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## SENATOR RICE SET TO RETIRE



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## A CHANCE TO REGAIN HOMES FROM SHERIFF SALES

*"Community Wealth Preservation Program"*



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Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake explaining to the press about her resolution, From Left: POP Chairman Larry Hamm, East Orange Mayor Ted Green, Orange Mayor Dwayne Warren, Roselle Mayor Donald A. Shaw, Plainfield Mayor Adrian O. Mapp. Photo By Dhiren Shah

## STATE BLAMES HOSPITALS FOR A/C FAILURES IN HEATWAVE



St. Michael's Hospital in Newark



CareWell Health in East Orange

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Turn To PAGE 16



*Editorial*  
**Dhiren Shah**  
 Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

State Senator Ronald Rice, a key spokesman for the people of our community and beyond, is retiring on August 31st due to his health. He's had that post since his predecessor, State Senator John P. Caufield, died on August 24, 1986.

Rice has served as a Senator for about 35 years. With the support of Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Rice won in a special election in November 1986 to fill the vacant seat. Since then, he has been elected nine times and has mastered the art of supporting those in need and keeping the peace in the political arena as well.

Now the question is: who will replace him. The rumors are that the main person is Assemblywoman Cleopatra Tucker, as she is close to Mayor Ras Baraka and the Democratic Par-

ty. The County Democratic Committee in a newly redrawn district will decide the face of the nomination. Is she a lock to win the upcoming election in November 2022 to fill the remainder of the term? No one knows.

Betsy Walker's name has also come up from the community. But I don't think it is under consideration. Linda Baraka, wife of Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, is the chief of staff for Tucker. Baraka's weight on the political decision is the key to filling the space until the end of this year for Senator Rice. However, some of the community members I spoke to are not favoring Tucker.

Per The White House: "The Department of Education will provide up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation to Pell Grant recipients with loans held by the Department of Education, and up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation to non-Pell Grant recipients. Borrowers are eligible for this relief if their individual income is less than \$125,000 (\$250,000 for married couples).

"No high-income individual or high-income household - in the top 5% of incomes - will benefit from this action. To ensure a smooth transition to repayment

and prevent unnecessary defaults, **the pause on federal student loan repayment will be extended one final time through December 31, 2022.** Borrowers should expect to resume payment in January 2023.

**"Fixing the broken Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program by proposing a rule that borrowers who have worked at a nonprofit, in the military, or in federal, state, tribal, or local government, receive appropriate credit toward loan forgiveness.** These improvements will build on temporary changes the Department of Education has already made to PSLF, under which more than 175,000 public servants have already had more than \$10 billion in loan forgiveness approved.

**"Cutting monthly payments in half for undergraduate loans.** The Department of Education is proposing a new income-driven repayment plan that protects more low-income borrowers from making any payments and caps monthly payments for undergraduate loans at 5% of a borrower's discretionary income - half of the rate that borrowers must pay now under most existing plans. This means that the

average annual student loan payment will be lowered by more than \$1,000 for both current and future borrowers."

However, Biden's plan does not show support to postgraduate students. Also, a 5% payment cap linked to income per year does not relieve them, as interest rate relief is not there. The cost of attending college has skyrocketed. In 2000, the cost for public college was a little over \$3,500 and private college was a little over \$15,000. In 2021, it was little over \$10,700 for public institutions and a little over \$38,700 for private institutions. The government Pell Grant has a limitation. So, the majority of students have to borrow money under their FAFSA with a private lender.

Most of the students pay their student loan debt for over 20 years after they graduate. If you miss a student loan payment, and your interest for borrowing goes very high, and your credit score dives rapidly to the bottom. Plus, while it is not impossible, getting student loans discharged in bankruptcy is very difficult.

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

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Mostly Sunny	PM T'storms	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	PM T'storms	Partly Cloudy / Rain
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# NICOTINE FLAVORED GUMMIES? ... NOT SO FAST

On Aug. 18, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a warning letter for marketing illegal flavored nicotine gummies - the first warning letter for this type of product. These types of gummies are of particular public concern because of their resemblance to kid-friendly food or candy products and the potential to cause severe nicotine toxicity or even death among young children.

The manufacturer, VPR Brands LP (doing business as, "Krave Nic"), markets gummies that have 1 milligram (mg) of nicotine each and are available in three flavors - Blueraz, Cherry Bomb and Pineapple. The packaging claims that the products contain tobacco-free nicotine. This firm has not submitted a premarket tobacco product application (PMTA) to the FDA, and does not have a marketing authorization order to manufacture, sell or distribute these products in the U.S.

"Nicotine gummies are a public health crisis just waiting to happen among our nation's

youth, particularly as we head into a new school year," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "We want parents to be aware of these products and the potential for health consequences for children of all ages - including toxicity to young children and appeal of these addictive products to our youth. The FDA will not stand by as illegal products infiltrate the marketplace."

The manufacturer states that each gummy contains 1 milligram of nicotine with 12 gummies (12 mg) per tin. Research indicates that ingesting 1 to 4 milligrams of nicotine could be severely toxic to a child under 6 years of age depending on the child's body weight. However, nicotine toxicity among youth of any age may lead to nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, increased blood pressure and heart rate, seizures, respiratory failure, coma and even death. Nicotine is also highly addictive and exposure during adolescence can harm the developing brain.

In a recent study published in



the journal *Pediatrics*, researchers found that flavored non-tobacco oral nicotine products, including gummies and lozenges, were among the most commonly used tobacco product among youth in southern California - second only to e-cigarettes. Use was particularly high among certain racial or ethnic, sexual or gender minority groups, and those with a history of nicotine use. These flavored non-tobacco oral nicotine products present an increased risk to youth due to their resemblance to kid-friendly food or candy products, such as gummies or gum, the availability in youth-appealing flavors, and the ability for teenagers to conceal use from adults.

The warning letter issued requests a written response from the manufacturer describing how the firm intends to address any violations and bring their products into compliance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). Failure to promptly correct violations can result in further action such as civil money penalties, seizure, and/or injunction. Additionally, the firm must not sell or distribute violative products. The firm must submit a PMTA and receive marketing authorization from FDA before selling or distributing the product in the U.S.

In response to the increase of non-tobacco nicotine in tobacco products, including in some of the e-cigarette brands that are most popular with youth, Congress passed a federal law that went into effect on April 14, 2022, clarifying the FDA's authority to regulate tobacco products containing nico-

tine from any source. This law gives the FDA authority over products made with non-tobacco nicotine, including synthetic nicotine, and imposes requirements under the FD&C Act for manufacturers, importers, retailers and distributors of non-tobacco nicotine products. To date, no non-tobacco nicotine product has received a marketing granted order.

"We remain unwavering in our use of compliance and enforcement resources to curb all unlawful marketing of tobacco products, especially those that youth could easily confuse with something that they consume regularly - like candy," said Brian King, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. "Today's action should be a wake-up call for manufacturers of these illegal products that the FDA is actively working to identify violations and to swiftly seek corrective actions."

Efforts such as these support the FDA's commitment to using a science-based approach to protect youth from initiating tobacco use. In addition to the FDA's regulatory oversight, the agency recognizes the critical need for targeted youth tobacco prevention efforts designed to protect America's kids, including mass media campaigns such as "The Real Cost."

The FDA also collaborates with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the National Youth Tobacco Survey, the only nationally representative survey of middle and high school students that focuses exclusively on tobacco product use.

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photos Courtesy  
Orange HS Athletics



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school season is going to be in full swing next week, with local area teams starting their 2022 seasons. First, the defending Group 4 regional champions Irvington Blue Knights will open on the road against Woodbridge. The Knights are coming off a state championship season under head coach Ashley “Smoke” Pierre, where they went 11-2 on the year.

Of course, the powerhouse of Essex County has to be the East Orange Jaguars who had a historic season under former head coach Rae Oliver. The Jags defeated Clifton on a walk-off defensive TD at Rutgers SHI football stadium 30-24 in overtime, to take the Group 5 title and cap off a 13-0 year. Now, John Jacobs has taken over the football program, with a roster full of talented stars.

One of the sleeper teams this season is expected to be the Orange Tornadoes, who now have

new head coach Khalfani Allen at the helm full time. He took over the Orange job in the middle of last year, after former head coach Randy Daniels stepped down due to retirement. The Tornadoes beat Morristown in a scrimmage at Bell Stadium 28-14. Junior quarterback Maurice Williams and Khyron Hill are among the key players who look to bounce back with a winning season. Orange will open its season on the road against Paterson Kennedy on the road next Thursday night.

Other area teams looking to do big things include the Bloomfield Bengals, who finished 3-7 in 2021, and the West Orange football program, led by Darnell Grant. West Orange finished last year at 7-4 record, and lost to rival East Orange in the semifinal round of the state playoffs. The Mountaineers will open the new season on the road in the Zone Six Football Classic against rival Montclair High next Friday at 8 p.m.



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## AN "OMICRON VARIANT BUSTER" ON THE WAY?

### UNITED STATES

**NEW YORK & MAINZ, Germany - (BUSINESS WIRE)** - Pfizer Inc. (NYSE: PFE) and BioNTech SE (Nasdaq: BNTX) announced on Aug. 22 they have completed a submission to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requesting Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of a booster dose of an Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 12 years of age and older.

The application follows guidance from the FDA to include clinical data from the companies' bivalent Omicron BA.1-adapted vaccine and pre-clinical and manufacturing data from the companies' bivalent Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted vaccine to address the continued evolution of SARS-CoV-2. Pending authorization, the Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine will be available to ship immediately.

A conditional marketing authorization application has also been initiated with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for the Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine and is expected to be completed in the coming days.

"The agility of the mRNA platform, together with extensive clinical experience with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, has allowed us to develop, test and manufacture updated, high-quality vaccines that align to circulating strains with unprecedented speed," said Albert Bourla, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Pfizer. "Having rapidly scaled up production, we are positioned to immediately begin distribution of the bivalent Omicron BA.4/BA.5 boosters, if authorized, to help protect individuals and families as we pre-

pare for potential fall and winter surges."

"Given the ongoing evolution of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants, it's of great importance that vaccines can be rapidly adapted to the major circulating Omicron lineages," said Prof. Ugur Sahin, M.D., CEO and Co-founder of BioNTech. "In less than three months after the FDA provided its guidance for adapted vaccines in the U.S., we are ready to ship the first doses of our Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine, pending regulatory authorization, to provide people in the U.S. with the possibility to get a booster adapted to the currently most dominant strain of the virus."

The bivalent vaccine contains mRNA encoding the original SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which is present in the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, together with mRNA encoding the spike protein of the Omicron BA.4/BA.5 variant. Pre-clinical data showed a booster dose of Pfizer and BioNTech's Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine generated a strong neutralizing antibody response against Omicron BA.1, BA.2 and BA.4/BA.5 variants, as well as the original wild-type strain. A clinical study investigating the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine in individuals 12 years of age and older is expected to start this month.

The companies previously announced safety, tolerability and immunogenicity data from a Phase 2/3 trial of a 30-µg booster dose of their Omicron BA.1-adapted bivalent vaccine candidate, which combines the existing vaccine and a vaccine targeting the Omicron BA.1 variant spike protein. The Omicron BA.1-adapted bivalent vaccine elicited a superior immune response against the Omicron BA.1 variant compared to the companies' current COVID-19 vaccine. The Omicron BA.1-adapted bivalent vaccine was well-tolerated with a favorable safety profile.

Following guidance from the EMA and International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Au-

thorities (ICMRA), Pfizer and BioNTech submitted an application for the Omicron BA.1-adapted bivalent COVID-19 vaccine in July.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, which is based on BioNTech's proprietary mRNA technology, was developed by both BioNTech and Pfizer. BioNTech is the Marketing Authorization Holder for BNT162b2 (Comirnaty®) in the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada and other countries, and the holder of emergency use authorizations or equivalents in the United States (jointly with Pfizer) and other countries. Submissions to pursue regulatory approvals in those countries where emergency use authorizations or equivalent were initially granted are planned.

## ABORTION ACCESS EXPANDED

### EUROPE

Women in England and Wales will be able to permanently access early medical abortions at home from August 30.

New legislation will allow women to access pills for early medical abortion via a teleconsultation, and for both pills to be taken at home for gestation of up to 9 weeks and 6 days.

The update comes as all independent sector abortion clinics in England have been reappraised ensuring abortion services continue to be available to women across the country. All current approvals are valid until July 31, 2026.

Minister for Public Health, Maggie Throup, said, "The wellbeing and safety of women requiring access to abortion services is paramount. With these measures women will have more choice in how and where they access abortion services, while ensuring robust data is collected to ensure their continued safety."

To ensure the continued safety of children and young people, the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health will publish safeguarding guidance for under-18s accessing early medical abortion services.

The guidance, which will be published shortly, reinforces the principles that every young person should have access to early medical abortions in a timely manner and that their holistic and safeguarding needs must be addressed by providers.

To effectively monitor the impact and use of at home early medical abortions, doctors will be required to include information on place of termination, place of consultation as well as whether the consultation was fully remote on abortion notification forms. This data will allow for analysis of trends in abortion provision as well as monitoring pathways for home-use abortions.

Doctors will also be required to certify in 'good faith' that the gestation period is below 10 weeks for abortion pills prescribed from home and if one or both pills are taken at a woman's home.

The amendments to the notification forms and certification requirement are set out in the Abortion (Amendment) Regulations 2022. These changes follow a free vote by Members of Parliament in March 2022.

## MAN SCAMS ELDERLY CITIZENS

### CARIBBEAN

A Jamaican man pleaded guilty Aug. 19 in Miami federal court to participating in a lottery fraud scheme targeting elderly victims in the United States.

According to court documents, Greg Warren Clarke, 29, of Montego Bay, Jamaica, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud for his role in a Jamaica-based fraudulent lottery scheme that convinced American victims - many of whom were elderly - to pay money to collect fictitious lottery winnings. An indictment was filed against Clarke in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in April 2019 and unsealed upon his extradition to the United States, which occurred in May 2022.

"This guilty plea demon-

*(Continued on page 9)*

# STATE BLAMES HOSPITALS FOR A/C FAILURES IN HEATWAVE

By Walter Elliott

## EAST ORANGE / NEWARK

- State regulators have been spending this month looking over the shoulders of administrators and engineering staff in two hospitals to make sure that their patients and staff can keep their cool.

The New Jersey State Department of Health is permitting CareWell Health and St. Michael's Medical Center to continue admitting walk-in patients since either late last month or early this month.

DOH officials, however, had ambulance services go to hospitals other than St. Michael's since Aug. 10 while and until that Newark hospital sufficiently repairs or replaces its failed High Volume Air Conditioning chiller unit.

CareWell Health officials, formerly East Orange General Hospital, have meanwhile had to file temperature and humidity readings of its patient rooms, operating theaters and storage areas to the state every Friday by noon since July 29.

DOH Compliance Officer Jean Markey, in respective July 27 and Aug. 10 notices, had ordered Directed Plans of Correction for both hospitals. Markey had issued the plans after deeming the medical centers' own correction plans as "inadequate."

The state department said that the hospitals had failed to keep temperature and humidity levels in particular rooms under maximum levels for an over four-hour period. Those federally issued guidelines are:

- 70-75 degrees F and 60 percent maximum humidity in patient rooms.
- 70-75 deg. F and 60-to-65-percent humidity in the Emergency Department.
- 70-75 deg. F and 30-60 percent humidity in Intensive/

- Critical Care Unit rooms.
- 68-75 deg. F, 20-to-60-percent humidity in Operating Rooms.

Exceeding the said guidelines subject the hospitals to violating their state-issued operating licenses.

It should be noted that CareWell and St. Michael's HVAC problems have cropped up during a couple of heatwaves. The National Weather Service has recorded at least three straight days of 90 degree-plus temperature, qualifying as a heat wave, five times in Newark since Summer had started on June 21.

The NWS, which takes its recordings at Newark Liberty International Airport, have also recorded temperatures 10-to-15-degrees higher than normal on 10 days since Aug. 1.

Two more heat waves through Sept. 19, when Autumn begins, would tie Newark's "hottest summer" record. Please note that EWR is known for its paved and unshaded ground.

St. Michael's Aug. 4-5 chiller failure, which included transferring 12 of its ICU patients to the sister St. Mary's General Hospital in Passaic, was the first to make the local news media.

A chiller unit is an air conditioner component that exchanges heated air for cooler air, the latter of which is then vented into rooms.

St. Michael's spokesman Bruno Tedeschi, on Aug. 5, said that some of the hospital's less seriously ill patients were moved to a floor that still had A/C. Tedeschi, on Aug. 10, added that a temporary chiller went online until a permanent unit could be installed.

State DOH inspectors visited St. Michael's on Aug. 7. They recorded 98.7 to 99.5 deg. F readings among the Emergency

(Continued on page 14)

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	12,454	150	12,533	153
Bloomfield	13,839	163	13,901	163
Caldwell	1,908	17	1,916	17
Cedar Grove	4,444	136	4,467	137
City of Orange	9,147	172	9,185	174
East Orange	19,025	383	19,130	384
Essex Fells	577	2	581	2
Fairfield	2,297	38	2,308	39
Glen Ridge	1,476	18	1,484	18
Irvington	13,067	281	13,145	281
Livingston	7,614	107	7,653	107
Maplewood	6,109	48	6,144	48
Millburn	4,330	18	4,366	18
Montclair	8,111	89	8,150	89
Newark	87,854	1,259	88,311	1,260
North Caldwell	1,670	10	1,678	10
Nutley	7,494	85	7,539	86
Roseland	1,620	24	1,632	24
South Orange	4,071	22	4,090	22
Verona	3,827	23	3,847	23
West Caldwell	3,170	64	3,186	65
West Orange	15,172	268	15,247	268
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,276</b>	<b>3,377</b>	<b>230,493</b>	<b>3,388</b>

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of August 24, 2022)

NJ: 2,265,116 cases / 31,395 deaths (Plus 3,102 probable)

United States (approx.): 93.833 Million / 1.042 Million deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 598.275 Million / 6.460 Million deaths

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**WORLD NEWS FLASH***(Continued from page 6)*

strates the Justice Department's dedication to prosecuting those responsible for fraudulent lottery schemes, even when they commit their crimes from foreign countries," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "We will continue to aggressively combat scams that seek to prey on older Americans."

"The U.S. Postal Inspection Service stands ready to stop overseas criminals from illegally enriching themselves by using the mail to defraud consumers in the United States," said Acting Inspector in Charge Juan Vargas of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Miami Division. "We will continue to work with foreign governments to track down these criminals and bring them to justice."

As part of his guilty plea, Clarke admitted that, from in or around September 2013, through in or around August 2015, he worked with co-conspirators, including Claude Anthony Shaw, in a scheme to defraud in which victims were called and falsely told that they had won over a million dollars in a lottery and needed to pay fees or taxes to claim their winnings.

Victims were instructed to send their money through wire transfers or the mail to Shaw and other individuals. Clarke further admitted that, as part of the conspiracy, he and Shaw discussed (over the phone and through cell phone text messages) plans to receive victims' money.

At Clarke's direction, Shaw received money from victims through wire transfers and the mail. Clarke further admitted that he and Shaw discussed arrangements for victims to send money to other individuals with whom Shaw worked. Clarke then instructed Shaw to send the victims' money to Clarke in Jamaica, usually through wire transfers. Victims who sent money to Clarke and his co-conspirators never received any lottery winnings.

Shaw previously pleaded guilty to mail fraud in the U.S. District Court in Fort Lauderdale. In June 2017, he was sentenced to 36 months in prison. Clarke is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 28.

Senior Trial Attorney Arturo DeCastro of the Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch is prosecuting this case. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case.

The department's extensive and broad-based efforts to combat elder

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fraud seek to halt the widespread losses seniors suffer from fraud schemes. The best method for prevention, however, is by sharing information about the various types of elder fraud schemes with relatives, friends, neighbors and other seniors who can use that information to protect themselves.

If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is available at the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This Department of Justice hotline, managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professionals who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim and identifying relevant next steps.

Case managers will identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers

to assist them in reporting, connect callers directly with appropriate agencies and provide resources and referrals, on a case-by-case basis.

Reporting is the first step. Reporting can help authorities identify those who commit fraud, and reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. The hotline is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET. English, Spanish and other languages are available.

Additional information about the Consumer Protection Branch and its enforcement efforts may be found at [www.justice.gov/civil/consumer-protection-branch](http://www.justice.gov/civil/consumer-protection-branch). Information about the Department of Justice's Elder Fraud Initiative is available at [www.justice.gov/elderjustice](http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice).

# 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.

## SENATOR RICE SET TO RETIRE

**NEWARK** - Ronald L. Rice (D-Newark), after 35 years as State Senator, will retire Aug. 31. Rice's departure will prompt Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones, Jr. and his colleagues to file a successor on or by Sept. 15 for a Nov. 8 special election.

The state's longest-serving African American senator sent his resignation notice "with a full heart" to the Senate Majority Office and the Legislative Black Caucus he had founded Aug. 18. While Rice, 76, did not say why he had called time on his public service career, some observers said that he had been coping with the Aug. 4, 2020 loss of his wife Shirley. Some are saying that he will use his retirement to regain his health.

Rice, highly regarded for his ethics and sometimes lone independent voice, had returned to Newark in 1970 after his tour of duty as a United States Marine sergeant in Vietnam. He joined the Newark Police Department in 1972 and was a detective when some West Ward neighbors asked him to run for Municipal West Ward Council in 1978.

After a questionable election defeat, voters helped Rice oust Councilman Michael P. Bottone in the 1982 rematch. He moved into the office on the corner of South Orange and Sanford avenues he shared with then-State Senator / Newark Fire Director John Caufield. "If something happens to me," Caufield once told Rice, "you should become senator."

That opportunity came when Caufield died in 1986 and re-

ceived backing from Sharpe James and State Democratic Committee Chairman Ray Durkin in the special election. Rice served both as state senator to date and either as councilman (1986-98) or as deputy mayor (2002-06).

Rice ran and won as senator off-line in 2007 against a candidate backed by then-Mayor Cory A. Booker and North Ward power broker Steve Adubato, Sr. He ran twice for mayor and lost to James in 1998 and to Booker in 2006.

Rice's independent stance is reflected in two narcotics-related issues. He has staunchly opposed a free needle distribution program for drug addicts. Rice, however, had advocated for marijuana decriminalization.

**IRVINGTON** - Kearny Police officers are hoping that one of the 96 outstanding arrest warrants they had found on a township resident suspected of shoplifting July 31 will keep her in the Hudson County Correctional Center until her appearance in Kearny Municipal Court.

The KPD blotter for that Sunday started with a detective calling from the Kearny Shop-Rite for backup at 7:11 p.m. When an officer arrived, the detective, who was on security detail, said he had a suspect in custody.

The detective told the officer that a store customer pointed out a woman - identified as Javante L. Bynum, 29 - who had left the supermarket without paying for several items. The inspector said he had found snow crab legs, a sippy cup and several greeting cards - all at a total of \$96.92 - in Bynum's possession.

It was when the officer ran a records search on Bynum at KPD Headquarters that 96 warrants were attached to her name for an aggregated \$48,000. Each arrest carries an average \$500 fine.

Whether any of the said traffic warrants were issued by "Local Talk" municipal courts was not immediately known.

**EAST ORANGE** - Mourning bunting was put up at East Orange Police Headquarters and its flag lowered to half-staff Aug. 6-20 in tribute to one of its retired police captains, Berkely Jest.

Jest, 58, of Bloomfield, had suddenly died Aug. 6. His cremation at Montclair's Rosedale Cemetery on Aug. 20 was preceded by an Aug. 19 visitation at Cedar Grove's Shook-Farmer Funeral Home.

Berkely E. Jest was born in 1963 in Newark and had eventually settled in Bloomfield. The former EOPD patrolman rose through the ranks and had retired in April 2018 as captain.

Jest was a member of Newark's King David Association of Free and Accepted Masons Lodge No. 80. He was also a charter member of East Orange Police Benevolent Association Local No. 16 since its 2014 founding.

Jest was among four superior EOPD officers named by nine other officers in five misconduct suits filed in State Municipal Court-Newark in 2018. It is not known as of press time whether or how the charge against him was adjudicated.

Wife Shikira M. Jest, children Toniesha Hill, Vanessa Bass, Sharell Williams and Briana Vazquez; mother Lee Ethel Jest, sister Cheyenne Jest and three grandchildren are among his survivors. Father Louis Emmanuel Jest had predeceased him.

**ORANGE** - Riders on NJTransit's Morris & Essex Line are getting an excellent, if passing, view of PSE&G's "Orange Heights Switching Station" project.

The utility has contracted J. Fletcher Creamer to start sinking steel pillars into the ground of 536 Freeman St. Some of the pillars will support eight step-down transformers PSE&G will install; some others will support the 50-to-70-foot tall perimeter wall that is to line the property along Freeman, South Jefferson and Forest streets.

What that perimeter wall will finally look like is between PSE&G's contractors and the Orange Planning Board's "Board Experts." That was the condition a majority of the board carried Preliminary and Final Site Plan Application No. 21-12 on March 23.

Board Chairman Dwight Holmes, North Ward Councilwoman Tency Eason, Mayor Dwayne D. Warren and mem-

bers Enock Faustin, Chris Mobley and Callistus Onyluke approved the application. Board Vice Chairwoman Antionette Jones abstained; Member Sharandra Bennett was absent.

The application, which was first heard Feb. 3, mentioned that the new station site is within the city's Central Valley Redevelopment District. The site is also within the Valley Historic District, as designated by the Orange Historic Preservation Commission and abuts the Valley Arts District.

PSE&G's experts said that the new station will replace the current station at South Jefferson Street, which was installed in 1970.

The pillars will be sunk through a one-foot-thick bed of white crushed stone. The layer was added to raise the transformers as a flood prevention measure. Three houses, including two at 541-43 Forest St., have been demolished.

**WEST ORANGE** - The township's intention to replace the current West Orange Public Library with more senior citizens and affordable housing took a step forward when the Council approved Ordinance 2685-22 at their Aug. 9 meeting.

The Council unanimously passed the ordinance entitled "Master Plan Consistency Review (Fair Share Housing Center Settlement Agreement Implementation)." The legislation adjusts the WOPL tract in the OB-2 Zone to become entirely earmarked for senior/affordable housing.

Council President Susan McCartney explained at the meeting that the ordinance carries out a settlement between the April 14, 2020 township and the N.J. Fair Share Housing Center. A State Superior Court-Newark judge had approved the measure July 10, 2020.

West Orange elders envision a five-story 65 unit building where 46 Mt. Pleasant Ave. is now. A library satellite annex may go into some of the 7,500 square feet of street level community space. The housing is part of the township's 2019 Master Plan.

The Township Council had approved, 4-1 April 26, to sell

(Continued on page 11)

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 10)

WOPL to West Orange Senior Housing LLC. The Alpert Group is being considered to buy the building on WOSH's behalf - but a redeveloper has not yet been selected.

Township Attorney Richard Trenk said that WOPL will be going to 10 Rooney Circle, north of the Essex Green Shopping Center "and will hopefully have an empty building next spring." Trenk also mentioned the Jan. 29, 2015 library facade collapse, where "anyone who were near it could've been killed 20 seconds before."

The split-level WOPL building opened in 1959. Its extension over the municipal parking lot, whose east side facade fell, was built in 1979. The township has allocated \$2.1 million and received a \$3.1 million state library grant in 2021 to renovate 10 Rooney Circle.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD**

- Police in both towns have been looking for a pair of armed robbers who crossed their shared border here since Aug. 18.

Maplewood Chief of Police Jim DeVaul said his officers had responded to a 911 call, made 9:18 p.m. that Thursday, from the township's Burr Road.

Responding MPD officers met with two 18-year-old women at the corner of Burr and Parker Avenue. The victims said that they were walking in the area when two males had approached them and had demanded their cell phones. One of the suspects displayed a black handgun.

The victims said they and the suspects struggled until one of the women was forced to the ground and her cell phone was taken.

The suspects then fled into "a black four-door vehicle that was waiting for them." The vehicle then sped north on Burr into South Orange. The fallen woman suffered "a minor abrasion to her right elbow but declined medical attention."

Wanted are "two black males 19-20 years old. One is skinny with short-cut hair and wearing a black COVID mask. The other is short with a medium build, wearing a black COVID mask and possibly a zip-up jacket." The gun displayed may have been a revolver.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Those who would use the Garden State Parkway's Brookdale South/Connie Chung Service Plaza for food, fuel, restroom and/or carpooling purposes have had to go

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elsewhere since Aug. 17.

Contractors for GSP parent New Jersey Highway Authority had locked gates to the plaza's Broad Street entrance and barricaded its GSP exit ramp. A backhoe was seen parked across five of the carpool parking spaces 8 a.m. Aug. 23; surveyors were seen taking measurements by the Sunoco fuel pumps.

The NJHA intends to replace the 1953-55 restaurant and service station - originally housing a Howard Johnson's and a Cities Service - with an all-new building next spring. An exact grand reopening depends on contractor Apple-green LLC's schedule and the weather.

While the Sunoco station and a convenience store are to return, its McDonald's will be replaced by three other chain eateries: Burger King, Starbucks Coffee and Chick-fil-A.

Municipal officials from Bloomfield and

Montclair had appealed to the NJHA Board of Commissioners to replace Chick-fil-A with another restaurant last winter. They cited the Atlanta-based corporation's past funding of charities that oppose same sex marriage for their objection. A 2019 corporate statement said it had ceased such funding.

Northbound GSP motorists should also note that its nearby Vauxhall/Whitney Houston Service Plaza will be simultaneously closed for similar work. Both projects are to cost an overall \$10 million as part of the NJHA's Parkway and New Jersey Turnpike service plaza rehabilitation plan.

**GLEN RIDGE** - Those who remember mother Rose V. and daughter Wendy Ann McArdle are mourning with the family on their respective

(Continued on page 15)



*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Breaking The Curse By  
Restarting The Covenant**

Let me continue reflecting on the need for covenant restoration, which I proposed before this reflection, by stating that we live in a truly desperate and troubled time. Whether we are willing to admit it or not, it is clear that we have lost the sense of covenant on a personal, communal, and national level. Moreover, the attitudes displayed suggest that many do not know what it means to be in a covenant relationship.

Here I point to at least seven crises that we are facing today.

1. Crisis of **commitment**
2. Crisis of **obligation**
3. Crisis of **trust**
4. Crisis of **cooperation**
5. Crisis of **relationship**
6. Crisis of **responsibility**
7. Crisis of **community**

The embolden words are intended to emphasize what is involved in a covenant. They are themes that our fore-parents, forebearers, and founders emphasized as they sat down to construct their families, homes, communities, and constitution (s). They are also fundamental themes in the covenant God made with his people Israel, as told in Scripture.

When the people forgot the themes of their covenant - commitments, obligations, relationships, and responsibilities - the prophets, reforming priests, kings, and other true-hearted leaders challenged them to restart their covenants.

One of the great examples of covenant reform or restoration took place in Israel under the priest Jehoiada during the days of king Joash of Judah. Here is how the biblical text reads:

**Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the LORD's people and between the king and the people.** (2 Kings 11:17)

The back story is that after many years of terror and chaos, the kingdom of Judah needed to return to the ways of the Lord. The wicked queen Athaliah, who had promoted idolatry, revenge killings, and violence in the realm of Judah, was deposed and put to death. The young king Joash who escaped Athaliah's hand of terror had now been seated on the throne.

God gave him an excellent guide in the person of **Jehoiada**, the high priest. The priest called for the reform, and **Joash cooperated**. Together they gathered the people and restated the formal agreements of the **covenant**. They recited the king's and the people's obligations to the LORD God. They also clarified the responsibilities that the king and the people had toward each other.

The agreements were not new but a recitation of the covenant terms that had already been made with God and one another centuries before. In the days of Moses, God made a covenant with Israel at Sinai, and the people accepted the terms of that covenant (Exodus 24:3-8). But, as the centuries passed, the people forgot the covenant and

turned to idolatry. Now it was time, as had been done many times before and would be done many times in the future, to renew the commitments, restate the responsibilities to honor, obey, and serve the LORD and live faithfully in community.

In coming together, the people engaged in:

1. A time of confession - They acknowledged their sins - "We have broken the covenant," they would say.
2. They humbled themselves
3. They repented
4. Then they restarted the covenant.

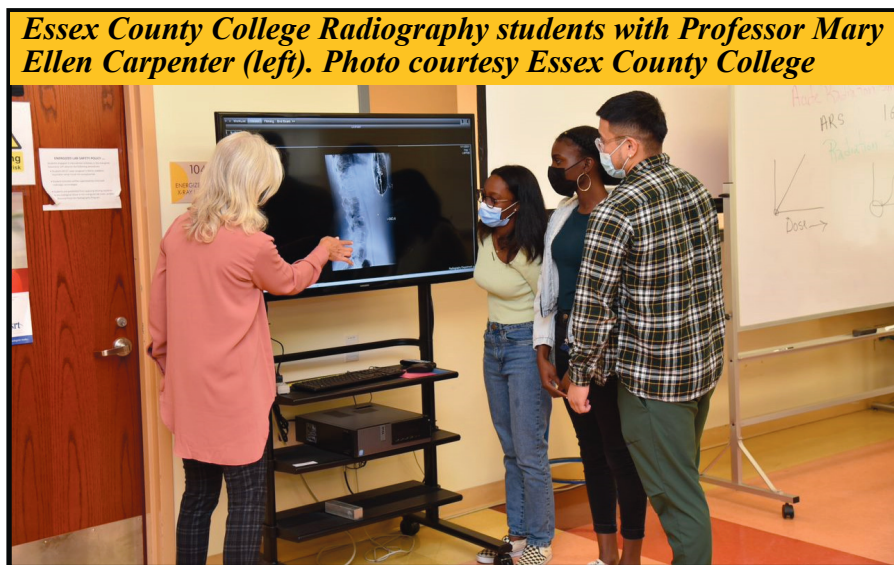
I have stated the above to leave you with the one question that has been the burden I have been pressing since the last reflection, namely, "Do you see a need to renew, revive and restart your covenant with God, your family, your church, your community or with your nation?" We live by covenants, and if we are unwilling to renew them, we will all face the curses of brokenness and disconnection.

**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE RADIOGRAPHY GRADS PERFECT ON NATIONAL LICENSING EXAM**

**ESSEX** - Every 2022 graduate of Essex County College's Radiography program passed the required national licensing exam on the first try this summer. And all 17 graduates received at least one job offer before received their hard-earned Associate in Applied Science degrees on June 3, 2022.

Radiography graduates must pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) exam, said program Coordinator Darlyn Warner. She said this is the largest Radiography class since 2014 when there were 18 graduates.

"This is great news. Congratulations to our students and faculty for an outstanding job," said ECC's President, Dr. Augustine



*Essex County College Radiography students with Professor Mary Ellen Carpenter (left). Photo courtesy Essex County College*

A. Boakye. "This was the class that applied to the program during the Covid-19 pandemic. They toughed it out and we are so very proud of them. There is a serious need for health care providers

and they are ready," said Professor Warner.

She credits the entire Radiography program team of Professor Mary Ellen Carpenter, adjuncts and staff for providing the students the academics and

support needed to succeed.

Professor Warner said at least four of the graduates will be seeking advanced degrees. She said others will receive additional training at their employers.

"The perseverance these students showed is truly amazing. I'm confident they will be very successful in their endeavors," said Dr. Alvin Williams, Executive Dean of Faculty and Academics.

According to the college rating company College Factual, ECC is the topped ranked institution nation-wide for an "Associate Degree in Other Health / Medical Preparatory Programs."

# A CHANCE TO REGAIN HOMES FROM SHERIFF SALES

## “Community Wealth Preservation Program”

President of Urban Mayors Association Newark Mayor Ras Baraka talking about the bankruptcy building in Newark at the podium with other officials listening. Photos By Dhiren Shah



POP Chairman Larry Hamm giving his support at the podium.



By Dhiren Shah

What is the worst time for a homeowner? When they do not have the financial means to save their home from bankruptcy. Their dream home is snatched out of their hands and their belongings may end up out on the street by order of the Sheriff.

Why does it have to be so harsh for someone in dire straits to face confusion when handling a bad financial situation. Right now, the law states that for a home available due to a bankruptcy, if anyone wants to buy it, they can get it at a Sheriff's sale with 20% down by certified check and the rest of the money paid within 30 days.

Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake understood the situation, as she is in the real estate business. She authored a wonderful resolution, which has passed both the houses (Senate and Assembly) of New Jersey. The only step left is for Governor Murphy to sign the bill.

Why is he delaying signing this bill for the benefit of needy people? No one knows... Is it for the benefit of the banks and large corporations who are in the money business? Murphy worked at Goldman Sachs before becoming Governor.

**Bill A-793 “the Community Wealth Preservation Bill”** was sponsored by Assemblywomen Britnee Timberlake, Cleopatra Tucker and Verlina Reynolds-Jackson. The purpose of the bill to preserve the community and its wealth and community members may take pride for their community.

Assemblywoman Britnee

Timberlake and Assemblywoman authored **Bill A-793 “the Community Wealth Preservation Bill”** has passed with the Assembly and the Senate.

Why did our elected officials approve the bill? Because it is helping families who are on the verge of losing their home. Banks are shrewd, charging an enormous number of penalties and interest for homeowners who missed their payments at least twice. Once this vicious cycle starts, a homeowner does not have a way of getting out of it.

For the first time, there is a bill which helps homeowners or renters by allowing them to own the home with only 3.5% cash down. In response to my question on how it works, Ms. Timberlake gave a good example. If a homeowner owes \$400,000 (principal, interest and penalties combined) and the bank places it on the sheriff's auction starting at \$200,000, (usually the bank's starting auction is 50% of what the owner owes to the bank) the owner will get that house under the bid process.

However, the key is that the homeowner must be approved for the loan with 3.5% down (which is right now 20%) and instead of 30 days, the sheriff must get the balance of the loan, with the help of government programs, within 90 days.

Suppose the homeowner cannot raise that money or cannot be approved. Then the kin of the homeowner can raise that money with 3.5% down. If the home is rented, the tenant, instead of losing their rented home, gets the same 3.5% down payment to

buy the home. And finally, a neighbor or person living in the same community can buy the house as well. The stipulation for the neighbor or the tenant is that they have to live in that house for 7 years.

This bill protects the people who have suffered economic hardship. The majority of their houses go to investors, who know how to work and take advantage of the laws. While practically minting money, they are

evacuating homeowners and families, and most of the time it is nothing but a sad story. I am happy that Miss Timberlake thought about the real people rather than the money people. The bill is supported by the Urban Mayors Association with Mayor Baraka is at the helm.

If you have any comment or want to support this bill, write to [localtalknews@gmail.com](mailto:localtalknews@gmail.com).

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The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

OFF TOPIC!

COVERAGE (PART 2)

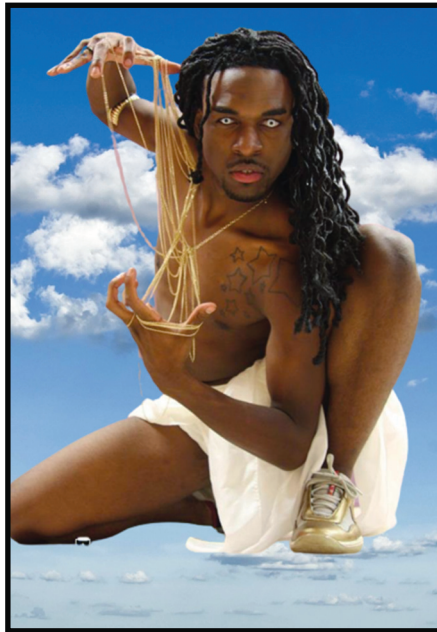


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Angels & Warriors  
L.I.T Professional Editorial Muse:  
Poetry The Writer  
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ANGELS & WARRIORS

“Question: Who is, has been, or will always be your protection

in this world? Who comes to mind when it comes to standing in that gap for you when you obviously need them or when you don't even know that you do, be it spiritually, mentally, emotionally, or physically?



The L.I.T Project  
Angels & Warriors  
L.I.T Professional Editorial Muse:  
Rickey Mitchell, Designer / Stylist

INSURANCE POLICY

My angels and warriors oftentimes cross-pollinate as the two. My parents, that goes without saying, my grandmother the late Bessie Mae Robinson, Mother Geah before her passing, Nicole who has filled that position as a prayer warrior filling in for me when Mother Geah transitioned. Pastor Geah, my dear friend Pam M., My children, my siblings, those community prayer warriors, and all those many others that stepped into that role, one or the other or both knowingly and unknowingly to me. I am blessed, to say the least, but I

find that those who pray without ceasing are those front liners like my parents that I could never ever do without.

We are spirit beings; thus, we must operate as such. It may seem paranormal to us, but it is quite normal in the ways of this world. My mission is to become both to my family, our community, and our world even more so. Because in today's world with spiritual warfare going full throttle, it is our most dire need for our survival on the planet!

THEM STREETS  
BE TALKIN

Question: Are you an Angel, a Warrior, or both or are we merely the beneficiaries of the efforts of the two?

WHO PRAYED AND / OR  
WHO PRAYS FOR YOU!!!!

We all must do our part and that's why I decided to let the imagery speak louder ONCE AGAIN as a representation of what we need or/and what we can or should be repin' and doin'. Pictures speak louder especially when it comes to Mocha because our language is hieroglyphics, and our history is in our DNA so we lose nothin'. (You ain't know?) That's also why I decided to hit those STREETS. Cause they be talkin' and those kinds of talks are what we be needin' to hear, ya heard lol!

BOW DOWN

We must pay homage to those that came before, those who carried and those who carry us now. For that Warrior or An-

gel that you pay homage to today; bow down. Head bowed, waist bent, arms extending out, fanning with your palms...

Who is the Angel or Warrior that has covered you and yours or covers you now?

“My grandmother, grandparents, mother, aunts, uncles; spiritually my pastor, I can go on and on. Yes ma'am, they stood in the gap with their prayers, support, being there, just giving their time. If I had to choose just one that will or would always be there for me, it's my mother. If I had to choose from a male perspective I would have to say, my brother. Yes ma'am, I do believe in prayer.” (This one is signed Anonymous because Mister was still on the clock with that pistol in its holster lol!) - Signed Mister Anonymous ...

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



A/C FAILURES IN HEATWAVE

(Continued from page 7)

Department's waiting, exam and triage rooms. Their Monday readings had dropped to at least 80 degrees-but still exceeding the 70-75 deg. limit.

An eight-day heatwave meanwhile broke on Aug. 10.

The DOH inspectors' thoroughness bears out Markey's six-page July 27 letter to Care-Well President and CEO Paige Dworak.

The letter outlined temperature and humidity exceedances found among 33 readings made over eight days from July 1 to 27. Those readings were made among 16 patient rooms, six Emergency Department spaces,

Operating Rooms and in a utility closet and a supply room.

An ED supply room, for example, was measured by a DOH inspector at 79 deg. F and 65 percent 10:10 a.m. July 26. The fifth floor utility room registered 88 deg. F and 37.7 percent humidity 12:02 p.m. that day.

One operating room - measured July 1, 18-20 and 24-26 - ranged from 64 deg. to 78.4 for a "Local Talk" averaged 71.8 deg.

Six second floor patient rooms ranged from 78 to 81 deg. for a 79.1 deg. LT average. Fifteen rooms on the fifth floor's "step down 5 West" ranged from 78.1 to 83.7 for a 78.7 LT average. Three fifth floor ICU rooms went from 76 to 77.9 for a 77.1 average.

Markey's letter to Dworak noted Care-Well's "proffered steps" to close window blinds, increase round making frequency, offer portable fans and room transfers to patients. Those steps were deemed "inadequate" before delivering the correction plan.

While there were no responses to messages left for St. Michael's as of 12:35 p.m. Aug. 24, Dworak did respond to a query.

“Yes, we report every week Friday. Repairs were made an all inpatient rooms have been within the appropriate range for a few weeks now. The DOH has been on site and validated temperatures are back to normal.”

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 11)

deaths 10 days apart.

Rose Vivian McCardle, 99, had died in a Browns Mills home July 18; Wendy Ann, 66, had died in Bloomfield July 27 - the day of Rose's funeral service.

The former Rose V. Fredericks and the late John M. McArdle had moved into 66 Clark St. in the 1960s shortly after their marriage. Rose, who was born July 6, 1923 and was raised in Bloomfield, was a former World War Two nightclub singer-turned bookkeeper. John, who worked for the Newark News, was the borough's Democratic Party Chairman who made an unsuccessful mayoral bid in 1969.

Rose and John raised Wendy, who was born Oct. 3, 1955, and sons John and the late Brian at 66 Clark. Wendy, a Glen Ridge High School Class of 1973 graduate, also graduated from Montclair's Katherine Gibbs School of Business and worked in Bell Telephone's Glen Ridge office while raising son Ryan Connor.

Rose put 66 Clark up for sale in 2014 after John's death. Wendy continued to live in Bloomfield's North Center section while "working in the hospitality field at The Chandelier" in Belleville. Rose's July 27 repast and Wendy's Aug. 16 memorial were both held at The Chandelier.

Brother John, son Ryan, aunt Helen Fredericks, nephew Kyle and niece Ariel are among Wendy's survivors. Rose's remains were interred at Union's Hollywood Memorial park after July 27 service at Bloomfield's O'Boyle Funeral Home.

**MONTCLAIR / LITTLE FALLS** - Those who want to send their farewells to the Jersey Jackals during the Frontier League's regular season may have to go to Augusta's Skylands Stadium to do so Sept. 2-4.

Skylands Stadium and the Sussex County Miners (at 49 wins and 36 losses) will host the Jackals (42-42) in their last three Frontier League East regular season games. The Jackals will be returning to at least Sussex County, N.J. after visiting the Trois-Rivieres Aigles (43-42) Aug. 26-28 and the league-leading Quebec Capitales (55-30) Aug. 30-Sept. 1.

The Jackals were scheduled to have their last regular season home game here at Montclair State University's Yogi Berra Stadium, hosting the New York Boulders (46-38) Aug. 25.

Once that Thursday night game with the Boulders is finished, it is anyone's guess whether the Jackals will return home here for the playoffs. The Jackals will need to rise from seventh place in the standings and beat out Trois-Rivieres, the Boulders, the Ottawa Titans and the Miners for the third and final playoff berth in the last 10 games.

Jackals co-general manager Reed Keller announced here Aug. 17 that the team will leave the only home they have known at the season's end. Keller has not said where the team will go next year other than it will stay in the independent Frontier League.

The 5,000-seat Yogi Berra Stadium, built in a former strip mine quarry that MSU had bought, opened with the Jackals in 1998. The Jackals had won six league championships in 1998, 2001-02, 2014 and 2019-20. The Jackals won those crowns while in the Northern League (1998-2002), Northeast League (2003-04), the Can-Am Association of Professional baseball (2005-19) and the All-American baseball Challenge (2020).

The Jackals is among seven New Jersey minor league teams and stadiums that had opened 1994-2001. The Newark Bears (1998-2013), Atlantic City Surf (1998-2009) and the Camden Riversharks (2001-15) have since closed.

**BELLEVILLE** - Whatever memories that bass guitarist Bill Pitman may have had of Belleville, it may have been before he could attach a time to it.

Pitman, 102, who had died at his La Quinta, Calif. home Aug. 11, may be more familiar to those who have heard scores of popular music, commercials, radio and television shows and movies from the 1950s into the 90s.

Pitman was a member of the Los Angeles-based "Wrecking Crew," who supplied background music for the likes of Frank Sinatra ("Strangers in the Night," 1966), The Ronettes ("Be My Baby," 1963), "Star Trek," (1966-68) and "Goodfellas" (1990).

The crew, a loose group of freelance musicians who worked various styles at a break-neck pace, helped develop Phil Spector's "Wall of Sound." Glen Campbell and Leon Russell were also among the group's alumni.

William Keith Pitman was born here Feb. 12, 1920 to NBC Radio bassist Keith and Broadway dancer Irma Kunze Pitman. They first lived at 45 Lincoln Ave. in 1923 and at Nutley's 288 Whitford Ave. in 1926. The Pitmans had moved to Manhattan and Bill was attending the Professional Children's School by 1927.

Bill Pitman, a World War Two-Pacific Theater veteran, moved to Los Angeles to pursue a musical career once he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Air Corps. His first big break came when he successfully auditioned for singer Peggy Lee's band in 1951.

Pitman, who was part of the 2008 "The Wrecking Crew" documentary, had suffered a fractured spine from a fall last month. Third wife Janet Pitman, son Dale, daughters Donna Simpson, Jean Langdon and Rosemary Pitman; four grandchildren

and three great-grandchildren are among his survivors. Last rites have not been published as of press time.

**NUTLEY** - Longtime Nutley High School coach Bob Harbison may not be in the Maroon Raiders' baseball dugout or alongside the football gridiron - but he will remain on the hardwood's sidelines as its boys basketball head coach.

Harbison, who has led the baseball team since 2004, decided to cut back on his duties on Aug. 12. While Nutley Public Schools Athletic Director Joe Piro has time to find a new baseball coach, he also has an immediate assistant football coaching position to fill.

"I have about five more years teaching and bought a house down the shore," said Harbison, who teaches special education mathematics at NHS. "It's a good time to relinquish some duties."

Harbison leaves the baseball diamond with a 288-195 win-loss coaching record. He had helped bring the Maroon Raiders to six Greater Newark Tournament entries - including making last spring's semifinal round against Bloomfield.

The NHS Class of 1984 graduate was a lettered scholar-athlete in baseball, football and basketball who continued playing baseball for nearby Fairleigh Dickenson University.

Harbison, as head basketball coach since 1999, brought the Maroon Raiders into the 2021-22 NJSIAA North Jersey Section II Group 3 tournament before falling to sectional champion Colonia.

"I always liked basketball slightly more," said Harbison. "There's slightly more control in basketball than in baseball."

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