# THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

# YOUNGTOWN VOL. 105, NO. 2 WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30, 2020 RANDOLDH N. I



# Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A feminist icon and her legacy

BY SALVATORE AMICO

Feminist Book Club President

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a women's rights leader, progressivist, and an irreplaceable ray of light on the Supreme Court. She was a champion of women's autonomy and saved the Supreme Court from making many terrible decisions. More than anything, her life reminded America that women need representation in every issue facing our democracy. Without their input, ideas, and approval of passed legislation, America cannot represent all of its inhabitants' wants and desires.

Until her death, Ginsburg fought tirelessly on the Supreme Court to protect refugees and asylum seekers' rights, samesex couples, abortion rights, and many other rights that previously escaped marginalized groups. Simply put, her work is unforgettable, and she fought with all of her willpower to help progressive causes bigger than herself. To honor her astounding legacy, the Feminist Book Club wanted to examine her most consequential cases and account for why Ruth Bader Ginsburg was such an enormously influential presence in the fight for an equitable America.

In 2015, Ginsburg helped to guarantee marriage rights to all Americans in Obergefell v. Hodges. At the time, samesex couples in Ohio sued for their right to marriage under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14 Amendment, arguing that all Americans, including those with different sexual preferences not outlined in a heteronormative culture, deserved the right to marry. A trial court ruled in their favor; however, the U.S Court of Appeals rejected their case and reinstated regressive legislation banning same-sex marriage. Thus, the case reached the Supreme Court and devolved into a fervor of legal disagreements.

Despite a massive amount of conservative opposition, Ginsburg and her colleagues scored a slim victory for LGBTQ+ rights advocates nationwide and legalized same-sex marriage in a 5-4 decision. In deliberation with the other Supreme Court judges, her passion for minority rights helped swing the Supreme



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Court's decision and created one of the decade's most significant precedents.

Not stopping there, Ginsburg continued her legacy on the Supreme Court and fought for women's autonomy in Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt. Like the recent case that struck down abortion restrictions in Louisiana, this case served as the precedent for the recent decision; Texas lawmakers tried to restrict abortion access by only allowing doctors with admittance privileges to perform the medical proce-

Consequently, this restrictive legislation went through a bruising court battle, and the group petitioning for women's autonomy lost their case in a trial court and

the U.S Court of Appeals. The fight for accessible abortions in Texas seemed lost; however, the Supreme Court accepted a hearing for the case and, once again, faced a contested trial over abortion rights. In her due diligence, Ginsburg tore apart the original legislation and concurred with the supporting justices that the law was nonsensical political

Although her constituents won the case through a divided 5-4 majority, the ruling was a crucial victory for women's autonomy throughout the entire United States. More than anything, the case's outcome showed that Ginsburg and the Supreme Court would not take kindly to similar legislation; abortion access was non-negotiable.

Most recently, she singlehandedly helped protect the livelihoods of immigrant Americans threatened with undemocratic and illegal deportation in Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California. Mainly, the plaintiffs argued that the Trump Administration's repealing of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was unconstitutional based on the methodology of its removal and the administration not allowing for due process before deportation.

The U.S Court of Appeals concurred with the plaintiffs' argument and restored the protections to immigrants within the DACA program before the case

lurched towards the Supreme Court. With her vote, Ginsburg helped uphold DACA's provisions and create the foundation for ensuring that immigrants can safely live in the United States. Admittedly, this country has much to overcome before becoming a nation of tolerance for immigrants; however, Ginsburg's actions are a historical stepping stone towards creating an America against discrimination and xenophobia.

Ruth Badger Ginsburg was more than a Supreme Court justice. She fought her entire life with her heart on her sleeve. Whether she was teaching at Rutgers University, protesting for women's equality, or deciding some of the Supreme Court's most prominent cases in recent history, she was an exceptional role model for feminists and progressives alike. The life she brought to modern feminism and the Supreme Court is irreplaceable. However, we cannot let others tarnish her legacy and values she instilled in the Supreme

Despite her final wish, the current administration and GOP controlled Senate has begun the first steps towards nominating a Supreme Court justice to replace Ginsburg's empty seat. Not only are these steps disrespectful to her dying wish, the process is nakedly political.

Her opponents have jumped at the chance to flip the Supreme Court and create a conservative majority; the entire GOP is willing to compromise its integrity to ensure political gains. With a nomination against her will, a fraudulent election is protected under judicial review, women's autonomy will be redefined and squandered, and immigrants' rights trampled by an indifferent, conservative Supreme Court. If you support women's equality, we implore you to remember these consequences at the ballot

Rest in power, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. You will be truly

\*Editors Note The Feminist Book Club meets every two weeks on discord. You can get the link by contacting their email fbca student.ccm.edu, or message them on Instagram ccmfeminists

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# CCMkind building a safer, more inclusive community

**BY ADAM GENTILE** 

Editor-in-Chief

"Inclusive for Eternity," is a phrase that can be found as a tagline on a new Instagram page known as CCMkind, a page that is a platform for students, faculty, and staff alike to open up and share their stories and their experiences.

Grace Bascone, president of the exercise science club and co-creator of CCMkind, said that she took part in this project because she was tired of her own inaction to injustices in the world and wanted to try to do what she can to make a positive impact.

"I kept seeing all the wrongdoing in the world," Bascone said. "And I couldn't just sit back and do nothing anymore. I can't change the world by myself, but I can try and make my community better. And maybe from me trying to do something, others will want to as well, and that could lead to changing the world for the better".

Bascone has personally faced forms of harassment and discrimination while at CCM. However, due to legal reasons she is unable to discuss her experience in detail. Bascone described that her experience had taught her about the courage a person facing discrimination or harassment needs in order to stand up against it.

"The thing I can say is that it can be very difficult to realize you are in a bad situation and have the courage to take action about it," Bascone said. "But, if you lean on others for support, knowing they have been through something similar, it will be easier to get through those difficult times and stand up for yourself."

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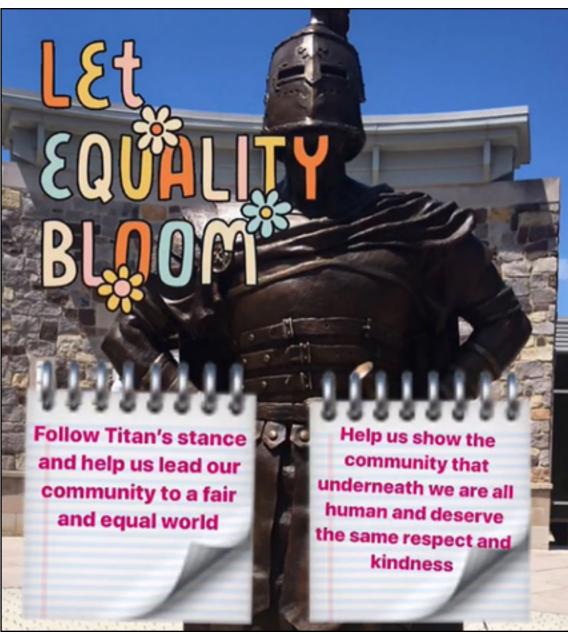
From experience, Bascone understands that having people open up about private personal experiences is asking a lot out of those individuals, but she hopes that as more people come forward with their stories, victims will realize that they are not as isolated as they may think.

"For most people, there is fear. It can be a very vulnerable thing for people," Bascone said. "I am hoping to first appeal to those who feel strong and willing enough to speak out. Once they realize that they can share their story and feel empowered, others might step up too. I want people to know they are not alone in their experiences."

The other co-creator of CCM kind is Jenna Curran, who is also the president of the Student Government Association (SGA), said that she took part in this project because she felt that it was her imperative as SGA president to make CCM as inclusive as possible for students, faculty, and staff. In her Video on CCMkind's Instagram, Curran calls upon members of the CCM community to share their experiences at CCM, including "the good, the bad, or the ugly."

Curran mentions that she hopes that CCMkind can provide a platform for people to voice their concerns and tell their stories because if no these problems are brought up nothing can be done to address them.

"I asked for the 'good, the bad, and the ugly' because I would like anyone affiliated with CCM to share their experiences, especially if they aren't good," Curran said. "A problem we are trying to fix is that people may be experiencing negative interactions in the classroom and



CCMkind asking for help in building a fairer, kinder community.

throughout campus. However, because they aren't being talked about, nothing can be done to help. This also goes for the good. We want to hear the good experiences students, faculty, and staff

are having as well so we know in

what areas we are doing well.

smarthinking

Curran said that she believes that people should be more understanding with one another because it is hard to tell what the experiences of other people are.

"I think that not only at CCM but throughout society as a whole, people need to be more sympathetic towards others," Curran said. "I personally have been too quick to judge someone based on one interaction, but I am growing and learning to be more understanding. We don't know what that person is going through behind closed doors or

even in their own head."

Both Curran and Bascone mentioned that they hope that as a result of their project, CCM as a community will be more willing to stand up for themselves and others and that CCM becomes a safer place for everyone who is part of the community.

CCMkind can be found on Instagram with the handle ccmkind. Students, faculty, and staff can send them video messages explaining their experiences at CCM whether they are positive or negative.

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### THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris

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All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.

# Sorting through contested presidential elections

**BY ADAM GENTILE** 

Editor-in-Chief

The year 2020 has been a singular year. The year began with the burning of the Amazon, then COVID-19 brought the planet to a halt and is still plaguing people's lives, and currently, Americans are in the throes of a presidential election that, according to a YouGov poll, many 86% of voters feel that it is "very important" to vote for president this time around. There has been a growing fear among Americans that this presidential election won't be over on November 3, and that no matter who wins, the result of the election will end up being contested.

Due to COVID-19, several states, including New Jersey, have decided to ramp up their vote by mail infrastructure to offer a safer way to vote that does not put voters' health at risk. According to a Pew Research poll, there is a partisan divide between voters voting in person on election day and voters who plan to vote by mail. This discrepancy could lead Republicans to be ahead in their races on election day, but due to mail-in ballots, the Democratic candidate may end up winning the election due to 58% of registered Democrats deciding to vote by mail.

In the past, there have been a few instances where the United States has faced the issue of a contested presidential election, and each time America has faced this issue the matter was resolved in different ways. In the event of the 2000 election, both campaigns launched a series of lawsuits to request or prevent voter recounts, while the election of 1876 required a series of legislative procedures to decide

the winner of the election.

### ELECTION 2000: A STRING OF ENDLESS COURT CASES

The 2000 presidential election, held between Republican Governor George W. Bush and then-Vice President Al Gore. On election day Gore was ahead with the popular vote, while it appeared that Bush was able to secure a victory in the electoral college. On election day Gore called the Bush campaign to concede, only to rescind it a few hours later when it became noticeable that a Gore victory could still be possible

Bush's lead in Florida on election day was only 1784 votes, which triggered the automatic recount as per Florida state law. By November 10 the state finished its recount to find Bush's lead reduced from 1784 votes to a mere 327 votes. Following this return, the Gore campaign was able to request that four counties recount their votes manually, however Florida's election laws stated that all election material must be submitted to the Florida Secretary of State within seven days of the election. This deadline would mean that the four counties would only have a few days to count the remaining ballots by hand, a task that the counties thought could not be done.

A Florida Circuit court decided that the filing deadline was mandatory, however, the filing deadline could be amended to a later date as long as they submit a reason for the extension to the Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris who would then determine whether or not the reasoning for the late count was adequate. Upon receiving the

extension requests from three of the four counties Harris decided that they were not entitled to an extended deadline.

Harris' decision sparked several lawsuits against her by the counties election commission and the democratic party. One of the lawsuits was known as Palm Beach County Canvassing Board v. Harris. Some made their way up to the Florida state Supreme court. On November 21 the court set a new deadline of November 26 for the counties to have their ballots handcounted. The new results of the election were announced on November 26 and declared Bush the winner of Florida with 537

The following day the Gore campaign sued Florida to contest the results of the election and requested a hand recount of disputed ballots in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach county. The request was denied by a circuit court, however. The Florida state Supreme court took the appeal, and on December 8 made a 4-3 decision and ordered a statewide manual recount of nearly 45,000 ballots in Florida that showed a "no" vote for president.

The day following the court's decision the Bush campaign appealed to the U.S Supreme Court, which stops the manual recounts in Florida. This was the start of the Supreme Court case known as Bush v. Gore. The Bush campaign argued that the recounts violated the equal protection clause of the U.S Constitution, while the Gore campaign argued that every vote counts.

Finally, on December 12 the U.S Supreme Court came to a 5-4 decision that overruled Florida's Supreme Court decisions

and put a stop to the manual recount of ballots. On December 13 Al Gore officially conceded the election and Goerge W. Bush became the 43 president of the United States, winning the electoral college with 271 votes.

### ELECTION 1876: LET'S MAKE A DEAL

The 1876 Presidential election was between Democrat Samuel J. Tilden and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes. On election night Tilden was leading in the popular vote by 200,000 votes and winning the electoral college with 184 compared to 165 for Hayes. However, Tilden did not have a majority in the electoral college and 20 electoral votes were still available in the states of Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana. In the state of Oregon, one elector was removed because he was a federal employee and so they were ineligible as an elector.

Both political parties accused the other of cheating and tampering with the vote totals in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana. One precinct in South Carolina reported 101% of total registered voters. When it came time for these states to submit votes in the electoral college, two sets of results were sent in by Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

In order to settle the disputed election congress established an emergency bipartisan election commission, made up of five U.S senators and five Supreme Court Justices. One of the justices on the commission, David Davis, who was known as an independent, was offered an open U.S Senate seat by democrats in the Illinois state legislature. Upon accepting the Senate

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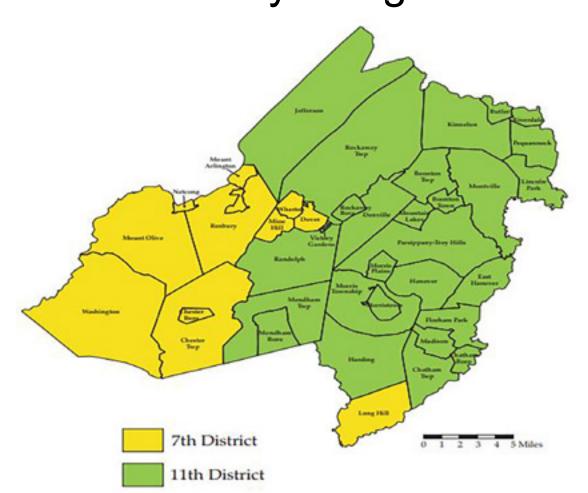
Davis resigned from the Supreme Court and by extension, the electoral commission, and his place on the commission was replaced by Republican justice Joseph Bradley.

The commission had a series of close 8-7 votes that awarded all of the 20 remaining electoral votes to Hayes giving him exactly the number he needed to win the presidency on March 2. Behind the scenes of the electoral commission, Republicans and Democrats were making deals with one another to ensure that the Democratic-controlled house does not filibuster the results of the commission. These sets of the agreement have come to be known as the Great Compromise of 1877.

As a result of the compromise, the reconstruction era was effectively put to an end. Federal troops were withdrawn from southern states where they were located. The states with the most federal troops were Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina. Along with the withdrawal of federal troops southern legislators requested that northern states do not interfere with how southern states decided to treat the recently freed Black population in their states which helped with the eventual creation of the Jim Crow system.

History seldom repeats itself, however, it provides an excellent template for the present. If this upcoming election is contested, two things can be known. The first, even though this will be a new experience for millions of younger Americans, it's not a first for this country, Second a contested election is going to be a long, arduous, hyper-partisan time for Americans.

# Morris County Congressional District information



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### Morris County Towns in N.J District 7

Chester Borough, Chester Township, Dover, Long Hill Township, Mine Hill Township, Mount Arlington, Mount Olive Township, Netcong, Roxbury Township, Washington Township Wharton

### Morris County Towns in N.J District 11

Boonton Town
Boonton Township
Butler, Chatham Borough
Chatham Township
Denville
East Hanover
Florham Park
Hanover
Harding
Jefferson Township
Kinnelon
Lincoln Park
Madison

Mendham Borough, Mendham Township Montville Morris Plains Morris Township Morristown Town Mountain Lakes Parsippany-Troy Hills Pequannock Randolph Township Riverdale Rockaway Borough Rockaway Township Victory Gardens

## Counseling center provides coping strategies for students

**BY ADAM GENTILE** 

Editor-in-Chief

According to the National <u>Institute of Health</u>, suicide is the second most common form of death among individuals between the ages of 10-34. In 2018 there were two-and-a-half times the number of suicides than homicides in the United States. Between 1998 and 2018, the suicide rate has increased by 35% and that trend is only increasing. September is Suicide Awareness Month, and to promote the issue the CCM counseling center has put on a series of workshops that promote mental health.

Events that the counseling center hosted throughout the month of September included a social media campaign that encouraged the CCM community to post pictures of themselves wearing teal and purple, the colors of suicide awareness month. On top of that, they hosted zoom sessions that focused on suicide prevention education, how someone can help a person who is having suicidal thoughts, and suicide prevention in the LGBTQ+ community, which according to the CDC, as a community the faces a youth suicide rate that is five times higher than members of the cis-hetero community. The counseling center also offered free depression screenings to students on Sept. 23.

After September the counseling center intends to continue providing virtual workshops and peer counseling groups to students. Tannia Dominguez, the Bilingual

Counselor at Counseling and Student Success, said that in response to COVID-19 the counseling center has improved its virtual infrastructure by being more active on social media as well as adding constant updates on the counseling center's page on CCM's website

"We developed a Quarantine Survival Guide on our website, which contains virtual community resources, mental health tips, and mindfulness videos," Dominguez said. "We're hosting virtual support groups because it is important to stay connected to peers and maintain a sense of community, even while staying apart. We have virtual office hours Monday thru Friday where students can 'drop-in' and meet with a counselor, no appointment necessary."

According to the CDC, "public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety." Dominguez suggests that a method to reduce these side effects of social distancing is to make a schedule and act as though it is "business as usual."

"People thrive best when

they maintain a routine and are engaging with others," Dominguez said. "The pandemic and social distancing impacted all of our lives because it interrupted these two needs. Trying to maintain a routine is a good way to stay 'business as usual' and avoid the burnout or guilt that could be associated with over or underperforming. We're the ones that set

these expectations for ourselves so the most important thing is to be patient and kind to ourselves."

Dominguez said that students who are suffering or know of students suffering from isolation should reach out and attempt to form a connection with people.

"Support is important, if you or someone you know is struggling, have the conversation asking for or offering support. The more we are honest about not being ok all the time, the sooner we can end the stigma surrounding mental health. It's important to remember that it's ok to not be ok and no one is ever a burden when they need to talk about it. We're here to support you."

A form of support that the counseling center is offering includes a workshop, hosted every other Thursday after Sept. 29 during college hour, known as the "Getting Back to Your New Normal" which, according to Dominguez, is a workshop that teaches students coping strategies for dealing with the adjustment to life under COVID-19.

"Change sometimes comes with a grieving and adjustment process," Dominguez said. "So we wanted to create a safe and confidential space where students can learn and share healthy coping strategies while supporting each other."

Additionally, the counseling center is offering the LatinX Hangout that Dominguez said, "is a celebration of Latinx culture and diversity. We hope to create a sense of community where our

SEPTIMER IS SONTED ARABENESS A PREVENTION MONTH

September marks Solide Presention Recurrences Manch. The purpose of this month is to raise awareness about saided and educate the community on prevention and intervention. Pieses visit the Counseling website for a list of events:

https://www.com.edu.Standout.80.//sampus-services./peusesting-services-amf-standout-secoss/

LATINE VERTIMA MANCOUT GROCP

Catch up virtually with friends and classmatrial. This group provides a space for the COM Latins community to most, chat, and support each other.

WHEN: Every other Thursday starting on September 24th TIME: 12:30 p.m.

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WHEN: Every bacaday starting on September 25th TIME: 12:30 p.m.

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Latinx students can meet, connect, celebrate their identities, and support each other through the college journey"

Finally, the Counseling Center will be hosting weekly LG-BTQ+ discussion and support groups that will be held every Tuesday starting Sept. 29. Dominguez mentions that the support group, "is a virtual safe and con-

fidential space where students can discuss relevant topics, connect with each other, and support each other."

The counseling center at CCM can be contacted at counseling@ccm.edu. To be kept up to date with any news related to the counseling center follow them on Instagram or Facebook with the handle comcounseling.



THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

# letters to the editor

Letters must include the writer's full name to be considered for publication. All letters may be edited. Not all letters may be published.

Submit your letter by emailing youngtownedition@gmail.com





Football resumes at Randolph High.

PHOTO BY SHANE CONNUCK

# High school sports returning in N.J.

BY SHANE CONNUCK Sports Editor

Claire Doto was at the beach last month when she received a message from her coach detailing guidelines for Randolph High School girl's soccer practices this

"It was almost surreal," said Doto, a senior on the Randolph Rams soccer and lacrosse teams. "I'm someone that puts most of my time and effort into my sports...going so long without it was depriving for me. I was very upset about not going back to school full time; this just made it 10 times better...to be normal on some sort of level."

High school outdoor fall sports will be played across the Garden State despite the ongoing pandemic. After New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy gave the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) the final say on whether or not fall athletes would take the field, the NJSIAA began its Aug. 20 release: "It's game on!"

This memo came just over a week after the Big Ten Conference — one of the NCAA's most prominent leagues — postponed its fall sports seasons.

"I was just so relieved," said Randolph football and baseball player Justin Townsend. "Honestly, when I saw the Big Ten got shut down, that's when I kind of had some worries."

Football, cross country, field hockey, girls tennis, and soccer began to practice on Sept. 14. Competition begins the week of Sept. 28, with the kickoff of the football season on Oct. 2, per re-

Indoor fall sports - gymnastics and girls volleyball — have been moved to a "special season" with practices beginning on Feb. 16, 2021, and competition on March 3, per release. If the NJSIAA reneges on its plans to play the aforementioned outdoor fall sports, those seasons will also

transpire at this time.

"Our kids need structured activity, and we believe that education-based high school sports is the best way to provide it," NJSIAA Chief Operating Officer Colleen Maguire said, per release. "Giving teenagers extra motivation to stay COVID-free promotes healthy outcomes for everyone."

The truncated season will last for roughly two months and conclude with "limited and local" postseason play and "no statewide championships," the release

"We don't want to be a level down in intensity, even if there are no cup games [or] playoffs," Doto said about her upcoming soccer season. "We're counting everything as a make or break game."

Amid the coronavirus pandemic's cancellation of sports seasons and subsequent meager practices, student-athletes have devised their own ways to stay in shape. Doto continued practicing lacrosse and started going for runs, she said. But this didn't mitigate her disappointment.

It "almost felt pointless in a way," Doto said about practicing. "There wasn't any game to play in, I just needed to pass the ball to myself. And then I would just run around my neighborhood tirelessly training, for what? This was the question that kept coming into my mind. Why am I running? What am I trying to increase my endurance when there's nothing happening?"

Townsend — a senior — said he lifted weights in his basement while on Zoom with his coaches and trainers, along with making use of the playground at Randolph's Shongum Elementary School. He utilized its monkey bars for pull-ups and performed elevated push-ups off the steps and slides, he said.

"We realize really how fast the time flies," the 6'2" linebacker and running back said when thinking about the upcoming season. His final school year at RHS is currently being held through a hybrid of in-person and online classes, with the first letter of one's last name determining which days they enter the build-

"We've realized..we've already tasted half our senior year taken away from us," he said. "We're just trying to enjoy every moment we get out there together this year, which is making us more motivated."

# No sports at CCM this fall

BY SHANE CONNUCK on with this."

Sports Editor

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJ-CAA) announced on July 13 that "close-contact" fall sports will be played in the spring amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, shutting down all Titans athletics this season.

CCM competes in the Garden State Athletic Conference — which consists of 16 NJCAA Region XIX schools — and it is pushing the men's soccer, women's soccer and women's volleyball seasons to 2021, CCM athletic director Jack Sullivan said.

Winter sports — men's and women's basketball — will begin in January, preceding April postseason play, per release.

"It really was a disappointment," said CCM women's volleyball head coach Marc Gaydos. "I was thinking that we would be going and practicing by April 14. I would never [have] pictured what was going

Gaydos noted that CCM's coronavirus response was "well ahead" of other schools after it began to shut programs down early in the spring.

"It was more focusing on people's health and mental wellbeing at that time," Gaydos said about what the Titans — coming off of a regional championship and 14-4 season — were up to during the outbreak of the virus in March. They used Google Classroom to document drills they practiced at home, he said and held conversational Zoom meetings.

Sullivan said he "understands [the student-athletes'] disappointment" and he believes they came to the realization of the situation "for the right reasons."

"This generation is getting a large education and understanding of what patience actually is," Sullivan said. "In the long run, I think this is going to help them overcome other obstacles in their life."



For more information and schedule, visit www.ccm.edu/tutoring-center