his efforts, LA native Stanton took home MVP honors at Dodgers Stadium, while Astros pitcher Framber Valdez was credited with the win. Cleveland reliever Emmanuel Chase got the save, while Gonsolin was on the hook for the loss.

On the previous night, Mets big man Pete Alonso was unable to win an unprecedented third straight Home Run Derby. Although Mariners outfielder Julio Rodriguez put on a show, he would eventually lose to Nationals star Juan Soto in the finals. This marked the first time Soto has won the competition.

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| Municipality | 7-13-2022 | Deaths | 7-20-2022 | Deaths |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Belleville | 11,802 | 150 | 11,944 | 150 |
| Bloomfield | 13,194 | 161 | 13,358 | 161 |
| Caldwell | 1,821 | 17 | 1,853 | 17 |
| Cedar Grove | 4,272 | 136 | 4,304 | 136 |
| City of Orange | 8,799 | 173 | 8,867 | 173 |
| East Orange | 18,314 | 380 | 18,462 | 380 |
| Essex Fells | 556 | 2 | 563 | 2 |
| Fairfield | 2,204 | 37 | 2,235 | 37 |
| Glen Ridge | 1,394 | 18 | 1,411 | 18 |
| Irvington | 12,504 | 280 | 12,619 | 280 |
| Livingston | 7,300 | 105 | 7,368 | 107 |
| Maplewood | 5,827 | 48 | 5,904 | 48 |
| Millburn | 4,114 | 18 | 4,172 | 18 |
| Montclair | 7,715 | 86 | 7,802 | 86 |
| Newark | 84,157 | 1,252 | 84,825 | 1,253 |
| North Caldwell | 1,593 | 10 | 1,616 | 10 |
| Nutley | 7,190 | 84 | 7,273 | 84 |
| Roseland | 1,551 | 23 | 1,573 | 23 |
| South Orange | 3,880 | 22 | 3,941 | 22 |
| Verona | 3,694 | 23 | 3,727 | 23 |
| West Caldwell | 3,032 | 63 | 3,096 | 63 |
| West Orange | 14,532 | 265 | 14,665 | 266 |
| Total | 219,445 | 3,353 | 221,578 | 3,357 |

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of July 20, 2022)

NJ: 2,181,291 cases / 31,096 deaths (Plus 3,093 probable)
United States (approx.): 89.054 Million / 1.025 Million deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 565.79 Million / 6.379 Million deaths

LOCAL TALK

WEEKLY PRINTING

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HEALTH

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TOWN WATCH

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

NEWARK - A decades-long effort to make NJTransit's Newark Light Rail line fully ADA accessible may have taken a \$519,750 step forward, thanks to Uncle Sam, here July 12.

The USDOT Federal Transit Administration had awarded a \$519,750 grant to NJTransit to conduct a modernization study of four of its NLR stations: Military Park (formerly Broad Street), Warren Street, Norfolk Street and Park Avenue.

These four underground or open depressed stations were first built when then-Public Service Coordinated Transport converted the Morris Canal bed into the No. 7 Newark City Subway as a federal Works Project Administration effort in 1935.

NJTransit, in four separate cycles, had been making the City Subway/Light Rail U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act compliant since the late 1990s.

Existing or added grade-level stations were modernized or opened during the line's extension into Bloomfield Grove Street in 2002 and the Broad Street Extension downtown addition in 2006. Elevators were added to the Bloomfield Avenue and Washington Avenue stations, at \$1 million each, around 2015. (Elevators came with Newark Penn Station in 1935.)

At-Large Councilman Luis Quintana, in 2015, has said that he has wanted the NLR to be fully handicapped accessible. "Local Talk," back then, recalls helping a rider on crutches down three flights of Military Park Station stairs so he could go home at the Stephen Crane Elderly Apartments just off Branch Brook Park Station.

The study, however, does not come with a projected elevator construction timetable or commitment.

IRVINGTON - Neither Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II nor Irvington Public Safety Director have identified the 19-year-old woman, whose body was found in a home near Irvington Park 3 p.m. July 17.

Irvington Police, responding to a man's phone call, went to the house along the 1100 block of May Street. They found the woman's body, which included a gunshot wound, inside.

Investigators have reportedly interviewed the caller but have not said whether he is a person of interest, let alone a suspect.

Burgess, Hudley **New Council Leaders**

The Irvington Township Council have re-elected colleagues Renee Burgess and Dr. October Hudley as their respective Council President and Vice President for 2022-23.

Burgess and Hudley - who were respective council leaders a couple of years ago - were re-selected after they took their respective oaths of office in a re-inauguration ceremony and reorganization meeting here at the Ascend Center July 1.

Hudley, Burgess and Charnette Frederic - all returning at-large councilwomen - plus the returning Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss were sworn back into office for full four-year terms. A majority of participating voters returned all four Team Irvington Strong candidates in the May 10 nonpartisan municipal election.

EAST ORANGE - The ECPO Homicide Task Force and this city's police detectives have been investigating the July 15 fatal shooting of a man here in the Elmwood Park section.

EOPD Chief Phyllis Bindi and County Prosecutor Stephens said that city officers had responded to the city park on a shots fired call at 9 p.m. Friday.

Officers found a man with gunshot wounds lying on Oak Street before that park's en-

trance. The man - identified as Antwan McAdoo, 42, of Burlington, N.C.- was rushed by local EMS to Newark's University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 3:45 a.m. July 16.

Park neighbors said that an East Orange Fire Department crew arrived later to wash away pools of blood on the street and sidewalk and park walkway. It is believed that the shot McAdoo had staggered onto the street.

"Biter" Arrested **on Teen Streets**

A West Orange man has been held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Center since July 6 on charges by East Orange police - including biting one of their own officers.

Chief Bindi said that several of her officers and detectives pursued and apprehended a man who was carrying a handgun at William and North 18th streets 8:30 p.m. that Wednesday. A struggle ensued, where one detective was bitten on one of his forearms and a broken finger. A second detective suffered a separated shoulder.

Jamari J. Hall is being held on three counts of aggravated assault of a police officer plus illegal possession of a firearm, possession of hollow point bullets and possession thereof while as a convicted felon. The detectives were treated at and released from a local hospital overnight.

ORANGE - A familiar and a fresh face will respectively preside over the Orange City Council July 1 through June 30, 2023.

The newly reconstituted council, at its inauguration and reorganization meeting here July 1, selected North Ward Councilwoman Tency Eason and At-Large Councilman Clifford Ross as their Council President and Vice President.

Eason, just minutes before, had been sworn into new four-year terms with colleagues Kerry Coley (East Ward), Jamie Summers-Johnson (South Ward) and Quantavia Hilbert (West Ward.)

The East Orange School District employee, who was first elected in 2002, is taking her fourth turn as president. She was

on her third turn as Vice President for 2021-22.

Ross, who was elected to his first term in 2020, is Chairman of the Orange Democratic Committee and had been a longtime Orange Housing Authority Commissioner. All of Orange's mayoral and council candidates, including Eason and Ross, are voted in as nonpartisan candidates in May.

"Cliff and I are working together," said Eason to "Local Talk" in Orange City Hall July 19, "Just as we had for a long time."

WEST ORANGE - There are four township residents as of press time who are circulating ballot signature petitions and established websites to succeed the now-outgoing Mayor Robert D. Parisi on Nov. 8.

Parisi, on July 6, announced that he will not be pursuing a fourth mayoral term. A majority of registered township voters first elected the former councilman as mayor in 2010, succeeding now-Assemblyman John McKeon. The lifelong resident was re-elected in 2014 and 2018.

Two of the four candidates - Rev. H. William "Bill" Rutherford and Joseph "Joe" Krakoviak - had announced their candidacies long before Parisi's decision.

Rutherford, who is pastor of Orange's Ebenezer Baptist Church, was elected councilman in 2020. Krakoviak was a 10-year councilman who followed his own self-imposed term limit in 2020.

Current council women Susan McCartney and Cindy Matute-Brown are also circulating petitions. Both have previously run with Parisi.

McCartney has been a council member since 2002 and is this year's president. Matute-Brown was elected in 2019.

All signed petitions are to be returned to the municipal clerk's office on or before Sept. 8. The Nov. 8 General Election triples as the township's nonpartisan municipal and annual board of education election day.

SOUTH ORANGE - Village residents are being assured that their health concerns are being
(Continued on page 15)

NEWARK SHOOTINGS

(Continued from page 1)

firearms have been confiscated since Jan. 1.

The 410 guns taken off the street, as of July 17, is a 46 percent increase from 2021. The count includes printed out and un-serial numbered "ghost guns" for a 143 percent collection increase over last year.

The Mayor's Non-Violence Street Teams have been seen among the wards.

Herewith is a chronology of reported shootings between 6 p.m. Saturday July 16 and 7:11 p.m. Sunday July 17. All incidents are being actively investigated by the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide and Major Crimes Task Force.

* 6:07 p.m. Saturday, July 16, 759 So. 20th St: A man was found lying facedown on sidewalk with gunshot wound by a two-story house on the mostly residential block in the city's West Side section.

Rasheed Mells, 24, of Irvington, whose identity was announced by the Essex County Prosecutor's Office July 18, was declared dead at the scene at 6:15 p.m.

Responding NOD officers called in the ECPO Homicide Task Force for a field investigation plus additional units from other city police precincts for crowd control.

"Local Talk" noticed a continued police presence on the block between Springfield and 18th avenues at 9:30 a.m. July 18. Two NPD squad cars joined an ever-present remote surveillance camera station within.

Mells' last rites have not been publicly announced as of July 20.

* 10:44 p.m. July 16 "245" So. 16th St. Two unidentified people were found with non-life-threatening gunshot wounds in the West Side section. The suspected shooter had fled the scene. Actual shooting address has yet to be confirmed; "245" is within Fairmount Cemetery.

* 4:30 a.m. Sunday, July 17, 50 block 11th Avenue: Two men found shot, including one wound in a forearm, in the West Ward's Fairmount Heights neighborhood. Both were taken to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

(Note: Atlantic Health Overlook Hospital-Union Campus had meanwhile reportedly called NPD of a man who was admitted with a gunshot wound. The man said he was shot in a Bloomfield Avenue bar here at 3 a.m.)

* 3:30 p.m. Central Avenue and South 10th Street: Police, local EMS, ECPO Homicide Task Force arrive to

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find a man shot multiple times, including a shot to the head, within a parked car. The unidentified man was declared dead at the scene

The intersection was taped off during the field investigation. Buses on NJTransit's No. 5 and 34 routes plus CoachUSA's 24 and 22 buses were among the detoured traffic.

* 3:55 p.m., 384 13th Ave./294 So. 10th St.: NPD, responding to a gunfire report at 3:55 p.m. finds a man shot in the head within the rear kitchen part of the Fairmount Heights' R&A Supermarket. The man, identified as store owner Rabel Ramos-Gomez, 46, of Belleville, was declared dead at the scene at 4:15 p.m.

Police promptly taped off the intersection of 13th Avenue and South 10 Street. Buses on NJTransit Route 5 among those rerouted.

Witnesses outside the southeast corner store told police that an occupant in a passing car sprayed a hail of bullets. Ramos-Gomez's relatives later pointed bullet marks, made by an AK

-47 automatic machine gun, within the grocery's walls.

Witnesses within the store, thinking they were about to be robbed, ducked the flying bullets - except Ramos-Gomez, who was cooking food for customers.

There has been no funeral announcement for Ramos-Gomez as of July 20. He leaves behind a wife and at least two children.

A growing makeshift memorial has been growing at the corner.

(Note: there has been no connection made between Ramos-Gomez's fatal shooting and of the murdered car occupant some 25 minutes and two blocks apart.)

* 5:30 p.m., 424 Avon Ave/77 So. 15th St.: Police, responding to a ShotSpotter gunfire recording, arrived at Chea's Food Market in the Springfield-Belmont section. They met a man who had walked into the northeast corner store

(Continued on page 13)



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Breaking The Curse Of Adultery And The Family

I have spoken to many women who have said what a young lady said to me recently. In expressing her pain about her husband's infidelity, their shattered marriage, their divorce, and challenges with their children, who are caught up in the struggle of the separation, she walked away from her church. She states that she left her church because she had come to accept that the Ten Commandments were for the Jews and were nailed to the cross.

Although I knew her focus and that of others who have spoken to me was directed at the Sabbath Commandment, I asked the young lady, "which commandment?" She went silent. For a little while, I stood quiet, then I said to her, "You know, if your husband were following the commandments, he would not have been practicing infidelity and would not have taken off with another woman."

After stating what I did, and she said, "That is true," we talked about God's love and grace and what resources for grief counseling I could provide for her and others in similar situations. The point, I said, is that a divorce is worse than death, for

when the one separated is dead, that person is gone forever. But a divorce leaves the dark shadows that seem to be around forever. The shadows continue to find a way to fight you. Unfortunately, most of them never seem to go away. As we separated, I assured her that I would seek support for her.

Now, as I reflect on her words that too many people are duped into believing that the commandments of God are "old hat," things to be thrown away, I am giving serious attention to them. I know this reference is especially about the Seventh Commandment, which says, "You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14 NKJV)

The same is said about the Fourth Commandment, which says, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it, you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." (Exodus 20:8-11 NKJV)

These two commandments were given to preserve the two institutions - the family and the Sabbath rest - established in the Garden of Eden. If observed as they are to be, both would become the greatest preservers of society and the wholeness of our

individual lives and relationship with God.

Destroy the family and marriage, and you destroy society. Destroy the Sabbath, and you destroy the true worship of God. I have stated in past reflections that we are bringing great curses on ourselves by abandoning these Laws of God.

Let me return to the Seventh Commandment, which caught my attention first as I spoke with the young lady. What it brings to mind is that while a lot of effort is being made by the social systems to preserve family, I assert that such systems will not work until there is a return to following the simple commandment that God has given to us.

Therefore, I am asking you to think about the following redundant questions:

- What would happen if the seventh commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," were followed?
- What would be the difference if people did not establish their own rules for intimacy?
- What would happen if society did not promote sexual promiscuity as a norm?
- What would happen if there was no infidelity?
- What if there were no multiple partnerships?
- What would happen if efforts were not being made to change the definition of marriage, to suit any form of relationship concocted?
- What if there were no cohabiting ("shaking up," as the temporary relationships are otherwise called)?

- What if there was no male marrying male and female to female?
- What if we did not say that marriage is based on "pure love" instead of the divine order?
- What if we removed the curse that we have brought upon the family?

I think you know the answers, so I will leave you to meditate. But let me point out that Jesus was thinking about the answer to these questions when He stated that in the last days, we need be careful that what happened in the flood will happen to us if we cast aside the divine order. "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." (Matthew 24: 38-39 NKJV)

What was it that led to the flood? What caused the Israelites to be taken into exile again and again? What was it that caused the fall of many great empires?

You might be surprised if you do not take the word of the Lord with seriousness. My simple answer is the abandonment of God's laws, especially in my present referencing, the abandonment of the Seventh Commandment. I am arguing that we can break the curse upon the family and if we seek to restore the family according to the divine order of the Seventh Commandment.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

WORLD

UN Member States gathered in the General Assembly Hall on July 18 to observe Nelson Mandela International Day, a celebration for everyone to take action and inspire change in their communities.

The first democratically-elected President of South Africa, and the country's first Black leader, died in December 2013 at age 95. The annual commemoration on July 18, his birthday, recognizes his contribution to the

culture of peace and freedom.

Mr. Mandela - affectionately known as "Madiba", his Xhosa clan name - fought against the racist apartheid system in his homeland, and for equality and freedom for all people.

Abdulla Shahid, President of the UN General Assembly, recalled that he also advocated for democracy, gender equality, the rights of children and young people, and for protecting the environment.

"Madiba's fight against apartheid, was in fact a fight for a better world, in which the freedom, justice and dignity of all were respected. He called for

peace, social justice, equality and human understanding throughout his life," he said.

At the ceremony, a Greek philanthropist who fights to end childhood cancer, and a Guinean senior official working to stamp out violence against women and girls in Africa, were honored for their service to humanity.

Marianna Vardinoyannis and Dr. Morissanda Kouyaté are the recipients of the 2020 United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize.

The Prize is awarded every five years to one man and one woman, but presentation was delayed due to the COVID-19

pandemic.

Ms. Vardinoyannis is founder and president of an eponymous foundation dedicated to children, and the ELPIDA Friends' Association of Children with cancer. She has been a Goodwill Ambassador of the UN education and cultural organization, UNESCO, since 1999.

Dr. Kouyaté, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea, is Executive Director of the Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices (IAC). He is a leading figure in efforts on ending violence against women, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

NEWARK (July 19, 2022) - Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, has named Smruti R. Mohanty, MD, MS, FACP the new Division Director of Gastroenterology.

Dr. Mohanty brings to the position over 20 years of expertise and practice in gastroenterology and hepatology, including specialization in liver disease and liver transplant. In his new role, he will lead the division of Gastroenterology at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center where he will oversee the clinical care, evaluation, and management of adults with gastrointestinal and liver diseases.

"Dr. Mohanty is an exceptional leader in gastroenterology and liver diseases, and we are proud to welcome him to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center," said Darrell K. Ter-

ry, Sr., MHA, MPH, FACHE, FHELA, President and Chief Executive Officer, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey. "His extensive experience and clinical expertise in gastrointestinal and liver diseases as well as his research in racial disparities in liver disease make him uniquely qualified for this role. Under his guidance and vision, we look forward to enhancing our gastroenterology program to continue to best serve our community."

Prior to joining Newark Beth Israel, Dr. Mohanty served as the Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatobiliary Disease and Director, Center for Liver Disease at New York Presbyterian-Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in New York where he worked with the team to establish in-patient hepatology

consult services and a hepatology out-patient ambulatory clinic. He also served as Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition at the University of Chicago where he played a pivotal role in the hospital's nationally ranked liver disease and liver transplant program.

Dr. Mohanty earned his medical degree from Utkal University in India and served his internal medicine residency at Texas A&M Health Science Center, Baylor Scott & White. He completed his fellowship training in gastroenterology at the University of California San Diego Health and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He has also completed his master's degree in Community Health from Minnesota State University.

RODWELL SPIVEY

(Continued from page 1)

Police told everyone to shut off their cell phones and put them away. If anyone was seen with a cell phone, it would be confiscated. Press representatives were allowed to have pen and paper inside the courtroom. Protesters then put away their cell phones. Shortly afterwards, everyone was ushered into the courtroom of Honorable Judge Michael L. Ravin.

There were at least 50 people in attendance. The courtroom benches were packed with the supporters of Rodwell - Spivey brothers and their family. One of the brothers, Justin Rodwell Spivey, wore a dark green prison uniform with a chain around his waist. The other three brothers were all dressed for the summer weather, in T-shirts and jeans. All four were represented by four different lawyers.

According to the Rodwell Spivey Support Team, Justin Rodwell has been imprisoned in the Essex County Correctional Facility, one of the worst prisons



Photo By Lev D. Zilbermints

in the United States during a pandemic since June 1, 2021.

"Local Talk" was able to find out that the judge, Honorable Michael L. Ravin, gave the lawyers until July 26 to prepare for the trial.

Historical Background

According to a fact sheet distributed by the Rodwell Spivey Support Team, the whole story has its origins a year earlier On June 1, 2021, Newark undercov-

er plainclothes police attacked four young Black men - the Rodwell Spivey brothers - in front of their home in the South Ward of Newark, N.J. According to the police complaint, the cops stopped the Rodwell Spivey brothers because they were "wearing white t-shirts and dreads." A Rodwell Spivey Support Team flyer goes on to state that this was "clearly racially profiling and targeting them (the brothers) because they were Black."

According to the fact sheet, 'without announcing themselves as police, the cops immediately began harassing and roughing up two of the brothers. The other brothers, seeing their family being attacked by armed white men, rushed to their defense. The cops violently attacked the brothers, putting them in chokeholds and arrested two of the brothers and then filed serious aggravated assault charges against all four brothers.'

Per the fact sheet, the Rodwell Spivey brothers are now facing charges of up to 30 years in prison for simply defending themselves against a racist police attack. There have been multiple pretrial court hearings and thus far the brothers have rejected any plea deals, maintaining their innocence.

According to Monique Rodwell, the mother of the Rodwell Spivey brothers, Newark police has continued to harass her family and her block by blockading the entire block with multiple police in the summer. Late at night, there are repeated ongoing drive-bys by unmarked police cars, stated Rodwell.

NEWARK SHOOTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

with a bullet wound to one of his legs The victim taken to University Hospital for treatment of the non-life-threatening injury.

* 7:11 p.m. 751 Broadway: NPD and local EMS respond to the Newark Community Pharmacy & Surgical store on a quadru-

ple shooting report. Although the given address led to the closed drug store, the first responders found four teenagers with gunshot wounds at the nearby Grafton Avenue intersection.

Two 14-year-olds were taken to local hospitals for treatment of graze wounds. A 17-year-old, however, was admitted to one in stable condition. A 15-year-old was admitted to University Hos-

pital in critical condition.

The intersection where the Woodside and Broadway neighborhoods meet was closed during the field investigation. Drivers who were headed to Route 21's Grafton entrance ramp and NJT No. 13 bus riders were detoured.

Witnesses said that someone in a grey Honda Civic fired shots at the crowd before fleeing north

on Broadway. The car was found abandoned in Belleville by that township's police.

(There is no known connection to this shooting and the one on June 27 that left Brandon T. Tisdol, 30, of Newark, dead in 805 Broadway's apartment building lobby. 805 Broadway, at the T-intersection with Montclair Street, is a block or two north of the Grafton intersection.)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

ACCESS GRANTED

THE DANDELION EFFECT

The dandelion pappus acts like a parachute, helping seeds and fruit disperse via the wind and they sure can fly - sometimes traveling upwards of 100 km before touching down; as so our hopes & wishes...

When running that quick errand that early Friday morn I spotted it alongside a gate on my right just before making the turn. As I waited anxiously for my passenger at the time to retrieve it, I stared in amazement at its size. I hadn't ever seen a dandelion with tufts of that size in real-time.

I was also quite surprised that it had survived the influx of foot traffic as basking in its own glory in plain sight. Truthfully most aren't fascinated by weeds like I am I suppose. Dandelions have always been one of my

most favored plant species. Mainly, because of their ability to grow almost anywhere mainly in unexpected places, how vastly they multiply, and the intriguing promptings those seeds extend auditioning to be utilized as shepherds for carrying my wishes. What plant can compete with that?



Look at the size of that baby!

My first thought was to selfishly tote it home and force a photo shoot in which I'd couple it with everything imaginable until I or it could stand no more. But once again I was subjected to those inner promptings. I was to share it with others by asking them to also share by granting their potential wish to the world. The question was "If you could have one wished granted for our world what would it be?" Their answers were both heart-

wrenching and beautiful at the same time because everyone wished for the same thing in a roundabout way, "World peace!"

Be on the lookout for the video of these awesome contributors posted here via my msdialect Instagram page or my Andrea Dialect Facebook page. I didn't want to include their wishes here because I want it to be about yours. Ask yourself the same question. Although honestly, we also must step out on faith by being that change, if change is also what you're in hopes of.



Contributors: Community Access
Photo Credit: Andrea Dialect

When concluding my research on that day. I was amazed that my dandelion had survived the ride home and the hand-to-hand exchange. But once again I couldn't have it. It was to be shared with the world. The mo-

ment I started positioning myself to leave for home while in awe gazing at it I watched one of the seeds just float away. Attempting to protect it by cupping it in hand at the time had come to mind, but I never got the chance.



With everything that I am and with everything that I have I promise that I hadn't made any abrupt movements or slights. No winds were blowing at the time when every single last one of those seeds was disbursed. At that moment I am certain that I had witnessed nothing short of a miracle. There was not a few here or a few to go there; it was all at once...

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

MONKEYPOX

(Continued from page 5)

- North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI), Newark: 973-483-3444, ext. 200

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with monkeypox virus - part of the orthopox family of viruses - that can affect anyone. The virus can cause flu-like symptoms, swollen lymph nodes, and a rash that often begins on the face and spreads to other parts of the body. Monkeypox does not spread easily to people without close contact. Although many of the current cases have been found in individuals who self-identify as men who have sex with men, monkeypox

can spread from direct contact with any infected individual to any other individual. It can also be spread by touching clothing, bedding, towels or surfaces that have been exposed to someone with the virus.

People who think they may have been exposed to monkeypox or who have symptoms of monkeypox should consult with a health care provider immediately.

According to the CDC, there are several steps that can be taken to prevent getting monkeypox:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.
- Do not kiss, hug, cuddle, or have sex

with someone with monkeypox.

- Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

If you are sick with monkeypox:

- Contact your health care provider
- Isolate at home
- If you have an active rash or other symptoms, stay in a separate room or area away from people or pets you live with, when possible.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

addressed for the time being by Maplewood Township Health Director Candice Davenport.

Davenport is doubling as South Orange's Interim Health Director July 1-Dec. 31. Respective village and township health departments have agreed to a joint contract on Davenport, as announced by the Maplewood Health Dept. July 5.

South Orange will be paying \$5,000 a month to Davenport for her services at no more than 10 hours per week, emergencies notwithstanding.

The six-month contract will supposedly give the South Orange Health Department time to find its next full-time director. John Festa, after 32 years as village health director, had retired on June 3.

It is too early to tell whether this arrangement will lead to another two-town shared service. South Orange and Maplewood's fire departments, after decades' research, became the South Essex Fire Department July 1. The village and township have shared a municipal court since the early 2000s.

The South Orange-Maplewood School District, however, was established long before "South Orange Township" renamed itself as Maplewood Nov. 7, 1922.

MAPLEWOOD - Maplewood police detectives have put out descriptions of the male who robbed a Wawa gas station attendant at gunpoint here July 12 and the car he may have fled in.

Responding MPD officers met with the attendant at 6:13 a.m. that Tuesday, who said he was approached by a male minutes earlier. The male carried a small black handgun.

The employee said the suspect demanded money from him - and gave him \$40 cash. When the suspect demanded more money, the victim said he was unable to get more cash from the locked safe.

The suspect, with all of \$40, ran out of 1515 Springfield Ave.'s parking lot onto Jacoby Street. He had possibly entered "a small grey SUV" that drove onto Lee Court and 44th Street before entering Irvington. The victim suffered no physical injury.

Wanted is a male described as a "black male 16-20-years old, 5 ft., 10 in. to 6 ft. tall and weighing 160-170 lbs." He was dressed in a dark colored Adidas sweatshirt with three white stripes on both sleeves, a black mask, black sunglasses and fatigue-style cargo shorts.

BLOOMFIELD - Robbers, for the second time in 22 days, helped themselves to cash or property at gunpoint while at an Ampere service station here July 18.

The owner of a brown Honda Accord told responding BFD officers here at the Sunoco station at 72 Bloomfield Ave. that one of at least two suspects implied that he had a gun on him at 8:40 p.m. Monday night.

The carjacker took the Accord with NJ license plate N96-AKD and fled onto Bloomfield Avenue. Three males had meanwhile stuck up a station attendant at 122 Bloomfield Ave. on June 27 - 22 days and two blocks away from the Sunoco carjacking.

One of the three approaching suspects, said the attendant at the 7-Eleven booth, had pointed a black handgun at him while the second held him down. The third demanded what money he had in his pocket. One of the three, said the victim, had threatened to kill him.

The suspects, after relieving the victim of \$50, fled in a white BMW.

MONTCLAIR - The township's recreation and cultural affairs department, in the face of two of Montclair's municipal pools being likely closed for most of this summer, have made two changes to its pool badge policy here since July 14.

The department will refund pool badges - worth between \$25 (for seniors) and \$250 (family of four) - from patrons who do not want to use the Mountainside Park pool in Upper Montclair. Those seeking refunds are to bring their badges in the department's office at 205 Clermont Ave. weekdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for deactivation and refunds.

"This department's policy is to provide a full refund to patrons who have signed up for a Recreation program but decide not to participate in that program," said July 14's announcement. "This applies to pool memberships."

The recreation department has meanwhile suspended daily and guest passes for the Mountainside pool.

Pools at Essex and Nishuane parks were "anticipated" to reopen with Mountainside June 29 - but the first two pools' renovations had been delayed since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in March 2020.

Work on and around Nishuane Park Pool started on May 5 but was halted due to supply chain issues. The four weeks' renovation is now targeted for Aug. 1-15 completion.

Renovating Essex Park Pool would, by contract, start once Nishuane was finished.

BELLEVILLE - A township man, convicted by a Superior Court-Newark jury July 12 for a 2021 Newark gas station armed robbery, will learn from Superior Court Judge Patrick J. Arre Sept. 9 how

long he will be away from his hometown.

Arre may sentence Jose Rivera, 58 to a five-to-10-year sentence to the second-degree armed robbery charge that the jury had convicted him on July 12. ECPO attorneys, citing that Rivera has 17 prior convictions on his record, may ask Arre for an up to a 20-year maximum state prison sentence.

The jury, after two hours' deliberation that Tuesday, found Rivera guilty of robbing a gas station along Newark's Pennsylvania Avenue at gunpoint on Sept. 18, 2021. Rivera and a second man demanded all the cash the lone attendant had on him.

The victim gave Rivera \$850 without resistance. Rivera and the other man then fled the scene. The attendant was not physically harmed.

This case remains active since the other suspect remains at large.

NUTLEY - What a magnetic fisherman had "attracted" just off the Passaic River here July 16 brought four law enforcement agencies to the riverbank and closed three roads and a bridge that Saturday.

Nutley Chief of Police Thomas Strumolo said that the fisherman called headquarters, saying that he had just found an unexploded military shell, at 3:45 p.m. The fisherman pulled the shell ashore, took a picture and promptly called NPD.

"That was quick thinking for the fisherman," said Nutley Police Commissioner Alphonse Petracco, "to get away and notify police."

The NPD shift supervisor immediately called the Essex County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad plus the Belleville and Lyndhurst police departments. The respective police departments joined Nutley in closing off the Kingsland Avenue / De Jessa Memorial Bridge between Nutley and Lyndhurst plus parts of Park Avenue, Route 21 and Riverview Road.

The sheriff's bomb unit, once they had determined that the military ordinance was live, took the shell to a remote location for detonation.

How that shell wound up in the Passaic remains a mystery.



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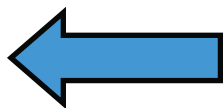
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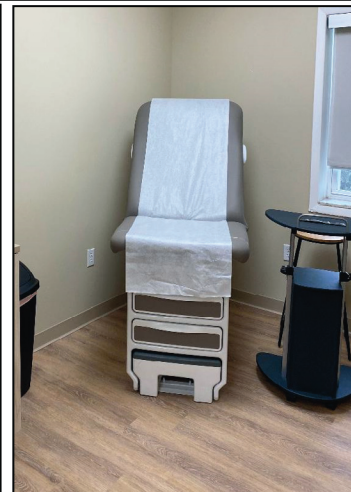
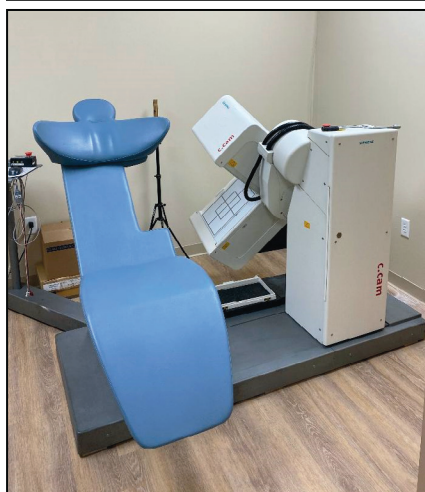
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