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Local Talk 21st Anniversary Edition
 YEAR IN REVIEW 2020 - 2021 Pages: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13


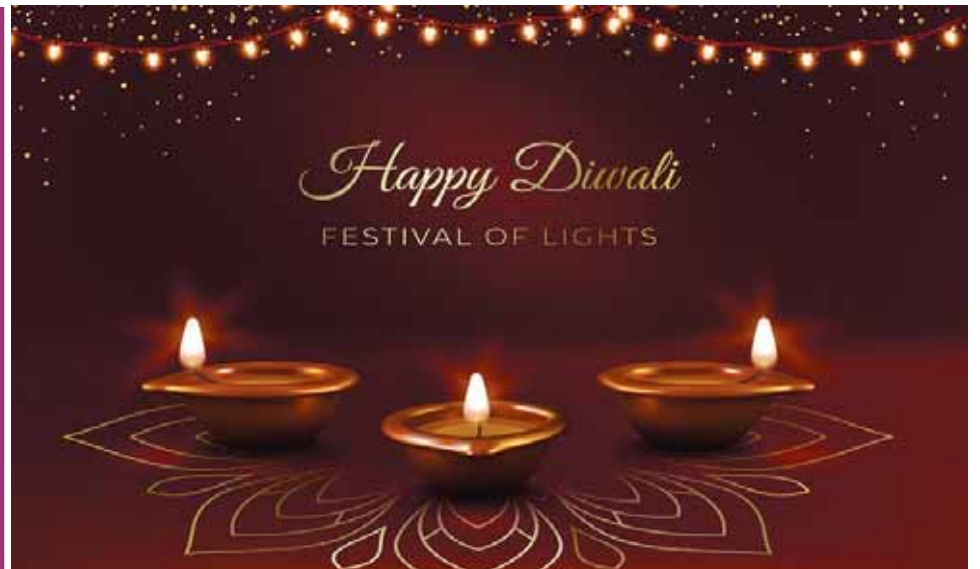
Daylight Savings Time Begins This Sunday

11-05-20

21st ANNIVERSARY *Year In Review 20-21*
THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE...

UNITED STATES - And the winner of the 2020 Presidential Election is... to be determined.

Americans waited patiently and well into the night of Nov. 3 and day of Nov. 4 to find out who the Commander-in-Chief...

THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE... (THE REMIX)



By **Walter Elliott**

NEWARK - The Nov. 2, 2021 General Election, depending on the referendum or contest, at least a little of everything as of press time.


Most everyone by now knows of the current statistical dead heat finish in the Governor-Lieutenant Governor's race between incumbents Phil Murphy and Sheila Oliver and main challengers Jack Ciattarelli and Dianne Allen.

As of 3:30 p.m. "Local Talk" filing time on Nov. 3, Murphy and Oliver have tallied 1,201,420 to Ciattarelli and Allen's 1,186,337, for a 15,083 vote lead. Just to give an idea as to how close it is, before then, Ciattarelli and Allen were 1,193 statewide votes ahead of Murphy and Oliver. At that point, they amassed 1,173,558 to the incumbents' 1,172,365 for a 49.7-49.3 percent split of the vote.

Please note that the foregoing and following vote figures and percentages are unofficial until

(Continued on page 6)





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Turn To **PAGE 8**



Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

November 4, 2021 is a big day. Being an Indian, we celebrate Diwali and coincidentally it falls on the same day we publish our 21st anniversary issue. So let me wish all of our readers Happy Diwali. Diwali is the last day of the Indian calendar. People go to each other's houses to celebrate and pay their respects to the elderly. Elders in the family usually give some money to bring a smile to the young ones. Diwali brings family together and make family a priority. Chopda means books of accounts, marking the beginning of the new accounting year with the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity in Diwali. Usually there is a four-day holi-

day. For Diwali, everyone cleans their house and prepares for a better life in the new year. November 5th is the new year. I wish all the Indian readers a Happy New Year.

As for our anniversary, I must thank all the readers and supporters of Local Talk Weekly Newspaper. Also, I must thank all my staff and volunteers, without them it would be impossible to run Local Talk Weekly smoothly every Thursday.

The Election on November 2 was tough for many. The people's eye is on our area to see the results concerning Governor Phil Murphy. Murphy, as heard on 3:30 p.m. November 3, is leading by about 15,000 votes. The law states that the clerks must wait until November 8, 2021, for those who mailed their ballots before November 2, 2021. About 175,000 mail-in and provisional ballots are left to be counted from now until then. Mail-in ballots will help Murphy as more Democrats in Murphy stronghold areas tend to use the mail-in ballots.

So far, Murphy has received 1,201,420 votes while Ciattarelli has 1,186,337 votes (98% votes counted). Neither Murphy nor Ciattarelli have conceded, and the result will take a week. Let's wait and watch.

Another gubernatorial race everyone was keeping an eye on was the Virginia election. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican who was boosted by Trump, won the close election. Youngkin received 1,675,832 votes while Democrat and former Governor Terry McAuliffe received 1,603,588, according to about 99% of votes that have been counted. Due to Youngkin's win and NJ's gubernatorial election race being close, Washington Republicans are eyeing on winning some Senate and House of representative seats in the 2022 election.

The majority of the local leaders won their races without any major contest. Congratulations to all the winners and I hope they will work for the benefit of the people in the future. Ted Green and all the council members up for reelection won

uncontested, as East Orange is a stronghold of the Democrats.

The Biden administration is trying to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies to reduce the price of the drugs. However, Biden is not getting the support of the lawmakers. The strong medical and pharmaceutical lobbyists are controlling our lawmakers. However, one thing the Biden administration can do is that they can penalize companies which raise the prices faster than inflation for Part B and D drugs as of October 1, 2021. The penalty can be 100% price gouging plus penalty. It is not easy, but it is feasible to protect people, especially the elderly over the age of 65.

Congratulations to the Atlanta Braves for winning their first World Series championship since 1995 over the Houston Astros. A lot of people are happy the Astros did not win, as they have a history of cheating.

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

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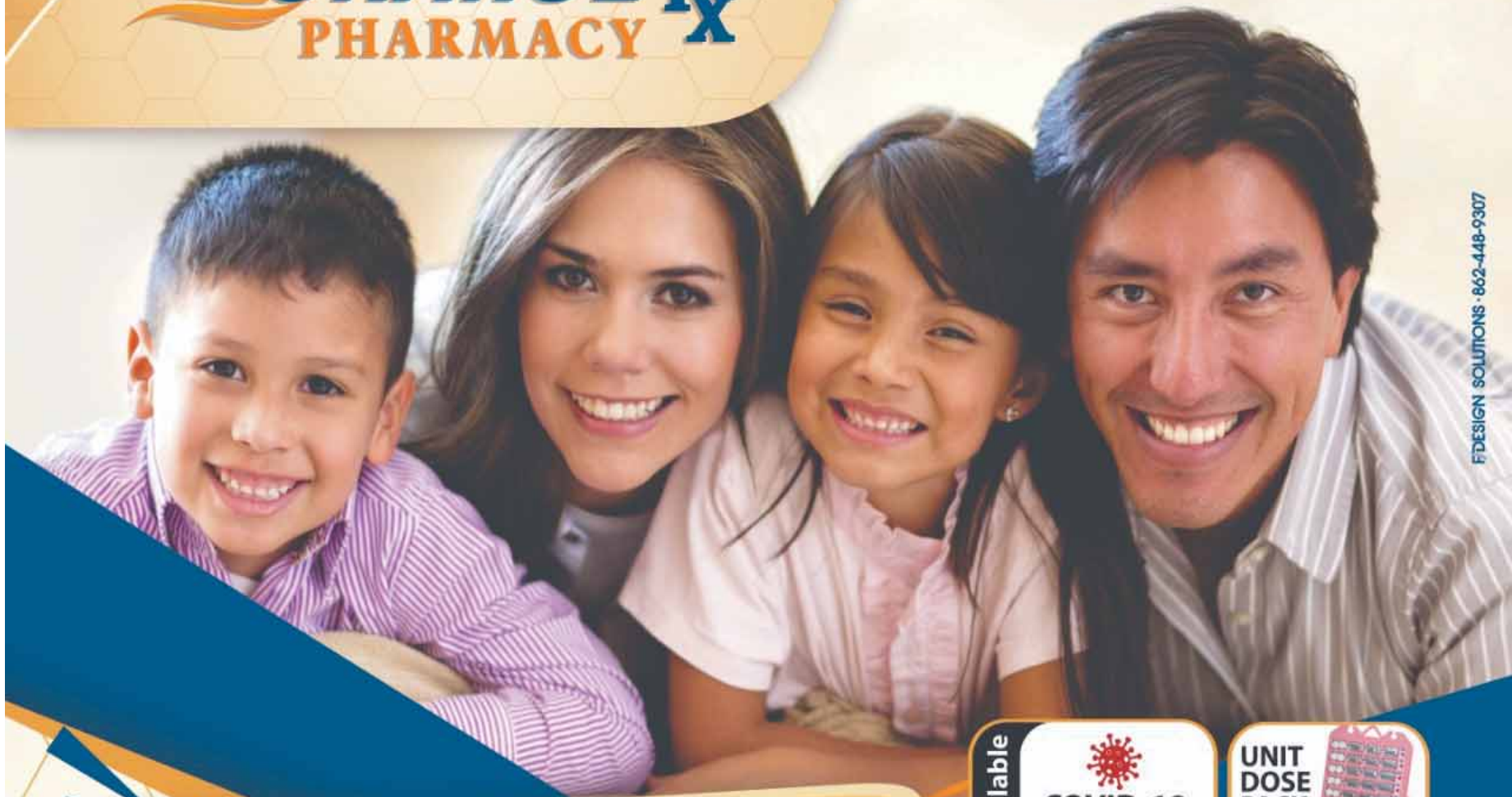
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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
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Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

COVID Deaths: The Other Perspective

As of the moment of writing this, 745,378 people have died from the coronavirus - in just the United States. Those are horrifying numbers, and it is yet to be seen whether we will hit the big but miserable 1 million mark. Everyone certainly hopes not, but

when has the virus ever cared what we want?

One thing that always stands out when talking about COVID is, of course, the number of deaths it has caused. From the surface, those are 745 thousand people that have worked their whole lives only to be snatched away by this damn virus. But there is another perspective to it; one I'm sure you don't want to hear but need to hear, nonetheless: How many kids have become orphans because of the virus? How many kids have lost a caregiver or parent because of the virus? How many kids have been plunged into poverty? What toll has the virus taken on the mental health of kids that have lost parents and caregivers in America? Again, these are all questions you don't want answers to, trust me, but you still need to hear them.

When we consider all of the numerous downsides of COVID, the most prominent is always the number of deaths it has caused. That's not surprising at all. Then, people move on to the impact on the economy. And then to busi-



nesses. And then to the number of jobs lost. And on and on, but people rarely consider the impact on the families of those who have died, especially children.

Between April 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, more than 140,000 children in the United States experienced the death of a parent or grandparent caregiver. Note that this was before Delta. The real numbers are much closer to 170,000. What's more, this risk was up to 4.5 times higher in children of racial and ethnic minorities.

Let me break all of that down in simple terms. Over 15 months, 140,000 children in the US mourned their parent(s) or caregiver(s). As if that's not sad enough, the risk for this was higher in minority groups, which, as you would agree with me, are already at a higher risk of poverty.

Those are the numbers, but the weight behind those numbers is just devastating. Adults losing their parents is always difficult, but most eventually overcome the period and move on with their normal lives. It is much tougher when adults lose their children, but, also, most move on after a while. Many even give birth to new children after their mourning period. But you cannot begin to imagine the emotional weight a child has to bear seeing their parent or caregiver die.

Bear in mind that these are individuals at a relatively early stage of their lives, which means this singular event can shape the rest of their various lives. And not necessarily in a

good way. Many simply never recover from such trauma and have to battle depression their whole lives.

Let's even shift our focus from the long-term implications and focus on the short-term. For children that were orphaned, the risk of poverty becomes a major issue. Interestingly, the United Nations, in a policy brief published in April 2020, estimated that 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic in 2020.



The emotional stress on us adults alone has been massive, even for those that didn't lose a relative or family member. One can only imagine what children that have become orphaned are having to go through. The fact that schools were locked down for the better part of the last 15 months means there is little in the way of healthy distractions for these children. It just hurts to imagine the number of children that may have turned to drinking and smoking to cope with their loss(es).

This has been sad enough, I reckon. I will leave you here. We can keep drawing up possibilities and inferences, but all that doesn't matter. The key takeaway from this is to value and cherish the ones you love, especially when a plague that has claimed 5 million lives is still on the loose.

Please get vaccinated if you haven't; that's the only way we are making it out of this pandemic. Stay safe.

(Continued on page 19)

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HALLOWEEN 2021 IN SOUTH ORANGE

By Lev D. Zilbermints

SOUTH ORANGE - Halloween is back, and people are celebrating.

For the first time in two years, kids, clad in colorful costumes, and accompanied by adults, went trick-or-treating. Whether dressed as a witch, a fairy, Spiderman, a count, or any other character, every kid, teen and adult had a great time.

On October 31, "Local Talk" saw many children, some with plastic pumpkins, others with bags, going from house to house, trick-or-treating. Even babies in prams were dressed up for the occasion. Parents pushing the stroller, the baby got a ride on Halloween. Meanwhile, older kids scampered ahead, going to stores and businesses and private homes for candy.

The last time Halloween was celebrated was in 2019, just before the coronavirus pandemic. 2020 was spent mostly on lockdown, with colleges and schools doing online classes, businesses closed. As the first vaccines

Photo By Lev D. Zilbermints



started reaching the general public, life started going back to near normal. This year's Halloween saw kids wearing face masks and colorful costumes.

The following lengthy and detailed information is taken from the website https://www.questionsanswered.net/article/what-are-origins-halloween?utm_content=params%3Aa%3D740012%26ad%3DdirN%26qo%3DserpIndex

Pagan Roots

"Halloween's origins date back almost 2,000 years to a Celtic pagan festival known as Samhain (pronounced 'sah-win' or sah-ween'). This was a time for communities to come together at the end of the harvest to gather provisions for the long winter months ahead. Fires were burned and animals brought in

from pasture. It is said that the dead were also honored at this time since the veil between worlds was thinnest. This ritual later turned into or influenced All Souls' Day, designated later in the ninth century by the Christian church as a time to honor the dead.

Halloween in America

Halloween was not widely celebrated in America due to its Protestant roots. Many looked at the festivities of Halloween as pagan in nature, and therefore not acceptable in highly religious communities. However, autumn festivals grew in popularity in the 19th century. These widespread festivals eventually grew into Halloween festivals with the rise of Irish immigrants after the potato famine in the late 19th century. Today, Halloween is one of the most popular American holidays.

Why People Wear Costumes

(Continued on page 18)



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THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE...*(Continued from page 1)*

at least Nov. 18 for two reasons. The first reason is that county clerks and election superintendents are waiting to receive mailed-in ballots, postmarked before 8 p.m. Tuesday, on or before 4 p.m. Nov. 8.

Holding off county clerk certification of the Nov. 2 results is to normally allow for challenges and recounts.

The second reason is that Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin and Board of Elections Superintendent Linda von Nessi to ask a State Superior Court-Newark judge permission to access and count votes in 56 countywide voting machines.

The 56 machines are among the 550 deployed countywide that were impounded by the State Police as a standard operating procedure. Most of those electronic machines are uncounted, however, because polling station workers did not return to Durkin's Election Division office with their retrieved vote recorder transponders after 8 p.m. Monday.

Durkin and Von Nessi are hoping that a judge will grant access Nov. 5 so they can start adding those votes, under State Trooper supervision, later that Friday or first thing Nov. 8. The additional machine and Vote By Mail Ballot totals will more than determine whether Durkin remains or Ciattarelli becomes Governor.

Those same figures may alter the upsets among boards of education races and split verdicts among state and municipal public question referenda - and/or decisively consolidate results among other state, county and municipal races.

Deciding which person got into office and which public question got approved so far rests by those who cast 153,981 ballots across all 22 Essex County municipalities.

The said ballots compare to the 165,051 who voted in the Nov. 7, 2017 General Election. The 2017 participating voters were 33.61 percent that year's pool 491,010 registered voters. (Tuesday night's voter pool figure was not available as of press time.)

The GOVERNOR LT.

GOVERNOR contest, like 2020's President/Vice President marquee race, may take a while to reach an official finish.

Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) and Oliver (D-East Orange) as of Essex County Clerk's latest 7:35 p.m. Nov. 2 report, soundly carried Essex County. They drew 111,471 votes, or 72.93 percent of the vote.

Jack Ciattarelli (R-Hillsborough) and Allen (R-Moorestown) tallied 40,475 or 26.

Green Party candidates Madelyn Hoffman, of Flanders, and Heather Warburton, of Hamonton, garnered 393 votes for .26 percent.

Libertarians Gregg Mele, of Bridgewater, and Eveline Brownstein, of Rumson, amassed 273 for .18. Socialist Workers Party runners Joanne Kuniansky, of Newark, and Vivian M. Sahner, of Union City, tallied 233 for .15 percent.

There have been no results given of any write-in candidates here or in other races as of 7:35 p.m. Tuesday.

Essex County voters also reflected New Jersey-wide trends in splitting the two STATE PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

County and statewide voters voted down Question No. 1, which would have Constitutionally allowed betting and wagering on Garden State-based college sports teams. There were 64,737 county "No" voters to 57,420 "Yes" voters for a 52.99 to 47.01 percentage split. The question was rejected by 1,060,201 voters for 57 percent. Another 812,415, or 43 percent, approved.

County and statewide voters also carried Question No. 2, which expands the range of groups who run raffles or 50/50s and allows them to hold those games of chance for self-fundraising. 78,702 county voters, or 65.08 percent, carried the question. 42,221, or 34.52, dissented. Statewide, 1,183,973, or 64 percent, voted "Yes." 660,407, or 36 percent, voted "No."

"Local Talk" STATE LEGISLATURE races ran to expected form.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 27 (South Orange, Maplewood, West Orange, five "West Essex," six Morris County municipalities) saw all three incumbents

return to the State House in Trenton.

The State Senate contest saw incumbent Richard Codey (D-Roseland) repel a challenge. Orange native and former governor Codey carried 31,560 or 74.88. Kraemer captured 10,585 or 25.12. General Assembly incumbent Democrats Mila Jasey and John McKeon meanwhile routed Millburn challengers Jonathan Sym and Kevin Ryan.

Jasey, of South Orange, got 29,851 or 36.02. McKeon, of West Orange, amassed 30,528 or 36.84. Ryan received 11,404 or 13.76. Sym mustered 11,091 or 13.38.

LD 28 (Irvington, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley, parts of Newark's South and West Wards) had all three incumbent Democrats returned. State Sen. Ronald L. Rice, of Newark, received 28,220 or 77.42. Frank Contella (R-Nutley) carried 8,231 or 22.58.

Cleopatra Tucker, of Newark, and Ralph Caputo, of Bloomfield, were handily returned. Caputo, at 27,972 or 38.98, edged Tucker, 27,97 or 38.91, as top vote-getter. Republican Newarkers Monique Headen (7,963 or 11.10) and Anthony D'Angelo (7,899 or 11.01) completed the balloted field.

LD 29 (Belleville, Remainder of Newark) saw all three incumbent Democratic Newarkers run almost unopposed. State Sen. M. Teresa Ruiz received all 18,796 votes. General Assemblywomen Shanique Speight and Elana Pintor Marin out-tallied independent Debra Salters. Marin, at 16,140 or 49.17, was the top vote-getter. Speight was next at 15,824 or 48.20. Salters, also of Newark, carried 863 or 2.63.

LD 34 (East Orange, Orange, Montclair, Passaic County's Clifton) Democratic incumbents were returned over Republican and independent challengers.

State Sen. Nia Gill prevailed over Republican Scott Pollack in an all-Montclair contest. Gill gathered 23,720 or 92.26. Pollack polled 1,991 or 7.74.

General Assembly members Thomas Giblin and Britnee Timberlake turned back three challengers. Timberlake, of East Orange, tallied 23,182 or 45.77. Giblin, of Montclair, gathered 23,252 or 45.92. Clifton Republicans Irene Devita and Tafari K. Anderson respectively received

2,011 or 3.97 and 2,000 or 3.95. Montclair Rev. Clenard H. Childress, Jr., under his Stop the Insanity banner, mustered 201 for .40.

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF Armando Fontoura (D-Fairfield) was returned for a record 11th term by a 7:2 ratio over Nicholas G. Pansini (R-Bloomfield). Newark native Fontoura found 107,658 countywide votes for 75.92 percent. Challenger Pansini drew 34,153 for 24.08.

MUNICIPAL

Participating East Orange voters unrolled the Democratic blue carpet for Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green and his "Green Team" Ward Council members' coronation walk.

Green received his third term by receiving all 9,372 votes. Current Council President Christopher James also received his third First Ward Council term after all 2,423 votes.

Second Ward voters, in the only council contest on the ballot, overwhelmingly returned Christopher Awe over independent Simone Jelks-Bandison. Incumbent Awe amassed 1,056 votes for 94.37 percent. Jelks-Bandison, running on her own "Independently Empowering the Community" banner, drew 63, or 5.63 percent.

Third Ward Councilman Bergson Leneus tallied 2,132 votes, Fourth Ward Councilwoman Tameika Garrett-Ward 1,495 and Fifth Ward Councilwoman Alicia Holman 2,055. All were unopposed incumbents.

Glen Ridge voters filled their two Borough Council seats with Ann Marie Morrow and Rebecca Meyer. Incumbent Morrow was re-elected by 1,086 or 50.72. Meyer was elected to her first term by 1,055 or 49.28.

In Maplewood, a narrow plurality of voters said "No" to the Township Public Question that would have installed an artificial turf field on DeHart Park. 3,747 voters, or 54.05, defeated the question, leaving DeHart's field natural. 3,186 voters, or 45.95, wanted a turf field.

Incumbent Nancy Adams and newcomer Jermaine Cripe ran unopposed for their second and first Township Committee seats. Adams amassed 6,108 or 50.33. Cripe carried 6,029 or

(Continued on page 17)

Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

Investing Ideas - Part 2

Last week, we started highlighting some of the beneficial steps in identifying and selecting a business to focus on. There are always different ways to accomplish the same task. However, the key is to ensure that one obtains accurate information upon which pertinent decisions can be made.

Assess the investment startup costs

This is a very tricky area that causes many people to lose money when it is not done properly. For example, starting an investment and thinking it requires \$2,000.00 as startup capital. Then, after a few months, realizing that the investment set up is much more. This creates a basic problem. If the amount required is let's say \$1 million and you do not have it, realistically this would mean you can no longer continue the investment and the initial capital spent is lost forever.

To ensure a positive outcome, be sure to conduct your due diligence when it comes to determining the investment cost of your business. In other words, do your homework! Do not be lazy about it.

An option that you may want to consider is the three-quote rule. With this process, you ensure that you obtain at least three different prices for the same

item. If the cost of the item is above a couple of hundred dollars, then it may be worth your while to obtain at least three quotes.

Due to variations in markets, there are times when prices for the same item would be different in different outlets. It is better to conduct a thorough research of price options so that one obtains the best possible investment pricing.

Be cautious though. Price can also reflect unique features of the product. In other words, a product may have an expensive option but if one were to investigate, the extra features may actually be worth it. In that situation, choosing the cheapest option may not be the most desirable step.

Every investment has a level of risk associated with it. To obtain a solid financial reward, one must invest. The initial investment period is pretty much like the planting period for a farmer. This is when you till the land and plant the seeds. After, one has to develop a consistent plan for watering and caring for the plants. Eventually, the harvest time will come, when one can reap from all the investment of time, money and energy.

When it comes to investing in a business, this is a similar process. One has to plan the business, start it and then give it a chance to grow. As the business grows steadily, it begins to provide the investor/original owner with solid returns based on sound financial performance.

A friend of mine used to work as a manager in a restaurant. After 10 years, he was at a crossroads and trying to figure out what to do with himself. We discussed different investment options, when I asked him, whether he had considered opening up a restaurant.

The way I saw it, he had spent 10 years in the business and had valuable knowledge that

(Continued on page 15)

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	6299	120	6312	120
Bloomfield	6006	127	6031	127
Caldwell	700	16	704	16
Cedar Grove	1741	121	1746	121
East Orange	8148	334	8198	334
Essex Fells	212	2	214	2
Fairfield	1013	33	1018	33
Glen Ridge	472	14	473	14
Irvington	5423	244	5437	244
Livingston	2156	89	2170	89
Maplewood	1579	42	1585	42
Millburn	1018	11	1029	11
Montclair	2685	75	2694	76
Newark	40995	1055	41141	1059
North Caldwell	584	7	585	8
Nutley	3462	68	3486	68
Orange	3900	142	3921	143
Roseland	545	17	547	17
South Orange	1143	16	1153	16
Verona	1168	18	1179	18
West Caldwell	1185	54	1197	54
West Orange	5160	235	5210	235
Total	95594	2840	96030	2847

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of November 3, 2021)
NJ: 1,044,964 cases / 25,195 deaths (Plus 2,816 probable)
United States (approx.): 46.226 Million / 750,000 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 247.933 Million / 5.02 Million deaths



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- 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

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Orangeheartcenter.net

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| 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 |

11-12-20 **Year In Review 20-21**
BIDEN & HARRIS WIN HISTORIC ELECTION




Joe Biden Set to Become Oldest U.S. President



Kamala Harris Set to Become First Madam Vice President

12-17-20 **Year In Review 20-21**
FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE ARRIVES IN NEWARK



The first of the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus vaccines here at University Hospital Dec. 15 is being heralded by some officials as the turning of the corner on the pandemic.

11-19-20 **LOCAL TALK HONORS LEADERS FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE**



◀ Newark Beth Israel President and CEO Darrell K. Terry, Sr.



Heart Center Of the Oranges Dr. Gitendra Rajiyah



Assemblyman Thomas Giblin, 34th Legislative District



◀ Local 108 Union President Charles N. Hall, Jr.

12-24-20 **Year In Review 20-21**
NEWARK BETH ISRAEL BEGINS VACCINATING FRONTLINE EMPLOYEES AGAINST COVID-19




Following weeks of preparation, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, began administering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to its high-risk, frontline employees.

11-26-20 **Year In Review 20-21**
AN INTERVIEW WITH "DR. RAJ"



During this difficult time, we have to take every opportunity to thank our dedicated healthcare workforce for working through this pandemic in order to support the needs of the community. To get a better understanding of how COVID-19 impacted some of our local medical practices, I decided to sit with Dr. Gitendra Rajiyah, President of the Heart Center of the Oranges,

01-07-21 **Year In Review 20-21**
CHAOS AT THE CAPITOL

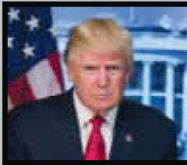


On Jan. 6, lawmakers were already set to face a stressful day, as several Republicans objecting to the results of the November Presidential Election made a mostly ceremonial procedure an arduous task. Not long after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and likely soon-to-be Majority Leader Chuck Schumer made a rare agreement.

12-03-20 **Year In Review 20-21**
CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS PRODUCE LOCAL UPSET

By Walter Elliott
ESSEX - The Nov. 3 General and Nonpartisan Board of Education election results, as certified by Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin, produced one last upset. Durkin's Election Division employees - after a month of receiving, verifying and counting Vote By Mail Ballots, polling machine totals and provisional ballots until 1:30 p.m. Nov. 19 - found only one change among the four "Local Talk News" school...

01-14-21 **Year In Review 20-21**
PRESIDENT TRUMP IMPEACHED ... AGAIN



On Jan. 13, 2021, President Donald J. Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives in a 232-197 vote - becoming the first Commander-in-Chief to be impeached twice. On Dec. 18, 2019, the House passed two articles of impeachment: abuse of power and obstruction of congress. However, weeks later, a trial in the Senate did not yield the necessary 67 votes in favor of impeachment conviction to remove him from office.

12-10-20 **Year In Review 20-21**
Minister Arrested Ignoring Covid Restrictions




Former Minister Kanti Gamit organized a dual ceremony, Tulsi Vivah (a religious ceremony) and Engagement of his Granddaughter. He prepared food and invited 2000 people when the city of Ahmedabad had a curfew for 57 hours due to spike in COVID-19 cases.

Editorial
 Dhiren Shah



01-21-21 **Year In Review 20-21**
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE ON FRONT LINE IN FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



When Essex County began its rollout of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to public healthcare employees, first responders and essential workers the last week of December, it chose Essex County College (ECC) as one of its locations.

01-28-21

Year In Review 20-21
"HAMMERIN" HANK AARON BASEBALL HERO (1934 - 2021)



Baseball legend Hank Aaron (left) receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2002.



03-04-21

Year In Review 20-21
Kmart & SEARS CHECKING OUT



BELLEVILLE - "Local Talk" paid a visit to Kmart No. 371 here around 5:30 p.m. on its last full month of business March 2.

It was easier to pick out what goods had gone than what remained during the 15-minute tour of 371-411 Main St, whose parking lot was 30 percent full...

02-04-21

Year In Review 20-21
EAST ORANGE MOURNS PASSING OF CICELY TYSON



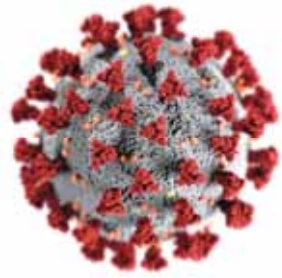
The pioneering actress was a staple within the East Orange Community, frequently visiting and supporting students of the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts, located at 35 Winans Street in East Orange.

03-11-21

Year In Review 20-21
ONE YEAR LATER ... (WHAT) HAVE WE LEARNED?



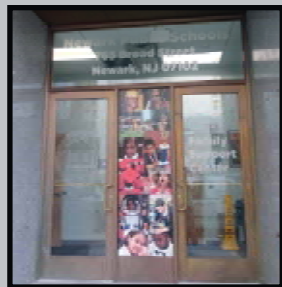
By Kristopher Seals



On March 11, 2020 a few things happened: Donald Trump, who was President at the time, was telling people not to worry, actress Thora Birch turned 38, and the World Health Organization announced that it was officially designating the Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV / COVID-19 that originated in Wuhan, China as a pandemic.

02-11-21

Year In Review 20-21
BOARD OF ED APPOINTMENT RAISES QUESTIONS



Veleriz Santana, the policy director for State Senator M. Teresa Ruiz, was appointed by the Newark Board of Education to fill a vacancy. The process of appointment raised questions of conflict of interest and whether the appointment was legal to ...

03-18-21

Year In Review 20-21
RUTGERS MAKES AMENDS WITH HINDU STUDENTS



NEWARK - The controversy over a Rutgers-Newark professor's alleged Hinduphobia has come to the boiling point. Hindu students and their allies met with senior administrators to address their concerns and demands.

The meeting came about as a result of the pressure leveraged by students and their allies throughout Rutgers University. On Friday, March 12, university officials met with a group of Hindu students, student leaders...

02-18-21

Year In Review 20-21
MULTIPLE FIRES IGNITE IN NEWARK



Just after 6 a.m., firefighters responded to the 3-story wood frame residential building on a call of a fire. Firefighters located a kitchen fire that extended to the second and third floors. A second alarm was sounded about 30 minutes later, with some 90 firefighters in total working to extinguish the fire.

03-25-21

Year In Review 20-21
10 DEAD IN COLORADO SHOOTING



On March 22, a gunman went to the King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colorado and began shooting. Police quickly rushed to the scene, and had a lengthy shootout with the suspect, before he eventually gave up after being wounded.

02-25-21

Year In Review 20-21
HORRIFIC CONDITIONS AT HOMELESS SHELTER



Drug addicts. Rape. Stabbings. Theft. Fraud. Freezing cold rooms. Spoiled or outdated food. Aggressive security taking out their issues on tenants. No police presence. Tenants being evicted without due process. These are the alleged conditions at HELP Center, located at 224 Sussex Avenue, a homeless shelter that is known...

04-01-21

Year In Review 20-21
"PAY TO PLAY" IN NEWARK



Mayor Ras Baraka may have signed an ordinance by when you read this, that the Municipal Council approved March 17, that places a cap on redevelopers' "Pay-to-Play" contributions.

04-08-21

Year In Review 20-21



MARCH FOR GEORGE FLOYD



Demands: Justice for George Floyd, \$15 Minimum Wage, Universal Healthcare, Stop Police Brutality

05-13-21

Year In Review 20-21



LOCAL 108 & ESSEX COUNTY VACCINATION EVENT



By Walter Elliott

Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union Local 108 officials, after 2 p.m. May 11, can say they are doing their part in getting people their COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus vaccines.

04-15-21

Year In Review 20-21



ONE ELECTION, TWO BUDGETS, SEVEN SEATS

By Walter Elliott

ESSEX - There are two school year budgets and seven board of education seats for voters in Irvington and Newark to decide even if this year's campaigning has been relatively quiet.

While "Local Talk" knows of two forums held for the seven candidates for the Newark Public Schools Board of Education, there has been little campaign advertising beyond one slate of four candidates.

05-20-21

Year In Review 20-21



PIPELINE CYBERATTACK HITS HOME



By Walter Elliott

ESSEX - While some "Local Talk" area motorists may see their gasoline prices settling down after Colonial Pipeline's owners had resolved its May 5-12 computer hacking attack, its effects may last...

04-22-21

Year In Review 20-21



GUILTY

By Kristopher Seals

Minneapolis, MN - Almost a year after an act of unfathomable cruelty, the cop who perpetrated the death of George Floyd is now a convicted murderer....



05-27-21

Year In Review 20-21



GOVERNOR MURPHY LIFTS MAJOR COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



Face Coverings Now Optional in Most Places Except Public Transportation

Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 242, lifting major COVID-19 restrictions and moving forward with the state's most significant reopening steps to date.

04-29-21

Year In Review 20-21



SHERIFF FONTOURA ACCUSED OF HARASSMENT



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - An Essex County Sheriff's Office deputy has recently made public her multi-level harassment charges she had filed here in U.S. federal court against Sheriff Armando Fontoura and 12 other named and unnamed officers and officials Dec. 30.

06-03-21

Year In Review 20-21



NEWARK BETH ISRAEL CELEBRATES NATIONAL LGBTQ+ PRIDE AWARENESS MONTH



05-06-21

Year In Review 20-21



RUTGERS DOCTOR AMONG OVER 226,000 COVID-19 DEATHS IN INDIA



The late Dr. Rajendra Kapila was an infectious disease specialist at RU

06-10-21

Year In Review 20-21



FAVORITIES WIN PRIMARIES



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Participating registered Democratic and Republican party voters nominated their respective General Election candidates by mostly wide margins...

06-17-21

Year In Review 20-21



IRVINGTON & SHABAZZ SQUARE OFF IN FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey High School Girls Flag Football season has come to end. In its inaugural year, eight teams participated, with the last four teams competing at Met Life stadium to crown.

07-22-21

Year In Review 20-21



DID RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS VIOLATE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT?



By Lev D. Zilbermintz, Part II

A Rutgers alumnus and a faculty member are both alleging that the university's Board of Governors (BOG) violated the Open Public Meeting Act by removing them from online meetings held on February 26 and June 22...



Year In Review 20-21

06-24-21

JUNETEENTH NOW A NATIONAL HOLIDAY June 19 will be formally recognized as "Juneteenth National Independence Day"



President Biden and others celebrate Juneteenth being recognized as a national holiday. Photo Courtesy White House

07-29-21

Year In Review 20-21



COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CHARTERS

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - An early summer New Jersey Supreme Court ruling is allowing four Newark-based charter school networks to complete their 2016-21 classroom and grade expansion.

Once those seven schools among the North Star Academy, KIPP TEAM Academy, Great Oakes Academy and Robert Treat Academy "top out" their expansion before the Sept. 3-6...



Year In Review 20-21

07-01-21

R.I.P.

EAST ORANGE MOURNS FORMER COUNCILWOMAN SHARON FIELDS



PAGE 11

08-05-21

Year In Review 20-21



LOCAL AREA DODGES MAJOR TORNADO THREAT

By Walter Elliott



ESSEX - The 'Local Talk' area, while dodging one of five tornadoes during July 29's thunderstorms, found themselves up to waist-deep in the afternoon and evening run-off in some areas. A tornado packing 65 mph winds had touched down on the West Orange side of the Montclair Country...

07-08-21

Year In Review 20-21



NEWARK BETH ISRAEL & PARTNERS OPEN NEW SOCCER FIELD



08-12-21

Year In Review 20-21



CUOMO RESIGNS



After months of brutal and damaging details about his alleged inappropriate conduct with women, the state of New York's highest ranking official is stepping down. On Aug. 10, NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo held a press conference concerning the allegations made against him. After a few minutes, Cuomo eventually announced that he was resigning as the state's governor, effective 14 days...

07-15-21

Year In Review 20-21



SOUTH WARD SHAKEN BY 31-HOUR STANDOFF

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - All parties involved or who had a ringside seat to the 31-hour standoff at and around 35-36 Clinton Place here have been trying to return to normal life since July 8-9.

Neighbors who resided there and in adjacent houses 6 a.m. that Thursday has mostly moved back after staying in a nearby community center, friends or relatives' homes or local hotels.

08-19-21

Year In Review 20-21



PRES. BIDEN ADDRESSES CHAOS IN AFGHANISTAN



WASHINGTON - With the stunning collapse of Afghanistan's government, both in scale and speed, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke to the American people on how he is handling the chaos in that nation.

Here now are remarks Biden made on Aug. 16, 2021...

08-26-21

Year In Review 20-21



MILDRED CRUMP RESIGNS



The Municipal Council's makeup immediately changed during their Aug. 24 special meeting in the wake of Council President and At-Large Councilwoman Mildred Crump's sudden resignation.

Crump, 82, citing health reasons, had City Clerk Kenneth Louis announce her departure at the Tuesday afternoon meeting's start...

09-30-21

Year In Review 20-21



MURPHY VS. CIATTARELLI: ROUND 1



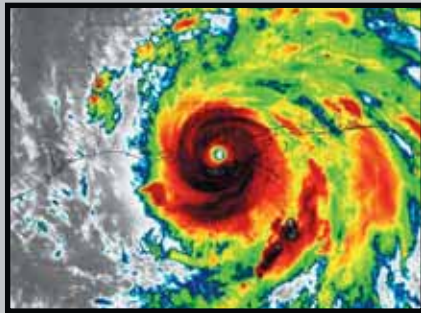
09-02-21

Year In Review 20-21



HURRICANE IDA CRUSHES GULF

Storm Draws Eerie Parallels to Hurricane Katrina 16 Years Ago



10-07-21

Year In Review 20-21



BARAKA'S VACCINE ORDER UPHELD



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Members of the 11 municipal unions who had a Sept. 27 New Jersey Appellate Court ruling go against them, and upholding Mayor Ras Baraka's mandatory COVID vaccination order, may not be flocking for inoculations quite yet.

09-09-21

Year In Review 20-21



NEWARK MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PROTEST MAYOR'S VACCINE ORDER

Photo By Dhiren Shah

10-14-21

Year In Review 20-21



STUNNING CARJACKING STATS IN CRIME REPORT



09-16-21

Year In Review 20-21



9/11 REMEMBERED - 20 YEARS LATER



Photo courtesy Essex County

WEST ORANGE - On Sept. 11, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. hosted Essex County's annual "Essex County Remembers," a solemn ceremony at the Essex County Eagle Rock September 11th Memorial, to mark the 20th anniversary...

10-21-21

Year In Review 20-21



COLIN POWELL (1937-2021)



Bethesda, MD - One of the most prolific, trailblazing, and at times controversial, military and political leaders in the United States has reached his permanent end of service.

Renowned military officer and diplomat Colin Powell died at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center due to complications from COVID-19.

09-23-21

Year In Review 20-21



YOUNGER CHILDREN CLOSER TO GETTING VACCINE



Pfizer Inc. (NYSE: PFE) and BioNTech SE (Nasdaq: BNTX) announced results from a Phase 2/3 trial showing a favorable safety profile and robust neutralizing antibody responses in children 5 to 11 years of age using a two-dose regimen of 10 µg administered...

10-28-21

Year In Review 20-21



BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE SEEKS HELP

By Lev D. Zilbermints

BLOOMFIELD - Bloomfield College is seeking philanthropic assistance to prevent possible closure in 2023.

Located in Bloomfield, New Jersey, the private school had 1598 students during the 2019-2020 academic year, compared to 1896 during the 2016-2017 academic year and 2,018 during the 2010-2011 academic year, according to data from the National Center for Education Studies.



TOWN WATCH

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

NEWARK - The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will be making some \$250,000 worth of handicap accessibility improvements to its Newark Liberty International Airport ahead of its AirTrain replacement and PATH to EWR extension projects.

Attorneys from the US Department of Justice-New Jersey District Office here will be monitoring the PA and its contractors' work. The federal attorneys want to make sure that the bi-state agency complies with their Nov. 1 Americans with Disabilities Act violation settlement.

DOJ attorneys, in what Acting US Attorney Rachael A. Honig said was an inspection made over several years, found "significant barriers that prevented people with disabilities from fully accessing a rail station that is a gateway to travel all over the world."

What federal lawyers found restroom sinks, hand dryers and toilet seats that were higher than disabled people could use; the lack of braille signage and the lack of cane guards against Ticket Vending Machines, among other violations.

The PA opened its \$50 million EWR Station in 2000 as a transfer between Amtrak and NJTransit trains and its AirTrain monorail. The agency has NJTransit collect its surcharges for using its station.

The PA is to award contracts next year to start its \$2 billion AirTrain replacement. Its \$1.78 billion extension from Newark Penn Station is to follow.

IRVINGTON - Oct. 30 morning traffic through the central busi-

ness district's Five Points was restricted while police officers fielded and investigated a car-pedestrian accident here.

"Local Talk" had noticed at 10:30 a.m. Saturday that officers from two IPS squad cars were rerouting eastbound Springfield Avenue and southeastern Clinton Avenue traffic around a stationary late model black SUV in the middle of that intersection.

"Local Talk" had missed the departure of an ambulance that took a man "with a severe head injury" to Newark's University Hospital. Witnesses told officers that the eastbound SUV "had sped through the red light and struck the man at a high rate of speed." No charges have been filed against the driver, a 58-year-old Springfield man, had been filed that day.

July Murder Suspect Arrested

Altariq Thomas, 30, had pleaded "not guilty" in an Oct. 28 arraignment in Newark to charges of murder, conspiracy, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, unlawful possession thereof and weapon possession by a convicted felon.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said they had arrested Thomas Oct. 1 in relation of the July 8 murder of fellow Irvingtonian Tariq Patterson, 38.

Thomas is accused of shooting Patterson in the latter's car along Grove Street 7:40 p.m. that Thursday. The gunfire caused the fatally struck Patterson to lose control and hit a pole by Highland Terrace. Neither Stephens or Bowers have said how they had linked Thomas to the murder or how they arrested him.

EAST ORANGE - ECPO Homicide Task Force detectives have been looking for the person or persons who left a city teenager for dead at a Newark North Ward Halloween party there Oct. 31.

Newark police officers said they had responded to shots fired around an apartment house at 79 Fourth Ave. around 11:45 p.m. They had arrived to find a "large party" - and Mouctar Toure, 17, with gunshot wounds to his

chest.

Toure was rushed to University Hospital, where he was declared dead at 2:06 a.m. Nov. 1.

ORANGE - Last rites for Donald R. Codey, Jr. 76, who was raised here with future Gov. Richard J. Codey and three other siblings, were held at Ocean City, Md.'s St. Luke's Catholic Church Oct. 11.

Govs. Codey and Phil Murphy said that Codey had died Sept. 27 at Lewes, Del.'s Beebe Medical Center from a COVID-19-related illness. Murphy, in one of his recent Coronavirus briefings, hailed Donald, Jr. for his regulating service in the state's horse racing industry.

Parents Donald, Sr. and Patricia A. Codey raised Donald, Jr., Richard, Robert H., Patricia and Colleen above the family Codey Funeral Home here at 69 High St. in the 1940s-60s. The family were parishioners at the adjacent St. John the Evangelist Church and began their education at the nearby St. John's School.

Donald, Jr., who was born Dec. 5, 1944 in Springfield, Mo., graduated from Newburgh, NY's Mount St. Mary College in 1966 and returned to the Oranges as Seton Hall University Men's Basketball Assistant Coach. He worked with legendary Head Coach (and Orange native) Bill Rafferty in the early 1970s.

Codey became involved with horse racing with the NJ Sports and Exhibition Authority, which led him to become a past presiding judge at the Meadowlands "Big M" track and past president of Freehold Raceway. He drafted simulcasting rules and regulations, still used at US and Canadian tracks, while as NJ Racing Commission Assistant Director.

Becoming general manager of Oxen Hill, Md.'s Rosecroft Raceway brought Codey to the Ocean City-Selbyville, Del. area. The St. Luke's usher was involved in several beach community civic organizations.

Wife Irma, sons Donald III and Sean, daughter Melissa and nine grandchildren are also among his survivors. Memorial donations may be made to the Ocean City Elks Scholarship Fund, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 21842.

WEST ORANGE - Diners at the Highlawn Pavillion, The Manor, The Pleasantdale Chateau and the Residence Inn by Marriott plus Clifton's Robin Hood Inn may want to toast the late restaurateur Harry Knowles, Jr.

Knowles, 90 - who rebuilt the former Moresque Restaurant into the Manor in 1956 and revived Essex County's Highlawn Pavilion in 1984 - died Oct. 7. Sons Wade and Kurt held a memorial service for him and Doris Herdman Knowles, who died Nov. 14, 2019, at The Manor Oct. 18.

Harry Knowles, who was born in Orange Memorial Hospital Feb. 13, 1924, came to West Orange by way of Verona and Montclair. Father Harry Knowles, Sr., moved his family to 1 Cedar Ave., above Kiels Drug Store, to pursue a mechanic's position with the Montclair Police Department. (The elder Knowles eventually became MPD's police chief.)

Harry went from being a soda fountain jerk and cigarette salesman at Kiel's, among other jobs, to working at the Herdman's Robin Hood Inn. He met Doris but had to wait until July 26, 1947.

Knowles enlisted with the U.S. Army Air Force promptly after the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. He became a P47 Thunderbolt fighter pilot in the European Theater. The honorably discharged First Lt. Knowles continued with the USAF Air National Guard into the 1960s.

The Knowles family transferred the Highlawn Pavillion, including its long-term lease to the county, to the Frungillo family April 19.

Ten grandchildren are also among Knowles' survivors. Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

SOUTH ORANGE - Village and St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center officials have been looking for a monkey on the loose here in the West Montrose section since its first sighting here Oct. 29.

Montrose Early Childhood Center Principal Bonita Samuels said that one of her teachers and several students saw the monkey outside 10:15 a.m. Friday Vil-

(Continued on page 18)

ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Augustine A. Boakye has been selected as the 9th President of Essex County College by the College's Board of Trustees, following a national search. He has served as Interim President since July of 2020. He will assume the office on November 1, 2021.



"We look forward to a long and productive relationship with our new President, one that will certainly continue to put Students First," stated Board of Trustees Chair Marion A. Bolden. "We welcome Dr. Boakye's leadership as we enter the next chapter of Essex County College's history," she added.

Dr. Boakye started his Essex County College career in 2009 as an Assistant Professor of Economics. In 2013, he was named Chair of the Division of Business. Prior to becoming Interim President, he served as Acting Dean of Liberal Arts and Business while also continuing his role as Business Division Chair.

Dr. Boakye earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Dundee, Scotland, United Kingdom. He also has a Master of Arts degree in Education from Brunel University, in London, and a Bachelor of Education in Social Sciences and Economics from the University of Cape Coast, in Ghana.

Board Chair Bolden further commented, "I recognize this

has been a very challenging time, but also a time of great opportunities. I am confident that Dr. Boakye puts us in the best position to take advantage of those opportunities."

Since serving as Interim President, Dr. Boakye oversaw the opening of the College Welcome Center and the groundbreaking for the new 51,700 square foot West Essex campus building. He worked with Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. to open a Covid testing and then vaccination site in the College's Gymnasium. He welcomed Vice President Kamala Harris, Gov. Phil Murphy, County Executive DiVincenzo and other state officials on a tour of the vaccination site to promote the importance of being vaccinated.

While serving as Business Division Chair, Dr. Boakye spearheaded efforts in securing

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accreditation from the International Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), one of only two community colleges in the state to be so recognized. He championed the creation of new academic programs such as the A.S. in Finance, A.S. in Supply Chain Management (SCM), Certificate in SCM/Logistics and Business Professional Certificate. He also introduced a Business Week program where students learn about

career opportunities. His Business Plan Competition initiative enabled students to develop a specific entrepreneur idea judged by business professionals.

Dr. Boakye has been a recipient of the International Teaching Excellence Award from ACBSP.

"I am both humbled and honored to have been selected as President of this outstanding College by the Board of Trustees," said Dr. Boakye.

FINANCE

(Continued from page 7)

could be converted into money. My friend warmed up to the idea and we agreed that I would write the business plan for the business.

Not long after, I travelled and did not meet my friend for over 8 years. Imagine my surprise when he invited me to the restaurant! Folks were busy inside and outside the establishment; some relaxing on the patio having drinks in the evening and others in the dining room enjoying sumptuous dishes!

When I was leaving his restaurant that night, my friend gave me several bags of dif-

ferent dishes to get a feel of the quality of food that his restaurant was serving. Indeed, it was simply a delight to taste the various dishes! My friend had found his business focus!

The above is an example of how a basic investment can grow and provide a solid return. All these years my friend has never applied for a job. Rather, he now hires staff and is responsible for them. With the restaurant, my friend has been able to take care of himself and his family.

His key to success was leveraging the skills and knowledge he had gained over the ten-year period that he was managing a restaurant. My friend had learnt bookkeeping,

marketing, human resource management, tax laws, customer relations, stockkeeping, financial planning, inventory control and advertising as well as the ability to cook amazing meals! All this helped him tremendously when he started his own restaurant.

Next week, we shall continue to share pertinent information about developing investment ideas.

Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on investing in stocks. 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 localtalknews@gmail.com.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Hurting Hearts

He had not seen me for many years, but he wanted to talk. He heard from mutual friends with whom my wife and I visited that we lived close enough in the area where his son had relocated.

After our greeting, he wanted to talk. I had a little time before the start of the ceremony in which I was a participant, so we stepped aside from the earshot of the guests and talked. As he began to talk, I realized that it was on the same theme that I had been hearing all weekend from another father and a few mothers who had spoken to me. "My son," he said, "is not attending church anymore. He is doing very well, but at some point, in his growing up years, someone in church did not treat him well, and he is not attending church now."

He went on to state that his greatest concern was that his grandchildren were also not attending church. I could hear him searching himself for anything that he, as a father, had done wrong to add to his son's unwillingness to attend church anymore. He did not come up with a reason, and I did not know enough about him, especially in the years of my absence from the region, and even if I did, I would not wish to suggest anything to place any guilt upon him. However, the reality is that at the moment he was speaking to me, he was hurting for his son and family, who were not now attending church or even practicing the kinds of faith rituals with which he had grown up.

Yes, as I said, the greatest theme of the weekend for me was listening to the hurting

hearts of the parents, especially the mothers. It was not about any of their children's death from Covid or some tragic illness that their children had been suffering, but one after another, I heard them grieving that their children had stopped going to church.

On the other hand, they were all able to speak of their children's career and professional successes. The children had finished graduate school, and just about all of them had high-paying jobs and good connections with various organizations. Most of them were married and had a child or two, even three and four. A few were hoping to get married. Just one or two, of course, chose to rear a dog, but their hope was to get married.

The weekend's main event was a wedding, so you know, the focus was on who had gotten married with children and who did not get married as yet, but hoping to get married and have a baby. The mates that were present were all taken up with the babies that were present.

During the wedding, when we had a chance for a few table visits, I talked with many of the youngsters, who were in their early teens when I left the area. And what their parents were saying was confirmed, for in the brief time that I had to speak with them, I slipped in the question about, "What church are you attending now?"

As a pastor, I could not miss the opportunity to do my survey. And when they answered me, I quickly shifted the question, after I said, "let's exchange numbers, because I'd like to call." These children did not just belong to their parents, but my wife and I had been so close to them that in the cultural model in which we operate, they call us "Uncle" and Auntie." Of course, before closing the brief encounters, I would say, "I am praying for you." And they cordially responded, "Thanks, uncle or Doc."

After the wedding and we

were returning to where we were staying, the mother in the back of the car whose son and wife had stopped going to church brought up the subject again. "My son and his wife are not going to church," she said, "and what is hurting is that their baby is not being church-ed." We listened as we drove; we assured her that we would take her concern as a special matter of prayer, and we began that promise as we reached home by offering a prayer for her children. Before we left the next morning, we affirmed our commitment to finding a strategy in which we can reach her children and all the other children and parents for whom she is deeply concerned.

In speaking to the parents that we were with on the weekend and other parents who have been hurting in the same way about their children's loss of church connection, we talk to them about the impact of the secularization of the American culture and how it has diminished the role of faith and religion in the lives of the present generation. We also shared that materialism, competition, and present emphasis on achievement are dangerous to sustaining faith.

We stated that it is unfortunate that as our children make strides in their career advancement, they have little time to attend church and practice their faith traditions. Finally, we noted that George Bana and Pew Research have spoken of how children of the current generation are leaving the church.

As we speak to parents, we often reference the great research, but that such research does not heal hurting hearts. Nevertheless, there is a frank reality: faith and religion have a significant part in creating meaning in human lives, stability in the home and society, and the building of morality and values for generations to come. In fact, research has made it clear that those who attend church and

practice a faith tradition have enjoyed greater peace of mind and maintained better health than the rest of society in the long run.

So, we appreciate the fathers and mothers whose hearts are hurting for their children. In listening to the hurt and pain of the fathers and many mothers as we travel around and the many parents at our Legacy Seminars: Family Life Education Workshops, we feel the pain and hurt with them.

We think of what it must have been when the prophet Jeremiah, as repeated by the apostle Matthew, to confirm the prophecy of Herod's killing the children in Bethlehem, "This is what the LORD says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are no more." (NIV) (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:18)

Yes, fathers and mothers are hurting for their children who are not attending church, not practicing faith, or being killed by guns, drugs, or materialistic interests. However, it is, it is painful to lose a child. Even though our children might seem alive and successful, they are dead if they are spiritually, mentally or morally dead.

They need to come to life, and we need to pray that God will bring them the prophetic word as He did through the prophet Jeremiah, "This is what the LORD says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are no more." (Jeremiah 31:16 NIV)

God is true to his promise. So, as parents hurt for their children, let me invite you as a reader to join them in prayer. And let us invite hurting parents to find a group and pray with them that God will help your child make first things first in their lives again.

SPORTS WRAP



The East Orange Campus Jaguars step out at home to face West Side. Photos By Keith Munford

By William Hathaway, Jr.

We have reached the end of the New Jersey high school football regular season, and we have some local area teams in the state playoffs. The East Orange Campus Jaguars wrapped up a perfect 8-0 by mauling West Side 35-0. They will host Elizabeth to open up the postseason.



Other teams heading to the state playoffs include 3-5 Shabazz who will play Park Ridge on the road. Montclair, who just beat Orange this past week at home 35-17, is on the road against Passaic Tech. A 6-3 West Orange squad will be at home, while Columbia will be heading to Ridgewood. Finally, Irvington will be at home against Linden.

In pro action, the Jets got a stunning 400 yard passing performance from backup QB Mike White, as NY beat the Cincinnati Bengals 34-31 to improve their mark to 2-5. White even caught a TD pass in the team's sudden offensive explosion. On Monday Night Football, the Giants fought hard but fell short to the Kansas City Chiefs 17-14.

Finally, the Atlanta Braves won the World Series 4-2 over the Houston Astros. After a 7-0 win in Game 6 at Houston, Braves outfielder Jorge Soler became the second Cuban born player to win the World Series MVP award after Livan Hernandez in 1997 with the Marlins. The win marked the first championship for Atlanta since 1995.

While the 2021 Series itself was not so popular as other Fall Classics, baseball fans will rejoice that the Astros and their cheating ways did not walk away with another tainted title.

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THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE...

(Continued from page 6)

49.67.

Montclair voters approved its Public Question to convert its Type 1 appointed board of education into a voter-elected Type 2 panel on a 7:3 ratio. 8,187 voters, or 70.39 percent, favored the switch. 3,394 voters, or 29.32, wanted to keep the appointed board.

The "Yes" vote comes after eight previous questions since the 1960s were defeated. The successful question includes having the annual elections held in November.

The question, on one hand, follows Orange in a three-year conversion from a seven-member panel to nine members. Montclair Public Schools, after 2024, will leave nine Type 1 appointed BOEs - including East Orange - statewide.

One had to find upsets among the BOARDS OF EDUCATION races.

Bloomfield voters filled its three BOE seats with both running incumbents and a challenger from among a field of six.

Incumbent Shane Berger was the night's top vote-getter at 4,159 or 20.29. Fellow returnee and "Strength with Experience" running mate Michael Heller harvested 4,147 or 20.23.

Newcomer Monica Charris Tabares, who was one-third of the "For Our Kids" team, got the last seat at 3,730 or 18.20. "SwE" member Satenik Margaryan was next up at 3,280 or 16. "FOK" runners Pedro A. Gongora (2,632 or 12.84) and Yomara Knott (2,547 or 12.43) completed the field.

Belleville voters meanwhile replaced two incumbents with two out of four chal-

lengers. Nicole Coviello-Daddis led the six-candidate field with 1,914 or 22.41. Voters then handed the second Belleville Board of Education Trustees seat to Tracy Williams with 1,852 or 21.68.

Coviello-Daddis and Williams' election unseats the now-outgoing BOE President Christine Lamparello and Trustee Nelson Barrera and Christine Lamparello. The "Keep Progress Going" teammates placed fourth (1,214 or 14.21) and fifth (1,152 or 13.49) in the results.

Lissa Missagga (1,568 or 18.36) placed third or "Best of the Rest." Ruben A. Rodriguez completed the balloted field at 841 or 9.85.

Glen Ridge's two incumbents and a newcomer filled the borough's three school board seats. First-time runner Kristin O'Neil was the top vote-getter at 1,644 or 35.64. Anthony Bonnett was returned with 1,527 or 33.3. Fellow incumbent David Campbell came third with 1,442 or 31.26.

Nutley voters split two incumbents and five challengers to fill their three seats. Newcomer Joe Battaglia topped the seven-candidate field at 3,644 or 20.29. Incumbent and "Keep Your Promises" runner Kenneth J. Reilly placed second at 3,045 or 17.20.

"Nutley Family First" solo candidate Nicholas Scotti took the last NBOE seat with 2,951 or 16.67. David "A New Voice" Fraginals, at 2,453 or 13.86, was "Best of the Rest." David "Putting Kids First" Kay was next at 2,336 or 13.20.

"Keep Your Promises" partner Teresa Quirk lost her re-election bid at 1,962 or 11.08. Jeffrey Poewka completed the field at 1,311 or 7.41.

(Continued on page 18)

CDC APPROVES VACCINE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

After months of review, another weapon in the COVID fight is finally ready to be deployed.

On Nov. 2, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. CDC now expands vaccine recommendations to about 28 million children in the United States in this age group and allows providers to begin vaccinating them as soon as possible.

COVID-19 cases in children can result in hospitalizations, deaths, MIS-C (inflammatory syndromes) and long-term complications, such as "long COVID," in which symptoms

can linger for months. The spread of the Delta variant resulted in a surge of COVID-19 cases in children throughout the summer. During a 6-week period in late June to mid-August, COVID-19 hospitalizations among children and adolescents increased fivefold.

Vaccination, along with other preventative measures, can protect children from COVID-19 using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in adolescents and adults in the United States. Similar to what was seen in adult vaccine trials, vaccination was nearly 91 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 among children aged 5-11 years.

In clinical trials, vaccine side effects were mild, self-limiting, and similar to those seen in adults and with other vaccines

recommended for children. The most common side effect was a sore arm.

COVID-19 vaccines have undergone - and will continue to undergo - the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Vaccinating children will help protect them from getting COVID-19 and therefore reducing their risk of severe disease, hospitalizations, or developing long-term COVID-19 complications. Getting your children vaccinated can help protect them against COVID-19, as well as reduce disruptions to in-person learning and activities by helping curb community transmission.

Distribution of pediatric vaccinations across the country started this week, with plans to scale up to full capacity starting the week of November 8th. Vac-

cines will be available at thousands of pediatric healthcare provider offices, pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and more.

The following quote was attributable to Dr. Walensky: "Together, with science leading the charge, we have taken another important step forward in our nation's fight against the virus that causes COVID-19. We know millions of parents are eager to get their children vaccinated and with this decision, we now have recommended that about 28 million children receive a COVID-19 vaccine. As a mom, I encourage parents with questions to talk to their pediatrician, school nurse or local pharmacist to learn more about the vaccine and the importance of getting their children vaccinated."

THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE...

(Cont. from page 17)

Orange's three incumbents, despite running individual campaigns, repelled a two challenger team.

A majority of participating city voters gave incumbent David K. Armstrong his first election victory. The "About the Children" campaigner amassed 1,597 or 23.37.

Original elected board member Siaka Sherif placed second at 1,528 or 22.36. Derrick "Orange First" Henry received his second term with 1,522 or 22.27.

"Achieving Greatness" teammates Cierra Green and Myrtha Lominy-Rhodes rounded out the field. Green garnered 1,270 or 18.58 and Lominy-Rhodes logged 917 or 13.42.

South Orange-Maplewood voters bumped out the field's sole incumbent with three of the balloted four challengers.

South Orangites Qwai Telesford and Arun Vadlamani, running under their "Excellence, Action, Accountability" platform, took first and third places.

Telesford topped the field with 6,306 or 24.44. Vadlamani took third with 5,593 or 21.62.

In between is Maplewoodian Kaitlin M. Wittleder. The "Student Voices Matter" candidate carried 5,928 or 22.94.

Maplewoodian Shannon Cuttle's bid for a second term fell 623 votes short. The "Forward Together" runner garnered 4,970 or 19.23. William Rodriguez, of Maplewood, rounded out the field at 3,037 or 11.75.

West Orange voters endorsed Eric Stevenson and Brian Rock for both seats unopposed. Stevenson, "West Orange First," was served with 6,977 or 50.58. Rock, "Moving Forward Together," received 6,818 or 49.42.

HALLOWEEN *(Continued from page 5)*

Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating began as a way for the poor to beg for food around the holiday time. An English tradition of handing out "soul cakes" on Halloween to the poor in exchange for prayers may have been the start of the door-to-door traditions used today. Costumes were also popularly worn by mummers who would go looking for food or money in exchange for entertainment.

Superstitions Associated With Halloween

Halloween is associated with superstitions of ghosts, ghouls, witches and black

cats. Halloween is still steeped in the mystery of its past since it was believed to be a time where the spirit world collided with that of the living. If you find yourself lighting candles for a loved one, setting treats out for passing spirits or hoping you won't get bad luck when you see a black cat, you have already experienced those superstitions associated with Halloween.

Religious Influence

Halloween has changed much over the years. Religious influence over the years has encouraged people to celebrate the holiday in a different way. Much of the pagan roots of Halloween were lost in the popular commercialization of the holiday. Parents were encouraged to steer away from grotesque cos-

tumes, and it became more of a children's holiday in America. There are many differences to what was celebrated during Samhain and All Souls' Day, but times have changed. Halloween is now a light-hearted and fun family holiday that everyone can enjoy."

"Local Talk" saw kids ages 5-17 going door-to-door. At least one house did not respond to its doorbell being rung. The children waited a bit, then moved on to the next house, their bags and plastic orange pumpkins swaying in the wind. At another location, the children's parents waited in the car while the kids went trick-or-treating. Once they were done, the kids got in the car and went elsewhere.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

lage DPW workers on Clark Street near the school confirmed the simian sighting minutes later.

A St. Hubert's field service dispatcher came from his Madison headquarters by 10:30 a.m. St. Hubert's handles animal control services for South Orange, among other municipalities.

Samuels said she had mean-

while kept her students inside until dismissal and parental or school bus pickup.

No description of the monkey has been released as of press time.

MAPLEWOOD - The Columbia High School boys' soccer team got to keep Moussa Fofana's memory alive as far as Livingston Nov. 1.

Columbia (11-7) got at least *(Continued on page 19)*

THE DOCTOR IS IN (Continued from page 4)

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free

preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.

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TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 18)

an extra week by making the NJSIAA North Jersey Section 1, Group 4 tournament's 12th seed. Their season ended when the fifth-seeded Livingston Lancers blanked them, 2-0 Monday afternoon.

Each Columbia Cougar, from before their Sept. 9 season-opening victory over Verona through Monday, wore Moussa's No. 25 on his shirt sleeve.

The 6-1 SEC-Liberty championship and Essex County Tournament contenders displayed Fofana's shirt on their Lynn Profeta Field home bench. The would-have-been CHS Class of 2022 graduate's poster was among those of other team seniors lining the Underhill Sports Complex's perimeter fence. Lakeland Regional, 3-2 - against the Livingston Lancers Nov. 1.

Fofana was shot and killed on Underhill property June 6 - a shooting that also injured a CHS football player. A 20-year-old Newark man has since been arrested; ECPO is continuing its investigation.

Hawa Fofana, Moussa's mother, received a game ball during Oct 22's Senior Night here. The Cougars shut out Springfield's Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs 3-0, that Friday night.

A petition meanwhile continues to have the South Orange-Maplewood School District consider renaming the field renamed after Fofana. The petition has the blessing of former Maplewood mayor Fred Profeta - who donated \$10,000 to the CrimeStoppers tip reward fund and whose other 2009 field donation was made after his mother and teacher Lynn.

BLOOMFIELD - The Bloomfield Planning Board will be seeking the public's input at its 7 p.m., Nov. 9 meeting regarding a conceptual plan for a six-story, 212-unit apartment building that could go up on 683 Bloomfield Ave.

The board is particularly seeking direction on whether to follow the Township Council's request to reclassify Zoning Block 244 to permit such a building. The block, on the north side between Liberty and Park streets, would have to have two of its lots changed from school and non-profit use.

Projected construction would be built where the 1924 Sacred Heart School and the 1878 Nardiello Hall, on State Street, stand. The school, whose last class graduated in 2002, is used as a daycare center. The original Sacred Heart Church sanctuary is used by the parish for special events.

The 212-unit, 315-parking space proposal would boost Town Centre's recently-built apartment count to 1,200 units. The Township Council and Planning Board has allowed five Town Centre developments - 800 overall units - to be built in the last 15 years to revive downtown. Foundations are being laid for The Royal, which will meanwhile bring the count to 1,010.

The proposed Sacred Heart School/Nardiello Hall replacement would become Bloomfield's new western gateway by the Glen Ridge border. Planning and zoning's 200-foot radius notification zone includes Glen Ridge properties across Bloomfield Avenue.

A conceptual plan would also need the Archdiocese of Newark to sell the school and hall's lots. The Archdiocese also owns Sacred Heart Church, office and rectory - all of which are in the township's The Green Historic District.

Those wanting to review the application and/or get the Zoom meeting numbers may contact Planning Board Secretary Nicole Cosenza at ncosenza@bloomfieldtwpnj.com or (973) 680-4012.

GLEN RIDGE - Borough detectives are looking for the paintball gun shooters and the car they were in, who had "aggressively assaulted" a man on a South End street here Oct. 31.

The man told GRPD officers that he was walking along the 300 block of Washington Avenue, near Hamilton Place, when a "dark-colored, older model car with a loud muffler" pulled up at 11:20 p.m. Sunday.

The victim said the car's occupants hit him with paintballs and sped away. GRPD said the victim suffered minor injuries.

MONTCLAIR - Decamp Bus Lines has resumed service on two of its routes and added midday and/or weekend service on its two existing routes since Nov. 1. Company vice president Jonathan DeCamp, in

an Oct. 27 announcement here, said that Routes 32 and 66 are to resume Monday.

There will be three eastbound morning runs starting from Bloomfield's West Passaic and Darling avenues 5:45, 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. with stops in Nutley, Lyndhurst, Rutherford and Secaucus before arriving at New York's Port Authority Bus Terminal. A fourth, 4:25 p.m. departure will also stop at Union City.

A 7:25 a.m. departure from PABT's Gate 12 will also stop at Union City and Secaucus Plaza. The 4:45, 5:45 and 6:45 departures will skip those two stops.

Route 66 (West Orange-PABT with stops in Montclair and Clifton), 66R (with West Caldwell and Roseland) and 66MU (Montclair State University) will have 12 eastbound and 11 westbound rush hour and midday weekday runs.

Routes 33 (West Caldwell-PABT including Montclair and Bloomfield) and 44 (Bloomfield, North Newark, Belleville and Nutley-PABT) will also start running on weekends starting Nov. 6. Route 88 (Orange, East Orange, Bloomfield, Nutley-PABT) remains deactivated.

Fencer Suspension Clarified

"Local Talk" has learned that MHS graduate and West Orange resident Alen Hadzic had been suspended from Columbia University's campus 2013-14 while a Title IX sexual consent investigation involving a female fencing teammate. US Department of Education Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including coercion, in educational institutions that receive federal funds.



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