

VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 34 \* SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 "LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"



Covering: NEWARK: Central Ward, North Ward, East Ward, West Ward, South Ward and East Orange, Orange, West Orange, South Orange, Maplewood, Irvington, Montclair, Bloomfield and Surrounding Areas

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# SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG "RBG" (1933-2020)

# Before Becoming "The Notorious RBG" Ginsburg Taught in Newark

# By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - The late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, long before she became Associate Justice of the United State Supreme Court, taught here at the Rutgers School of Law 1963-72.

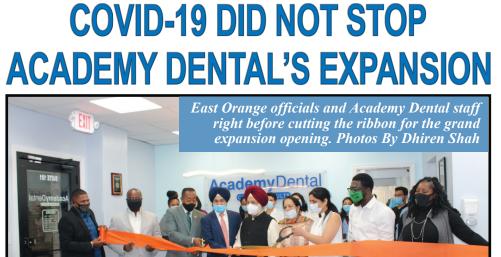
It could be said that Ginsburg, whose death in Washington, D.C. was announced before 6 p.m. Sept. 18, started becoming "Notorious" by representing the ACLU's New Jersey chapter during that 10 year period.

Ginsburg was a faculty member of the Rutgers School of Law, which was at 180 University Ave. for some of those years. She taught a range of courses by day, from introduction to tort law to conducting mock trials.

Ginsburg was a commuter, coming from and returning to the apartment she and husband Martin shared in Manhattan. M. Ginsburg was an attorney in a law firm there before becoming an NYU Law School faculty member in 1967.

Ginsburg, during her 27 years on the U.S. Supreme Court

(Continued on page 8)



# By Dhiren Shah

Academy Dental has served East Orange and the surrounding community for over three years. They have gained the confidence of their community. The coronavirus pandemic has hurt many businesses. However, Academy Dental kept on serving patients during the pandemic in a limited fashion. They have placed special air circulators to protect their clients from the central air conditioning throughout the building. I was impressed by Mandeep Josan, who mentioned to me that anyone coming to the dental office must wear face masks, since the beginning of the pandemic. They won the trust of the people and that give them the expansion idea. They took another office next to theirs and redesigned and reconstructed to accommodate more patients, so others don't have to wait for a long time.

The Honorable East Orange Mayor Ted Green came with his

(Continued on page 5)



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#### LOCAL TALK





Dhíren Shah Editor-In-Chief

Partly Cloudy

HI 81

LO 58

Cloudy

HI 80 LO 59 Partly Cloudy

HI 78

LO 64

Hello Readers,

In the wake of Breonna Taylor's death, her family agreed to a \$12 million settlement with the city of Louisville. However, that does not forgive the mistake made by the police officers who mistakenly invaded her home and shot her to death. Who is responsible? According to me, it's a murder. Someone did it, and former Louisville, KY detective Brett Hankison was indicted by a grand jury for wanton endangerment for shooting into other apartments. However, none of the officers were charged for shooting Breonna Taylor, because it was in self-defense in their shootout with her boyfriend. It is very difficult to make a judgment. It is a wrong standard. He should go to jail for her murder in my opinion.

Joe Biden and Donald Trump are locked in the biggest rivalry for the presidential election in our lifetime. Biden was leading by double digits over Trump. But due to some errors, he lost his huge lead. Now, he is leading by just 6.5 percent over Trump per realclearpolitics.com.

Everyone is waiting for the debate on September 29, 2020. It will be between 9 pm and 10:30 pm. Christopher Wallace has declared that the debate will be in 6 segments of 15 minutes each. The subjects for the six segments will be: "The Trump and Biden Records," "The Supreme Court," "COVID-19," "The Economy," "Race and Violence in our Cities" and "The Integrity of the Election." It will be interesting to watch the debate, and it is my prediction that it will break the record for viewers of all the dehates in the past

President Trump will be announcing his nominee for the Supreme Court Justice seat left vacant by the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Appellate Federal Judge Amy Coney Barrett is the most likely candidate according to the news. She has been interviewed by Trump twice already. Her record shows her conservative ideas as per the news. The 1973 Roe v. Wade case protects the right of abortion. Now Trump wants to overturn the decision due to his prolife ideas. However, what about the girl who was raped, or the girl who is in her young age was promised by a boyfriend to marry and take care of her for life, but as soon as she gets pregnant he leaves her in the wilderness of our society. Also, what if the girl's health is bad and she cannot survive a pregnancy?

With this in mind, the Republicans must be stopped for allowing another Supreme Court Justice to be nominated and ap-

Scattered Storms

HI 78

LO 61

Partly Cloudy

HI 74

LO 57

Partly Cloudy

HI 71

LO 52

proved before the election. Let the winning team, whoever it is, decide the vacancy.

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Go to our website www.localtalkweekly.com and search for any news just by one word or the topic.

Have a wonderful week. I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK			
THURSDAY	FRIDAYSATURDAYSUNDAYMONDAYTUESDAYWEDNESDAY		

Partly Cloudy

HI 82

LO 65

# BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES FROM 8 TOWNS ON BALLOT



By Walter Elliott

**ORANGE** - Registered voters in this city, among the seven public school districts in eight "Local Talk" municipalities holding board of education elections Nov. 3, may have become accustomed to having a large field of candidates to choose from.

Orange's nine, including some incumbents, is the largest single field to be featured among the Nov. 3 General Election Vote-By-Mail ballots in Essex County. It is also the fifth election since a majority of this city's voters approved switching from a Type One mayor-appointed board to a Type Two elected board in 2018.

Orange Public Schools administrators, however, chose to join seven other Local Talk public school districts in holding their nonpartisan BOE member elections concurrently with the November General Election. (Newark and Irvington hold third Tuesday in April elections although Bloomfield's 2019 school board had considered switching back to April.)

Voters here and in South Orange-Maplewood, West Orange, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Belleville and Nutley will find their school board candidates, along with state public question referendums, on their ballots' second, or back, pages.

"Local Talk" has listed the following candidates alphabetically along with campaign and/or team slogans where possible. How they actually appear on VBM forms may be seen on the respective sample ballots posted at essexclerk.com.

ORANGE voters will find both incumbents and seven challengers to fill three three-year Orange Board of Education seats with.

Former Board President Ernest Lydell Carter is seeking to rejoin OBOE under the "Good to Great" slogan with challenger / Orange Housing Development Corporation board member Fatimah Turner and current school board member Jeffrey Wingfield.



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It should be noted that "Good to Great" is also being used in a recent OPS press release heralding district students' improvement on state test scores. The district administration

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and staff are not endorsing any candidates. Carter, Turner and Wingfield are allowed to be grouped together on the ballot although Carter was the one drawing for ballot placement. Ballot drawing by lot is still being done - but a July 2018 state election law revision allows a team to be balloted together.

Samantha Corbett and her "Passion Purpose Planning" teammate Leonor Young are likewise alongside each other on the ballot. Care coordinator Marsha Escalliere and "Our Kids Matter" co-campaigner/meeting planner Sharon Forde are also placed next to each other. Charles H. Pryor II, a college administrator, is running a solo campaign.

Current Board President Tyrone J. Tarver is seeking his second full term. The "Boom" music producer was among the forefront of people who had advocated for the OBOE appointed-to-elective-board changeover.

The SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT has five candidates vying for four Board of Education seats.

Kamal Zubieta, the sole incumbent running, is actually in her first election campaign as being "For All Children." The Maplewood resident is looking to fulfill the remaining two years of Javier Farfan's term, who resigned after a year on the board.

While Zubieta is running unopposed, the other four are looking to succeed Elizabeth Baker, Robin Baker and Anthony Mazzocchi, whose full three-year terms end Dec. 31. Baker and Baker (no known relation) and Mazzocchi have decided not to run for reelection. Susan Bergin and Courtney Winkfield are running on their "Collaborate, Belong, Thrive" platform. Bergin, a regulatory lawyer, is a 12-year Maplewood resident. Winkfield, a New York City Department of Education administrator, is a South Orange resident.

Deborah Engle, who is owner or partowner of two "SOMA" businesses, is making her first run. She is a 15-year Maplewoodian.

Michelle Finneran, a Maplewood graphic designer, is also making her electoral debut. She is campaigning as a "Parent for Change."

Ellen Malespina, whose 20-year educational resume includes nine years with SOMSD and, currently, Verona High School's librarian. The South Orange villager, under her own "Choice For Change" banner, last ran in 2015.

All candidates have children in the two-town district.

The sole open WEST ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION: seat this year is being contested between the incumbent and a challenger.

Current WOBOE President Ken Alpert is seeking his second term. He is running under his own "Leadership With Results" banner. First time runner Melinda C. Huerta is campaigning as "Homegrown in WOTown." The WOHS Class of 2009 graduate and mother of four was born here in 1996. Second-time challenger Jeramias Salinas, who filed his signature petitions before 4 p.m. July 27, did not make the printed ballot.

The BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS races have become a slate of three incumbents versus a team of three challengers.

Kevin Dudley, Nadeisha Greene and Sat-(Continued on page 14)

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### UNITED STATES

#### One Cop in Breonna Taylor Case Indicted

After months of pleas and demands for justice, a step has finally been taken in the death of a black woman - but it might make matters worse.

On Sept. 23, former Louisville police detective Brett Hankison was indicted in the death of 26-year-old EMT Breonna Taylor. Hankison, who was fired along with officers Jonathan Mattingly and Myles Cosgrove after the incident, was charged with three counts of wanton endangerment in the first degree.

These charges however pertained to his firing of bullets into other apartments, and nothing as to the shots fired in Breonna Taylor's apartment, where the shooting occurred. Penalties can include up to five years in prison, and as much as \$45,000 in fines. Bail was set at \$15,000.

Mattingly and Cosgrove were not charged, as Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron said that their actions according to Kentucky law were justified, as they were in self-defense against Kenneth Walker - Taylor's boyfriend. The three cops executed a "no-knock" warrant to enter Taylor's apartment upon suspicion of drug activity.

While the announcement of one officer being charged was better than none charged according to some, there was outrage everywhere else.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing Taylor's family in the matter, posted on twitter, "Jefferson County Grand Jury indicts former ofc. Brett Hankison with 3 counts of Wanton Endangerment in 1st Degree for bullets that went into other apartments but NOTHING for the murder of Breonna Taylor. This is outrageous and offensive!

"If Brett Hankison's behavior was wanton endangerment to people in neighboring apartments, then it should have been wanton endangerment in Breonna Taylor's apartment too. In fact, it should have been ruled wanton murder!"

A curfew and limited access to the downtown Louisville area were put in place before the announcement in case of any unrest due to expected protests.

#### "Anarchist Jurisdictions"

The war between the Trump Administration and liberal cities has taken a turn for the weird with the words "anarchist jurisdictions" added to the fray.

On Sept. 21, the U.S. Department of Justice identified the following three jurisdictions that have permitted violence and destruction of property to persist and have refused to undertake reasonable measures to counteract criminal activities: New York City; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington. The Department of Justice is continuing to work to identify jurisdictions that meet the criteria set out in the President's Memorandum and will periodically update the list of selected jurisdictions as required therein.

The list was published on DOJ's website in response to President Trump's memorandum of Sept. 2, entitled "Memorandum on Reviewing Funding to State and Local Government Recipients That Are Permitting Anarchy, Violence, and Destruction in American Cities."

"When state and local leaders impede their own law enforcement officers and agencies from doing their jobs, it endangers innocent citizens who deserve to be protected, including those who are trying to peacefully assemble and protest," said Attorney General William P. Barr. "We cannot allow federal tax dollars to be wasted when the safety of the citizenry hangs in the balance. It is my hope that the cities identified by the Department of Justice today will reverse course and become serious about performing the basic function of government and start protecting their own citizens."

In response to being dubbed "anarchist jurisdictions" the mayors of New York City, Portland and Seattle released the following statement: "This is thoroughly political and unconstitutional. The President is playing cheap political games with Congressionally directed funds. What the Trump Administration is engaging in now is more of what we've seen all along: shirking responsibility and placing blame elsewhere to cover its failure."

This will likely result in a court battle. In the last case involving the holding up of funds, the Trump Administration lost in its bid to bar sanctuary cities from accessing federal money.

### **EUROPE**

## Money Laundering Exposed

Shares in European banks tumbled after news broke that many of them were involved in money laundering and other shady dealings.

Through many documents that were leaked from the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), several banks were exposed for aiding money laundering by moving huge sums of illegal money for criminals and criminal activity. Among the banks accused are JPMorgan Chase, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and Bank of New York Mellon.

There were other banks that shook Euro-stocks the most. HSBC, Société Générale, State Street Corporation, and Commerzbank AG, and China Investment Corporation were all implicated in FinCEN's "suspiciousactivity reports" or SARs. Over 2,000 SARs were flagged, but that is considered to be less that 1 percent of the entire catalog.

When approached about the leak, FinCEN stated that unauthorized release of any of its documents is unlawful, and can compromise investigations and put individuals at risk.

In all, the estimated total on the unethical transactions is at least \$2 trillion U.S. dollars.

### AFRICA

### Two Arrested in Mask Fraud

Authorities in Nigeria have arrested two suspects who are believed to be behind a huge fraud scheme which nearly saw German health authorities pay EUR 2.4 million for masks they

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never received.

In March 2020, as a number of countries were going into lockdown due to COVID-19, health authorities were desperate to purchase protective equipment for medical staff. They contracted a procurement company to find EUR 15 million worth of face masks.

Despite being experienced buyers, company representatives were hooked by fraudsters and led down a path of referrals, fake emails and websites, extra fees and ultimately, no masks.

In a case coordinated by IN-TERPOL, financial crime and intelligence units and banks across Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and the United Kingdom raced against the clock to intercept a number of wire transfers and recover the down payments made to guarantee an initial shipment of masks.

Once the funds were secured, investigators continued working their way up the fraud scheme to dismantle the criminal group behind it.

Following arrests in the Netherlands, investigators identified a Nigerian contact who had planned to send EUR 500,000 from the UK to Nigeria. Evidence showed the man was in fact the mastermind behind the money laundering element of the scheme.

INTERPOL helped facilitate contact between INTERPOL National Central Bureaus and criminal investigation departments, and ultimately, a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) was sent to Nigeria from Germany prosecutors.

Nigerian authorities responded quickly, leading to the location and arrest of the mastermind and identifying his accomplice, believed to have opened a corporate account in Lagos to receive criminal proceeds from the scheme.

### **MIDDLE EAST**

### Hope for Yemen

The first ever direct talks between Afghan Government representatives and the Taliban which began on Saturday, present "a major opportunity" to finally realize the "long-held aspirations" of the people, for a *(Continued on page 13)*  4



<u>COVID-19 DID NOT STOP</u> <u>ACADEMY DENTAL'S</u> <u>EXPANSION</u> (Continued from page 1)

team, Policy and Planning Development Director Dan Jennings, Health and Human Services Director Monique S. Griffith, Public Relations Officers Connie Jackson, Precious Osagie-Erese, as well as Councilman Christopher Awe and other members of East Orange City Hall to celebrate the expansion.

Mayor Green said that he mentioned how his family since

Planning Director Dan Jennings thanked Academy Dental for expanding the facility and following all the right pandemic related protocols to serve the community right.

East Orange Health and Human Services Director Monique S. Griffith applauded the quality of care, engagement and commitment Academy Dental has serving the city of East Orange.

Mandeep said, "It is a great honor to have you all with us to celebrate the expansion of Academy Dental in East Orange. On behalf of our wonderful team, I welcome you all to our upgraded facility, which is designed to serve our patients



day one of its opening come to Academy Dental. He also said that so much development is going on along Evergreen Place in East Orange and he commended the expansion of Academy Dental. Also he said that expansion means Academy Dental will stay here for long time and hopefully serve the community with the highest quality of care for years to come.

East Orange Policy and

during the pandemic, while meeting the necessary social distance protocol and the PPE standards."

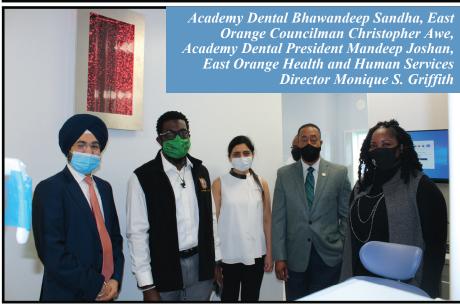
Mandeep added, "We serve our patients in a serene environment using latest technology to calm their anxieties. And DO So for the underserved population as everyone regardless of age, color or income - do deserves a high-quality medical care for adults and children as well."



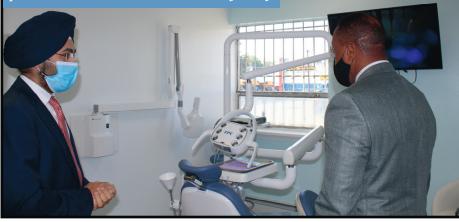
# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

# Orange Board of Education Public School District

The Orange Board of Education has in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13, has scheduled a Virtual Special Public Meeting for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.



Bhawandeep Sandha speaking to East Orange Mayor Ted Green about pediatric dental treatment room and facility



**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** - Although the reardoor boarding and "free ride" sun has set on most of New Jersey Transit's bus routes since Aug. 3, there are riders on nine of its routes - including three serving "Local Talk" towns here, who have been enjoying a twilight.

NJTransit returned to frontdoor boarding and its drivers accepting cash fares since that Monday on the grounds that buses that needed more comprehensive driver protection panels were retrofitted and returned to service. Those buses that have not been retrofitted yet, as per the carrier's Aug. 3 and later announcements, will continue rearboarding and no cash acceptance for the time being.

Riders among the up to 11 towns served on the Nos. 13, 39 and 70 routes, however, have been rear-door boarding and having their cash fares waived on the 9500-series Neoplan articulated buses almost daily. Up to 21 of the older buses have been running on those routes from Maplewood-Hilton and Belleville-Big Tree depots.

An NJTransit spokesman told "Local Talk" Aug. 31 that the Neoplans are being replaced "one for one" by up to 110 New Flyer Xcelsior articulated buses statewide through year's end. The Neoplans will not be retrofitted and eventually be up for auction.

The interim effect is that riders among six towns who have a

Neoplan stop for them along the 13, 39 and 70 routes may feel like they have just received a winning lottery ticket. Those more frequently served Newark, Irvington, Maplewood, Belleville and Nutley may feel like they just got a free cup of coffee or some other "loyalty rewards" program perk.

The gradual twilight, however, will go entirely dark when the 80200-series New Flyers will have replaced the Neoplans by 2020's end.

### Man Charged in Break In

A city man, said Newark's top cop Sept. 18, is wanted for breaking into and stealing from a West Ward residence June 4.

Quran Anderson, 42, said Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose, is to be charged with burglary and theft when he is arrested. Anderson is accused of entering a house along Hazelwood Avenue in the Vailsburg section and leaving with clothes and other household items.

Hazelwood is a two-block north-south street which includes the North Star Vailsburg Academy. The street is within several blocks of South Orange's Seton Hall University and East Orange's Third Ward.

Anderson is described as standing 5-ft, 7-in. and weighing 125 lbs. He has brown eyes, black hair and a light brown complexion. A recent photo has been posted on the Newark Police website.

**IRVINGTON** - The ECPO Homicide and Major Crimes Task Force detectives have been investigating the fatal shooting of a township man here since Sept. 17.

Responding Irvington police officers said they came to a house along the 200 block of Eastern Parkway at 1:35 p.m. that Thursday. They found an unconscious and unresponsive Alsherman T. Counts, 43, in his dwelling with at least one gunshot wound.

Medics rushed Counts to Newark's University Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 9:06 p.m.

Funeral arrangements for Counts, as of 6 p.m. Sept. 22, have not been posted.

**ORANGE** - The family of an Orange resident, who was struck and killed by a spinning propeller at Newark Liberty International Airport in 2017, has filed a negligence lawsuit against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, United Airlines and three other respondents in State Superior Court-Newark.

Jacqueline Mkalama, 53, said attorney Joseph Monaco, was between cleaning airplanes on EWR's Terminal A apron Sept. 2, 2017 when she was struck by the propeller of a CommutAir Bombardier DHC-8202 near Gate 25.

Airplane mechanics on the Bombardier immediately cut power to its engines and summoned medics. Mkalama, an SEIU 32BJ union member, was rushed to University Hospitalwhere she later died.

Monaco, who filed the suit Aug. 25, accuses the mechanics at the scene for failing to secure an on-ground engine spotter. That spotter had gone to his private car parked elsewhere on the 1,000-acre airport's grounds.

Primeflight Aviation Services and Champlain Enterprises, who operate CommutAir for United, are named in the suit. The PA Police Department is also a respondent. Mkalama's heirs, said their New York City attorney, are seeking "equitable damages," including the recovery of attorney's fees and costs.

The suit was filed in Newark after its initial filing in New York City in 2018-18. Monaco first filed in New York, reasoning that it is the PA's headquarters' location. A New York State appellate judge dismissed the suit in late 2018, ruling that the

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accident happened in New Jersey.

Jacqueline T. Mkalama's Funeral Mass was held here at ST. John's RC Church Sept. 16, 2017. The family held a visitation the night before at West Orange's Dangler Funeral Home.

WEST ORANGE - A second floor apartment fire at the James Degnan House for Seniors here Sept. 22 left three people injured and a fourth occupant dead.

WOFD firefighters, responding to a fire report at 430 Main St., found heavy smoke there at 6 p.m. Tuesday. Although the building was evacuated swiftly and the fire put out within 30 minutes, extractor fans were needed to dissipate the smoke.

Two residents suffered smoke inhalation but refused medical attention. A third person was taken to a local hospital after bumping her head upon exiting the building. A house cat, however, did not survive.

Traffic, including NJTransit Route 21 buses, were kept away from Main Street's intersection with Eagle Rock and Harrison avenues into late evening.

MAPLEWOOD / SOUTH OR-

**ANGE** - It took an early morning effort, permission by township and county officials and the detouring of Sunday traffic, but Maplewood has its second "Black Lives Matter" street mural as of Sept. 13.

Volunteers - including the MAPSO Youth Coalition and SOMA Justice members - painted the now-familiar yellow block letters along Springfield Avenue's eastbound lane between Burnet and Boyden avenues.

The letters, to be read from the south side, run the length of the Maplewood Police and Court Building - which includes the South Orange-Maplewood Municipal Court.

The volunteers' painting was assisted by Maplewood police (Continued on page 7)

# PORTS WRAP

### By William Hathaway

The National Football League has concluded Week 2. in which both New York teams are still looking for their first win on the year. First, the Giants lost on the road to the Chicago Bears 17-13. Losing the game was hard enough, but they also lost running back Saquon Barkley for the rest of the season with a torn ACL. Another player suffering the same gruesome injury was 49ers' defensive end Nick Bosa, who saw several of his teammates take on injuries in their 31-13 win at the Jets.

Despite their disapproval of the turf at MetLife Stadium, San Francisco will have to play there again next week, as they will play the Giants. The Jets will be on the road to play the Indianapolis Colts.

In other sports news, the New York Yankees have clinched a spot in the MLB playoffs. Also joining the postseason party are the San Diego Padres, who are back in the

### **TOWN WATCH**

#### (Continued from page 6)

officers, who detoured the county road between those streets. Buses on NJTransit's No. 25 and 70 routes were among the affected eastbound traffic.

That mural, which now joins a similar one along Columbia High School's Valley Road frontage. was postponed from early August over COVID-19related social distancing concerns.

"Systematic racism and ignorance exist in all facets of our lives," said Maplewood Mayor Frank McGehee, at the nearby Maplecrest Park gazebocentered reception, "In our community we have police officers, both black and white, who support Black Lives Matter."

MONTCLAIR - ECPO officials may have released details of the police officer who was a

playoffs for the first time since 2006.

In college football, the Big Ten Conference is going to start its season on October 24th, with Rutgers on the road at Michigan State. The Conference had initially cancelled its season due to COVID-19.

The National Basketball Association is now locked into the Conference Finals. In the West, the Los Angeles Lakers are in control of the Denver Nuggets, with one of their wins coming on an Anthony Davis buzzer beater. As for the East, the Miami Heat are in control of the Boston Celtics.

Finally, Chicago Bears legend and Hall of Famer Gale Sayers passed away at the age of 77 due to complications from dementia. Also, wrestling Hall of Famer Joseph Laurinaitis died at the age of 60. He was better known as "Animal" from the "Road Warriors" / "Legion of Doom" tag team along with Michael "Hawk" Hegstrand, who died in 2003.

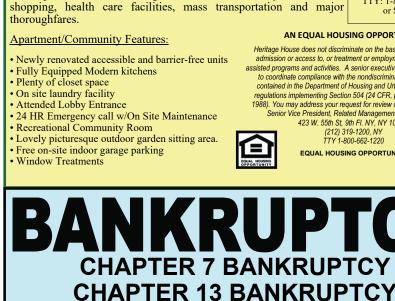
# 

hit-and-run victim at a Bloomfield Avenue business district parking garage Sept. 22 - and the two suspects in the vehicle that struck him - by when you read this.

Montclair Police Sgt. Terence Turner confirmed that at least five cruisers and a Montclair Ambulance had responded to an officer down report at The Crescent Parking Deck at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday. The officer, who gave a description of the car that hit him, said Turner, was taken to "a local hospital."

Sgt. Turner then referred additional questions to the ECPO office in Newark. A spokeswoman there said she was pulling information on what happened and who were involved as of 9 a.m., Sept. 23.

Witnesses said that at least two MPD cruisers engaged the suspects' car in a southward pursuit along South Fullerton and



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Harrison avenues onto Orange Road. How the pursuit ended in the South End has not been elaborated on - except that two suspects were arrested.

The pair, who have been remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Center, will likely face charges of assaulting a law enforcement officer, leaving the scene of an accident, eluding and reckless driving.

The struck officer, said an MPD colleague to a reporter at the Crescent parking lot, did not appear to have suffered serious injury. He was reportedly on foot patrol duty.

**BLOOMFIELD** - South Junior High School's last principal, Charles S. Nankivell, Sr., will not be around to see the long-

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SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

#### "RBG" (1933-2020)

(Continued from page 1)

bench, recalled her Newark years while talking with the pioneering Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

"We had no idea that we would be on the Supreme Court then," said Ginsburg. "We were out looking for a job."

Joan Ruth Bader, who was born in Brooklyn March 15, 1933, went to Cornell on a scholarship and, later, the Harvard Law School. She transferred to Columbia's school of law in her senior year to be with Martin, who she would marry after her May 1955 graduation - and after learning that Harvard was planning not to grant her a law degree.

Although Ruth Bader Ginsburg was co-valedictorian in her graduating class with high recommendations, the otherwise automatic doors to prestigious law firms and clerkships to Supreme Court Justices were shut. Even SCOTUS Justice Felix Frankfurter turned R.B. Ginsburg down.

The Ginsburgs were stationed in Fort Sill, Okla. for Martin's military service until they eventually found respective jobs in Rutgers-Newark and New York.

"Law firms were just getting around to hiring Jews in the 1950s," recalled Ginsburg in 1993. "To be a Jew, a woman and a mother (to Jane, in 1955) to boot - that combination was a bit much for them."

Although Rutgers was one of the few universities welcoming women faculty, Ginsburg felt she had to hide her pregnancy. She wore loose-fitting clothing until after son James was born in 1965.

Ginsburg was also listening to her students' stories of being the few women in law school. It was about that time when the ACLU-NJ, which moved to 45 Academy St. in 1968, called to represent them and their clients in their growing sex discrimination lawsuits.

"The thinking at that time," said Ginsburg, "was that sex discrimination cases was a woman's job."

Some Rutgers law students, used to seeing Ginsburg carrying home a satchel of papers, were now seeing her lug a second for ACLU cases. Rutgers administrators also noticed and made her director of its Women's Law Review. A DUCATION CONTRACTOR OF ACTION OF A

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Rutgers Law student Elizabeth Langer met Ginsburg through the Woman's Rights Law Reporter in 1970. The professor found a basement room for The Reporter's office and vouched for it, while its volunteer staff sought funding, in 1970.

"She gave us credibility, legitimacy (and) defended us against faculty members who thought (The Reporter) was ridiculous," said then-editor-inchief Langer. "She shepherded us through, along with a lot of enthusiastic law students - mostly women."

The future Justice meanwhile wrote the ACLU's brief in the 1971 Reed vs. Reed case, which went before SCOTUS. The case involved an Idaho state law that granted only men to execute estates.

Ginsburg and the ACLU argued that the Idaho law violated the Fourteenth Amendment's equal treatment clause. The Supreme Court, presided by Chief Justice Warren Berger, agreed with their argument Nov. 22, 1971 - overturning a century-old law. Ginsburg did not bask in that victory glow while at Rutgers long. The Columbia School of Law offered her a full -tenured professorship, the first that they had made to a woman. She took up the offer and left Rutgers in 1972.

"Rutgers students sparked my interest and aided in charting the course I then pursued," said Ginsburg in 2017. "Less than three years after starting the (Women's Law Review) seminar, I was arguing sexual discrimination cases before the Supreme Court."





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The Pastor's Heart

**OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY** 

## The Greatest Want Of The World Today

I spoke to my wife in the quietness of the morning and told her of the many subjects passing through my mind, but I cannot just settle on which to write. After a few moments of silence, she offered the title, "the greatest want of the world today."

As soon as the words were from her lips, I immediately knew what she meant. In one of our college classes, we had to memorize a passage that reflected on the lives of Joseph and Daniel. This particular passage came from one of our textbooks called Education, written by one of the world's most prolific spiritual writers.

Seemingly, my wife thought it relevant for the times in which we live. Here is the quote:

The greatest want of the world is the want of men - men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall (*Ed. p. 57.3*).

After memorizing the paragraph, we had to take note of the follow up to the quotable quote,

# .....

# TOWN WATCH

### (Continued from page 7)

closed building's pending conversion to Bloomfield Lofts.

Nankivell, 88 - who was also the combined Bloomfield Middle School's first principal in 1987 and Bloomfield's 1979 "Man of the Year" - died Sept. 3 at his Pennington home with his family present. The Hillsborough Funeral Home will hold

# namely:

But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of selfdiscipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man. (Ed. 57.4)

So much is packed in the two quotes that it would take a very long essay to reflect upon them. For example, some people might argue about the author's use of the word "men" if they are distracted by not understanding the historical period and context in which they were written. If such were the case, I would remind them that if the passages were written today, the author would be sure to say, "The greatest want of the world today is the want of 'people' who will not be bought or sold." The follow up would also read people:

- 1. Who in their inmost souls are genuine and honest
- 2. Who do not fear to call sin by its right name
- 3. Whose consciences are as true to duty as the needle to the pole
- 4. Who will stand for the right though the heavens fall
- 5. Who are of noble character

I do not require an essay to point to our land's dire needs; the conditions prevailing tell enough. I cannot understand what I am hearing, even from proclaimed Christians. some While they argue that some of the individuals they are following have no character, at the same time, they say that such .....

his services when COVID-19group assembly restrictions are lifted.

"Charlie," who was born in Newark Jan. 15, 1932, came to Bloomfield upon his 1955 honorable discharge from the U.S. Army and joined the police department. He obtained a B.A. in chemistry from Rutgers-Newark after-hours and went on to get a Masters from now-Montclair State University in 1961 plus

persons are good for them. In light of this contradiction, I want to ask such individuals the following seven questions:

- 1. Is character not important anymore?
- 2. Is integrity not significant anymore?
- 3. Is decency not meaningful anymore?
- 4. Is truthfulness not needed anymore?
- 5. Is faith not consequential anymore?
- 6. Is justice not essential anymore?
- 7. Is principle not desirable anymore?

The quotes I referenced and above and my follow up questions can be placed in the context of the rush to select a judge to replace Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court. Or the effort to fill the courts with judges of a particular ideology across the land, despite all the contradictions with the rules that were set a few years ago by the Senate.

The further concern is the report that the CDC has removed some of its guidelines for dealing with the pandemic because of purported pressure from the president. The issue is not of criticizing the senatorial leadership or the president, the judges or the court systems so much, but to point to the fact that we have come into a world where we are willing to accept wrong for right and evil for good. In essence, a world where integrity and character and truth and decency and honesty and justice do not matter.

Indeed, we are in a critical time in our world. The leaders of our land are allowed to run

doctorate credits from Rutgers-New Brunswick - all with honors

Nankivell left BPD to become SJHS's mathematics, science and photography teacher in 1958. The Bloomfield Board of Education appointed him its principal in 1975 and to head the move into the former North JHS in 1987. He retired in 1994 for his successful election to the BBOE - becoming its president

roughly shod over truth, justice, decency, honesty, and the other things that I have named. And while there are people in the land screaming about what is happening, there seems to be a deafening response. The screams are not making any difference. More than 200,000 people are dead from the COVID-19, and it does not seem to be a deep concern among the highest leaders in the land. Some seem to be saying we need to be talking about other things now than the loss of lives from the disease.

It makes me think of what one biblical prophet said: The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. (Isaiah 57:1 NIV)

God help us. I hardly know what else to say. But my conviction is that we really need some Divine help. We need a Christ intervention. He is the one that will fill up all our emptiness and bring us what we need. On Abraham Maslov's taxonomy of needs, the spiritual is at the top. And it is the highest need that is thought to be fulfilled after all else is satisfied. But I say, at this time, we cannot wait until all else is fulfilled.

We need Christ and his spiritual intervention because we are about to destroy ourselves. I know everyone might not accept my simple suggestion. Still, I offer it, for except Christ transforms our characters and leads us on the path of integrity, justice, honesty, and decency, we are not going to have the kind of men and women to fill the greatest want of our world today.

and vice president in his six-year membership before retiring to Pennington in 1999.

The Barringer HS Class of 1950 graduate continued his scholarship and athleticism by joining the Army that year. The Bussac (France) Chemical Depot photo lab director became its champion in javelin, shot put and discus.

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Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

# Shortage Of Doctors And Its Consequences For Primary Care

The AAMC, Association of American Medical Colleges, predicted back in 2017 that physician shortage was on track to reach 104,900 by 2030. I remember seeing these numbers back then and totally freaking out. Then, the shortage of doctors in primary care stood at a possible 43,100 by 2030. I did the only thing I could - I hoped the situation gets better. Spoiler alert, it did not. It got worse.

Fast forward to 2020, and the estimated shortage of doctors, according to the AAMC, could be as high as 139,000 in 2032. For primary care, we could be looking at a shortage of 55,200 doctors. And you want to know the weird thing - I did not freak out as much. It's as if I have become numb to these horrible numbers and statistics. This is the story of our healthcare system.

Over the years, there have been lots of flaws in the American healthcare system, but this, doctor shortage in primary care, is not one we can afford to live with. The overall health and wellbeing of the nation are largely dependent on the quality of primary health care services. When the primary healthcare sector fails, there isn't much hope on the medical front.

The shortage of doctors is

never a palatable situation, but even more so in primary care. I don't quite think you understand how important primary care physicians are. According to research, raising the number of physicians in the primary care sector by one per ten thousand people is linked with a reduction in mortality by 5.3%.

With this, you'd expect that primary care fields should constantly be increasing in the number of doctors, but that's not the case. In fact, the opposite is the case. And you know what is even more saddening? It is not only that the number of doctors is reducing, but the number of medical students that choose to go into primary care is also plummeting, reaching all-time lows. Am I disappointed? Yes, a little. Am I surprised? Not a single bit. Because, can you blame the students for not wanting to go into a field where the pay is ridiculous compared to other medical fields, big thanks to insurance companies, and where the chances of burnout are ridiculously high?

Then there's also the fact that the doctors in the field are aging. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the total population of the country is going to increase by over ten percent in 2032, with people over the age of 65 increasing by 48%. One in three doctors in the U.S. today is over 65 years of age and is close to retirement. So, get this - the number of people willing to go into primary care is reducing, the number of people in the U.S. is increasing, and the number of doctors close to retirement is also increasing. This is bad news. If you are looking for a silver lining in all of this, don't bother, there's none.

What frightens me the most amidst all of this is what the implication of this shortage will be. I already mentioned that increasing primary care physicians are associated with lower mortality rates, right? Now guess what will happen when you reduce the number of primary care physicians. Go on, take a wild guess.

Not to mention that this shortage will further lower the



time available for doctors to spend with their patients. The queues (lines) in doctors' offices are getting longer every year. Getting an appointment is getting more and more difficult. Some doctors attend to 40 patients a day. 40! To make it work, these doctors cut down on the time they spend with each patient, reducing the quality of care, which increases the mortality rate in the long run.

Many doctors resort to charging exorbitantly to compensate for the effort they're putting in, and what does this cause - low-earning people are deprived of the healthcare services they need. This will further increase the disparity between high/medium earners and low earners.

The increased workload is not only going to affect patients but also doctors. Imagine asking a doctor to attend to thirty to forty doctors a day and then acting surprised when they get burntout and break down. I mean, how can anybody survive in such grueling conditions? How? There isn't any upside to a shortage of doctors. None whatsoever.

I am going to do what I did three years ago, the only thing I can do - I am going to hope for the best. It's not looking particularly promising, but when has it ever?

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 nonprofit 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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# **ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY**

Weekly Statistics from September 16-23, 2020

Municipality	9-16-2020	Deaths	9-23-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1126	66	1132	66
Bloomfield	1219	69	1230	69
Caldwell	133	11	134	11
Cedar Grove	493	112	499	113
East Orange	2083	231	2102	231
Essex Fells	33	2	35	2
Fairfield	158	17	166	17
Glen Ridge	50	9	51	9
Irvington	1580	162	1586	162
Livingston	536	70	538	70
Maplewood	367	27	369	27
Millburn	172	6	176	6
Montclair	510	52	523	52
Newark	8474	663	8538	664
North Caldwell	57	4	59	4
Nutley	564	36	570	36
Orange	1099	92	1106	92
Roseland	92	14	93	14
South Orange	127	5	129	5
Verona	157	14	161	14
West Caldwell	300	48	301	48
West Orange	1357	187	1364	186
Total	20687	1897	20862	1898

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 9-23-2020) NJ: 200,988 cases / 14,291 deaths (Plus 1,791 probable) United States (approx.): 6.913 Million / 201,300 deaths Worldwide (approx.): 31.72 Million / 973,100 deaths

During a press briefing, NJ Gov. Murphy announced that 88-year-old Lois Ann Tack, a native of Newark's Vailsburg section and West Side High graduate, was among those lost to COVID-19. Tack was the first woman to work as an automotive salesperson in New Jersey. Also among those lost to the virus was Belleville native and founding member of "The Four Seasons" Tommy DeVito, who was 92.

\_\_\_\_\_

## WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 4)

peaceful future, the UN chief has said.

More than five years of war have "devastated the lives of tens of millions of Yemenis," with experts estimating that up to one million may have been affected by COVID-19, the UN chief told the General Assembly on Sept. 17.

Secretary-General António Guterres informed a High-level Ministerial meeting, that there were more than 2,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Yemen, and with war having "decimated the country's health facilities," the need for a negotiated political settlement to end the conflict is more urgent than ever.

He recalled his personal attachment to the country, which dates back to his time as High Commissioner for Refugees.

"I will never forget the generosity of the Yemeni people in hosting refugees," he said. "Since assuming the position of Secretary-General, I have constantly sought to do whatever I can to help find a peaceful resolution to the conflict."

He noted that the war has not only brought State institutions to the verge of collapse but also "reversed development by decades."

And despite initial expressions of support by the warring parties for a global ceasefire and Yemeni-specific truce, "the conflict continues unabated," he said.

In recent weeks, the conflict

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> > Carbon Monoxide Alarm

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There are some materials that should be removed from our regular waste stream because of their hazardous nature. This collection day provides our residents a place to properly and safely dispose of contaminants, protecting our precious environment for future generations. I encourage residents of all of our communities to come out and participate." - Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Essex County Utilities Authority

that has persisted for more than five years between the Saudibacked coalition supporting the internationally recognized Government, and the Houthi rebels formally known as Ansar Allah, has escalated.

"Airstrikes and ground clashes result in many civilian casualties, and Houthi drone and missile attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia persist," flagged the UN chief.

Moreover, more civilians were killed in August than any other month this year, with onein-four slain and injured in their own homes.

Mr. Guterres echoed his call for all parties to cooperate without preconditions, in efforts to reach an agreement on the Joint Declaration, which is comprised of a nationwide ceasefire, economic and humanitarian confidence-building measures, and a resumption of peace talks.

The Secretary-General said that the military escalation between Houthi fighters and the army in Ma'rib - where more than one million civilians have sought shelter since 2015 - only serves to derail peace efforts.

He emphasized that the need to build on the UN-brokered Stockholm Agreement of December 2018, and the Saudifacilitated Riyadh Agreement, which lays the groundwork for sustainable peace.

Mr. Guterres urged all parties to cease hostilities and reiterated the UN's continued support in implementing the agreements.

3-DAY

13

## local talk



Cassandra Savoy, Esq. OP/ED

# A Drug Conviction Could End College For You!

Having a child attend college is the single greatest hope of every parent. We all know that a college education means higher lifetime income, a lesser "fall" when hard times, like a recession come, and access to the middle class. But the cost of college in New Jersey is a big number!

A public four-year college for New Jersey residents could easily cost \$24,000 per year, and the fees go up, at least a small amount every year. Most parents don't have \$90,000 sitting in a bank for each of their children's post-secondary education. This means that most parents and high schoolers thinking of attending college need to figure out how much financial aid they can get. While there are small scholarships and grants from a variety of private and corporate sources, the big pot of financial aid is federal money. Many students are only able to attend college because they can string together financial aid from small scholarships, loans and grants from a variety of sources, but the big pot of financial aid in in the federal coffers.

There are lots of young people who are basking in the thought that drug laws, particularly as they relate to marijuana, have been relaxed. But you need to know that the relaxation of drug laws *only applies to marijuana*, not to cocaine, not to heroin, not to methamphetamines, not to oxycodone and not to ecstasy or any other substance labeled controlled and dangerous.

A drug conviction related to these drugs could make you ineligible for federal financial aid. While you MAY still be eligible for some local or state grants, you will not be eligible for federal grants, the largest money pool of financial aid for college students. Oh, and did I mention that a "drug conviction" does not have to be for a felony possession or use of a large quantity of drugs; you could become ineligible for federal grants even for misdemeanor convictions, those offenses handled in your local municipal court.

ago, a single drug offense conviction would have resulted in immediate and permanent ineligibility for federal student aid. Done! Over! No more federal money! But thanks to the labors of lots of civil rights organizations, and bar associations, beginning in 2009, the ineligibility rules were relaxed.

This is how it works. The clock for the ineligibility period starts from the date of conviction rather than the date of the offense. Let's suppose you received financial aid for the September term. You are arrested on November 15th for possession with intent to sell, but not convicted until March 30th after the second semester started in January. You would be ineligibility for financial aid after March 30th and certainly ineligible the upcoming academic year. Be aware of the fact that while the laws relating to possession of marijuana may have been relaxed, the rules about selling marijuana have not.

## How Long The Ineligibility

Currently, if you are convicted of a possession offense, you will lose eligibility for federal student aid for one year for the first offense; two years for the second offense and indefinitely for the third offense. The ineligibility resulting from selling or agreeing (conspiring) to sell illegal drugs are stricter. After the first conviction, you would lose your eligibility for two years and the lose eligibility indefinitely after the second offense.

### **Regaining Eligibility**

First and second offenders could regain eligibility for financial aid early if they complete a qualified drug rehabilitation program which meets certain requirements one of which is passing two unannounced drug tests. Students who lose their aid eligibility indefinitely can reverse that status by passing two unannounced drug tests that are part of a rehabilitation program, and do not have to complete the remainder of the program. If you become incarcerated due to drugs or other offenses, your aid eligibility may become even more restricted, but you might be eligible for some federal grants as well as federal workstudy. Check with the prison education counselor for guidance.

At the end of the day, don't let your dreams go up in smoke. remember that actions have consequences. If you have ambitions, don't have them derailed because of a drug conviction. And, even if you make a mistake, don't give up. Enroll in a program and regain your eligibility for federal financial aid. College is really expensive, but the best investment in the future you can make.

Up until roughly ten years

Challenger Larry Rudman is running without CCC endorsement. Incumbent GRBOE members Alison Lang and Paul Romano have decided not to run for re-election.

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS has both incumbents and four challengers contesting the two Board of Education Trustee seats.

Challenger Fernando A. Acevedo, Jr. and incumbent Erika V. Jako have teamed up as "Building Belleville's Future."

First-time campaigner Yael Cavelo-Isakowitz and fellow challenger Frank Velez III are under the "Moving Forward Together" flag. Lisa Misseggia is on her own "Excellence in Education" platform. Incumbent Michael Sheldon is running on "Integrity and Accountability." NUTLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS has two of three incumbents and a former board member on the ballot.

Salvatore Ferraro and Lisa Danchak-Martin are respectively running for their fourth and fifth straight terms. Retired Nutley Deputy Fire Chief Frederick Scalera, who left his State Assembly seat in 2011 for his successful NBOE election bid, is not seeking re-election. Salvatore Balsamo, who was on the board 2015-18, is looking to succeed Scalera.

Voters may start mailing in their VBM ballots or drop them off at designated boxes starting on Oct. 15 - but they must be dropped off or postmarked on or before Nov. 3. Call essexclerk.com if you have not received your ballot on or by Oct. 15.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES**

### (Continued from page 3)

inek Margaryan are the "Vote for Equity" challengers. Incumbents Thomas Heaney, Ellen Rogers and Jessica Salinas are calling themselves "Empowered, Certified Leadership."

GLEN RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS has four candidates vying for three seats.

First-time campaigners Jocelyn Gottlieb and Duval Graham have received Civic Conference Committee endorsement with incumbent Tracey St. Auburn. The CCC, made up of various Glen Ridge organizational and political party representatives, makes its endorsement after their interviewing the candidates.

## local talk

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

Son Charles "Chuck," Jr., daughters Lisa Youngberg and Celeste Gross, sister Arlene Belt, four grandsons and two granddaughters are among Nankivell's survivors. Wife Elizabeth Mary "Betty" Tighe, who he met while she was Rutgers' veterans' advisor, died in 2012.

Memorial donations in the former Bloomfield Volunteer Emergency Squad trustee's name may be made to Montgomery EMS Squad 47 Rescue, 8 Harlingen Rd., Belle Mead 08502.

BELLEVILLE - "Four Seasons" cofounder and native son Tommy DeVito, who died in a Henderson, Nev., hospital Sept. 21, is to have a memorial service held in or around here in the near future.

DeVito, 92 who initially formed the Variety Trio before adding Frankie Valli, died from COVID-19 complications at Siena St. Roy Dominican Hospital 9:30 p.m. local time Monday. He was last publicly seen, said daughter Darcel, having dinner at a local Italian-American club Aug. 19.

Tommy (whose first name was actually Gaetano) was born the youngest of nine children here June 19, 1928 and were raised in their uncle's apartment during the Great Depression. He started playing one of his older brother's guitar along with the radio at eight years old.

DeVito, who said he had an early reputation as a hellraiser, left school in the eighth grade to start playing and performing in local clubs. (Belleville High School awarded him an honorary diploma in 2012.) He, brother Nick and Hank Majewski formed the Variety Trio in the mid-1950s to play in bars, lounges, and other area venues.

It was at a Belleville bar when DeVito noticed an under-aged Francis Castelluccio - Frankie Valli - slipping in one 1957 night and ushered him on stage. Valli wowed the crowd with his falsetto style and offered him a place.

The quartet went through several names, record labels and performers before DeVito, Valli, Bob Gaudio and Nicholas "Nick Massi" Macioci became "The Four Seasons" in 1960. Their first 45 rpm record, "Sherry" made Billboard's top 10 in 1962 - ushering a string of 29 top 40 hits through 1970.

"We suddenly went from earning \$1,000 a week to \$1,000 a day," recalled

DeVito. "I went up and down three or four times and have gone to hell six or seven times."

DeVito left the quartet, sold his rights to Valli and moved to the Las Vegas area in late 1970. Although the announcement cited a hearing problem, DeVito said later that he tired of the touring. The "Jersey Boys" 2007 play and 2014 movie, however, alleged that DeVito had racked up Mob-held gambling debts.

"What you saw in 'Jersey Boys' is 50 to 85 percent true," said DeVito in 2008. "Members of my family knew members of 'the family.' The most I did for them was to sing at several of their benefits. And I'm clean - very clean."

DeVito worked various and sundry jobs until he opened a home production studio in the 1980s. Valli and Gaudio gave him a 25 percent cut of "Jersey Boys" profits and royalties.

NUTLEY - Riders here and in the Upper Montclair/Montclair State University area are running out of time and options to use their Decamp Bus Lines tickets on NJTransit.

NJTransit will stop taking and honoring unexpired Decamp tickets on its Montclair-Boonton Line and on its 191, 192, 195, 199 and 324 bus routes after Sept. 30. The statewide carrier had actually extended the deadline from Aug. 31.

The 191, 192 and 195 have local stops here, and/or MSU, Montclair Heights and Upper Montclair on their way to and from New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal. All five specified routes use the Route 3 corridor from either Clifton's Allwood Park-and-Ride or the Willowbrook Mall.

195 bus riders in the Great Notch area will still have their NJTransit passes cross -honored by M-BL train staff as they have had since Great Notch Station was abandoned Jan. 15, 2010.

Nutley and Belleville who used to take Decamp for local intrastate rides have presumably switched to the 192, 13 and 74 routes. CoachUSA has meanwhile stopped honoring Decamp tickets on its Community Coach 77 route since Sept. 14.

There has been no indication from Decamp, as of 2 p.m. Sept. 22, on when, or if, they will resume commuter service. The 150-year-old carrier, citing low post-COVID-19 ridership, suspended all of its services Aug. 7.

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