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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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INDEX	Editorial & Weather - 02	E-Cigarettes - 04	Sports Wrap - 05
	Sale Extended - 08	Town Watch - 10	Pastor's Heart - 12
	Observation Booth - 14		

HOTEL RIVIERA STATUS UPDATE

Photo By Lev D. Zilbermints



PAGE 10

NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTION PREVIEW



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - "General Election Season," which has been ramping up since Labor Day, may have come to your doorstep by now.

The General Election sample ballots and Vote By Mail Ballots, sent by Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin and Superintendent of Elections should have arrived in your mailbox. The ballots serve as a guide to which candidates are running for which elective offices in your municipality, school district, and state and federal legislative districts.

While there is still a General Election Day, when votes and ballots are taken until 8 p.m., Nov. 8, it could be called a sea-

son given the early voting and VBMB periods.

Early voting polling stations are to be open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Oct. 29 and Oct. 31 - Nov. 5 and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Oct. 30 and Nov. 6. Newark is to have four early voting stations; Bloomfield, East Orange, Irvington, West Orange, Fairfield and Verona have one each.

VBMBs are to be accepted in 27 drop box locations across Essex County Nov. 1 - 8 p.m. Nov. 8. While every county municipality gets at least one drop box, Newark gets three more drop boxes plus an extra one each in Montclair, South Orange and West Orange.

Nov. 1 is the last day to ask the county for a VBMB. Those who receive the mail-in ballots

RISHI SUNAK NAMED BRITISH PRIME MINISTER



PAGE 6

are committed to mailing them back with a Nov. 8 postmark or put into a drop box by 8 p.m. that Tuesday. Those who encounter VBMB or other voting problem may still vote in-person with a provisional ballot.

General Election Season 2020 in "Local Talk" land have 67 candidates vying for 39 elective offices. Those offices range from the U.S. Congress' House of Representatives to nonpartisan public school board of education with a special State Senate election, a sole Essex County Executive race and mayor and/or council contests in four "Local Talk" towns in between.

Please note that all board of education races and municipal elections in West Orange and Glen Ridge are nonpartisan -

even if they do share the General Election ballot. Candidates and/or their tickets who identify themselves with a political party on their literature will be violating the spirit on New Jersey's laws on nonpartisanship.

U.S. CONGRESS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Eighth Congressional District (Newark's East and North wards, Union County's Elizabeth and 10 Hudson County towns whole or in part):

Seven candidates are vying to succeed the retiring Albio Sires (D-West New York). Robert J. "Rob" Menendez, (D-

(Continued on page 5)



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Turn
 To
**PAGE
 16**



Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

October 26, 2022 is new year's day according to the Indian Calendar. I wish everyone a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

Another school shooting. A 19 year old boy (gunman) walked into St. Louis High School, where he graduated from, with an AR-15 style rifle and over 600 rounds of ammunition. Students and teachers started to lock themselves in classrooms and some jumped from the windows to save themselves. The gunmen had opened fire and killed one teacher and one student. The case is under investigation, so we do not have much information right now.

There's less than two weeks now until the midterm elections. It will be a very crucial election as the country is divided into two parties that rarely if ever partner to serve the people without being partisan. Two senatorial elections in Pennsylvania and Georgia are very crucial for both parties. According to the polls, both are very close. Pennsylvania's senate race between is Fetterman (D) and Dr. Oz (R). Georgia's senate race is between Warnock (D) and Walker (R). Both candidates are neck and neck, as one poll shows Warnock leading by 2 percent while another shows Walker leading by 2 percent.

In Pennsylvania elections, both are neck and neck as well. However, there are some health issues with Democratic candidate Fetterman. According to the news, he is running, but cannot handle the senatorial position. If he wins, he might resign and let someone be selected in his place.

Per The Guardian: "This was Fetterman's highest-profile appearance of the campaign, since he suffered a stroke in mid-May, which has left him with auditory processing issues, where the brain struggles to understand the spoken word. To accommodate Fetterman's condition, which he said is improving daily, two 70-inch monitors were placed above the heads of the moderators, which showed the transcribed text of their questions, and the text of Oz's responses... Fetterman, 53, released a report from his doctor last week that said he "has no work restrictions and can work full duty in public office," but the doctor noted that Fetterman has difficulty processing some words. In a TV interview in early October, Fetterman said he will sometimes miss words, or 'mush' words together when speaking, and there were times when his issues with speech were noticeable during the debate. The Democrat ap-

peared to struggle to find certain words and took longer than Oz to reply to questions as he read captioning on screen."

Per The Washington Post: "U.S. allies in Europe are growing increasingly concerned that the united front presented by the West in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine could quickly unravel if Republicans are victorious in next week's midterm elections, ceding an advantage to President Vladimir Putin just when Ukraine is making progress on the battlefield."

India is still in some old ridiculous systems and beliefs. A man handed his daughter over to death in the state of Telangana over an alleged affair with a boy. According to the man, he did it because of his family's reputation. What a pathetic belief in this day and age.

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

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- The printing of articles or advertising in Local Talk does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement by the editorial staff of Local Talk.
- This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error.
- We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Rain	Light Rain	Partly Cloudy
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PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS SOUGHT AGAINST SIX E-CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), on behalf of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, filed complaints on Oct. 18 for permanent injunctions in federal district courts against six e-cigarette manufacturers. These cases represent the first time the FDA has initiated injunction proceedings to enforce the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act's premarket review requirements for new tobacco products.

Each of these defendants failed to submit premarket applications for their e-cigarettes and have continued to illegally manufacture, sell, and distribute their products, despite previous warning from the FDA that they were in violation of the law. The injunctions would require the companies and named individuals to stop manufacturing, selling, and distributing their e-cigarettes. The injunctions would also require the defendants to obtain marketing authorization from the FDA before marketing such products, as required by law.

"Today's enforcement actions represent a significant step for the FDA in preventing tobacco product manufacturers from violating the law," said Brian King, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. "We will not stand by as manufacturers repeatedly break the law, especially after being afforded multiple opportunities to comply."

DOJ institutes judicial enforcement actions under the FD&C Act in court. Therefore, the injunctions were filed by DOJ on behalf of the FDA against the following defendants in their respective U.S. District Courts:

- Morin Enterprises Inc. doing business as E-Cig Crib in the District of Minnesota
- Soul Vapor LLC in the Southern District of West Virginia
- Super Vape'z LLC in the Western District of Washington
- Vapor Craft LLC in the Mid-

- dle District of Georgia
- Lucky's Convenience & Tobacco LLC doing business as Lucky's Vape & Smoke Shop in the District of Kansas
- Seditious Vapours LLC doing business as Butt Out in the District of Arizona

The FDA had previously warned each of the defendant companies that they were in violation of the FD&C Act's premarket review requirements for new tobacco products by manufacturing, selling, and distributing new tobacco products without first obtaining marketing authorization from the FDA. However, the defendants continued to manufacture, sell, and distribute unauthorized e-cigarettes to consumers. The FDA's prior warnings noted that further violations could lead to enforcement action, including injunction.

Defendants have the opportunity to agree to consent decrees of a permanent injunction, which prevent them from directly or indirectly manufacturing, selling or distributing any new tobacco products unless and until certain prerequisites are met. These prerequisites include that the tobacco products receive FDA marketing authorization, that the agency inspect the defendants' facilities to determine compliance, and that the FDA notify defendants in writing that they appear to be in compliance with the law.

For those defendants who do not agree to consent decrees, the government can request the relevant courts to enter injunctions preventing those defendants from directly or indirectly manufacturing, selling or distributing any unauthorized tobacco products.

"These cases are an important step in stopping the illegal sale of unauthorized electronic nicotine delivery system products," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "The Department of Justice will continue to work closely with FDA to stop the distribu-

tion of illegal, unauthorized tobacco products."

When companies are manufacturing and distributing unauthorized tobacco products, the FDA will typically first issue a warning letter in an attempt to achieve voluntary compliance with the law. If continuing violations are documented by the FDA, the agency may request that DOJ pursue a judicial enforcement action, such as an injunction or seizure. The FDA also has administrative civil money penalty authority for violations of the FD&C Act relating to tobacco products.

Between January 2021 through Sept. 9, 2022, the FDA issued nearly 300 warning letters, to firms that collectively have more than 17 million e-cigarettes listed with the agency, for failure to submit a timely premarket application. After receiving warning letters, a majority of these companies have complied and removed their products from the market.

These actions are part of a comprehensive approach to enforcing the law. For example, earlier this month, the FDA issued a warning letter to EVO Brands LLC and PVG2 LLC, doing business as Puff Bar, which is one of the most popular brands among U.S. youth, for receiving and delivering e-cigarettes in the U.S. without a marketing authorization order. All e-cigarettes on the market without the statutorily required premarket authorization are marketed unlawfully and risk FDA enforcement action. It is illegal to sell or distribute e-cigarettes that the FDA has not authorized, and those who engage in such conduct are at risk of FDA enforcement, such as a seizure, injunction, or civil money penalty.

The FDA encourages retailers to discuss new tobacco products in their inventory with their suppliers, to determine whether such products have the required marketing authorization. The FDA provides the names of authorized e-cigarettes on the FDA's Tobacco Product Marketing Orders page.

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school regular season has come to a close, and now the state playoffs will begin. Some local area favor will see the Irvington Blue Knights headed back to the state playoffs to defend their group and regional championships. They will open at home against Sayreville this Friday. Irvington sits at 7-2.

Meanwhile, after a harder than expected year, East Orange is back in the state playoffs and will take on rival Clifton after beating them in the state championship in overtime last season. The two teams opened their season this year against each other, and Clifton got sweet revenge, stunning EO 21-0. East Orange finished the regular season with a 3-5 record.

In other action, the Shabazz bulldogs will be on the road against Woodridge in North Jersey Section 2 Group 2. The Montclair Mounties will be at home against Ridgewood in a Group 5 matchup. Montclair finished their season with a 4-4 record.

Also, 5-3 West Orange will go on the road against Watchung

Hills who finished with a 7-2 mark. Finally, 7-1 West Side will be on the road at 7-2 Dumont.

In pro ball, the Giants and Jets continued their surprising winning ways. Big Blue stopped the Jaguars at the goal line to win on the road 23-17, while the Jets defended their home turf successfully in a 16-9 defensive battle.

Finally, the World Series is now set, and will see the NL Champion Philadelphia Phillies take on the AL Champion Houston Astros. After beating the San Diego Padres in five games, this year marks the first time the Phillies have been to the Series since 2009 in a loss to the New York Yankees. This came a year after Philly won the Series over Tampa Bay.

Speaking of the Yankees, this year they were swept by Houston, who has made it back to the Series after falling short to Atlanta last year. The Braves were knocked out by the Phillies this postseason. While Houston has home field advantage, the Phillies have gotten great production from reigning NL MVP Bryce Harper, who won NLCS MVP honors this year.

ELECTION (Continued from pg. 1)

Englewood) and Marcos Arroyo (R-West New York) are the major party candidates.

The five independent or "minor party" candidates are: David W. Cook, "People Over Parties; Kearny; Dan Delaney, Libertarian, Hoboken; Joanne Kuriansky, Socialist Workers, W. New York; Pablo Oliveria, Labor, Newark, and John V. Salerno, "Truth and Merit," Jersey City.

10th CD (Rest of Newark, Irvington, East Orange, Orange, West Orange, Montclair's Fourth Ward, three "West Essex" towns and eight Union County towns whole or in part):

Incumbent Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-Newark) is looking for voters to help him fend off four challengers. David H.

Pinckney, of Irvington, is the Republican challenger.

Montclair pastor Rev. Cleonard Howard Childress, Jr. is running in the Mahali Party. Cynthia A. Johnson, of Glen Ridge, is under her "Jobs & Justice" standard. Kendal Ledden, of Bayonne is running as a Libertarian.

11th CD (South Orange, Maplewood, Belleville, Bloomfield, the rest of Montclair, seven "West Essex," four "Southwestern" Passaic and 25 Morris County towns):

Incumbent Mikie Sherrill (D-Montclair) is pitted against Paul DeGroot (R-Montville) and Libertarian Party runner Joseph Bisco (L-Lincoln Park).

N.J. 28TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SPECIAL STATE

(Continued on page 9)



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RISHI SUNAK NAMED BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

EUROPE

With the time period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday longer than his predecessor's tenure, one man is set to make history in new job.

On October 24, lawmakers in the UK held a vote and named Finance Minister Rishi Sunak as the new Prime Minister of Britain. He replaces Liz Truss, whose time as PM lasted only 45 days. Despite the short period in office, Truss has the rare distinction of being a UK PM who served two monarchs, being appointed just before the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the installation of King Charles III.

The next day, it was made official, with the King formally recognizing Sunak as the Kingdom's first Prime Minister of color and South Asian descent. Not long after, Sunak made his first speech in his new position:

"Right now our country is facing a profound economic crisis. The aftermath of Covid still lingers. Putin's war in Ukraine has destabilized energy markets and supply chains the world over.

"I want to pay tribute to my predecessor Liz Truss, she was not wrong to want to improve growth in this country, it is a noble aim. And I admired her restlessness to create change. But some mistakes were made. Not borne of ill will or bad intentions. Quite the opposite, in fact. But mistakes nonetheless.

"And I have been elected as leader of my party, and your Prime Minister, in part, to fix them. And that work begins immediately.

"I will place economic stability and confidence at the heart of this government's agenda. This will mean difficult decisions to come. But you saw me during Covid, doing everything I

could, to protect people and businesses, with schemes like furlough.

"There are always limits, more so now than ever, but I promise you this. I will bring that same compassion to the challenges we face today.

"The government I lead will not leave the next generation, your children and grandchildren, with a debt to settle that we were too weak to pay ourselves. I will unite our country, not with words, but with action. I will work day in and day out to deliver for you.

"This government will have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level. Trust is earned. And I will earn yours.

"I will always be grateful to Boris Johnson for his incredible achievements as Prime Minister, and I treasure his warmth and generosity of spirit. And I know he would agree that the mandate my party earned in 2019 is not the sole property of any one individual, it is a mandate that belongs to and unites all of us. And the heart of that mandate is our manifesto.

"I will deliver on its promise. A stronger NHS. Better schools. Safer streets. Control of our borders. Protecting our environment. Supporting our armed forces. Levelling up and building an economy that embraces the opportunities of Brexit, where businesses invest, innovate, and create jobs.

"I understand how difficult this moment is. After the billions of pounds it cost us to combat Covid, after all the dislocation that caused in the midst of a terrible war that must be seen successfully to its conclusions I fully appreciate how hard things are.

"And I understand too that I have work to do to restore trust after all that has happened.

"All I can say is that I am not daunted. I know the high office I have accepted and I hope to live up to its demands.

"But when the opportunity to serve comes along, you cannot question the moment, only your willingness.

"So I stand here before you ready to lead our country into

the future. To put your needs above politics. To reach out and build a government that represents the very best traditions of my party.

"Together we can achieve incredible things. We will create a future worthy of the sacrifices so many have made and fill tomorrow, and everyday thereafter with hope. Thank you."

HAITIAN GANGS CATCH SANCTIONS

CARIBBEAN

The UN Security Council on Friday unanimously approved a sanctions regime for Haiti, targeting gang leaders and those who finance them, in the hope of easing months of violence and lawlessness which has fueled a major humanitarian crisis.

Criminal gangs have been blocking access to the main fuel terminal in the capital Port-au-Prince, bringing critical services to a standstill, as Haiti grapples with a widening cholera epidemic, amid political and economic meltdown.

"Catastrophic" levels of hunger have been recorded this month for the first time, in the gang controlled Cite Soleil neighborhood, and 4.7 million people are facing acute hunger, with many losing access to jobs, markets, health and nutrition services.

Resolution 2653, drafted by the United States and Mexico, is the first sanctions regime adopted since that of Mali, just over five years ago. It establishes a committee which will be responsible for designating the individuals and entities to be sanctioned.

The resolution specifically sanctions notorious gang leader, Jimmy Cherizier, an ex-police officer who is reportedly the most powerful gang boss in the country, known by his alias "Barbeque."

He heads the so-called "G9 Families and Allies," and the annex notes that he has engaged in "acts that threaten the peace, security and stability of Haiti," having planned or directed acts that amount to "serious human rights abuses."

Sanctions include an assets

freeze, travel ban and arms embargo, against those engaging in or supporting criminal activity and violence, involving armed groups and criminal networks.

Designated activity includes recruiting children, carrying out kidnappings, trafficking, murder and sexual and gender-based violence.

Crucially, the resolution also designates the obstruction of humanitarian assistance to and inside Haiti, and any attacks on personnel or premises, of UN missions and operations.

NIGERIA UNDER FIERCE FLOODS

AFRICA

More than 2.8 million people have been impacted by Nigeria's worst floods in a decade, with 1.3 million displaced and hundreds of lives lost, said the UN chief on Friday, expressing his sadness at the devastation.

Infrastructure and farmland have also been damaged, said the statement issued on behalf of Secretary-General António Guterres, worsening the cost of living across the country.

He extended his deepest condolences to the Government of Nigeria and to the affected families, reiterating the UN's continuing "commitment to supporting the Government of Nigeria in this challenging time."

UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, said that 60 percent of those in need were children, who are at increased risk of waterborne diseases, drowning and malnutrition.

The floods have affected 34 out of the 36 states in the country, and over 600 people have lost their lives, with 200,000 houses either partially or fully damaged.

In the northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, a total of 7,485 cases of cholera and 319 associated deaths were reported as of Oct. 12, and rains are expected to continue for several weeks, along with rising humanitarian needs.

"Children and adolescents in flood-affected areas are in an extremely vulnerable situation," said Cristian Munduate,

(Continued on page 13)

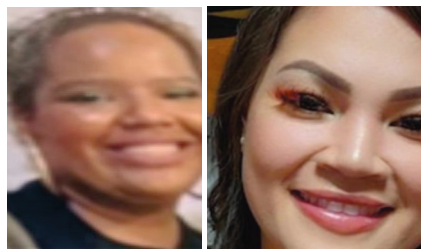
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By Michelle Lowe
EST...1996
Message For You

ing for me. But for those who are celebrating Halloween, I ask that you just be safe and careful. There are some crazy maniacs out there, so stay cautious of your surroundings.

All that madness they got going on in New York City, smh. All the time I hear about another train killing or pushing or stabbing. It's just so sad. Everywhere you go there is crime. This issue in NYC needs to be handled with more help to better protect the people and the innocent lives of children.



Now again, you all know before I close out, there are two young women missing and I keep in prayer that these women are found safe and sound. I say to everyone they can be anywhere and anyplace at this time, so currently the search still remains. People, if we see things and it doesn't feel right, do the right thing and get the job taken care of. You never know if you are saving a life and just as well save your own life. Better safe is the key.

P.S. Everyone remember we have to make the best out of life today, surviving, taking control. We live one time. Peace and love.

ADVERTORIAL

Hello, and a pleasure to be back with you all. Most of all, I hope all has been well with everyone.

I know times can be difficult and hard sometimes, as we push toward our success. but we just have to hold ourselves together and keep tight. Taking it a day at a time. No one is perfect, though you have some people out here thinking they are. We all have or will make mistakes. I'm not perfect, but I am recognizing what I can do better and staying focused. Distance is a main step in my life, even if it is hard. It is no problem with your own personal reasons for the actions you decide to take or do in your own life. Can't no one tell you anything. Still, I am taking things day by day.

Everyone, we are coming to end of October. Remember, Halloween is arriving and honestly, there won't be any trick or treat-



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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	12,996	155	13,050	155
Bloomfield	14,439	167	14,501	168
Caldwell	1,978	18	1,986	18
Cedar Grove	4,630	138	4,642	138
City of Orange	9,524	175	9,581	175
East Orange	19,823	387	19,910	387
Essex Fells	594	2	599	2
Fairfield	2,370	39	2,382	39
Glen Ridge	1,525	18	1,533	19
Irvington	13,593	282	13,623	282
Livingston	7,965	108	7,992	108
Maplewood	6,330	49	6,348	49
Millburn	4,510	18	4,521	18
Montclair	8,464	90	8,503	90
Newark	91,292	1,269	91,621	1,270
North Caldwell	1,754	10	1,762	10
Nutley	7,791	86	7,811	86
Roseland	1,686	26	1,689	26
South Orange	4,209	22	4,229	22
Verona	3,991	25	4,001	25
West Caldwell	3,296	67	3,309	67
West Orange	15,797	270	15,860	270
Total	238,557	3,421	239,453	3,424

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of October 26, 2022)
NJ: 2,359,291 cases / 31,761 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)
United States (approx.): 97.319 Million / 1.069 Million deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 628.917 Million / 6.593 Million deaths

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ELECTION (Continued from pg. 5)

SENATE ELECTION

(Irvington, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley, parts of Newark's West, North and South wards).

Incumbent Democrat Renee C. Burgess, of Irvington and Newark South Ward Republican District Leader Joy Bemby Freeman are asking voters in the "outgoing" 28th District to be voted into the remainder of the retired Ronald C. Rice's remaining term.

Former Irvington Council President Burgess was appointed by Essex County Democratic Committee leaders to succeed Rice, who retired to concentrate on his health, Oct. 1. That appointed term expires in Jan. 1.

Freeman received enough petition signatures and the Essex County Republican Party Organization nomination to make the Nov. 8 ballot.

Whoever wins LD 28th voters' approval Nov. 8 could be running for a full four-year term in next year's "back in synch" State Legislature elections. 2023 will be the first year when the

new or redrawn 28th LD - Irvington, South Orange, Maplewood, Newark's "Southwestern" and West Ward's Vailsburg and "Southwest" sections plus Union County's Hillside - is applied.

ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Incumbent Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. (D-Roseland) is seeking a record-extending term. Challenging is Adam Kraemer (R-West Orange), who had run for the County Commission Fourth District seat in 2018.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL/ COMMITTEE

WEST ORANGE, despite running nonpartisan candidates on the General Election ballot, may have the liveliest mayor-council campaigns.

Four candidates, for example, are looking to succeed the outgoing Mayor Robert D. Parisi. Incumbent Township Council Members Cindy Matute-Brown, Susan McCartney and Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford are willing to trade their place in the Municipal Building's Coun-

cil Chamber for the Mayor's Office.

Former councilman Joe Krakoviak, who term-limited himself out of the panel in 2020, is also looking to become the township's chief executive.

Four residents - William Michael Barbee, Ron Charles, Asmeret Ghebremicael and Susan Scarpa - are seeking the two council seats up for grabs.

BLOOMFIELD's mayoral and at-large candidates, barring upsets, appear to be one-party affairs.

Incumbent Mayor Michael Venezia and Council Members Dr. Wartyna "Tina" Davis, Ted Gamble and Richard Rockwell are all on the Bloomfield Democratic Committee ticket. The Bloomfield Republican Party Organization did not field candidates this year.

GLEN RIDGE's two Borough Council incumbents - Peter Hughes and Richard Law - are running unopposed. While Hughes and Law are running nonpartisan campaigns, they have received endorsement from the borough's own Civic Conference Committee.

MAPLEWOOD's Township

Committee General Election this year has literally come down to one person, one vote - barring an unanticipated write-in campaign.

Incumbent Deborah Engel is running on the Democratic ticket. She is anticipated to succeed outgoing former mayor Frank McGehee. The township's Republican Committee has not nominated a candidate.

BOARDS OF EDUCATION

MONTCLAIR takes top billing here by holding its first-ever November Board of Education and Public Question Referendum. There are three three-year seats up for grabs.

Sole incumbent Mfreke "Monk" Inyang is seeking a full three-year term. He and another candidate were elected to two new seats on the Montclair Board of Education last March.

Challenging are Yvonne W. Bourknight ("Transparency, Equity, Diversity"), Brian Fleischer and Noah Gale ("Protect Special Education.")

The March special election expanded the former mayor-

(Continued on page 11)

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 - What prompted the Oct. 14 protest demonstration before the Hotel Riviera can be found on an exterior wall of the century old 165-69 Clinton Ave. / 801-03 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. here as late as Oct. 24.

There is a giant poster along the Clinton Avenue side of the nine-story, 220-bed hotel building announcing a preliminary and final site plan application to be heard before the Newark Zoning Board of Adjustment Sept. 29. The poster, informing the public of site plan proposals, is a recent Newark zoning and planning board requirement.

Applicant 169 Clinton Ave. Development LLC - acting for owners Riviera Hotel Corp. and KS Group, of 45 Academy St., Newark - had proposed converting the hotel into a 99-unit apartment building with 2,077 square feet of street level retail/commercial space. The LLC also included expanding part of the top floor and opening a garden patio on its roof.

169 Development was asking the zoning board to consider the proposal under the Old Third Ward Urban Redevelopment Zone, which includes meeting a density requirement. The applicant was also asking the board for variances for insufficient parking lot space and exterior lighting onto that lot.

Newark's first million dollar hotel, including a dining room and a street level drug store serving 300 beds, opened on the prominent Clinton Hill corner in 1922. M.J. "Father" Divine bought the Great Depression-affected hotel in 1949 for \$550,000. The charismatic and controversial reverend, on one

hand, desegregated the hotel but, on the other hand, forbade alcohol, tobacco and unnecessary mingling of the sexes on the property.

Riviera Hotel Corp. bought the building for \$800,000 from Peace Mission Sept. 21, 2006. The building, according to posted property sale records, had gone through Peace Mission and four other previous owners for \$1 earlier that day.

The zoning board, citing that the hotel should have been built for 60 rooms and a parking lot for 60 cars, denied 169 Development's application. The Oct. 14 demonstration came out of a report that hotel management were threatening residents with eviction should they speak out on conditions there.

IRVINGTON - Township and Newark police detectives, when they find the thief who took a car in the former and abandoned it in the latter Oct. 18 will likely ask two questions:

"When did you see the baby in the back seat?" and "How long did it take you to dump the car?"

IPD officers, acting on the owner's call, put out an all points bulletin on a grey Mercedes SUV with temporary Texas license plates last seen heading east from the 1100 block of Clinton Avenue at 8:10 p.m. that Tuesday.

Township police added that there was a baby asleep in the rear passenger seat when the thief, believe detectives, entered the unlocked and idling SUV. NPD officers found the Mercedes abandoned by the 10 block of their Osborne Terrace, at 10:15 p.m. The infant was found unharmed.

It has been to the observation of "Local Talk" that car thieves or carjackers bail out of a stolen vehicle the moment they see a baby or a child also aboard. They dump the car and its passenger to avoid additional charges of kidnapping.

Two hours and five minutes, this time, had elapsed between Irvington's APB and Newark's discovery.

EAST ORANGE - A city resident, barring any filed appeals, has started serving at least 17 years of a 20-year aggravated

manslaughter sentence in a state prison since Oct. 25.

State Superior Court Judge Vincent J. Militello, from his Jersey City bench Tuesday morning, handed down a 20-year sentence on Thaddeus Williams regarding the Dec. 4, 2020 shooting of Aieshia McFadden. Williams, 39, has to serve at least 85 percent of his prison term under the state's No early Release Act.

Williams was arrested by East Orange Police Plain Clothes Unit and Hudson County Prosecutor's Office detectives here along Carnegie Street 7:10 p.m. Dec. 5, 2020. He was accused of shooting McFadden by Jersey City's 217-19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive at 8:30 the night before.

McFadden, 36, of Jersey City, was found there with a gunshot wound to her torso. McFadden had been walking to a store with her daughter. She was rushed to the Jersey City Medical Center, where she died at 9:10 p.m.

McFadden, the mother of four, worked in Lincoln High School's cafeteria. Her oldest son had graduated from LHS in 2018.

Williams had pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter before Judge Militello July 22. He had been charged by HCPO attorneys with first-degree murder, criminal sexual contact and two second-degree weapons charges.

ORANGE - Whether the remains of a founding pastor will be going to St. Mark's Historic Cemetery here, or to another Episcopal cemetery, or stays in a basement just over the West Orange border, is in the hands of the Diocese of Newark.

A Diocese of Newark official told "Local Talk" Oct. 25 that diocesan trustees have been searching for descendants of the late Rev. Benjamin Holmes to learn their wishes. The trustees, should they be unable to find Holmes' heirs, may then be left to decide whether to move the rector's coffin from the basement of the former St. Mark's Episcopal Church or keep it there.

Volunteer workers renovating the burned out sanctuary and chapel buildings found Holmes' unmarked crypt around May 1. They had been rebuilding the

buildings' roofs and interiors since St. Mark's suffered a devastating Jan. 1, 2016 fire. A wall marker commemorating Holmes had been among the removed debris.

Benjamin Holmes (1797-1836) came from a Morristown parish to help start St. Mark's in 1828. St. Mark's founding predated the neighboring Erie Loop and West Orange's 1863 independence from Orange.

Holmes' parish, which would become the most affluent congregation in The Oranges in the mid-1800s, bought the eastern and southeastern sides of the First Presbyterian Church's Old Burying Ground about .6 mile east on Main Street. Parishioners also contracted out the construction of St. Mark's edifice, which would be completed in 1858.

Holmes did not live to see St. Mark's completion. The then-Orange resident died Aug. 4, 1836 in the parsonage house and his body entombed under the chapel's main floor. Records of Holmes' burial had been long lost when the Newark Diocese eventually sold St. Mark's to a Newark-based congregation in 2015.

The diocese still owns St. Mark's Cemetery although there has not been a burial there since at least 2010. First Shiloh Baptist Church maintains the Old Burial Ground as part of purchasing "First Pres of Orange" from the Presbytery of Newark in 2016.

WEST ORANGE - A Valley section coffee cafe owner turned to GoFundMe.com so he could afford a kitchen fixture that the township health department recently said he needed to keep operating.

It took Oct. 14-24 for 192 donors to raise the \$15,000 Harper's Cafe owner Garan Dickson said he needed to install a kitchen oven hood that Township of West Orange Health Department inspectors said last month that he needed.

Dickson told a reporter Oct. 16 that he was baffled by the inspectors' sudden requirement. The need for a hood had not come up in previous inspections since his opening Harper's Cafe in October 2019. The longtime township resident had revived

(Continued on page 12)

ELECTION (Continued from page 9)

appointed seven-member board to an elected nine-member panel. It is part of a three-year transition process that a majority of Montclair voters started by approving the format change in last November's referendum.

Registered Montclair voters are also being asked to approve or decline a \$187.7 million construction bond issue public question referendum. Montclair Public Schools, by holding its BOE elections with the November General Elections, can only put a public question on the ballot if it will affect over two percent of its school year budget.

ORANGE, which went through a similar three-year board transition process 2018-22, has five candidates - three incumbents and two challengers - on their ballot.

Board President Shawneque Johnson and members Guadalupe Cabio and Sueann Gravesande are seeking re-election together. They are running on their "Children's Future Matters" ticket.

Former president Tyrone Jon Tarver and 2020 candidate Anthony S. Nimly are running on their "Parents For Excellence" ticket.

WEST ORANGE's current BOE President Jennifer Tunnicliffe, is seeking her second three-year term. VP Gary Rothsein has declined re-election.

Challenging are Robert "For Our Kids" Ivker and Gregory M. Tynes.

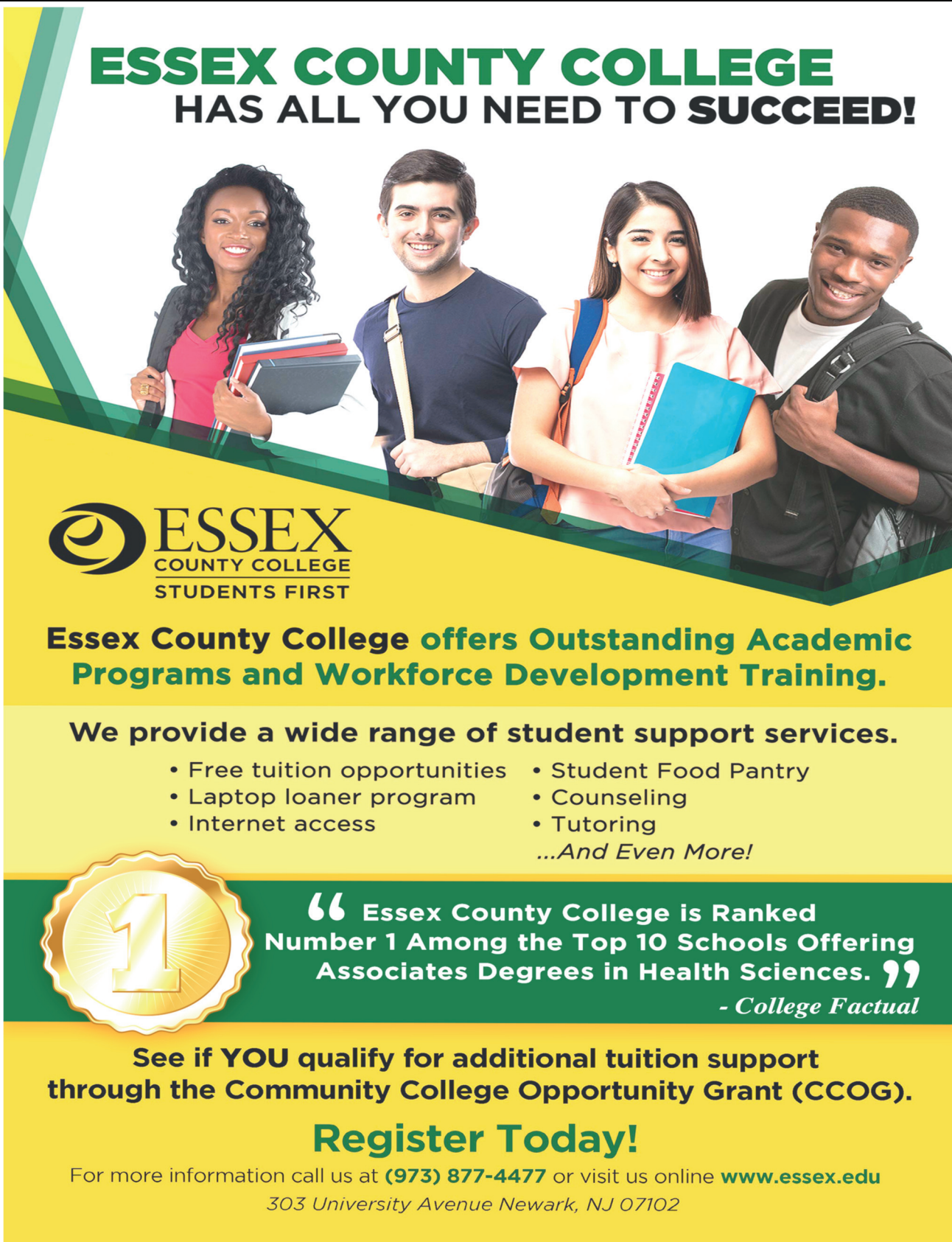
SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD two-town election comes down to five challengers contesting for a trio of three-year terms. Incumbent Johanna Wright, of South Orange, withdrew her campaign before Clerk Durkin's ballot printing deadline.

Maplewoodians Regina Eckert, William R. Gifford III and South Orangeite Nubia Wilson are running together under their "Students Come First" banner. William M. Meyer and Ritu Pancholy, both of South Orange, are on their "Doing Better Together" platform.

BLOOMFIELD BOE President Jill Fischman and member Benjamin Morse plus newcomer Phyllis Gerber are sharing their "Together is Better" platform. Board member Daniel Anderson has declined re-election.

Challengers Josefina Rosairo-Simone and Joshua Trojak are on their "Strong for Kids" platform.

GLEN RIDGE BOE President Elisabeth Ginsburg is the sole incumbent vying against three challengers for the three school board seats. Challenging are Tricia Akiunwande, Darri-



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us K. Dehnad and Steven Lord.

Ginsburg and Akinwande have received CCC endorsement. Dehnad is running for the "GR Parent Alliance." Lord bills himself as the "Common Sense Candidate."

Incumbent board member Dr. Heather Yaros-Ramos' name remains on the ballot although she withdrew from campaigning on Oct. 1. Outgoing Board Vice President Michael de Leeuw has long declined re-election.

In BELLEVILLE, two incumbents and four challengers are vying for three three-year Board of Education Trustee seats.

Incumbents Gabrielle Bennett-Meany and Luis Antonio Muniz, Jr. and newcomer Michael Louis Derro are running under "A Better Belleville" banner. ABB, whose campaign manager is Mayor Michael Melham, has been fielding its council and school board candidates since 2018.

Veteran candidate Lissa Missaggia wants to

"Put Children First." Reuben Angel Rodriguez is under his "Parents for Education" pennant. Former trustee Michael Sheldon is calling for "\$500 Tax Rebates."

In NUTLEY, all six candidates vying for three seats are running mostly solo campaigns. Incumbents Charles Kucinski and Theresa "Teri" Quirk are running under their respective "Experience, Integrity, Stability" and "Your Voice Matters" standards.

Laura Valente and Andrea Pogarsky are sharing their "Looking Forward" platform. Tom D'Elia ("Innovative, Experienced, Invested") and Emanuele Triggiano ("Excellence in Education") are also challenging.

Locations for VBMB drop boxes and early voting and Nov. 8 polling stations are found on essexclerk.com's 2022 Guide to Voting. The same website may be used to ask detailed questions or help sort out voting problems.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Breaking The Curse By Rejecting The Occult

Since we are preoccupied with talk about inflation and abortion at the moment, you have likely forgotten, if you are old enough to remember, that at one time, one of America's pre-occupations was over which presidents' wives had been involved with the occult.

The talk was that Mary Todd Lincoln, Nancy Reagan, and Jane Pierce all turned to spiritual practices like seances and astrology for advice they would share with their husbands. It has been argued that Mrs. Pierce was the first-known First Lady occultist and that she would come to bear the nickname "the shadow in the White House."

She lived in a permanently depressed state after her last surviving child, Benny, died in a tragic train accident at 11 years old. Weighed down with extreme guilt and anxiety, she initially attempted to beckon his spirit by addressing an emotional letter to him, asking him to return to her so she could repent her motherly shortcomings.

I have read an *Abstract* that focuses on cult and ritualistic violence among teens and that the first amendment protects most, if not all, occult and paganistic religious practices. Yes, "Freedom of Religion," however it is framed, suggests that the practices cover various illicit teenage activities. These practices mentioned frequently give teenagers who feel powerless a temporary sense of efficacy and power.

Feelings of empowerment derived from the practices compensate for much of the power lacking in young people's lives. Some juveniles become involved in activities for excitement and entertainment, while others become involved through criminal activities. (G A Crews; R H Montgomery Jr; W R Garris, <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/satanic-occult-ritualistic-violence-america-faces-violence-america>.)

If you are wondering why I have such a keen interest in this topic at this time, it is because I have seen that while America seems to be paying attention to other things, there is a seduction of the occult that is bringing a curse upon many families, even leading to the increase in depression and suicide.

So, yes, there is much preoccupation with the occult. If you are in doubt, you only need to drive around and take notice of many yards in your communities covered with Halloween figures

that tell about the occult, sorcery, witchcraft, oaths, demonic vows, demonic ceremonies, blood covenants, false gods, and false religions. Then, you only need to visit some bookstores and supermarket magazine racks and take note of the displays. And you also only need to see the movie titles being marketed in the media.

Yes, we are in a nation preoccupied with the occult and its equivalents. I do not say that if you are a reader of this reflection, you are so preoccupied, but if you are and if you know someone that is so preoccupied, I ask you to break away and advise any you know to get away from that which brings a curse instead of a blessing.

Think of the mess Saul, the first king of Israel, made of his life when he, the anointed of God, made his last act of disobedience consulting with the Witch of Endor. He was about to go to war against the Amalekites, and instead of consulting God, "Saul said to his attendants, **"Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her."** "There is one in Endor," they said.

So, Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name." He named Samuel, who had been dead for a little while. The Witch did as Saul requested. And a ghostlike form of Samuel came up and

conversed with Saul and, among other things, predicted his death. Saul was killed in the following battle. He was not killed by an enemy; he fell on his sword. (See the story in 1 Samuel 28). What a shame!

I do not know how many people understand that playing with the occult is one of Satan's ways of enslavement. So my appeal is that if at all you have made a covenant with Satan, worshipped false idols, been in demonic ceremonies, been dedicated to demons as a child, or had any involvement with occult practices, reading occult books, or been watching occult movies, or putting up occult images in your home, renounce them right now. Break them off, and do not give Satan any right to be in your life.

The temptations might be great for you to turn to the occult as you continue to see suffering, pain, and hurts in people's lives. People who need a miracle of emotional, physical, or spiritual healing might be tempted to test alternative means from God. But remember that our refuge is in God, not in the occult. Listen to the prophet Jeremiah mourning over Judah's spiritual state, as he asked, "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?" (Jeremiah 8:22)

The point is that we must learn to trust God so that he can break away from any and every occult curse.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

134 So. Valley Rd., which had been vacant for 10 years.

Dickson got through the COVID pandemic by making some 5,000 lunches in the cafe for the hungry. What started out as a school lunch effort expanded, with help of his chef and volunteers, to aid the local elderly and food insecure.

Dickson, during the pandemic's height, was taken to civil court by his landlord. The landlord said he was owed \$30,000; Dickson showed that he had never missed a rent payment.

Council members Cindy Matute-Brown and William Rutherford had met with Dickson and representatives of the

fire and health departments to resolve the "missteps" that had led to the \$15,000 hood requirement.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The two-town public school district, a hometown Olympic fencer and a Muslim civil rights group are among the parties being sued by a former teacher this month over charges that she had removed a hajib from a student here last year.

Tamar Herman has filed a defamation lawsuit in New Jersey Superior Court-Elizabeth Oct. 5 against SOMSD, fencer Ibthaj Muhammad and the Council on American-Islamic Relations' New Jersey chapter, citing "irreparable harm" and "relentless discriminatory treatment." She has also filed a paral-

lel suit Oct. 4 in U.S. Federal Court-Newark.

That harm, asserts Herman, has caused her to move out of her Maplewood home. The 20-year instructor, added attorney Erik Dykema, may not find another public school teaching job.

Tamar was a second grade teacher at Maplewood's Seth Boyden School Oct. 6, 2021 when she said he had inadvertently brushed back the hajib of one of her students that was beneath a hooded sweatshirt. She said she moved the hajib back and profusely apologized.

The seven-year-old, upset, told her mother that her teacher tried to pull off her hijab. Her parents told their friend, Muhammad - who posted the accusations on her Instagram account.

CAIR-NJ also joined in the denouncing of Herman. SOMSD pulled Herman from the classroom and put her on administrative leave until the conclusion of their investigation. The school district soon received phone calls and email from people who wanted Herman's immediate firing.

An investigation by the Maplewood Police Department was transferred to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. ECPO, saying it could not find enough evidence to pursue criminal charges, closed its investigation Jan. 18.

MAPLEWOOD - A memorial for Maplewood Chief of Police James DeVaul is to be held Oct. 27 here at the Jacob A. Holle

(Continued on page 14)

EIGHT DEFENDANTS CHARGED FOR THEIR ROLES IN HEROIN, FENTANYL, AND CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

NEWARK - Eight people were charged for their respective roles in a heroin, fentanyl, and crack cocaine distribution organization that sold large quantities of controlled substances in the area of Columbia Avenue and South Orange Avenue in Newark, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Zacqual Lancaster, Maurice Lee, Felix Lesperance, Rodger Busby, Marcellus Allen, Jack Jean-Baptiste, Trevon Smith, and Natequah Polk, all of Newark, are each were charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin, 40 grams or more of fentanyl, and 28 grams or more of crack cocaine. Seven of the defendants are in custody and are scheduled to have their initial appearances before U.S. Magistrate Judge André M. Espinosa

in Newark federal court. Lancaster remains at large.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Since January 2022, law enforcement conducted extensive surveillance of an open-air narcotics market in the area of Columbia Avenue and South Orange Avenue, conducted numerous controlled purchases of narcotics, and analyzed telephone records, all of which demonstrated the extensive interactions between and among the conspirators.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy in Newark; members of the Newark Police Department, under the direction of Public Safety Director Fritz G. Fragé; and members of the Essex

County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II, with the investigation leading to the charges.

The investigation was conducted as part of the Newark Violent Crime Initiative ("VCI"). The Newark VCI was formed in August 2017 by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and the City of Newark's Department of Public Safety for the sole purpose of combatting violent crime in and around Newark. As part of this partnership, federal, state, county, and city agencies collaborate and pool resources to prosecute violent offenders who endanger the safety of the community.

VCI is composed of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, the ATF, the DEA, the U.S. Mar-

shals, the Newark Department of Public Safety, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the Essex County Sheriff's Office, New Jersey State Parole, Union County Jail, New Jersey State Police Regional Operations and Intelligence Center/Real Time Crime Center, New Jersey Department of Corrections, the East Orange Police Department, and the Irvington Police Department.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert L. Frazer of the Organized Crime/Gangs Unit and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dong Joo Lee of the Narcotics/Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force Unit.

The charges and allegations contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are considered innocent unless and until proven guilty.

NEWARK MAN SENTENCED TO 115 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ROLE IN KNIFEPOINT ROBBERY

NEWARK - A Newark man was sentenced to 115 months in prison for his role in the knife-point robbery of a Harrison taxi company, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Alfuquan Turner, 46, was convicted at trial in June 2022 before U.S. District Judge William J. Martini of one count of Hobbs Act robbery. Turner has two previous convictions for robbery, as well as other prior felony convictions.

On Sept. 23, 2019, Turner walked into a taxicab company armed with a knife and covering his face with a plastic bag. He demanded money from the cab company's dispatcher. Turner stole the dispatcher's jewelry, cell phone, and other items.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Martin sentenced

Turner to three years of supervised release.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy in Newark; investigators of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey under the direction of Superintendent Edward Cetnar; officers of the Harrison Police Department, under the direction of Chief David Strumolo; and investigators of the N.J. Transit Police Department, under the direction of Chief Christopher Trucillo, with the investigation leading to the sentencing.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Shontae D. Gray and Sophie E. Reiter.

41 FUGITIVES ARRESTED IN ESSEX COUNTY WARRANT SWEEP

ESSEX - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II announced the capture of 41 fugitives wanted for outstanding arrest warrants in Essex County. The fugitives were arrested on felonies ranging from homicide and aggravated assault to weapons possession. Four of the fugitives were wanted for homicide, and 12 have alleged gang affiliations.

The five-day warrant sweep, called "Operation Essex," was conducted in early October by the Prosecutor's Office in conjunction with the Essex County Sheriff's Department and the Newark Police. All of the fugitives have been arrested, charged, and put in custody.

During a press conference at Veteran's Court House, Acting Prosecutor Stephens said his office takes a proactive approach to ensuring the safety of Essex County residents. Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura and Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Fragé also spoke about the success of the warrant sweep.

"Anyone charged with a crime who ignores a warrant in Essex County," said Acting Prosecutor Stephens, "should know that temporarily out of sight is not out of mind; law enforcement will be vigilant in finding and prosecuting you. You can run but you cannot hide."

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

UNICEF Representative in Nigeria.

"They are particularly at risk of waterborne diseases and emotional and psychological distress. UNICEF is working closely with the Government and other partners to provide life-saving assistance to those who are most in need."

Immediate priority needs for children include health, water, sanitation, and hygiene; as well as shelter and food.

UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, ended a short fact-finding mission to nearby Burkina Faso, saying it was a critical time for the landlocked West African nation.

"Humanitarian needs are rising fast. A quarter of the population, or some 4.9 million people

need emergency assistance, a staggering 40 percent more people than at the beginning of the year," he said. "One in ten Burkinabe is displaced from their homes by devastating conflict and climate shocks."

Griffiths said he'd met some displaced in the town of Djibo, who had eaten "only leaves and salt, for weeks."

"The situation is so bad that women are risking their lives,

crossing lines of control at night in search of food. I spoke with community leaders who urged those in charge to open roads for food, water, and vital medicine to reach them, to save lives. There are peaceful initiatives to find solutions and there is still hope. The people of Djibo deserve our respect, admiration and much more support in this hour of dire need."

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

HAUNTED HOUSE

When we do wrong, I suppose that Angels watch, and ghostly sounds of gloom are those creepy voice effects that unknowingly fill the air. On frequencies that only dogs can hear. It's like playing the leading role in a horror film penned by the actor or actress playing the leading role. That ain't no invisible entity darling; it is all you or all me or all us. Not to exclude those invisible entities that are certainly real and do play a big role in bad things that folks are coaxed into doing in many instances. But I am talking about those things that we personally do...BOO!

When looking out there or in here for that matter, you, me, and we are the "HAUNTED HOUSE." Such a house knowingly and unknowingly affects the lives of those loved ones, friends, and passersby, when we

are in focus. When doing things that shouldn't be done or saying things that shouldn't be said, we all do that. Bad has a wicked presence and we think that we have a handle on it, but oops there it goes again and again and again.

Some of those things might be pretty darn heavy; so heavy that you'd dare not tell another soul and presently you're closing your eyes cause you dare not look. Other things are pretty light like I'd want to think of my procrastination and potty mouth to be, to tell the truth.

But inner demons are inner demons and sin is sin; which can be pretty darn creepy if you ask me. If you were to die tomorrow when crossing over to the other side, what are the spiritually unacceptable personal effects in that bag that you just might be dragging with ya that shouldn't



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be on ya person? That ain't gonna sit well with that jury or even more so that judge of the highest court, for all that matters? Oh my God, now that's what you call hellish; pretty spooky huh?

Secondly, what are those things that you need to rid of because it is weighing you down spiritually, emotionally, mentally, or physically and you no longer want the load that you're tugging to haunt your future life? Now that's what ya call a good question. This is the ultimate probing question to ask ourselves. So, I decided to go to my go-tos this week and this is what they had to say. Welcome to the confessional!

"Chasin women - I usta love 'em and still do. At one point in my life early on that is. I'd take 'em blind, crazy, or crippled and if they couldn't walk, I'd drag them!" (Mr. T)

"Cursing - I don't do it a lot mostly when I'm upset." (Mama D)

"Lying, laziness / procrastination, and my inability to hold my tongue. Since I've gotten older, I realize that there are things that I do not need to say, and I should be successful but because

of my lazy a--. If I wasn't so lazy I'd be better off. All that gotta go." (Jihad)

"Some of the things that I want to purge are my prejudices. I have this issue because of my nature to be a perfectionist. It's the criticizing of everything that is my flaw. Mainly when things are not like I think they should be. This is the root of the whole thing and many others suffer from it." (Chap) ...

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



TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

Funeral Home, followed by his funeral at Maplewood Town Hall 11:30 a.m. Oct. 28.

DeVaul, 53, said Mayor Dean Dafis, had died at Allentown, Pa's Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest Oct. 21. He was admitted with a serious illness there in Oct. 14. Dafis, that same Friday, promoted Deputy Chief Albert Sally as Acting Police Chief.

"We're heartbroken and in disbelief," said Dafis. "Jimmy led with deep conviction, challenging the old guard, transform-

ing the department and bringing us closer together. We shall gather as a community in a forthcoming ceremony when we'll celebrate his life and nearly 30 years of service to Maplewood."

DeVaul, since his promotion to chief in 2018, supported the Community Board on Police that was founded that year. He was also an advocate for the Maplewood Restorative Justice Program for youth.

DeVaul, Columbia High School Class of 1987, attained a degree at nearby Union County College before joining the force in 1993. He was awarded several unit and command citations, in-

cluding one in 2012 for "critical services provided to the public at great personal risk."

Wife Krista, sons Jeramy DeVaul, Nicholas and Thomas DeLucy and Kevin McGowan; daughter Alexandra McGowan, brother Steven and father Robert DeVaul, Sr. are among his survivors. Memorial donations may be made to St. Judge Children's Hospital.

BLOOMFIELD - Whether the former Friendly's Restaurant here at 1243 Broad St. will be replaced by a combined Taco Bell / Wendy's may be decided by the Bloomfield Planning Board in a special meeting at

6:30 p.m. Nov. 2.

Finomus Bloomfield RE Holdings LLC, which owns Block 1088, Lot 59, had revised the traffic flow plan to their proposed fast food eateries at the last meeting. The No Left Turn sign - installed during Friendly's 52-year run to prevent left hand turns onto southbound Broad Street - remains on the plan.

That No Left Turn sign may be critical to the planning board's approval or denial. It was installed across Broad Street to curtail local traffic.

The restaurant site is adjacent to a 25 mph bend on Broad Street and an intersection with
(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

the western end of West Passaic Avenue. An eye doctor's office and a Bloomfield fire station flank the site. The Brookdale Elementary School, Provident bank and a NAPA auto parts store are across the street.

The Friendly's / eye doctor's office used to be the site of the late 1700s Ward House. The house, then at 1255 Broad St., was moved to Macleod Lane in 1954 to make way for the Garden State Parkway.

The special public hearing is to be on Zoom, Facebook Live and cable television channels 30 (Verizon) and 35 (Comcast).

MONTCLAIR - Township Manager Timothy Stafford, as of 12:01 a.m. Oct. 26, has been put on paid administrative leave. Deputy Manager Brian Scantlebury will be working in Stafford's stead.

Stafford's leave came after midnight Wednesday when the Township Council approved Mayor Sean Spiller's resolution on a split 5-1-1 vote before a packed Council Chamber audience. Councilman and former mayor Robert Russo, wanting Stafford's firing, voted "No." Councilman and Stafford critic Peter Yacobellis recused himself.

Spiller resolution will keep Stafford on paid leave "pending the conclusion of the independent employment practices investigation concerning the allegations and statements reportedly made by a council member in previously mentioned articles." The passage refers to Yacobellis' Oct. 19 statements that Township CFO Padjama Rao was the first woman township employee to make harassment claims public.

One of the news outlets that Yacobellis had talked with obtained a copy of an internal investigation report made on Stafford by Township Affirmative Action Officer Bruce Morgan last August. Morgan had found that Stafford had created a hostile work environment, including "yelling at Rao and banging on his desk" in response to the CFO bringing up certain financial matters.

Rao had filed an Oct. 17 complaint in Superior Court-Newark against Stafford and the township. The seven-year department head, in her 24-page complaint, accuses Stafford of harassment, creating a hostile work environment and retaliation after her recent whistleblowing over the recent fire department promotional exam controversy.

Some of the capacity gallery crowd carried "Corruption Has No Home Here" and called for Spiller's resignation. Their boisterousness came after the council held a 2.5-hour executive session on Stafford's status.

BELLEVILLE - Some people within and outside of the township are questioning Belleville elders' authorizing studying the Irvine-Cozzarelli Memorial Home here as "an Area in Need of Redevelopment."

The Township Council, on a 3-2-2 split vote Sept. 27, passed a resolution requesting the Belleville Planning Board to study 274-78 Washington Ave., its adjacent driveway at 272 Washington and the 163 Valley St. house behind it as an AINOR. The three lots include the 1887 Irvine-Cozzarelli funeral parlor/J. Cozzarelli Interior Designs building.

"Perhaps Belleville's first funeral home," said the Belleville Historical Society, "has a nationwide reputation for an interior with its artistic and architectural beauty." Some of that interior has been the setting for several scenes in HBO's "The Sopranos" series.

William J. Irvine, Jr. sold the business and building to James J. Cozzarelli, Jr. in 1972. The active business, on one hand, has been owned by the Cozzarelli estate since his death last year. Cousin Frank Cozzarelli, on the other hand, told a reporter Oct. 21 that the family has tried unsuccessfully to sell the company and property to other funeral directors.

An accompanying resolution, authorizing the Belleville Planning Board to accept a study escrow account from Englewood Cliffs' Premier Developers, was adopted to the same roll call vote. Premier, whose lawyer call the property "blighted," may be best known for the under-construction apartment building.

Mayor Michael Melham, Deputy Mayor Naomi DePena and Fourth Ward Councilman John Notari carried both measures. Third Ward Councilman Vincent Cozzarelli and At-Large Councilman Thomas Graziano abstained. First Ward Councilwoman Marie Strumolo-Burke and Second Ward Councilman Steve Rovell noted "no."

The Belleville Planning Board is to study the idea of an ANIOR for the three lots and return to the council with its recommendations. The council will then vote on whether to apply the redevelopment designation - which may include demolition.

NUTLEY - A township man, whose name has a familiar ring to it, was caught up in a recent Hudson County Sheriff's Office outstanding arrest warrant dragnet.

James Defazio, 43, was among the 33 people from 12 towns and three states who were picked up by Hudson County Sheriff Frank X. Schillari's Sept. 24 "Operation Fall Sweep." The arrests ranged from warrants on aggravated assault to probation violation.

Schillari said that Defazio was arrested that Saturday on a burglary warrant. Details on that incident, however, were

not disclosed.

"Local Talk" readers may recall that Defazio was arrested at Lyndhurst Police Headquarters Sept. 2 He was charged as the suspect in a Sept. 1 nearby residential burglary and dropping some of the stolen items behind that Bergen County town's municipal building.

Defazio had been remanded then to Hackensack's Bergen County Jail on three counts of possession of stolen property plus a count each of burglary and theft.

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