

NOV. 2 BALLOT ISSUES

PAGE 5



INTERVIEW WITH MADELYN HOFFMAN: GREEN PARTY GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE

By Dhiren Shah



November 2, 2021 will mark another important election to determine the governor of New Jersey. Incumbent Governor Phil Murphy (Democrat), Jack Ciattarelli (Republican), Madelyn Hoffman (Green Party), Gregg Mele (Libertarian Party), and Joanne Kuni-ansky (Socialist Workers Party) are confirmed as running.

The first debate between candi-

(Continued on page 14)

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 47 • SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 - OCTOBER 6, 2021

"LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

LOCAL TALK



25¢

Newark • Irvington • East Orange • Orange • West Orange • South Orange • Maplewood • Bloomfield • Montclair and more

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF: ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Ave., Maplewood, NJ 07040 • 973-622-1111 • localtalk@aol.com • www.localtalkweekly.com

INDEX

Editorial & Weather	02
The Doctor Is In	04
World News	06
Finance At Your Fingertips	07
Town Watch	10
Sports Wrap	11
From The Pastor's Heart	12
FBI CRIME STATS	13

MURPHY VS. CIATTARELLI: ROUND 1

By Kristopher Seals

NEWARK - A place known for showstopping performances had two colorful characters on its stage, garnering cheers and jeers for each.

On Sept. 28, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center played host to the first gubernatorial debate of 2021 between incumbent Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) and challenger and former 16th District Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli (R-Hillsborough). WABC's legendary anchor Sade Baderinwa and Brian Taff of WPVI served as moderators, while Adriana Var-

gas-Sino of Univision, and NJ Advance Media reporter Amanda Hoover asked supplemental questions, along with inquiries submitted by students and the general public.

Although Baderinwa and Taff put in a solid effort to keep the debate running smoothly, there were some occasional interruptions from a passionate audience. The restless crowd was locked in on the key issues: Tropical Storm Ida response, COVID-19, women's rights, the budget and more.

First, Ciattarelli tagged Murphy with the deaths of 30 New Jersey residents in Ida's after-

math after the current governor waited to declare a state of emergency - 12 hours after Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Wolf had done so. Murphy countered that his administration was working towards addressing climate change, which he blamed for the storm's severity.

Then, as the conversation shifted to COVID-19, Ciattarelli again had a strand to pull on, calling out Murphy for nursing deaths amid the pandemic. While Murphy could not give a solid retort to that unfortunate reality, he was able to use the virus later on to highlight Ciattarelli's stance on being against vaccine

and mask mandates.

"You can't look for wiggle room on vaccines, and your body your choice. You can't ignore the science as it relates to masking. It is crystal clear," Murphy said.

Later, Baderinwa questioned Ciattarelli on his stance concerning systemic racism. Ciattarelli answered, "I think what we should be teaching our children is the golden rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. That's what we should be teaching our children."

In regard to taking care of women, both sides took heavy damage. Murphy blasted Ciat-

(Continued on page 13)



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group
THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES

60 Evergreen Place, Suite 400, West Orange, NJ

Offering Same Day
Appointments for
**All Specialties and
DOT Exams**

Turn
To
PAGE
16



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The NJ Gubernatorial election is only a little over a month away. If we talk about Governor Phil Murphy, he has done a good job. He has handled the coronavirus pandemic okay in the beginning, but started to handle it better in 2021. His approval rating is 54% compared to a disapproval rating of 37%. Not a major setback under his leadership. So, people like him and most likely he will be reelected in upcoming election on November 2, 2021.

On the federal level, Biden's disapproval rating (50%) is higher than the approval rating (45.2%). Some of the Biden supporting news media have com-

pared him to Trump. However, we should not compare. His presidency weakened immediately after pulling out troops from Afghanistan. 100% Republicans, some Democrats, some experts in that field have criticized Biden.

Inflation will stop the economic recovery as reported by the IMF (International Monetary Fund). Also, Thursday will be the last day for Congress to approve the budget or grant an extension. If not, then the federal government will shut down until at least a temporary budget or extension is not approved.

Biden has proposed for banks to report all transactions over \$600 to the IRS. The banks have opposed that. It is about control on the private life of the citizens, as well as illegal immigrants.

Per Fox News: "The powerful U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday launched a six-figure ad campaign pressuring moderate House Democrats to vote against a sweeping \$3.5 tril-

lion reconciliation package, warning the bill poses an 'existential threat' to the economy's recovery from the pandemic.. The ads target Reps. Cindy Axne of Iowa, Angie Craig of Minnesota, Antonio Delgado of New York, Josh Harder of California and Elaine Luria of Virginia. 'This reconciliation bill is effectively 100 bills in one representing every big government idea that's never been able to pass in Congress,' U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Suzanne Clark said in a statement. 'The bill is an existential threat to America's fragile economic recovery and future prosperity.'"

Washington Post: "Biden's agenda is in deep danger. But Pelosi has a hidden way out. Viewed from certain angles, the standoff between progressives and centrists over the multi-trillion-dollar reconciliation bill certainly appears intractable. With the fate of the Biden presidency on the line, a total implo-

sion of the Democratic agenda is at least a possibility".

Overall, violent crime rose 5.6 percent in 2020, while property crimes fell 7.8 percent, the FBI said in its annual Uniform Crime Report. Assaults increased 12 percent, according to the bureau. In the 1980s, there was a higher crime rate, especially violent crime. The trend was coming down, but in 2020 the crime rate went up 30.9%. So, it will be very interesting what the Biden administration is doing for Americans.

About 20 years ago, a quiet Orange Township had a spike the crime. On Monday, there was another shooting and murder. There are three schools finishing at the same time in the same vicinity of the incident. The crime in and around the schools has been a problem for a long time, and it must be solved.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Publisher & Editor-in-chief	: Dhiren Shah
Editors	: Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah
Journalists / Writers	: Kristopher Seals Walter Elliott Bro. Thomas Ellis Dhiren Shah William Hathaway Jr. Dr. Daniel Louis Ahmed Screven, Esq. Anuj Shah Lev Zilbermints Kinjal Shah Asha Shah Akshat Shah, MD Ivy Mahabir Kalindi Bhatt Dr. Robert Kennedy
Photographers	: Dhiren Shah Kristopher Seals Thomas Ellis II D. Adams, Jr.
Distributors	: Larry Wright Walter Elliott Fred Simpson
Newspaper Designer	: New Image Art Studio
Web	: www.localtalkweekly.com

Ask for our advertising rates and increase your business and get exposure to tens of thousands of readers every week.
email your request to localtalknews@gmail.com or call 973-622-1111.

Subscribe to LOCAL TALK weekly newspaper

\$50 for one (1) year

Send your name, address and check or money order to:
Local Talk Weekly Newspaper • 1576 Springfield Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040 • Tel: 973-622-1111

To serve you in the best manner, we request that you send your comments, community calendar events, news and other information and queries related to advertisements to the editor on e-mail :
localtalknews@gmail.com

LOCAL TALK POLICIES

• We reserve the right to accept or reject any news item, article or advertising, which is not in accordance with Local Talk's Statement of Purpose. We further reserve the right to edit, correct and modify all copy submitted. Letters, articles, and news events are welcomed; but Local Talk will not assume any responsibility for them. • We regret that the volume of mail and pressure of deadlines precludes sending acknowledgements of receipt; nor can advance notice be given if articles are accepted or rejected for publication. • Unused materials may be used at a later date (if not date sensitive) and therefore, they cannot be returned. • The printing of articles or advertising in Local Talk does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement by the editorial staff of Local Talk. • This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. • We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	PM Rain	Showers Likely	Partly Cloudy / Rain
HI 69 LO 52	HI 70 LO 50	HI 76 LO 59	HI 75 LO 56	HI 77 LO 64	HI 73 LO 61	HI 72 LO 60



NEWARK Rx Pharmacy

Your health is our priority!

Available



COVID-19
TESTING

UNIT
DOSE
PACK



GRAND OPENING

FREE! DELIVERY

📍 13 William St. Newark, NJ 07102

✉️ newarkrxpharmacy@gmail.com

🕒 Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm / Sat: 9am - 3pm

973-500-3660 📞

973-500-3666 📞



We accept most major health insurance.

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

The Mu Variant: Should We Be Worried?

No. At least, not yet. There you go, the answer to the topic question. I'm certain the next question that springs to mind is, 'what even is the Mu variant?'

Well, that's a lot more difficult to answer.

The Mu variant, like other variants of the coronavirus, arose due to mutations in the parent virus. There usually is a lot of controversy about whether viruses are 'true' living organisms, and that's because they are basically non-living when outside a host. They cannot carry out metabolic processes necessary for growth and propagation without a host. Viruses are virtually powerless without a host, but when they do get a host; well, just look at the coronavirus.

Before I drift even further from the question of the Mu variant, what I wanted to drive at is that viruses are capable of evolution after infecting a host, like all living organisms. This means they can mutate and develop into 'better' forms of themselves. The coronavirus is no exception.

You must have heard of the Delta virus; hell, you may even know more about it than me with the hype about it! The Delta

strain is the major strain now in terms of new cases of the virus. About 99% of new cases in the country are of the Delta variant. This is no surprise, because unlike the parent virus, Delta has good vaccine-evading properties, not to mention that it is more transmissible than the parent virus.

There are other strains, though, as is evident in the graphic shown.

The Mu is also a variant. The Mu has mutations present in the Delta variant, the Beta variant, and even the Alpha variant. The E484K and K147N, particularly, are identified in the Beta variant.

The Mu variant first originated in Colombia in January, and has slowly made its way across the world. While the Mu only constitutes about 1% of new cases, it is making quite a name for itself recently. In New Jersey, over the last few weeks, 16 new cases have been identified. That's the figure available to me as at the time of writing, so it'll probably be higher by the time you are reading this.

The question a lot have been asking is if it is more serious than the Delta strain. The answer is obviously no. I mean, the gulf in the number of cases just tells you all you need to know. Right now, the Mu variant is regarded as a Variant of Interest by the WHO, not a Variant of Concern. That, again, should tell you a lot about how serious it is compared to the Delta strain.

While there isn't much cause for worry now, there's no telling how it could develop. Things change rapidly with these petulant microorganisms. But, right now, there is no conclusive, or even plausible, proof that it evades vaccine action or is more transmissible than the Delta.

This isn't to say the variant

shouldn't be taken seriously - far from it. Every variant and form of this damn virus should be taken seriously. This article is only offering views relative to the other variants, particularly the Delta.

All these talks of new variants will persist until we can reach a high enough threshold of vaccinated individuals. Over half of the nation is vaccinated, but that's still not enough, especially when you consider how fast mutations arise. So, the message has still not changed - get vaccinated.

Please. Stay safe, folks.

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

References

- <https://whyy.org/articles/do-i-need-to-worry-about-the-mu-variant/>
- <https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20210909/mu-covid-variant-qa>
- <https://api.nationalgeographic.com/distribution/public/amp/science/article/the-mu-variant-is-on-the-rise-scientists-weigh-in-on-how-much-to-worry>
- <https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-health-europe-united-states-coronavirus-pandemic-9bc7b53dc5c119ddcfe7e124ae329ed4>

Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



We Save the Limbs that Others Can't.

DON'T WAIT.

These symptoms may mean serious problems:

Leg or Foot Pain • Gangrene • Non-Healing Wounds
Leg Cramping • Skin Discoloration

**Prompt treatment is essential to preserving
your long-term health and quality of life.**

CALL TODAY: 833.PAD.EXPERT (723.3973)



John Rundback, MD



**Endovascular &
Amputation Prevention**
Affiliated with American Endovascular

americanendovascular.com



Kevin Herman, MD

**Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052**

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, 8 BOARD OF ED RACES ON NOV. 2 BALLOT

By Walter Elliott

MAPLEWOOD - Township voters - who have the rare opportunity to decide on five school board candidates, two Township Committee members and a municipal public question - may well be the first "Local Talk" town to witness campaigning on the Nov. 2 General Election's nearest level.

"Local Talk," while delivering papers in the township's Jefferson Village center Sept 24, began noticing "Vote Yes" signs and "fact sheets" posted on several storefronts.

What could be called "Public Question No. 3" on Maplewoodian ballots is calling for a "Vote Yes" or "Vote No" on a proposed artificial athletic turf field on DeHart Park.

The Township Committee, in a 4-1 July 20 vote, approved Ordinance 3040-21, which authorizes issuing \$1.9 million in bonds for the DeHart field. Four committee members favor an

artificial field; the sole dissenter wants an improved natural grass field.

The township elders agreed to put the question before Maplewood voters. A "Yes" would be a green light for proceeding with the turf field. A "No" means the turf field will not be installed.

This local choice is adjacent to a pair of statewide public questions on the ballot.

Maplewood and Montclair are the two "Local Talk" towns that have municipal-level public questions up before voters.

Maplewood and South Orange voters - above the public questions on the Essex County Vote By Mail Ballot - are to choose three people for the two-town board of education from among five candidates. They are among six "Local Talk" towns whose registered voters are to also pick their school board members.

Maplewood voters are to vote on two of its Township

Committee members - joining East Orange and Glen Ridge in picking all or some of their elders.

All "Local Talk" towns are to also choose a Governor and Lieutenant Governor, a State Senator and two State General Assembly Members among four legislative districts and an Essex County Sheriff.

Some may have noticed television ads and campaign signs since Labor Day for the gubernatorial candidates.

The following is to supplement the public questions and school board races found on the VBMBs that Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin began sending out Sept. 18. "Local Talk" will be listing BOE candidates in general alphabetical order and not along ballot lines.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

State Question No. 1 is asking voters whether to amend the New Jersey Constitution to al-

low wagering on all college sports and athletic events through casinos and/or horse racing tracks.

The 1947 Constitution prohibits wagering on any college sport or athletic event taking place in New Jersey. Saying "Yes" will permit the State Legislature to so amend the Constitution. Such wagering, however, will only take place in casinos and horse race tracks.

State Question No. 2 is asking voters whether to amend the State Constitution so that organizations holding raffles and bingo games can use the net proceeds to support those groups.

The Constitution currently makes such an exception for senior citizen and veterans groups. Net proceeds received by charitable, civic, educational, fraternal and religious groups are to go to "charitable, educational, patriotic, religious and public-spirited uses."

(Continued on page 9)



New Grace Academy

CALL US NOW!
862-520-3990
973-280-2005

Transforming
COMPASSION into
Excellence

ALL PROGRAMS ARE
APPROVED BY:
NJ BOARD OF NURSING,
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EDUCATION
AND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FREE If Qualified

ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE

Classes: DAYS, EVENINGS & SATURDAYS

60 Evergreen Pl., Suite 307
East Orange, NJ 07018

862-520-3990 / 862-520-3577 / Cell: 973-280-2005
www.newgracenj.com / newgracenj@gmail.com

- Homemaker / Home Health Aide (HHA)
- Electrocardiograph Technician (EKG)
- Phlebotomy Technician (CPT)
- Patient Care Technician (PCT)
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Clinical Medical Assistance & more...



STOP SUFFERING

from debilitating fibroid symptoms

WE CAN HELP!
There is a medically safe non-surgical
alternative to hysterectomy:

UTERINE FIBROID EMBOLIZATION (UFE)
Reduces the Size and Symptoms of Fibroids
Minimally Invasive Procedure
Fully Equipped Outpatient Center—NO Hospital Stay
Fewer Complications and Quicker Recovery

CALL OUR EXPERTS TODAY!
833.UFE.EXPERT (833.833.3973)

John Rundback, MD  **American Fibroid Centers** Kevin Herman, MD
Affiliated with American Endovascular

fibroidexpert.com

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052



GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN LOOMING

UNITED STATES

If lawmakers in the nation's Capital are unable to reach an accord, your life will get pretty inconvenient.

On Sept. 30, Democrats and Republicans need to come to an agreement on either approving a budget or giving themselves an extension in order to prevent a government shutdown. Failure to do so would mean than anything with a noncritical link to the federal government would not be available to its taxpayers.

While you would not have to worry about the military defending you, trips to national monuments and parks would be off limits. Also, anything with Social Security and similar programs would be a mess, as you might still get a check, but signing up for SSI and things like that would be a no go. Last but not least, federal employees not deemed essential would be furloughed until an agreement is reached.

At the heart of the matter is disagreement between Democrats who have an idea of what should be passed, and Republicans and rebel Democrats who have their own agendas. The biggest issue is a \$3.5 trillion package, which may or may not get amended depending on who ever gets their way.

While this is pretty bad, wait until Oct. 18, as a decision on the nation's debt ceiling must be reached. If there is no agreement, then the United States of America will default on its obligations, and that would obliterate the economy of the nation - and put a dent in the world.

ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS TAINTS EBOLA FIGHT

AFRICA

Sexual abuse and exploitation allegedly carried out by World Health Organization (WHO) staff during the UN

health agency's response to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is "a sickening betrayal of the people we serve," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said on Sept. 28.

An independent panel commissioned by WHO identified more than 80 alleged cases of abuse during the outbreak, including allegations implicating 20 WHO staff members.

The release of the findings represented a "dark day for WHO," Tedros said, adding that it was also a betrayal of "our colleagues who put themselves in harm's way to serve others."

The Independent Investigation into the tenth Ebola outbreak in DRC began in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri in October 2020.

The epidemic was declared over on June 25 that year, after persisting for nearly two years in an active conflict zone. It led to 2,300 deaths and was declared the world's second-largest outbreak of the deadly and highly transmissible virus on record.

Malick Coulibaly, a panel member, said during a briefing on the 35-page report, that the commission interviewed dozens of women who were offered work in exchange for sex.

They also interviewed some who were alleged victims of rape, with nine such cases identified.

The women interviewed said the perpetrators used no birth control, resulting in some pregnancies. Some of the victims said the men who had abused them, forced them to have an abortion, Mr. Coulibaly added.

The review team identified 83 alleged perpetrators, both Congolese nationals and foreigners.

In 21 cases, it was able to establish with certainty that the alleged perpetrators were WHO employees. The majority of the alleged abusers, were Congolese staff, hired on a temporary basis. They are accused of taking advantage of their authority to obtain sexual favors, the report said.

JUSTICE FOR WORKERS

EUROPE

Eurojust has provided sup-

port to authorities in Romania and the United Kingdom to organize and conduct a joint action day, during which close to 55 Romanian victims of labor exploitation were brought to safety.

The victims, including several underaged young men, were forced to live in extremely poor conditions and work on construction sites without pay. A total of 11 suspects have been charged and 18 persons have been identified as belonging to the organized crime group (OCG) behind the exploitation. Eurojust helped to set up and supported a joint investigation team (JIT) into the case.

In total, 15 searches have taken place Sept. 28, both in Romania and the United Kingdom. Property and cash were seized and frozen for an estimated amount of EUR 250,000, to secure victims' claims.

The labor exploitation of more than 80 victims in the United Kingdom, dating back to 2015, by the Romanian-based OCG, is under judicial investigation. All victims originate from underprivileged families in Romania and were recruited by the criminal network, having been falsely promised good jobs in the United Kingdom.

On arrival, the victims were forced to work long hours without pay and were relieved of their identity papers by the perpetrators, except for occasional restitution to prevent police controls. The victims were regularly subjected to aggression and occasionally had to feed themselves from garbage cans while living in squalid housing.

The Romanian Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism cooperated with the Metropolitan Police and Crown Prosecution Service to investigate and stop the criminal activities.

Judicial cooperation was initiated back in 2019, and Eurojust actively supported the authorities by facilitating the establishment and funding the JIT with an amount of approximately EUR 68,000. The Agency organized three coordination meetings to facilitate the progress of the investigations.

The joint action day was carried out with the participation of specialized Romanian Police units, namely the Directorate for Countering Organized Crime

and the Brasov Brigade for Countering Organized Crime.

NORTH KOREA SPINS NARRATIVE

ASIA

The Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (aka North Korea) to the United Nations, Kim Song, said that if the United States "shows its bold decision to give up its hostile policy," his country is "prepared to respond willingly at any time."

"But it is our judgment that there is no prospect, at the present stage, for the US to really withdraw its hostile policy towards the DPRK," he added.

The Ambassador was speaking on the sixth, and final day of the high-level week of the General Assembly. After being held virtually last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year's gathering featured "hybrid" activities that included leaders in person along with virtual participants.

For Mr. Song, it is "the desire of the international community to see peaceful resolution of the issue of the Korean peninsula in the interests of the Korean nation."

The ambassador argued that the "main root cause lies in the hostile policy towards the DPRK," mostly from the United States.

"Worse still, they have a misconception that the US has become hostile towards the DPRK due to the nuclear issue," he said, but the United States has been "antagonizing the DPRK for more than 70 years."

"We have stored reliable power to defend ourselves by exerting continuous efforts, with a clear insight into the demand of the times which necessitates us to possess sufficient might for national defense in the face of the geopolitical environment and the balance of power on the Korean peninsula as well as ever-straining international relations."

He stressed, however, that his country does not wish to use this power against any nation. "In other words, we would never violate nor endanger the security of the US, South Korea and our neighboring countries," he explained.

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Starting A Business: Part 12... Lessons From Starting A Management Consulting Firm!

Going into consulting on a full-time basis was one of the most exciting and rewarding times of my life! I enjoyed the ability to create and develop the business. It was also very rewarding training and encouraging our interns and other research staff to be the best that they could be.

Through the business we gave them a voice. We allowed them to be creative, add professional touches and make decisions when they had gained some experienced. This increased their confidence and prepared them for greater tasks ahead of them.

Not long after starting the business, we saw the need to obtain an office space. This was to provide stability for the business as well as efficiency in getting work done. This is not necessary for every new business. It depends on a variety of factors. Looking back, I can now realize that we scaled up too quickly in hiring people. As employees are a cost, one must bring in employees only when you're certain that the value added exceeds the cost of salaries etc.

Our motive was to educate and support young folks who were sitting at home because the system was slow. While this increased overhead, it was enriching to support, train and guide new entrants to the workforce. Given our objective of training young employees, it was worthwhile to have an office. We provided a central location where all our staff could meet and

work peacefully together.

Apart from the office, we recognized that we needed office equipment. We needed furniture, computers, laser printers and a host of other minor items such as binding machines for our numerous reports. We bought equipment brand new at cut-throat prices. We were in a hurry and did not apply the rule of three.

This rule guides one to ensure you obtain at least three quotes for any item costing more than a couple of hundred dollars. It also requires assessing the cost variations and determining the reasons for this. While it may get complicated, the bottom-line is to choose the optimal equipment for your given situation, considering financial as well as production implications.

We had regular meetings to discuss finances as well as current projects and marketing efforts. This was an opportunity for all staff to provide inputs on the activities we would undertake. With the assignment of tasks, we were able to maximize our efficiency. Everyone had their role and was excited to be a part of the effort to succeed as a business.

It was a clear challenge trying to complete existing assignments while marketing for new ones. Through these meetings we empowered everyone in the office to keep an eye out for opportunities. This paid off big time when one of our researchers connected with an old client and was able to assist us in getting a major contract from a nonprofit organization in Ghana.

While tough to manage, we created a reward framework that allowed everyone to enjoy positive financial times. We created various allowances that gave each employee extra income above their agreed upon salary. Examples were clothing allowances which were provided annually. Our employees could thus afford to dress professionally and in doing so, provide a positive image of the company.

While it did not solve all problems, it was a motivational act that let all staff know that they were highly favored. It was our practice to take every employee out to dinner at a nice restaurant when it was their

(Continued on page 12)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ▶ Stop Bank Levies!
- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ▶ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ▶ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ▶ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
- ▶ Restore Driving Privileges
- ▶ Prevent Auto Repossessions
- ▶ ELIMINATE Credit Card & Medical Debt.



FOR FREE CONSULTATION:

Call

DAVID WITHERSPOON

Attorney-at-Law

10 Hill St. (Suite 20Y) • Newark,
NJ 07102

973-342-6653

973-489-9005

LOW RATES: ONE PHONE CALL MAY
REDUCE YOUR STRESS!

David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency.
A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	9-22-2021	Deaths	9-29-2021	Deaths
Belleville	6149	118	6206	118
Bloomfield	5831	127	5884	127
Caldwell	671	16	680	16
Cedar Grove	1699	121	1702	121
East Orange	7848	320	7907	320
Essex Fells	210	2	210	2
Fairfield	982	32	987	32
Glen Ridge	445	14	458	14
Irvington	5244	238	5291	239
Livingston	2082	89	2088	89
Maplewood	1499	39	1512	39
Millburn	952	10	972	10
Montclair	2556	75	2586	75
Newark	39952	1049	40272	1052
North Caldwell	565	7	571	7
Nutley	3330	68	3358	68
Orange	3824	142	3838	142
Roseland	525	17	530	17
South Orange	1094	16	1103	16
Verona	1128	18	1136	18
West Caldwell	1136	54	1147	54
West Orange	4996	234	5054	234
Total	92718	2806	93492	2810

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of September 29, 2021)
NJ: 1,001,635 cases / 24,613 deaths (Plus 2,787 probable)
United States (approx.): 43.333 Million / 694,900 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 233.128 Million / 4.771 Million deaths

**LOCAL
WEEKLY****TALK
PRINTING**

FREE PARKING ♦ HUGE SAVINGS IN PRINTING ♦ BETTER SERVICE

1576 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, MAPLEWOOD, NJ ♦ localtalk@aol.com ♦ localtalkweekly.comTels. (973) 622-1111 ♦ (973) 280-7547 ♦ E-mail: localtalkprinting@gmail.com**COUPON****15¢****SAVE OVER 50% from our competitors INCLUDING Staples**

FIRST COPY \$5.00 each file additional copy 15¢ per copy

ie: 100 Copies \$20 * 200 Copies \$35 * 500 Copies \$80

80lb. Gloss Text Paper add 5¢ per copy**100lb. Gloss Cover 25¢ per copy**

Camera Ready art pdf or jpg.

We can do professional setup...at a very reasonable price

Business Cards, Post Cards and Complete Printing Service at a reasonable price

This special comes once in a year...Get the benefit you deserve in this pandemic

COUPON CODE OCT21

Must bring / mention coupon at the time of ordering

Expires October 31, 2021

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, 8 BOARD OF ED RACES ON NOV. 2 BALLOT

(Continued from page 5)

Voting "Yes" will allow the said charitable, civic, educational, fraternal and religious groups to use their games of chance proceeds to support them.

Montclair Question No. 1 is asking township voters whether the Montclair Public Schools Board of Education change from a mayor-appointed Type One board to a voter-elected Type Two district.

A "Yes" vote, going by Orange's 2016-20 experience, would start a three-year transition period where a special election would add two part-term members to the current seven-member board. It would start an annual cycle of three three-year BOE seats up for vote.

The question, if passed, will have Montclair join the other eight "Local Talk" towns with school boards on the November General Election ballot. The current Board of School estimate would be dissolved.

A "No" vote would retain the mayor's power to appoint members. The BSE will continue to set annual school budgets. Montclair would stay with East Orange and seven other school boards statewide who are mayor-appointed.

BOARDS OF EDUCATION

"Local Talk" is leading with ORANGE, where three incumbents are facing off against two challengers, to repeat an example of how not to run a nonpartisan school board campaign.

David Kerr Armstrong, Derrick Henry and Siaka Sharief are asking for a majority of city voters to return them onto the Orange Public Schools board.

Armstrong, seeking his first elected term, is running under his own "About the Children" banner. He was appointed to the board after the Nov. 8, 2018-elected Brenda Daughtry resigned.

Henry, seeking his second term, is running with the "Orange First" banner.

Sharif is looking for his second three-year term and his third overall. He was elected to an eight-month term in Orange's historic first school board election March 16, 2018.

Challenging are Cierra Green and

BREAST CANCER VIRTUAL 5K RUN/WALK
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021
8:30am-12pm
EVERYWHERE AROUND THE WORLD
"FIGHT WITH FAITH"
\$25.00 INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION
FUNDS RAISED BENEFIT
BREAST CANCER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(BCAP)
Registration now open @
<https://bit.ly/sistersnetworkessexcounty5kvirtual5kwalkrun>





REGISTRATION and or DONATIONS can be mailed to:
Sisters Network Essex County
P.O. Box 1992
Newark, NJ 07101
EMAIL: EssexCounty@SistersNetworkInc.org
(908) 351-0034

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Myrtha Lominy-Rhodes. They are sharing a common "Achieving Greatness Together" platform.

Board of education candidates, unlike most other candidates on the General Election ballot, as of Sept. 28, are running nonpartisan campaigns.

The said candidates are allowed to campaign under joint nonpartisan platforms or slogans. BOE candidates may accept endorsements from incumbent office-holders and/or challenging political candidates.

School board candidates are not to identify themselves or their campaigns with a political party.

Such labeling runs against

the spirit of New Jersey State Law 19:60-1. This hopefully rare practice is also decried by the NJ School Boards Association and the NJ Education Commissioner.

There were three 2020 Orange BOE candidates who ran together on a shared "Good to Great" slogan on the ballot. The same trio then identified themselves on banners, lawn signs, palm cards and other campaign material, as the "Orange BOE Democratic Team."

Party politics ought to and

should be barred from entering the board of education door.

Any school board candidate who wears a political party affiliation on campaign material will be called out - regardless of who that party is.

SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD voters have an incumbent and four challengers to choose for three three-year terms.

SOMSD First Vice President and Maplewood resident Shannon Cuttle, under her "Forward Together" flag, is seeking her third term.

Former board president An-

(Continued on page 15)

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 - More of you may have smelled what Gov. Phil Murphy had called "a big crazy fire in Newark" Sept. 22 long before seeing its black plume and/or learning about it.

Newark Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara said firefighters first responded to the 9:35 a.m. first call from EMR Recycling here at 206 Calcutta St. The first units found a stubborn fire in the Port Newark scrapyard. They were challenged by the property being fronted on three sides by the Newark and Elizabeth channels and Newark Bay.

The NFD on-scene incident commander soon called for more than an "all hands" second alarm. Around 40 firefighters were called in, laying four miles of water lines, plus NYFD Mariner 9 fireboat and Essex County's Neptune System. The latter apparatus pumps 10,000 gallons of water a minute.

Firefighters also had EMR's heavy equipment operators make a fire break around the burning pile and to clear the area of more flammable metals. The north-by-northwest pillar of smoke appeared to have threatened visibility of NJ Turnpike motorists and Newark Liberty International Airport aviators.

Residents in Newark, Bloomfield and Montclair reported an odd smell in the air that afternoon. Smoke and smell reports were fielded by the NYFD from residents in upper Manhattan and the Bronx. It took all day to extinguish the blaze.

State Police Superintendent Col. Patrick Callahan told Murphy during their Coronavirus briefing that Wednesday that no

injuries were reported.

IRVINGTON - The driver of what Irvington police said was a stolen car may be answering, when you read this, for his running a red light here at Grove Street and 18th Avenue at 7:30 a.m. Sept. 22.

The driver's red four-door late model Honda struck the back of a southbound NJTransit No. 5812 NABI bus. The impact sent the southbound No. 90 bus, with 31 people aboard, onto the street's sidewalk.

Security footage from Best Cars R Us at 675 Grove, showed the bus taking down the intersection's southwest traffic light, snapping two utility poles and taking down the car dealership's fence.

Another video, from a witness' cell phone, showed the bus stopping before Jason's Auto Body at 681 Grove - and some of its riders bailing out of its windows.

Local residents, some of whom had heard a bang, immediately lost power. One of the 30 passengers reported an injury to his foot to one of the two RWJBarnabas Health ambulances that came to the scene.

IPD officers found an unconscious man with injuries behind the Honda's steering wheel. The car was reported as stolen from Irvington the day before. His female front seat passenger's condition was not immediately known.

It took until 6 p.m. that Wednesday for responding PSE&G crews to restore power. IPD officers and IFD firefighters detoured traffic away from the intersection - including buses on the 90, 1, and 361 routes.

EAST ORANGE - This city's municipal court has had to go without one of its five judges since Sept. 22 because of what that jurist said while presiding part-time from a Newark bench more than two years ago.

New Jersey Supreme Chief Justice Stuart Rabner authorized a Sept. 17 order to have Steven A. Brister, JMC, Esq. suspended from all judicial duties for 30 days without pay through Oct. 22. The order does not affect Brister's legal practice from Union.

Rabner accepted the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct's recommendation for Brister's suspension. The ACJC, after its July 30, 2019 informal conference with him and in its Oct. 22, 2019 formal complaint to the NJ Supreme Court, found Brister's Feb. 21, 2019 remarks from a Newark bench, "sexist, misogynistic and wholly misplaced in a court of law."

Brister's remarks were made while he was an as-needed judge in Newark Municipal Court that Feb. 21. He presided over a remote televised session with a domestic violence defendant. Brister was attempting to advise the defendant that "you be the man and you're in control" without "in each of these complaints you went at them like Mike Tyson."

The judge said that "we get frustrated with women because we try to straighten out a creation . . . created with a curve."

Brister, in the July 30 conference, said he was alluding to the Genesis account of creation, where God made Eve from one of Adam's ribs. The judge added his remarks were "well-meaning but undeniably misguided" and "a poor choice of words." The "ABA Journal" reported that Brister had since had "training and counseling from his presiding judge and from a former municipal judge."

The ACJC noted Brister's remorse in their report to Rabner.

ORANGE - Concerned residents and parents may be asking the Orange City Council and Orange Public Schools Board of Education at their respective Oct. 5 and 12 meetings for longer-term responses in the wake of a fatal daylight shooting here at a major intersection Sept. 27.

Witnesses said that students from Orange High School, Orange Preparatory Academy and Lincoln Avenue School were just dismissed, or about to be dismissed, when shots rang out from Central and Lincoln avenues around 2:50 p.m. Monday.

Some witnesses said they saw a male shoot at another man by Martin "Marty" De Marzo Orange Fire Headquarters. The victim, suffering a gunshot wound to the face, fell.

While many bystanders, including students, fled to safety, OFD firefighters promptly aided the fallen man. They and responding Orange police officers blocked the Central and Lincoln intersection, detouring all traffic.

OPS Superintendent Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, OHS Principal Jason Belton and Lincoln Avenue Principal Frank Iannucci were also among those rushing to the scene. They had reportedly put their schools into lockdown.

Local EMS technicians rushed the victim to Newark's University Hospital, where he was reportedly declared dead at 5:45 p.m. He was identified only as an OHS Class of 2019 graduate as of 3 p.m. Sept. 28.

UPDATE: The deceased has been identified as Siam Neblett, 20, of Orange.

WEST ORANGE - West Orange Public Schools Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Cascone, at Sept. 20's Board of Education meeting and Sept. 24 weekly update, said that the district is grappling with its late school buses.

Cascone said, at the BOE meeting, that the district has been coping with a nationwide bus driver shortage by putting some buses "on triple runs." Some 4,000 students take school buses to classes and extracurricular activities.

"They start at the high school, then they do the middle school and then the elementary school," said the superintendent. "If that's not exactly operating on time, then it really impacts the elementary school the most."

Cascone, who reminded audiences that WOPS began running school buses for the first time in 18 months Sept. 7, said that the buses are improving their daily on-time performance. He will convene a focus group for art clubs to improve their after-school bus runs.

The superintendent was responding to a WOHS drama club student's query at the Sept. 20 meeting. The student said that theater and arts programs need "late bus" transportation as much as the athletes do. Seating is limited and a late pass is necessary to board.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLE-
(Continued on page 14)

SPORTS WRAP



Photos By
Keith Munford

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school season has hit week four. East Orange Campus High School's undefeated Jaguars are the talk of Essex County, and their winning ways continued against West Orange, who put up a great fight.

The Jaguars took the lead late in the first quarter on a Raeden Oliver 12 yard touch-down pass to Joshua Richards. Another TD for EO came late in

downs. Also, the Bloomfield Bengals lost another tough game on the road against their rival the Montclair Mounties. Montclair tamed their neighbors in a 38-0 beatdown.

After the stunning resignation of head coach Randy Daniels, the Orange Tornadoes were at home trying to get there first win of the year, against a tough West Essex team. Sadly, the Tornadoes lost 34-0 at home. Orange will head to Belleville next to play the Bucs.



the game when Oliver tossed a 32 yard pass to Damon Phillips, which led to a 21-14 win and a 4-0 mark on the season.

In other action, the Irvington Blue Knights won their third straight game with a strong 28-0 win over West Side in Newark. Saquan Gordon led Irvington with 129 yards and two touch-

Finally, in their game against the Falcons, the Giants retired Eli Manning's #10 at halftime. Unfortunately, they lost 17-14 thanks to a field goal from Ridgewood native Younghoe Koo as time expired. In Denver, the Jets were shut out by the Broncos 26-0.

Heritage House Apartments

50 South Munn Ave., East Orange, NJ 07018
A PRESTIGIOUS SENIOR COMMUNITY

We are currently accepting applications for studios and one bed rooms in our 204 Unit Apartment Building! The property has undergone exterior and interior renovations including a completely new exterior, new elevator, newly installed hallway carpeting, and upgraded community room with computer lab and improvements to most apartment units. Heritage House is conveniently located near shopping, health care facilities, mass transportation and major thoroughfares.

Apartment/Community Features:

- Newly renovated accessible and barrier-free units
- Fully Equipped Modern kitchens
- Plenty of closet space
- On site laundry facility
- Attended Lobby Entrance
- 24 HR Emergency call w/On Site Maintenance
- Recreational Community Room
- Lovely picturesque outdoor garden sitting area.
- Free on-site indoor garage parking
- Window Treatments

AN EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Heritage House does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. A senior executive has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR, part 8 dated June 2, 1988). You may address your request for review or reconsideration to: Senior Vice President, Related Management Company, LP, 423 W. 55th St, 9th Fl. NY, NY 10019, (212) 319-1200, NY TTY 1-800-662-1220



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



Annual Income Qualifications:
**Maximum income
\$38,460.00 – 1 person
\$43,920.00 – 2 persons
** Subject to program guidelines

Open Monday - Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Call: 973-677-9111
TTY: 1-800-852-7899
or Stop by!

Unlocking the Door to Excellent Grades at the College and University Level
by MOSES M.B. AYIKU, JR.
MBA FINANCE, M. PHIL ECONOMICS

Unlocking the Door to Excellent Grades at the College and University level

This book is intended for:

- ▶ Final year High School Students
- ▶ College and University Students
- ▶ Academic institutions

"Good grades are achievable by every student!!!"

- ▶ M. Ayiku Jr. MBA Finance M. Phil Economics

Author of the book

The book is available on Amazon and All major book channels

Parents should reach out for tutoring for their wards representative or Councilperson.

Call or email to arrange one on one quality tutoring!!

Mosesayiku@yahoo.com
Tel: 646-643-3400

Make Money \$\$\$ with Local Talk Distribution

For the first time ever, you can
MAKE MONEY by **SELLING**
copies of **LOCAL TALK**
at your establishment

- Easy set up with simple terms
 - * Get a Free Listing
- We will provide support if you need it
 - * Attract New Customers
- By giving residents access to the news,
and you build Community Trust
- Improve foot traffic for better sales
 - * Get access to tier discounts

TO LEARN MORE

Call (973) 280-7547 or (973) 622-1111
or email: localtalk@aol.com

LOCAL TALK
WEEKLY

1576 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, MAPLEWOOD, NJ
localtalk@aol.com ♦ www.localtalkweekly.com ♦ localtalkprinting@gmail.com



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

On Death And Dying

It is hard to talk to someone these days and not mention the subject of death, for it is everywhere.

A few days ago, a distraught mother spoke to my wife and me about how her two young children were asking, "Why did their grandma have to die?" The mother thought it was so devastating for the children that she was seeking a counselor for them. I told her that while we would do our best to give her support, she needed to get the necessary help for the children.

So, we offered our help in finding the right persons for the children. At the same time, we are suffering too because the children's grandmother was like a sister to us. We have known grandma since she was a teenager. We are fifteen years older than her, so we have been asking, "Why did she have to die at such a young age?" Yes, a foolish question you might say, for as one who has funeralized so many, one would have thought that I understood very well the concept of death. But the question still stands: Why do we have to struggle with death?

I answer that if the present pandemic has not caused you as a reader to struggle with death

and dying, you must be "a dead person walking." The pandemic has caused the contemplation of death, a present reality to all of us.

I called someone yesterday to check on them, and the first thing that we started to talk about was death. She told me that as she spoke with another friend earlier, the main subject was death. I inquired about some of the questions that led to the conversation about death, and she offered that they spoke much about the brevity of life.

At that point, I had to admit to my friend that my thoughts were no different, for over the last few days, I, too, have been preoccupied with death. As we spoke, I told her that many who have died were much younger than me. I am participating in funerals for some of my students, the ages of my sons and younger.

As I reflected on death, I repeated, "Death is no respecter of persons." The rich die, and the poor die. Death does not care what time it comes. It is present with us every day, every moment. It is just something we cannot schedule.

I wanted to share the man's story in a city where people were dying all around him. He felt the death was coming too close to him, so he decided to move and go into the country where he would not have so much death. The first person he met, he asked, "what is the death rate out there?" The person answered, "The same as in the city, one to a person." The man returned to the city where he later died.

Yes, the conversation with my friend on the phone contin-

ued with her stating that death is natural. At that moment, the preacher in me came forward. I said that death as a natural phenomenon might seem true. But, because it is common, that does not mean it is natural. In reality, it is not as natural as we might think it to be. That is why we feel so much pain when it occurs.

The separation is most difficult. The questions that are raised are so confusing. The stresses and strains on the families and friends and all who are left behind are so heavy. In fact, death creates a lot of ambiguity, strangeness, and paradox.

As the conversation continued, I said, "I did not call to give a Bible study, but if you give me the permission, I have to quote a few Scriptural passages." She said, please let me hear them, and I began. I don't know the order I was quoting, but here are a few of the text, with their scriptural references:

Romans 6:23 "**For the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Emphasis mine)

Genesis 3:19 "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your bread until you return to the ground - because out of it were you taken. **For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.**" (Emphasis mine)

Hebrews 9:27 "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

Ecclesiastes 3:2 "a time to be born and a time to die, a time to

plant and a time to uproot,"

Job 14:15 "Seeing his days *are* determined, the number of his months *are* with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass."

2 Samuel 14:14 "For surely we will die and be like water poured out on the ground, which cannot be recovered. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises ways that the banished one may not be cast out from Him."

Psalms 90:9-14 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;

We finish our years like a sigh. The days of our lives *are* seventy years;

And if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knows the power of Your anger?

For as the fear of You, *so is* Your wrath. **So teach us to number our days,**

That we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Emphasis mine)

I closed what I now say was a Bible study by saying, "Thank God, death does not have the last word over us. That is especially true for the people of God, for the Bible says: Revelation 14:13. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: *Blessed are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

(Continued on page 13)

FINANCE (Continued from page 7)

birthday. These events allowed us to relax, bond and have decent fun together.

We developed strong and positive relationships with most of our clients. This meant attending their private events and supporting their non work activities. We were often invited into the homes of our clients for meals and meetings. Our relationships were the backbone of our work. Indeed, most of our clients ended up calling on us annually to perform various consulting tasks.

By relating closely with our

clients, we had honest and open discussions which created a positive communication channel for work activities. Also, by going to their homes and meeting their families, we saw our clients as more than just sources of income. These were real people, and it was clear that our success impacted not only them but their families and inner circles as well.

One area where we had an opportunity and did not focus on was workshops and seminars. While very time consuming to organize, the few we did were very well received and participants gave very positive reviews.

Such events also got our name in the media, making our marketing effort a little bit easier.

We learnt a bitter lesson about media when we conducted our first major seminar on "Understanding the economy." The media was present, and we did not know that we were better off providing well-structured statements to the media. This left the media personnel to write what they understood of our comments and unfortunately what some of them wrote simply did not make any sense. Going forward we knew we had to provide media press kits containing all the relevant information

which they could literally copy and paste to create their articles or updates.

Next week, I shall share some of the experiences we had running a management consulting firm. By sharing my story, it is my intention to encourage and uplift those of you who are close to starting your own business.

Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on starting a new business. I will do my best to respond, and, in some cases, I will write on some of these questions.

Your questions and comments can be sent to localtalk-news@gmail.com.

MURPHY VS. CIATTARELLI: ROUND 1

(Continued from page 1)

tarelli on Planned Parenthood and a woman's right to choose, while Ciattarelli countered with how Murphy handled Katie Brennan's rape allegations, the Edna Mahan women's prison, and even Murphy's own professional women's soccer team.

As for the budget, Ciattarelli criticized Murphy for a bloated \$46 billion budget, while Murphy countered by saying that the money was needed to correct mistakes of the Christie administration and items that Ciattarelli agreed to as an assemblyman at the time.

Finally, while both men had plenty of disagreements, they did agree that neither would raise taxes if elected.

Only time will tell who benefited most from this clash, as Murphy enjoys a double-digit lead in the polls as of press time. The second and final debate between the candidates is scheduled for Oct. 12, while a Lieutenant Governor debate between incumbent Sheila Oliver and former State Senator Diane Allen is slated for Oct. 5.

Analysis

Murphy missed an opportunity to create excitement as to why four more years with

him would be better than what we have now instead of four years with a new administration. This could have effectively ended the campaign, as Ciattarelli would be seen as having nothing special to offer.

Also, while Ciattarelli made an effort to address Murphy's mishandling of the Ida response, he could have scored some points if he alluded to the Nov. 15, 2018 snowstorm, in which the response was a disaster in and of itself. This could have demonstrated that the Murphy administration always struggles with response, and that Ida was not an isolated incident.

In conclusion: Debate Round 1 was a draw.

PASTOR'S HEART (Continued from page 12)

What a glorious promise! Anyone who dies in the Lord will not be forgotten but are in the memory of God. Such will have the opportunity to be called forth in the resurrection morning. So, while **death is mean** and awful, it is not the only answer to the tragedy of life. If we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who rose from the grave and who

already raised many from the grave, we need to have hope that one day we will be raised also from the places we are buried.

As I was about to separate from the call, my wife, who was walking beside me, asked if I would pray, and I did.

After closing the discussion on death with my friend, I continued my contemplation on the subject in the night by looking at some of the quotes from **Elisabeth Kübler-**

Ross, whose reflection on death and dying has impacted so many. Here is just one that has stayed with me:

"It's only when we truly know and understand that we have a limited time on earth - and that we have no way of knowing when our time is up - that we will begin to live each day to the fullest as if it was the only one, we had." - **Elisabeth Kübler-Ross**

FBI RELEASES 2020 CRIME STATISTICS

For the first time in four years, the estimated number of violent crimes in the nation increased when compared with the previous year's statistics, according to FBI figures released today. In 2020, violent crime was up 5.6 percent from the 2019 number. Property crimes dropped 7.8 percent, marking the 18th consecutive year the collective estimates for these offenses declined.

The 2020 statistics show the estimated rate of violent crime was 387.8 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants, and the estimated rate of property crime was 1,958.2 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. The violent crime rate rose 5.2 percent when compared with the 2019 rate; the property crime rate declined 8.1 percent.

These and additional data are presented in the 2020 edition of the FBI's annual report *Crime in the United States*. This report is available as downloadable spreadsheets and topic pages about offenses, arrests, and police employee data reported by law enforcement agencies voluntarily participating in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

The UCR Program collects

information on crimes reported by law enforcement agencies regarding the violent crimes of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. (The FBI classifies arson as a property crime but does not estimate arson data because of variations in the level of participation by the reporting agencies. Consequently, arson data is not included in the property crime estimate.) The program also collects arrest data for the offenses listed above and 20 offenses that include all other crimes except traffic violations.

Of the 18,619 federal, state, county, city, university and college, and tribal agencies eligible to participate in the UCR Program, 15,897 agencies submitted data in 2020. A high-level summary of the statistics submitted, as well as estimates for those agencies that did not report, follows:

In 2020, there were an estimated 1,277,696 violent crimes. When compared with the estimates from 2019, the estimated number of robbery offenses fell 9.3 percent and the estimated

volume of rape (revised definition) offenses decreased 12.0 percent. The estimated number of aggravated assault offenses rose 12.1 percent, and the volume of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter offenses increased 29.4 percent.

Nationwide, there were an estimated 6,452,038 property crimes. The estimated numbers for two of the three property crimes showed declines when compared with the previous year's estimates. Burglaries dropped 7.4 percent, larceny-thefts decreased 10.6 percent, while motor vehicle thefts rose 11.8 percent.

Collectively, victims of property crimes (excluding arson) suffered losses estimated at \$17.5 billion in 2020.

The FBI estimated law enforcement agencies nationwide made 7.6 million arrests, (excluding those for traffic violations) in 2020.

The arrest rate for violent crime was 147.9 per 100,000 inhabitants, and the arrest rate for property crime was 267.3 per 100,000 inhabitants.

By violent crime offense, the arrest rate for murder and nonnegligent manslaughter was 3.8 per 100,000 inhabitants; rape

(aggregate total using the revised and legacy definition), 6.3; robbery, 21.0; and aggravated assault, 116.8 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Of the property crime offenses, the arrest rate for burglary was 45.7 per 100,000 inhabitants; larceny-theft, 193.1; and motor vehicle theft, 25.5. The arrest rate for arson was 3.0 per 100,000 inhabitants.

In 2020, 13,377 law enforcement agencies reported their staffing levels to the FBI. These agencies reported that, as of October 31, 2020, they collectively employed 696,644 sworn officers and 309,135 civilians - a rate of 3.4 employees per 1,000 inhabitants.

Caution Against Ranking - Each year when Crime in the United States is published, some entities use the figures to compile rankings of cities and counties. These rough rankings provide no insight into the numerous variables that mold crime in a particular town, city, county, state, tribal area, or region. Consequently, they lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses that often create misleading perceptions adversely affecting communities and their residents.

INTERVIEW WITH MADELYN**HOFFMAN: GREEN PARTY****GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE***(Continued from page 1)*

dates was between Murphy and Ciattarelli, held on Sept. 28 at NJPAC in Newark. While the two gentlemen held their debate inside, one candidate, Madelyn Hoffman was outside. I spoke with her to find out why, and what she brings as a candidate.

Dhiren Shah: Why were you protesting outside NJPAC at the time of the debate on Tuesday September 28, 2021?

Madelyn Hoffman: There

are five candidates in the election. Everyone should have the same chance to debate. However, the ELEC of NJ (NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission) said "You can participate if you raise \$490,000." The rule says that the candidate can raise money until Sept. 1, 2021. But the ELEC announced on August 1, 2021 that two candidates would debate on September 28, 2021.

DS: The rule or law of the \$490,000 campaign raising fund cannot be changed. If it is wrong in your opinion, what have you done to change it?

MH: It can be changed either politically or legally through the court system. The democrats

and republican hold the system, and they are corrupt and change the rules according to their needs and they are controlling the process.

DS: The Green Party is going for the important position elections, rather than going for a grassroots movement.

MH: That's not true: We have about 138 elected positions. We have people on the board of education, county commissioners and state assembly.

DS: What is the goal of the Green Party?

MH: Our goal includes anti-police brutality, and is always about people. We are politically

independent. We are working for the people, and we discussed this in our electoral campaign. We are working for a green new deal. Our party has been quadrupled now. We are in trouble environmentally.

We need to change the economic system. For some, it is only important to be making money and making profit...we want to provide an economic systematical future.

DS: What do you think your chances are to win in this election?

MH: 100% without losing integrity.

DS: Thank you for your valuable time.

TOWN WATCH*(Continued from page 10)*

WOOD - Schools Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor, in his Sept. 24 open letter to South Orange-Maplewood School District students and parents, is asking them to allow administrators to finish sorting out a "myriad of transportation issues" since Sept. 1.

One could say that the SOMSD school bus system has had "a perfect storm" of woes, as outlined by Dr. Taylor, starting with Sept. 1-2 Tropical Storm Ida. Ida's flooding had damaged some of its fleet parked in a lot west of The Rahway River East Branch between West Parker and Jefferson avenues.

Eight buses were disabled by a person or persons who stole their catalytic converters overnight Sept. 9-10: The emission-reducing converters, wanted for their rare metals, are worth \$2,500 each.

Maplewood police chief Jim DeVaul said that "an SUV of interest" was detected by a security camera at 11:51 p.m. and 12:43 a.m. Columbia High School Principal Frank Sanchez has since had the lot's gates locked overnight.

Several schools have had their parking lots closed for the concurrent renovation and/or expansion program. SOMSD has also been affected by the national shortage of drivers.

The district, which normally serves 1,000 daily student-riders,

has had to pick up students 30 minutes early and up to an hour's delay in afternoon pickups.

Taylor asks parents to consider carpooling and other means while the district searches for qualified drivers. Supervisors and other employees with the said licenses are filling in. The Board of Education is considering tapping the budget surplus to repair or replace downed buses.

BLOOMFIELD / GLEN RIDGE - First responders from two towns came to Bloomfield Avenue and Ella Street, in front of the Berkeley Elementary School, for a 7:30 a.m. Sept. 28 collision involving a school bus.

Members of the Bloomfield Emergency Medical Serviced (formerly Bloomfield Volunteer Emergency Squad), Glen Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Squad and the Bloomfield Fire and Police departments found a school bus having struck a parked Chrysler minivan in 350 Bloomfield Ave.'s parking lot.

The bus, owned of Clifton-based Madison Coach, had somehow felled a NJTransit bus stop sign off Ella and had dented the minivan's passenger side with its left rear corner. 350 Bloomfield Ave., which was a Robert Hall clothing store until 1977, has long been converted into medical professional offices.

Responders also found a westbound Bloomfield Avenue grey four-door Subaru, which had partially climbed the side-

walk.

The Madison Coach, which does not have a contract with the Bloomfield Board of Education, only had its driver aboard. There were no injuries reported by the bus and Subaru drivers. Traffic - including buses serving the Berkeley school and on five NJTransit routes - was rerouted that rush hour morning.

MONTCLAIR - The township police department has put out an all-points bulletin since Sept. 20 of a blue BMW and its driver last seen on the Garden State Parkway.

That Monday's MPD blotter had two of its patrol officers finding the said car parked on the lot of Montclair Motors at 118 Watchung Ave. The vehicle matched the description given by witnesses of a car being aggressively driven in the Watchung section.

The officers, who found the driver asleep behind the wheel, woke him up and asked him to exit the car. The driver, instead, backed into the marked patrol car, struck a second, unoccupied car and a dumpster before fleeing onto Watchung at a high rate of speed.

MPD pursued the BMW until it entered the GSP at Exit 151 South. Troopers from the State Police-Bloomfield Barracks continued the pursuit.

Montclair Motors was used by Ridgewood's "National Speed Sport News" as a Monday morning film roll pick-up point from

"in the field" track photographers in the 1990s.

BELLEVILLE - The municipal investigation over whether a construction code official had been double-dipping on service fees took two turns here Sept. 20.

Mayor Michael confirmed Sept. 20 that State Police troopers served subpoenas on township officials in Belleville Town Hall earlier that Monday and asked for pertinent documents. Melham added that the troopers were serving on behalf of Acting Attorney General's office, who has taken interest.

Melham publicized at the Sept. 14 Township Council meeting that a construction code official is being investigated for filing \$250 to \$700 invoices for attending and/or participating in Belleville Planning Board subcommittee meetings. The said official has a \$17,292 stipend for those functions.

Town Manager Anthony Iacono, at the same Sept. 14 session, said that he has frozen the account where the payments were drawn from. He and Assistant Manager/Police Chief Mark Minichini are conducting an investigation.

Melham has meanwhile drafted a resolution "requesting the Township Manager to consider suspending the Construction Code Official until such time whereby an investigation has concluded and determines

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

whether discipline is warranted." Resolution 19-2021 has been posted on the council's Sept. 28 agenda.

2 Injured in School Bus Crash

Doctors and first responders are looking into whether a Belleville Board of Education school bus driver had a medical episode that caused him to swerve from southbound Franklin Avenue and into the opposing Essex County Hendricks Golf Course fence 8:40 a.m. Sept. 23. Medics took the driver, who was found unresponsive, and the aide, who suffered non-life-threatening injuries to nearby RWJBarnabas Health Clara Maass Medical Center. There were no children aboard the 40-seat bus.

NUTLEY - A Nutley man's suit in Superior Court-Newark against the Toms River Regional School District for not protecting him from a teacher there - and here - was scheduled to be heard before a grand jury Sept. 22.

The accuser, named "John Doe" in the August court filings, said that Toms River Intermediate East School eighth grade social studies teacher Shawn C. Lee had sexually abused him while he was his Toms River-East High School tennis and wrestling coach 2005-07.

Doe said that Lee, now 49, had "openly seduced, groomed, isolated and manipulated him" including giving him straight A grades, cash, driving him home in Toms River, talking about genital sizes and showing gay porn. The activity was a prelude to the 16-year-old's sexual abuse in a car on the high school grounds and near the victim's home for a year.

The suit charges that the Toms River district's teachers or administrators had not interceded when Lee was having inappropriate interactions with students on lunch breaks "on numerous occasions."

Doe said his family moved to Nutley to get away from Lee. Lee followed the victim up here and sexually abused him in a park. Toms River police arrested and the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office charged Lee Oct. 7-9, for a September 2007 car-in-school-lot incident with another teenager.

Doe had first reported the abuse to authorities and the Toms River district in 2013 - the same year the district and Lee severed ties Sept. 1 and filed a complaint. No charges were filed then. Doe resubmitted his complaints in the wake of Lee's 2019 arrest.

Lee's teaching certificate has been suspended and had been in Ocean County Jail since his 2019 arrest.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, 8 BOARD OF ED

RACES ON NOV. 2 BALLOT

(Continued from page 9)

nemarie Maini, of South Orange, and Christopher Sabin, of Maplewood, have declined re-election.

William Rodriguez, of Maplewood, is alphabetically first among the challengers.

Qwai Telesford and Arun Vadlamani, both of South Orange, are sharing their "Excellence, Action, Accountability" platform.

Kaitlin M. Wittleder, of Maplewood, declares, "Student Voices Matter."

The current SOSD board had appointed Sabin to succeed the resigned Kamal Zubieta after interviewing him, Rodriguez, Telesford, Vadlamani and Wittleder July 12.

WEST ORANGE's two candidates are making their first campaigns. Brian Rock wants to be "Moving Forward Together." Eric Stevenson wants to put "West Orange First."

Board President Terry Trigg-Scales and member Cheryl Merklinger are not seeking re-election.

BLOOMFIELD has six candidates - two incumbents and four challengers making up two slates - seeking three three-year terms.

Board members Shane Berger and Michael Heller and recent candidate Satenik Margaryan are running together under their "Strength and Experience" banner.

Monica Charris Tabares, Pedro A. Gongora and Yomara Knott have banded under "For Our Kids."

Outgoing Board Vice President Ralph Walker has decided not to run.

GLEN RIDGE's three candidates for as many open seats comprise of incumbents Anthony Bonnett and Second Vice President David Campbell plus first-time runner Kristin O'Neil. O'Neil is anticipated to succeed outgoing Board Member Teresa Boyle-Vellucci.

All three are running with Civic Conference Committee endorsement. Individual candidates also run for mayor or borough council with or without CCC blessing.

BELLEVILLE's six candidates are two incumbents and four challengers vying for two three-year term seats.

Trustee Nelson Barrera, under his own "Keep Progress Going," and current Board President Christine Lamparello are running for re-election.

Challenging are: Nicole Coviello-Daddis, "Belleville's Children First;" Lissa Missagga, "Excellence in Education;" independent Ruben A. Rodriguez and Tracy Williams, "Together We Achieve."

NUTLEY has seven candidates - both incumbents and five challengers - vying for two seats.

Teresa Quirk and Kenneth J. Reilly, the latter running to "Keep Your Promises," are seeking re-election.

Challenging are Joe Battaglia, David Fragnals (running as "A New Voice"), David Kay ("Putting Kids First"), Jeffrey Poewka and Nicholas Scotti ("Nutley Families First").

If you have not received your VBMB, first check "Election Information" on essexclerk.com. You may contact Clerk Durkin at info@essexclerk.com and/or (973) 621-4920.

Please note that the Clerk's Office has moved to the newly opened Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 495 MLK Jr. Blvd., Newark, 07102. It is next door to the now

-under renovation Hall of Records.

Registration forms for the Nov. 2 General Election must be in the County Clerk or County Superintendent of Election's hands (they are both in the MLK Jr. building) on or before Oct. 4. One must have lived in Essex County for at least the last 30 days.

Those who are mailing in their VBMBs must have a postmark no later than 8 p.m. Nov. 2.

Anyone who wants to submit their ballots in an authorized drop box may do so before 8 p.m. Nov. 2 at your municipality. Montclair, South Orange has two drop box locations and Newark has five; their locations are found at essexclerk.com.

Those who want to vote in person early may do so at designated polling stations Oct. 23-31 10 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays. Bloomfield, East Orange, Irvington and West Orange have one location each and Newark four. Their locations are listed on the VBMB and essexclerk.com.



NATIONWIDE PEST MANAGEMENT LLC

P.O. Box 4062
East Orange, NJ 07019
(973) 672-8358 • Fax: (973) 672-2560
www.nationwidepestmanagement.com

TERENCE WILSON
SERVICE CONSULTANT
nationwidepest@aol.com

LOCAL TALK PRINTING

- Business Cards
- Color Copies
- Flyers
- T-Shirts
- Color Printing
- Posters
- Newspapers

- Letterheads
- AD Journals
- Envelopes
- Banners
- Tickets
- Signs
- Promotional

DHIREN SHAH
Ambassador for Peace
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
In Printing Business Since 1985
www.localtalkweekly.com

1576 Springfield Ave.
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Email: localtalk@aol.com

Tel. (973) 622-1111
Cell: (973) 280-7547
Fax: (973) 622-1120



Heart Center of the Oranges

VISIT US at Our State of the Art Facility
East Orange - 60 Evergreen Place • Suite 400

OUR PROVIDERS

CARDIOLOGY

Gitendra Rajiyah, MD
 Catalino Delacruz, MD
 Abbas Shehadeh, MD
 Isaac Tawfik, MD
 Guetty Gabaud-Dumesle, APN
 Marlyn Escalona, APN
 Nina Orleans, APN

PULMONARY/SLEEP DISORDERS

Jeffrey Miller, DO

PODIATRY

Kordai DeCoteau, DPM

NEUROLOGY

Ruth Clark-Brown, MD

NUTRITION

David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

Eddy Simon, MD
 Paul Cahiwat, MD
 Nancy Cahiwat, MD
 Mamatha Mohan, MD
 Myriam Sterlin, MD
 Aleksander Lekan, MD
 Indu Vira, MD
 Hemlata Bhatia, MD
 Narinda Kaur, MD
 Normita Narvaez, MD
 Nivia Rowe, APN
 Roody Dalbe, APN
 Sanjaykumar Shah, APN
 Mary Elias, APN
 Janiece Howell, APN
 Jamila Jones, DNP
 Nmandu Utuk, APN
 Beena Mathew, DNP

NOW OFFERING

Before Treatment



6 Weeks After Treatment*



**Varicose
Vein
Treatment**



VISIT US at Our Newest State of the Art Facility
West Orange - 92 Old Northfield Avenue



Contact us: 973-395-1550
Orangeheartcenter.net

VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

South Orange:	60 Vose Avenue	Tel. 973-763-5200
Maplewood:	2091 Millburn Ave.	Tel. 973-378-2266
Bloomfield:	135 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite B	Tel. 973-743-2248
Newark:	202 Stuyvesant Ave.	Tel. 973-374-8807
West Orange:	77 Main Street (Sleep Center)	Tel. 973-324-2090
West Orange:	95 Main Street	Tel. 973-736-5552
West Orange:	92 Old Northfield Avenue	Tel. 973-736-5552