



## Opinion: Protests alone fail, protests plus voting bring about change

**BY ADAM GENTILE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

For the past few months, America has been in an uproar with mass movements. In addition to the ongoing nationwide Black Lives Matter protests, there have been protests to stop police brutality and save the United States Postal Service. Last year also saw the largest organized march to combat climate change. All of these protests are a part of the democratic process, but they are all for naught if protestors and their supporters don't participate in another part of the democratic process, albeit a less flashy more individualistic part, and that is voting.

The idea of protesting is so ingrained into the American psyche that no explanation needs to be given as to why people protest. People are protesting because they want results and change. Instead, Americans usually ask, what are people protesting for? As is the case with most unquestioned concepts, people tend to get disillusioned with their own fantastical thoughts and make the concept of protesting something that it's not. And so let's begin questioning this unquestioned concept. What is the point of protesting? Why is it

useful? What ends can you obtain through protesting?

Protesting simply serves to raise awareness in order to fix a specific issue. For example, BLM is a movement that is meant to raise awareness of the discrimination that Black Americans face on a day to day basis. The movement also has a platform of suggested changes that they would like made that address these inequalities.

The utility of protesting is that by raising awareness around an issue, the protesters spark conversation about the issue and gather support from both active supporters who will either organize their own protest or attend one, or passive supporters who agree with the sentiment of the protesters but for their own reasons don't participate in any themselves. By changing the narrative and accumulating supporters, protests force those in power to voice their side on a given issue. The most valuable use of protests is that they get citizens involved in part of the democratic process and provide a platform for expression.

On their own, protests don't achieve much in terms of concrete systemic changes that they are raising awareness for. Instead, protests do the important work



PHOTO BY LUNA WROBLEWSKI

Sign at a protest telling people to vote.

of energizing a voting block, of increasing registered voters, of mobilizing those voters to elect politicians that are sympathetic to the issues and can in some way enact changes. This is not to say that voting is the be all and end all of any protest, but instead is to say that voting and continued electoral pressure is an important part of any movement that wishes to enact change.

Two examples can be used to showcase this point. The first is the Occupy Wall Street movement that occurred in 2011, and the second is FDR's New Deal that came about during the Great Depression.

Occupy Wall Street was a protest organized in Central Park during the recovery period of the Great Recession. Their slogan "We are the 99%" highlighted the ever-growing income inequality that has been running rampant in the United States. For weeks the movement spread to various places across the U.S and at the time, income inequality became the hot topic of discussion.

Despite the attention, Occupy Wall Street was a failure that produced no tangible results that addressed the issue of income inequality, an issue that despite falling out of fashion has continued to worsen since the 2011 protests.

Perhaps the movement's greatest contribution comes in the form of normalizing the terms 99% and 1% that were featured heavily in Bernie Sanders' 2016 bid for the Democratic nomination. The movement failed because it was electorally inept. People weren't mobilized against or for certain politicians. In fact, a common sentiment among the protesters was that the politicians themselves were corrupt and so would be unable or unwilling to address the issue of inequality. And so as time went on, the loud, barking proletariat masses turned back into the docile dogs of the bourgeoisie without making any significant changes.

FDR is among the most popular presidents in American history. A large part of his popularity is due to the series of legislation that is known as the New Deal. During the early years of the Great Depression, there were several labor protests nationwide that were raising awareness of how workers have been impacted by the Depression. By the time of the 1932 election, the heads of the labor movement actively campaigned for Roosevelt and worked on his platform. With the help of the mass labor movement,

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## CCM students share opinions about ballot integrity ahead of 2020 election

**BY: EMILY SEBIRI**  
*Contributor*

County College of Morris students who are registered to vote are preparing for Election Day, as new COVID-19 safety precautions have made mail-in voting a feasible option for many registered voters participating in the 2020 presidential and local elections.

Governor Phil Murphy signed executive order 177 on Aug. 28, citing the public health crisis and the importance of giving voters in New Jersey safe options to partake in the democratic process during the pandemic.

"This virus continues to threaten public health, and with today's announcement, we are ensuring that New Jersey voters do not have to make a decision between exercising their right to vote and protecting their well-

being," Murphy stated in a press release after signing the executive order.

The Mayor's Office of Morristown issued a September 2020 newsletter stating that due to Murphy's decision, voters in New Jersey will primarily be using the mail-in ballot.

"All registered voters in Morris County will be mailed a mail-in ballot by October 5," Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty stated in a press release.

Some people around the country have expressed concern over the legitimacy of this election, given the opportunity for fraud as many people will be voting using the mail-in ballot. This article cries out for the FBI statistic that shows how little fraud there is when it comes to mail-in voting.

"I don't buy the arguments that there is going to be wide-

spread fraud as a result of mail-in ballots," said Luke LoFrumento, Morristown resident and non-matriculated student at CCM. "For that to happen, I believe you would need the personal information of the person you are trying to impersonate, which limits how widespread fraud could be."

Still, there is no doubt this new format of voting could affect people's views on the certainty of the winner and sow distrust in the federal government.

"The American people have long been accustomed to more or less knowing the winner and loser on election night," LoFrumento said. "That won't be the case this year, and I fear the longer the vote count continues, the less legitimacy the process has until people lose faith in it."

LoFrumento mentions that he fears that the ideal of democracy in this country is at stake in this



PHOTO BY LUNA WROBLEWSKI

Ballot mailed to registered voters in N.J.

election, regardless of the winner. "I fear the loser won't accept the outcome, and a contested election will ensue," LoFrumento said. "making the court or Congress decide, all of which leads to instability and runs the risk of shattering the peaceful transition of power, which has been the backbone of this republic since its inception."

Similarly, other students feel that the mail-in ballots during this

health crisis are simply an alternative to in-person voting.

"I think mail-in ballots are good," remarked Amir Howard, a sophomore at CCM. "I feel like they are helpful for people who, for medical reasons or other reasons, cannot make it to the in-person ballot box to vote. I definitely feel that the election is going to be secure, at least on the United States' end of things."

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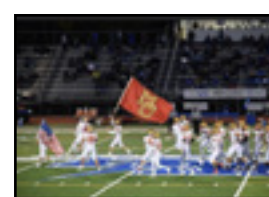
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# Notice of FACCM Resolution: No course assignments on election day

According to the Pew Research Center, only 55.7% of Americans voted in the 2016 election, a figure that leaves the United States lagging well behind other democracies that boast higher voter turnout. One common reason given by non-voters is simply that they simply don't have enough time. This year, the Faculty Association of

the County College of Morris (FACCM) is pledging to make time.

At our last general meeting on October 1, FACCM unanimously passed a motion calling for its members to suspend course assignments on Election Day 2020, so that our college community has the opportunity to vote. The resolution further

directs the union to petition College Council to consider Election Day as an official day off the college calendar in future academic years.

By freeing faculty and students to work the polls and safely attend Election Day events, we believe that this motion directly supports the college's mission of community and civic engage-

ment.

Unfortunately, we know that time alone cannot guarantee access to the vote: measures to expand automatic registration, promote civic education, and enhance the accessibility of our polling places are all badly needed. As our elected representatives work toward these crucial reforms, we applaud initiatives

such as the Make Time to Vote Campaign, which prioritizes participation in the civic process. Likewise, in the spirit of democracy, the faculty pledges its commitment to that process on Election Day.

Signed,  
The Faculty Association of the County College of Morris

# Opinion: Why the Challenger Program is the best choice

The Challenger Program is a great opportunity for high school kids to get a head start on their college careers. It is a great way to experience college life before you are even a freshman. The classes test your skills and knowledge of everything ranging from the kind of person you are academically and social-

ly, to how you take care of your responsibilities.

This opportunity also gives you a chance to meet new people from other towns. There are plenty of clubs and activities you can participate in. Whether it is something like a book club or sports, there is a club for everyone.

Kaitlyn Bamber, a Chal-

lenger student, said, "I feel like I am getting a higher level of education and getting a glimpse of what college is like before even going."

She also explained that it is going to help her get through college faster and actually learn her major rather than taking the required basic classes for now. Bamber also talked about how much she loves it, and said that kids who are in high school should definitely look into it, especially if high school really isn't their thing.

Haashem Aktar, a Challenger student, stated, "I had finished all of my high school requirements to graduate and I was tired of taking so many elective classes."

He also explained that taking college classes while still being a senior has helped him in finishing up high school, as he feels like there is less pressure with school.

Aktar mentioned how he would go about telling others what to think about when considering whether or not to they should participate in the program assuming they have all of their

high school requirements fulfilled.

"I would explain how it works," Aktar said. "I would tell them, 'just go for it.' Get a head start to college. Instead of doing 2 years, get it done in a year and a half. It will benefit you and the career you want to pursue. It really is a great program and will benefit greatly."

For more information on the Challenger Program, check out: <https://www.ccm.edu/admissions/apply/programs-for-high-school-students/>

**Counseling & Student Success Workshop Schedule**  
**Fall 2020**

**SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH**  
September marks Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The purpose of this month is to raise awareness about suicide and educate the community on prevention and intervention. Please visit the Counseling website for a list of events:  
<https://www.ccm.edu/student-life/campus-services/counseling-services-and-student-success/>

**LATINX VIRTUAL HANGOUT GROUP**  
Catch up virtually with friends and classmates! This group provides a space for the CCM Latinx community to meet, chat, and support each other.  
**WHEN:** Every other **Thursday** starting on September 24th  
**TIME:** 12:30 p.m.  
**\*Please email the Counseling office to reserve your spot: [counseling@ccm.edu](mailto:counseling@ccm.edu)**

**CHOOSING A MAJOR & CAREER VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS**  
**Choosing a Major & Career Planning 101:**  
Learn the steps you need to take to discover your unique interests, values, skills, and personality and how to apply this information in making more meaningful educational, career, and personal choices.  
**WHEN:** **Wednesday, October 21st**  
**TIME:** 11:00 a.m.  
**ZOOM Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/97104829430>

**Virtual Major & Career Exploration Session**  
Explore Majors & Academic options offered at CCM. Learn about where to find information & resources regarding your college major and career options. Get your questions answered!  
**WHEN:** **Tuesday, November 17th**  
**TIME:** 12:30 p.m.  
**ZOOM Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/96389985822>

**LG BTO+ VIRTUAL DISCUSSION & SUPPORT GROUP**  
This group provides a safe and confidential place for the CCM LG BTO+ community to chat, discuss relevant topics, and support each other.  
**WHEN:** Every **Tuesday** starting on September 29th  
**TIME:** 12:30 p.m.  
**\*Please email the Counseling office to reserve your spot: [counseling@ccm.edu](mailto:counseling@ccm.edu)**

**GETTING BACK TO YOUR "NEW NORMAL" VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP**  
Coping with any kind of loss can sometimes be a challenge. Dealing with the pandemic, current world issues, and all of the resulting changes to our daily lives, can feel overwhelming. This group provides a safe and confidential place to share & discuss healthy coping strategies when dealing with stress during stressful times.  
**WHEN:** Every other **Thursday** starting on September 17th  
**TIME:** 12:30 p.m.  
**\*Please email the Counseling office to reserve your spot: [counseling@ccm.edu](mailto:counseling@ccm.edu)**

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\*Dimensions of Wellness, (SAHMSA.gov)  
Please visit the Counseling website for a list of events & activities:  
<https://www.ccm.edu/student-life/campus-services/counseling-services-and-student-success/>

# Message from Career Services internship opportunities

**NJ TRANSIT 2021 SUMMER INTERNSHIP INFORMATION & RECRUITMENT SESSION**  
Career Services is hosting an N.J. Transit virtual information and recruitment session on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at noon. Senior staff and a current intern will speak to a variety of paid internship opportunities. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. <https://www.ccm.edu/virtual-recruiting-events/>

**CANDID CAREER**  
Career Services is dedicat-

ed to providing CCM students and alumni with the tools they need to be successful in the job search and in their careers. The recent addition of Candid Career to Career Services' online resources expands and enhances support to our students and alumni as they explore careers and develop career readi-

ness skills. Professionals in hundreds of careers share personal experiences, job preparation insights, and career advice in Candid Career's library of more than 6,000 engaging video clips. Check out Candid Career on CCM's Career Services' Virtual website today!

<https://tinyurl.com/y56cs7c2>

## THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris  
County College of Morris • SCC 129  
214 Center Grove Rd., Randolph, NJ 07869-2086  
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# Students challenge previous voting trends



PHOTO BY ADAM GENTILE

Ballot box where voters can drop off their ballots

**BY RONIQUE GATEWOOD**  
Contributor

Students at County College of Morris anticipate a high youth voter turnout for the upcoming general election, which would buck the trend of historically low-percentage voter turnout of younger generations in previous elections.

"I believe voting is important," said Elvira Gandia, a visiting student at CCM. "It gives [people] an opportunity to participate in certain bills that are being proposed. Everyone should use their voice."

Young adults typically do not vote in high percentages, and this can be shown in the 2016 general election. According to the Pew Research Center, approximately 64% of the U.S. voting-age population

was registered to vote in 2016. Only 13% of these voters were under the age of 30.

Full-time student and communications major, Kelsey Espada, offers a potential reason for the low voter turnout in younger generations.

"When we grow up, [adults] make it seem like young people have no power in our decisions," Espada said. "For 17 years, you are told to ask permission for everything - down to when you can use the bathroom. It's like our opinions don't matter, and then we turn 18 and a switch is flipped. Now we're pressured and ultimately afraid to make a wrong decision."

Espada mentions that she understands the importance of exercising her freedom of speech and participating in a crucial part of

democracy.

"The late Justice Ruth Ginsburg reminded Americans to fight for what they care about and discover a way that encourages others to join the cause," Espada said. "As an Hispanic woman that was born in the Bronx, I will always vote and remember that I do it for all the people unable to. Hopefully, I can encourage others to do the same."

Similar to Espada, other CCM students are eager to make a difference.

"This will be my first time voting in a presidential election," said Juliana Braverman, a full-time liberal arts student. "I have never been interested in politics or known much about it. I think a lot needs to change and [Americans] need to vote for someone that is going to make those changes."

## Opinion: Presidential candidates scrap civil discourse during first debate

**BY MICHAEL ROVETTO**  
Contributor

Civil discourse was not apparent between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden at the 2020 presidential debate Tuesday, Sept. 29. The debate was held at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and was the first of three presidential debates.

Both candidates talked over each other in what voters said was an unproductive night. Questions were dodged on both sides, leaving the audience with the same political opinions and questions as before.

Dr. Candace Halo is a professor at County College of Morris who teaches American Government and is part of a multidiscipline project that promotes civil discourse. She explained that civil discourse is vital to society through its cultivation of free speech.

"Civil discourse is important in cultivating and maintaining one of the most valued basic pillars of American democracy: free speech," Halo said. "Every society, however, places some limits on the exercise of speech because it always takes place within a context of competing values."

As a result of the candidates debating without civil discourse, viewers were unable to interpret what Trump or Biden were saying. For some, it was difficult to decipher fact from fiction. Halo continued to explain the importance of civil discourse within a presidential debate.

"If we all speak at once, we end up with an incoherent noise," Halo explained. "Without some rules and procedures, we as a society cannot have a conversation at all. The competition of the marketplace of ideas dies, and there is no chance to discover the truth."

Civil discourse promotes civil engagement that requires

respect from all participants. It doesn't diminish the morals or beliefs nor does it question judgment. Civil discourse allows people to enhance their understanding of a particular subject.

Debating with civil discourse encourages little to no interruption, allowing the speaker to get their point across effectively. What transpired during the debate was the opposite of civil discourse, and for many viewers, it was a sad sight to see.

The way the debate was structured might be a reason why so much interruption occurred. The participants agreed to six 15-minute segments with two-minute answers and open discussion for the rest of the segment.

"I noticed how unorganized the debate itself was," said Angel Agulair, a liberal arts major at CCM. "There was no set time for rebuttals. It was just a free-for-all basically after the two minutes."

The open discussion por-

tion of each segment is where the debate stalled. This part of the discussion lacked parameters and structure, allowing the candidates to cut each other off and say whatever they wanted.

However, this was not the only problem with the debate. Multiple questions were avoided, and both candidates used personal attacks over the discussion of issues such as the coronavirus, economy, Supreme Court, violence, and the election. The debate was highlighted by the records of Trump and Biden.

CCM student Kris Parlej, a business administration major, tuned into the debate and came away with one specific observation.

"I watched the debate, and what stood out to me was that the candidates were trying to make each other look worse than themselves, instead of trying to prove themselves as a better candidate," Parlej said.

## Vote

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

than in 1928 and FDR was able to win 42 out of the 48 states at the time.

However, after FDR got elected into office, the labor movement kept in constant contact with FDR's office and worked with him on crafting the New Deal legislation that would address the issues that they were protesting for. The reason why FDR was so receptive to the labor movement wasn't only because he was a sympathetic supporter of the labor movement but because he was a politician whose interest is to get himself and his party members re-elected and appealing to the labor movement guaranteed his party a base of electorally active constituents.

The labor movement of the Great Depression and FDR understood the relationship that exists between the constituent and the representative. The representative wants to be elected, and in order for that to happen, they must appeal to the constituents.

The constituents want someone that addresses their concerns and must show that they can provide enough electoral support to get the representative into office. So long as both sides remain responsive to one another, and as long as there are enough like-minded constituents and representatives involved, change will surely happen.

During this historic moment, it's easy to get swept into the allure of a protest and act as if it is the paramount action that one can take against a broken system. However, this is not the case. Without participation in the electoral process, activism fails. If a movement shows that they are unwilling or unable to mobilize enough people to vote for a specific politician, then that movement has no leverage and will be unable to create the change that they want.

Electoralism is mundane. Voting takes little effort, and because of this it is often belittled as an ineffective way to achieve progress and only beneficial to those in power. To that, I ask one question: if voting is so ineffective, why is there always an active effort to suppress the vote?



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# County College of Morris speaker shares horrific experience that mirrors modernity

**BY RONIQUÉ GATEWOOD**  
Contributor

Speaker Maude Dahme shared her story as a Holocaust survivor with students at CCM in 2014. Dahme detailed the period in her life when she faced profiling and terror all predating the social media era.

During World War II, Dahme and her younger sister lived in the Netherlands with their parents in a small village. The village was named Vestborg and was home for Dahme until her sixth year of life.

“Dutch armed forces were on high alert,” said Dahme as she

described a May morning in 1940 that would change her life. “It was an incredible scene with airplanes, soldiers parachuting down, tanks in the streets and soldiers marching in.”

For the next three years of her life, she and her sister would live with different families, seeking asylum, and fighting for their lives. Eventually, they reunited with their family a pleasure not many were afforded.

Decades after the events of Dahme’s childhood, according to the Pew Research Center 65% of Americans say that it has become more common for people to express racist or racially insensitive

views since the election of President Trump.

According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, there was a 42% increase in demonstrations associated with racial equality groups since 2019. Between May 2020 and August 2020, 95% of these demonstrations were peaceful.

“This year has already been tough,” said Bryce William, a business administration major and part-time student at County College of Morris. “COVID-19 is a clear dramatic change in our lives. Then to see people that are encouraged to hate others and make people uncomfortable add chaos

to the mix.”

Williams mentions that he has attended several peaceful protests that have been organized over the summer in order to fight discrimination.

“Movements are centered around unification and celebrating differences,” William added. “I’ve attended many peaceful protests this summer, hoping that something will change and discrimination will dwindle.”

As the year progresses, there are daily stories of violence and division throughout the nation. Acts of discrimination seem to happen day after day and are magnified through the lens of social

media.

“I’ve opened Twitter and closed it just as fast because of the consistent discrimination acts against non-white people,” said Jaye Kyle, a full-time graphic design major at CCM. “It feels like the entire world is set up around the haves, the have-nots. We have to do better for the next generations.”

Many students have not experienced a scene like the one described by Dahme but instead have seen scenes similar play out on social media sites. Despite this, many pursue equality by using their voices and demanding religious and racial equality.

# Morris county residents share thoughts on Halloween during COVID-19

**BY KEVIN HORDYK**  
Contributor

As the coronavirus pandemic continues throughout the United States, many families have changed the way they celebrate holidays. For example, there have been Zoom Easters, socially distanced Labor Days, and even masked Memorial Days.

The next holiday coming up is Halloween, and this year it's not Freddy Kruger or Jason Vorhees one should be afraid

of — It seems to be trick-or-treating. This holiday seems the trickiest to navigate during a pandemic.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles County, California has already banned trick-or-treating. Should the rest of the country follow suit, or is this rule too precautionary? Residents of Morris County, New Jersey have weighed in on what they believe should be done during Halloween in 2020.

Jane Lynch, a resident of

Jefferson, New Jersey, has three young children and is still unsure of what to do for the upcoming holiday.

“No one has told us anything about Halloween, yet. I heard they might outright ban it this year,” Lynch said.

She is still unsure “what she will do,” but will emulate what her neighbors, friends, and family members are doing this Halloween.

John Aziz, a County College of Morris student, from Jeffer-

son, New Jersey, said

“I don't know, man, I definitely want to have some fun and maybe party, but I don't really know what's going on and what would be safe.”

Aziz, like many others, is confused and has no clue as to what the coming months will bring in regard to the coronavirus.

“Every day this corona stuff is so confusing,” he said. “One-day, good news and things are starting to look up, and the next

day is bad news. And it seems like the world is ending.”

Phil Martinelli, a local business owner, suggests that Halloween should be canceled.

“Shut it down,” he said about Halloween. “I don't even know why people would want to have Halloween this year. It's such a big risk going door to door spreading this stuff. Just go to the store, and buy your kids some candy. I think the kids can survive one year without Halloween.”

# 2020 Election Center

## Presidency



### Joe Biden (D)

- Provide two years of community college or other high-quality training program without debt
- Make four-year public colleges and universities tuition-free for all students whose family incomes are below \$125,000.
- Ensure that the United States achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050
- Raise federal minimum wage to \$15
- Repeal the trump tax cuts increase taxes on individuals making above 400,000 and raise corporate tax rate to 28%
- Improve on Affordable Care Act to provide a public option with a medicare buy-in

### Donald Trump (R)

- Incentivize and prioritize school choice for K-12 education
- Modernize the federal student loan services
- Increase domestic oil production along with other forms of natural gas
- Increase domestic manufacturing and fund more on-the-job training
- Keeping the Trump tax cuts and maintain a corporate tax rate at 21%
- Doesn't want to bring back the individual mandate in the Affordable care act. For more generic drug manufacturing

## Senate



### Cory Booker (D)

- Develop federal policies that target and assist low income communities in order to help alleviate issues brought on to them by climate change
- Build upon the Affordable Care Act in order to lower health care costs and increase access to care
- Ending mass incarceration
- Increase Federal investment in nation's infrastructure to improve roads, bridges, and water pipes
- Address intergenerational poverty and racial wealth gap in America

### Rik Mehta (R)

- Release remaining funds from the Small Business Administration and the Paycheck Protection Program, reopen applications for businesses that employ fewer than 100 people
- Re-domesticate medical and pharmaceutical supply manufacturing
- Pass a second COVID-19 stimulus bill
- Restore State and local tax deductions that were capped by the 2017 Tax Bill
- Reduce government regulation on health insurance to allow companies to provide more custom health care plans for buyers
- Create a coalition of nations to reduce China's global influence

# CCM volleyball returns to gym with largest roster in recent memory

**SHANE CONNUCK**  
Sports Editor

After months of practicing at home and making use of Google Classroom and Zoom to keep up with each other, the CCM women's volleyball team was back on the court working on gamelike scenarios last week.

The team is in its second stage of returning to play, when "a little more gameplay" is added, but only with up to four players on each side of the court, head coach Marc Gaydos said.

While practicing, players wear masks at all times and keep distance from each other. This "adds a whole new element to your coaching style because I always try to emulate [gameplay] as much as I can," Gaydos said. "We're trying to separate them a little bit more, so the chemistry aspect — it's hard to develop."

At this time last year, the Titans were in the midst of a 14-4 campaign en route to winning the regional championship. While the program has lost a handful of players from that team, it has brought in many new faces who were successful in Morris County high schools.

"I can only have dreamed of [this roster] when I stepped foot into CCM," Gaydos said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARC GAYDOS

The 2019 Region XIX champion at its end-of-season banquet.

Former Mount Olive High School middle hitter Alyssa Ouimet is among the team's additions. Planning on attending University of North Florida and studying nursing, she opted to wait a year and knock 16 credits off at CCM this fall and enroll in the same number this spring while playing volleyball for the Titans, Gaydos said, emphasizing the "caliber of students and players" he has.

In addition to the eight new-

comers, the Titans also return a handful of players from their championship-winning team, including Randolph alumna Jamie Pringle, former Jefferson Falcons Gabby Maffei and Lexi DeVries, and Julia Nangle of Vernon. Pringle was the 2019 NJCAA Region XIX Player of the Year.

With 12 active players right now and a possibility of 15 — a few players have held off on attending due to school work and COVID — once the season be-

gins in the spring semester, this is the largest roster the team has had in over four years. According to Gaydos and athletic director Jack Sullivan, the program recently had an average of seven girls on the team, which left no room for injuries.

Gaydos, who is also a biology teacher and head boys volleyball coach at Jefferson Township High School, finds himself in the midst of an unforeseen, "chaotic" fall.

"My demand on my time is enormous. You're trying to change everything you've done into this electronic world," said the second-year head coach, who is even more focused on being a father and husband during these times. "You're constantly on YouTube, you're pulling out plays or drills from your first years, when I had a lot less gray hairs."

"I think I'm being a better coach and teacher now than I ever was before."

## Social facilitation in home games... but what does it mean to be 'home' in 2020?

**SHANE CONNUCK**  
Sports Editor

Over 19,000 fans — about 20% of the stadium's capacity — attended Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for the highly anticipated duel between the No. 2 Crimson Tide and the third-ranked Georgia Bulldogs on Oct. 17.

More than 11,000 spectators were admitted to each Tampa Bay Rays-Los Angeles Dodgers game at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, during Major League Baseball's first neutral-site World Series since 1944.

The Dallas Cowboys have played before crowds of about 25,000; other NFL teams have let in between 3,000 and 15,000. Meanwhile, a significant number of teams, including the New York Giants and Jets, have played home games in front of unoccupied bleachers.

Other leagues recently wrapped up their nearly year-long seasons with the players, staff and limited family members in "bubbles," with the NBA in Orlando, Florida, and the NHL in Toronto and Edmonton, Alberta. The Tampa Bay Lightning and Los Angeles Lakers

raised their respective championship trophies in empty arenas.

While the football teams that allow spectators have been able to have some semblance of home field advantage, stadium staff workers have had to grapple with enforcing strict mask policies in the crowds. Texas A&M welcomed a crowd of nearly 25,000 for its Oct. 10 game against Florida, and "officially, 41 fans were escorted from the stadium for refusing to adhere to the face covering policy," a spokesman told USA TODAY.

Failure to comply with these rules could easily lead to superspreader events, according to Zachary Binney, an epidemiologist at Oxford College of Emory University, but it does not mean that every sporting event will lead to an outbreak. However, he adds that people shouldn't necessarily be confident if a noticeable outbreak doesn't ensue from every sporting event.

"It's evidence you rolled the dice and got lucky," Binney told USA TODAY. "If you keep doing even moderately risky things again and again and again, you're going to get burned. It's like driving down the highway

without a seat belt. Yeah, any single time you'll likely get away with it, but it's not a good life policy."

Hence, some major NCAA football conferences have avoided the risks associated with welcoming guests. The Big Ten and Pac-12 kicked off their truncated seasons this past weekend with no fans in any stadiums, including the iconic Ohio Stadium having more than 100,000 empty seats as the Buckeyes played Nebraska.

Psychologist Robert Zajonc proposed a theory called social facilitation, which means that "performer's 'arousal' increases in the presence of others. In this context, arousal means that you care more about what you're doing when you're being watched," Mark Otten, professor of psychology at California State University, Northridge, wrote in a recent Qrius story.

"For athletes, it implies that they'll be more motivated when there's a crowd," he continues. "And if the crowd is supportive, this might 'facilitate' a better performance from the athlete." In 2019, 52% of NFL games were won by home teams, and with the absence of fans at

many stadiums this year, it has dropped to 49.45% through the first six weeks.

Bundesliga, a major soccer league in Germany, resumed its season without fans in mid-May. Rory Smith wrote in The New York Times that Lukas Keppler,

managing director of the data and analytics firm Impect, said that for the first time in soccer history, it sometimes appeared to be easier to be playing on the road.

As Smith wrote, "Fans are the home field advantage."

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