

# CORONAVIRUS!

## Stay-At-Home Issue #2



# THE HILLTOP STAR

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## Tough Times for Passaic and New Jersey

By Sharlene Hernandez

We have all seen the hard times and hard choices being made by the government officials and individuals. During this crisis, the state of New Jersey has made some very uneasy decisions, in my eyes.

First off, New Jersey is one of the states with the most cases in the nation, second only to New York, since we are so close to New York which has the highest number of cases. Knowing that, you would expect people to actually stay inside and quarantine themselves to stay safe. Well, that was not the case in the beginning of all of this.

Many people started acting out, raiding all stores of important supplies. I would see people actually get together in very big groups to party. It was just ridiculous what was going on. Soon time passed and passed, and the same things were going on.

Now people are being more cautious, but you know we still have those people who are

not following the rules. That is just how the people are reacting from personal observation. Now everyone has seen that this is serious and are taking this more seriously. However, there is more.

A lot of people are dying every day. Kids are being orphaned, parents are losing kids, people are losing friends and loved ones. This is definitely not an easy time for anyone. Elderly people are at risk by being around other people because they are the most affected.

When people cannot go out and cannot do anything the economy gets hurt. So, the economy is hard, not everyone is wealthy some people are still waiting on unemployment to get money to live and pay bills. Others have no source of income at all and many have kids they need to support. You might not see all of this but the tension and the fear is very much there. It feels like it is literally in the air just spreading and spreading because in reality people

are scared for themselves and the ones they care about. New Jersey is in panic right now. Whether it's losing your mind from staying inside so much, or running around like crazy on supplies, or going to work and putting yourself at risk.

Rough times like this are what brings people together to help one another. There are many families that are struggling that are being helped by people in the economy. Seeing this makes everything a little bit better. Things are still not great but lending a hand and helping those in need is a beautiful thing to do. New Jersey has shown an incredible amount of helping each other out and giving away money to help those in need. This is something I hope everyone takes a deep understanding too.

Acts of kindness shouldn't appear only when you feel like it's forced. Whenever you get an opportunity to perform an act of kindness, go for it. Tough times bring out the bad in people, but

*"Whenever you get an opportunity to perform an act of kindness, go for it. Tough times bring out the bad in people, but it also brings out the good."*

it also brings out the good.

Overall, I believe the state of New Jersey and the economy within it is trying their best to make the best out of this situation in a cautious way. There are many flaws to how people have been responding to this crisis but there is always a bright side. The amount of positivity and help being spread is amazing. I will even try myself to do something to help another person in need. New Jersey is just one state of the United States. I can imagine how other states are doing but New Jersey is special and one of a kind.

I believe this state will over-

come this in our own way and make smart choices off of this. I know all the seniors in New Jersey are very bummed out right now because I know I am. I know we deserved what the rest of our senior year had to offer but different things decided to happen. We can't control anything that is happening in the world right now, but we can try to make the best out of it and reach to become our best possible self during these times. In the future, let everyone know that it was the selfless acts of sacrifice of the Class of 2020 that helped make the most out of this bad situation.

### MARCHING INDIANS GET TIPS FROM NAVAL BAND

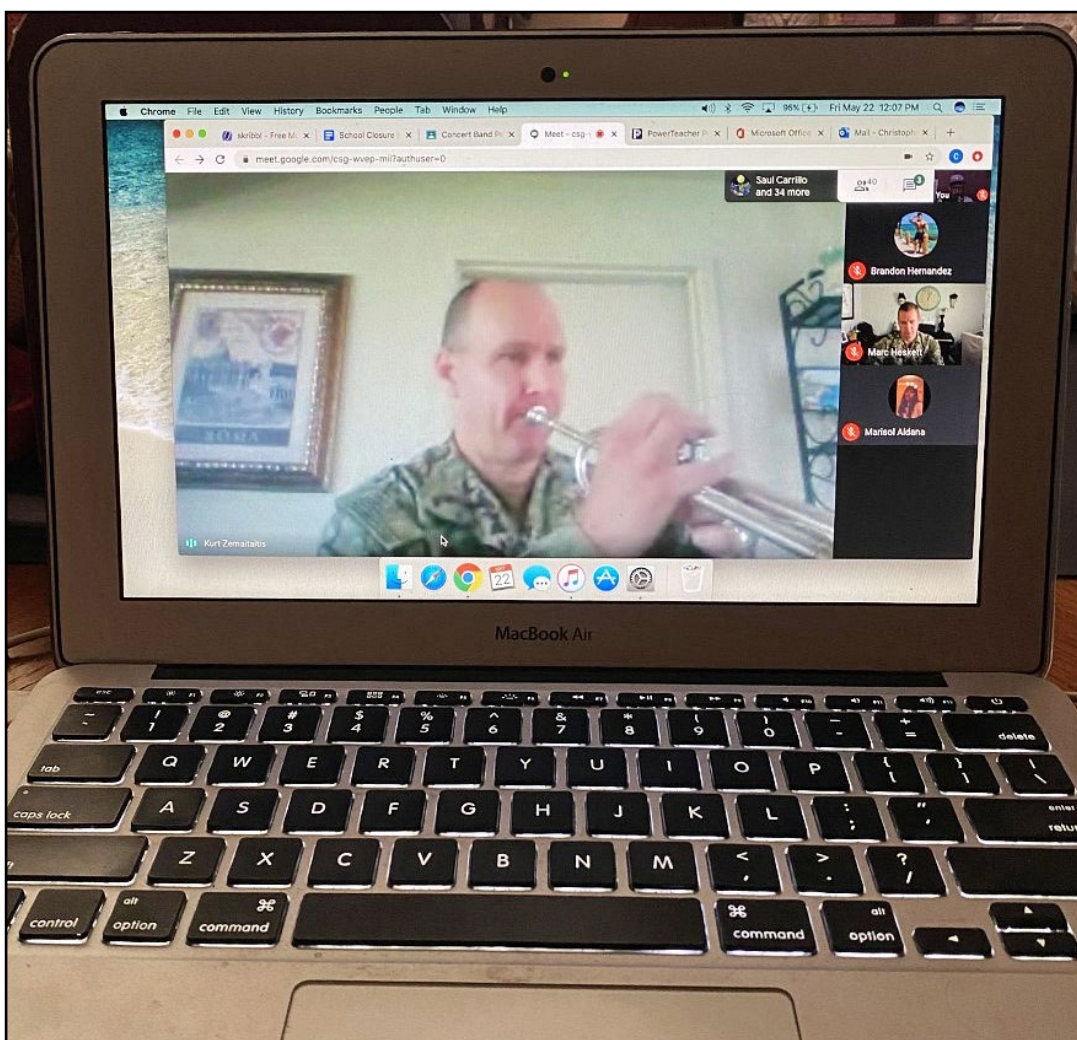


PHOTO BY MR. RUSCA

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## Living Through History

By Shannya Morales

As of right now we are living through the history of an unprecedented global pandemic. . . Something that was on the other side of the world in Wuhan China has been spread throughout the whole globe. This virus has affected every country in the entire world and has damaged the world economy a lot. COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, has been our invisible enemy for the past couple of months. Life has changed and the government enforced that we stay home and not go outside.

Restaurants, schools, movie theaters, have been closed until further notice. We are asked to wear masks and gloves when we go outside. Our quality of life has been changed, hopefully not forever. While we have been asked to sacrifice to stop the spread of this disease, it is tough to take away all the things that we as the senior class have been wanting to do for years. Everything we look forward to has been taken away.

Our whole country has been put on lockdown. A couple months ago back in January

2020 there were no cases reported but later on in March of 2020 the numbers have skyrocketed from zero to 17,000 cases. We were told about the different symptoms and what to expect if we have contracted the disease such as coughing, shortness of breath, and fever. This pandemic has affected people in so many ways people have been laid off, others couldn't afford rent anymore, etc.

Different states had different ways to deal with the situation. Lockdowns for instance have been administered differently in different states. For example, the state of Florida is no longer on lockdown while other states like New Jersey and New York have set up a curfew where we could not go outside at a certain time. New Jersey has a 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. Some states like California and Florida have reopened their beaches to the public. All states have agreed to practice social distancing meaning we stay 6 feet away from each other.

The economy has also tanked since we've been put on lockdown. It disrupts the

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# The Garden State's New Resident

## Coronavirus Impact Hits Shore Town Economies Hard

By Angie Gonzalez

COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, had its first impact on New Jersey on March 4 in Fort Lee. Since then, it has quickly spread; it started off with just one person getting sick day by day, to hundreds getting sick on a daily basis. The virus can spread very easily, what makes it worse is that there is still no vaccine for this. The outbreak of COVID-19 eventually led governor Phil Murphy to a state lockdown; schools, business, even parks were closed only 10 days after the first patient tested positive. New Jersey has not been the same since then.

Since quarantine started, the Garden State has had a huge economic impact due to the virus. The state is mainly focused on using its money to hospitals treating patients, paying the nurses and doctors. Governor Murphy had to veto many bills coming from Trenton, due to the state of emergency with our money. One area that has been impacted the most with their money has been South Jersey. Based on the arti-



An aerial view of Ocean City beaches last month.

NJSPOTLIGHT.COM/ANDREW S. LEWIS

cle by David Danzis in *The Press of Atlantic City*, the lockdown has caused Atlantic City to drop almost 28% of its profit, which is more than 2 billion dollars. This is the largest negative economic impact the well-known Monopoly City has ever had. Which is a downfall for South Jersey

because just last year, "the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019 "marked the southern New Jersey regional economy's best performance since 1984."

Not only has Atlantic City felt the hit of the state's lockdown, so has Ocean City. Ocean City is not only known for its famous

boardwalk, but for its mining of oil and gas, transportation, and travel arrangements. "Oil-and-gas towns were among the most affected areas because of a sharp decline in travel," according to the Patch.com article by Josh Bakan, "Ocean City May Be Among Worst Hit By Recession

Amid Coronavirus."

Ocean City was not prepared for their businesses to drop that quickly. It is for everyone's safety to limit their travel or to just stay home; which limits the amount of times trains are being used or if they are even being used, leading to the economic drop in Ocean City. Even though Ocean City started to open slowly, like take outs from local restaurants, online shopping from local stores, it will take a while for the city's economy to increase back to where it was due to the closing of the city's transportation.

Nobody knows when things will go back to the life we used to have, or if we will even ever go back to our 'normal' lives, but we sadly do know that New Jersey will struggle to go back to the way it was. We sadly do know that it will be a challenge for people to find jobs post coronavirus. However, we do know that this is a chance for communities to pull together so that they can survive this pandemic and hopefully get back to normal this summer.

## Coronavirus Pandemic Recap

By Coby Sylvester

In November there were many reports of the first case of a deadly virus that began in Wuhan, China, toward the end of 2019. This virus was no other than COVID-19 which is a type of common virus that infects humans, typically leading to an upper respiratory infection. The first case of the virus in the US was confirmed on January 21 and by that time six people had already died from it in China. The first city to be put in lockdown was Wuhan City, on January 23.

Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy

and Infectious Diseases said, "We don't want the American public to be worried about this because their risk is low."

Me and my family were on top of this when this statement first was released and we didn't agree with it at all because at this time people had already died from this virus and cities in China had shut down with millions in population, so why wouldn't they take precautions early and prepare for the worse?

The first death of an American came from a 60-year-old man on February 12, when he was reportedly diagnosed with the coronavirus in Wuhan. On

March 26, the US was confirmed to have the most cases of the virus with 83,836 cases, then no more than 24 hours passed and the US surpassed 100,000 cases which means the White House was going to have to do something now before it got worse. Right on cue, the White house implanted social distancing rules on the US which includes staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms-length) from other people, no gathering in groups of more than 3 people, and staying out of crowded places and avoiding mass gatherings. The CDC also recommended that people start to wear mask when outdoors

because of how easily the virus can be transmitted. Trump also put us in lockdown where we were not supposed to be outdoors past 8 p.m. and he closed all non-essential businesses.

On April 8, the city where the virus originally came from, Wuhan lifted their lockdown after 76 days of lockdown. As I said before the government has closed all non-essential businesses, for example theaters, recreation centers, salons, malls, bowling alleys and sporting venues, which means all of the people that were once employed and had a steady income didn't have that anymore. In the article "Here's how the

government wants to spend \$2 trillion to protect the economy from coronavirus' effects" it talks about all the things the government is trying to do to keep the economy from plummeting and one thing they are doing is "The new \$2.2 trillion stimulus package signed into law last month will allow people to claim an extra \$600 per week in unemployment benefits through the end of July 2020."

So, I guess the government is doing all they could at this point of time, but I think they should have prepared for the virus better than they did. Maybe we would be in better circumstances.

### TIMELINE:

## Governor Murphy Issues Over 50 Executive Orders

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Governor Murphy has issued over 50 Executive Orders. Only two of them were not related to the coronavirus pandemic (indicated with \*).

- 102** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Establishing Coronavirus Task Force 2/3/20
- 103** Governor Murphy declares a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency, effective immediately 3/9/20
- 104** Governor Murphy Announces Aggressive Social Distancing Measures to Mitigate Further Spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey 3/16/20
- 105** Governor Murphy Announces Changes to Upcoming New Jersey Elections in Response to COVID-19 3/19/20
- 106** Governor Murphy Enacts Moratorium on Removals of Individuals Due to Evictions or Foreclosures 3/19/20
- 107** Governor Murphy directs all residents to stay at home until further notice 3/21/20
- 108** Governor Murphy invalidates any county or municipal restriction that in any way will or might

- conflict with any of the provisions of Executive Order No. 107 3/21/20
- 109** Governor Murphy Suspends All Elective Surgeries, Invasive Procedures to Preserve Essential Equipment and Hospital Capacity 3/23/20
- 110** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Requiring Child Care Centers Close on April 1 Unless Serving Children of Essential Workers 3/25/20
- 111** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Directing Health Care Facilities to Report Data, Including PPE Inventory and Bed Capacity, On a Daily Basis 3/28/20
- 112** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Remove Barriers to Health Care Professionals Joining New Jersey's COVID-19 Response and Provide Protections for Front Line Health Care Responders 4/1/20
- 113** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Authorizing Commandeering of Property Such as Medical Supplies 4/2/20
- 114** Governor Murphy Directs U.S. and New Jersey Flags to Fly at Half-Staff Indefinitely in Honor of Those Who Have Lost Their Lives or Have

- Been Affected by COVID-19 4/3/20
- 115** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Strengthen COVID-19 Response Efforts by Allowing Certain Retirees to Return to Public Employment 4/6/20
- 116** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Statutory Deadlines for School Districts Whose Elections Were Moved from April to May 4/7/20
- 117** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Waiving Student Assessment Requirements for 2019-2020 School Year 4/7/20
- 118** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Closing State and County Parks to Further Social Distancing 4/7/20
- 119** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Public Health Emergency in New Jersey 4/7/20
- 120** Governor Murphy Announces Postponement of June 2nd Primary Elections until July 7th 4/8/20
- 121** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Allowing Greater Weight Limit for Vehicles Carrying

- COVID-19 Relief Supplies 4/8/20
- 122** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Cease All Non-Essential Construction Projects and Imposes Additional Mitigation Requirements on Essential Retail Businesses and Industries to Limit the Spread of COVID-19 4/8/20
- 123** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Insurance Premium Grace Periods 4/9/20
- 124** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Establish a Process to Grant Temporary Reprieve to Certain At-Risk Inmates 4/10/20
- 125** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Implement Additional Mitigation Requirements on NJ TRANSIT, Private Carriers, and Restaurants to Limit the Spread of COVID-19 4/11/20
- 126** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Prohibiting Cable and Telecommunications Providers from Terminating Internet and Voice Service 4/13/20
- 127** Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Certain Deadlines Associated with Rulemaking 4/14/20

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# Keeping Productive During Quarantine

By Anonymous

The coronavirus has caused the schools to close down, as I am sure you are aware. My life has been very different ever since quarantine has started. On the weekdays I wake up and do online school. After I finish doing my school I would go on Netflix and watch some shows. Some shows I've been watching are the Outer Banks and The Reckoning. On the weekends, since it's been nice outside, I just go in my backyard with my family and we play games and talk. Some games we have been playing are Uno, Sorry and Monopoly.

I know, you are saying that being at home with family all day every day is sometimes frustrating. Don't get me wrong I love my family but when you have an annoying brother that annoys you and keeps on trying to prank you when you want to relax, ugh, it irritates me. Also, parents that walk in your room what feels like every five seconds to ask a question, I just want some peace and quiet. I go on walks with my dog to the park and get some fresh air. It feels good to get out the house and move.

I've also been cleaning. Since I've been in quarantine I have been productive. I cleaned my whole room real good. I don't remember if I ever cleaned my room. Also, I organized everything. I even decided to redecorate my room because it needed a new look. And I love my new room and how it looks.

Also, I've been learning how to bake and cook since I have free time. My mother and I started to bake some cakes and cookies.



PINTEREST.COM

Reorganizing your room is one good way to stay productive during the quarantine.

One time when we were baking, my mom filled the pan so much with cake that when we took it out the oven it risen so much it looked like a mountain. My mom is also teaching me how to cook because since I'm older and when she doesn't feel like cooking she going to take the opportunity to tell me to cook, lol. Last week I cooked dinner for my family and they said it was so good that they want me to cook more often.

I'm glad that I am healthy and safe. I miss going outside and going places. This is my life during quarantine I guess it's been busy, and lonely at the same time, that is what life is now.

One thing that I hope I can share with my classmates is that if we use this time to gather ourselves and make ourselves better, when life goes back to normal and we are sitting in class this September, we will not take school for granted and we will come back to school, stronger and harder than ever before. See you all in September!

# Schoolwork is Helping Students Cope with Lockdown

By Evelin Cabrera

With the Coronavirus going around and everyone being locked down to stop the spread, we do not know how long all this craziness will continue. It is scary how fast it spread in a matter of just days, and thinking about the future only gets scarier. Remember when we were in class in March and did not think this was a big deal, and then it was? The best thing for us to continue to do now is to practice social distancing and that includes the schools being closed.

However, students still need to get their education, so on-line school has saved us. It is allowing us to finish school as planned, and as normal as possible. Getting education and staying on track to finish the year is very important, but there is another aspect of schoolwork that is helping PHS students. Schoolwork is also helping us stay busy and not get into the habit of becoming unhealthy. As a junior, the last thing I would want is to spend one of my last summers in school because of this virus. I have never been to summer school, and I am not about to start now. Online schooling is a huge help and benefit to us.

So while many students are grumbling about APEX

and needing to do work online that is not nearly as good as being face to face with our friends and teachers, we are able to get through this tough time as normally as possible. We will eventually get back to class, saying hi to each other face to face, but for now, this is the best that can happen. Distance learning is useful because we can still communicate with our teachers and we are able to retake quizzes and tests so we do not end up failing. Do not be afraid to ask teachers for help either. They want to help and they miss their students as much as we miss being around our friends and teachers.

Although many of us miss school, and fear that we might not be going back, online school is definitely making us productive while we are home. It is better to be doing work than really not doing anything. There are downsides about it, like waking up at 8:30 and having to sign in to all your classes as if it was a regular day in school. But we would have to be getting up and dressed and out the door going all the way to school every day. So look on the bright side. This is easier.

The best thing to keep in mind doing your online work is that by completing work online, the school year

will not be extended. We are still getting credit for the days. So do not get down about being in school while you are at home, look at it like you are just in school anyway and that you can eat your breakfast while you are doing your work. We even still had our spring break, and seniors will still be able to graduate on time.

Not knowing when we come back is scary, especially for seniors since we do not know when we will be able to go back to school. At least we can stay positive knowing that we still can get our credits without the fear of having to makeup credits or having our summer ruined. Hopefully, after all of this blows over, we can go back to school and everything will go back to normal.

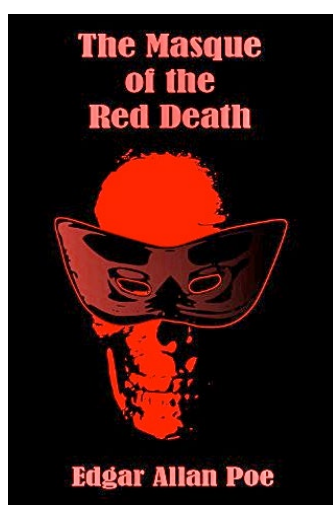
We have teachers and staff members who are trying to do everything possible to help us. I am thankful of the staff that is so helpful to the students. With all the ups and downs of online school, at least we still continuing to be educated, not as good as in class, but the best that we can right now. So while you are home, stay productive, practice social distancing, do your lessons, ask for help when you need it, and let us all do our part so that we can all be back together soon!

# Prof. Z's Guide to Keeping Busy During the Quarantine

By H. Zeiler

Even though the school year is starting to come to a close, do not be too sad. There are so many more great things to read in your off time.

What better thing to read during a great worldwide pandemic than Edgar Allan Poe's "Masque of the Red Death." This is a short story about a prince, Prince Prospero, who is so prosperous that he decides to throw a great costume party during a plague called the Red Death. Even though everyone is getting sick and dying, he believes that he can just put up a wall around the castle and just party with all of his rich friends (sound familiar?). As the reader proceeds from one room to the next, each one more progressively darker and scarier, the story ends with a ... you know I



AMAZON.COM

Poe's short story, first published in 1842, has many parallels to the events of 2020.

wasn't going to spoil the ending for you.

The greatest aspects of this short story is the writing, it is Poe after all, and the signif-

icance of the metaphors that are presented in each of the rooms. There are so many parallels between this short story, written to scare people in the early nineteenth century, and today that it is like Mr. Poe had a time machine. Enjoy!

Now a short story is great, but you have an entire summer put to good use by reading. May I also recommend a novel by Albert Camus, called well, *The Plague*. Camus wrote this in French, so the title of the book is actually, *La Peste*, and a pest it is. The idea behind this work, as all of Camus's other works, is to make an existential point about the nature of mankind during a pandemic.

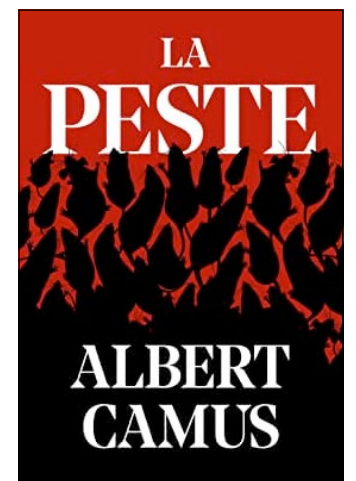
If I haven't lost you yet, this idea totally makes sense. The novel shows how powerless people are in the face of a large crisis. That seems to be exact-

ly what people all around the world are feeling right now. There really isn't anything that we as individuals can do. As in some of his other novels this is full of Camus's use of absurdism and a healthy dose of witty sarcasm.

If these works are just too recent and you feel the need to go back and look at literature from a more civilized day, consider this. *Decameron*, by Boccaccio, is a book written in the Middle Ages about a group of young people, who shelter in place to avoid an epidemic. The stories collected here are full of love, practical jokes, and basically just life. It is another example of the nature of people during a stressful time.

What is interesting to take away from any of these three works is that for over six hundred years, people are just the

same. The nature of humanity is such that when times get tough, many find the goodness to help others. It is that lesson that I hope can find all of you during these summer months.



AMAZON.COM

Amazon.com sells a Spanish edition of "The Plague" for Kindle.

## Seniors!

Keep an eye out for a special print issue of The Hilltop Star, which will be distributed to graduating seniors in June.



# It Came from Wuhan, But How Did We Deal With It?

By Kiara Rivera

A new virus that is now popularly known as COVID-19 has spread through multiple countries. It has spread over every continent (except Antarctica) and has changed the way that communities and people go about their lives. This is something that nobody was prepared for, but the United States government took the necessary precautions to keep its people, finally.

Considering the outbreak of the virus in the United States, it is clear that the government was not prepared to deal with it. As the health of many Americans was in jeopardy, the government finally responded by imposing restrictions and curfews to limit the amount of social interaction between people.

The coronavirus was first seen and discovered in Wuhan, China. It was under supervision by China's government as a result of the first death they have had due to the Coronavirus in January 11, 2020. Ten days later, the United States had their first confirmed case of the coronavirus appear in Washington state. This man had traveled to Wuhan previously and contracted

the virus. Unknowingly, he returned back to the United States and thus the United States now had their first case.

One month later, the United States experienced their first case of local transmission and death due to the COVID-19 virus. Considering that there were only a small number of people affected by the virus, the United States still didn't impose any restrictions.

It wasn't until March that the United States thought that it was time to take action against the highly contagious virus. President Trump had declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020 due to the rapidly increasing number of cases. He stated that by declaring a national emergency, \$50 billion in federal funding would be utilized to fight the outbreak of COVID-19.

At this point, the cases were increasing at an alarming rate. The CDC took action by warning the general public about large gatherings. "Large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities."



Social distancing is enforced as seen in a line outside ShopRite.

PHOTO BY LEANDRO MATOS

The CDC opened up the doors to restrictions that were going to be imposed by the government in the future by explaining the risk of conducting large events and gatherings. Schools and non-essential businesses began to close and people were not allowed to come within six feet of each other.

It was very hard for many citizens to abide by these rules considering that they wanted

to see their loved ones. Many sacrifices were made by the citizens of the United States in an attempt to keep the spread of this virus under control.

High school and college graduates were forced to trade in their senior activities for the safety of themselves, their classmates and the citizens of the United States. As you walk the streets, all you see are the use of masks and gloves. As

you go to buy your groceries, you see a line of people outside of the establishment to prevent overcrowding within the establishment.

Although the United States has experienced a severe outbreak of cases within the country, the precautions that have been imposed have shown to be effective as the number of cases are now beginning to decrease, finally.

## Government's Role Was Outstanding

By Julie Figueroa

COVID-19 is something that has affected each and every one of us, in a slight manner or in a total life-changing way. For some people this has affected their economic stability, their physical way of viewing themselves, and for some people their mental and/or physical health. There are a lot of precautions in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 thanks to the government.

As of right now, if you believe you have been exposed to the virus or you have it, then you can get tested but you must show all symptoms in order to get tested, because testing is being prioritized to those who've been showing the symptoms, which are; fever, cough, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing, you can get tested at any hospital. As a nation we went from not having enough tests or reliable tests, to having so many that anyone who wants to get tested can, in a very short amount of time.

All the precautions put in place by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy are helping reduce the spread of the COVID-19. The government initiated a curfew of 8 p.m., not only that but they've closed all stores that aren't essentials, to refrain people from leaving their houses unless necessary. These stores will remain closed until this all blows over. All malls, schools and shopping centers are closed, concerts postponed, all this is a great initiative to avoid large gatherings.

This was all put in place by Governor Murphy in the state of New Jersey. When there's not a lot of people around each other it reduces the spread, we are now to conserve a distance of six feet from strangers wherever we go, so that we don't get the virus if they have it. Masks and gloves are required whenever you go, these are all precautions placed by the governor that have been keeping all of us safe.

All these precautions are keeping us safe, yes, but keeping many people unemployed. This has affected their day-to-day lifestyles, because they don't have an income. The

government has sent out stimulus checks to help people cope with this, and give them the money that they aren't making because they aren't essential workers.

I agree with everything that the governor is doing. He's doing all of this to keep us safe and virus free, some of these precautions seem like too much, or maybe too many people have been left unemployed but it's what stopped the rise of the spread. There is rental relief, so certain houses don't pay rent, this is helpful to the people who aren't working because it's one less thing that they have to worry about paying.

This virus has changed the way our lives were drastically. The government plays a strong role in this virus outbreak. When it comes to things like this and the government steps in, it's usually to help us out in this case that is what they did. Although we may feel a bit restricted because we have a curfew, this is what's helping to flatten the curve. The government and their role is what's keeping the virus from spreading.

All of the precautions put in place help us stay safe. Not only that but the checks they handed out for all of us to have some sort of income, is what kept many people fed and with a roof over their head.

I say that the government's role in this coronavirus is what saved us all, because most of us are not working, and people who are working are working extremely long shifts, and not getting paid so well. This is where the economy took a big hit, because there aren't many people working, though online shopping has become the new black.

Overall, the government's role in all of this has been outstanding. The way that they have been able to come out with these strategies and tell us about the precautions we need to take, have been made efficiently and effectively. This is what has reduced the spread of the virus, from us being told to stay home, to even being able to attend school. The government has stepped in – in the best way they could have. It is up to all of us to support these efforts and do our part to stop the spread.

## Coronavirus Takes New Jersey by Storm

By Angel Perez

Coronavirus took us by storm, no one wanted to believe it was a true problem until it was too late. Everyone thought it was being blown out of proportion, but when New Jersey started lockdown, everyone panicked.

New Jersey has gone through huge changes the past few months, many are sick, and thousands have died. NJ Governor Phil Murphy's stay-at-home order has closed hotspot places like schools, gyms and restaurants.

Times like these also brought our community together; many have volunteered time, energy and money, to help ensure that everyone in their community is fed.

Governor Murphy has put multiple measures and priorities to get everyone tested safely. Even partnering up with local Walmarts for a self-administered COVID-19 test starting May 22, 2020. He even fought with the White House for more ventilators for hospitals and testing sites. He was able to adapt to the huge waves of ill people, he set up multiple new locations for patients in the matter of days. Even with how fast he moved, New Jersey still lost people; he soberly said, "We're one family. We rise and fall as one. We celebrate and mourn as one, too."

New Jersey has lost many souls in the past months, the amount of people losing their loved one is insane.

Christina Schoellkopf from the Los Angeles Times talks about how she had to stand six feet away from her grandfather and watch him die in front of her. "My grandfather is dying in hospice care. And I have never more appreciated the power of

touch. Because it's been stolen from us." She has never felt so disconnected from another person. "This pandemic has robbed us of final hugs, kisses, pats on the back, hand holding and shared meals across an intimate table."

COVID-19 will not only change how he interacts with one another but also the economy. Many employers have asked themselves questions such as, "Do we need large city office space with staff relying on crowded public transport?" This might change how people work from now on, many think staff would be more demanding in terms of flexibility.

After lockdown the idea of sale prices bouncing and stores lowering prices to shift stock and to readjust the economy isn't far-fetched. Airlines that survive this pandemic might result in them setting new policies like thermal imaging cameras, which check your temperature as you walk through, could become commonplace at airports.

The lack of traffic flow diminished since the lockdown, which caused the rise of online meetings. That has shown what can be achieved without travel and has saved lots of carbon in the process. This is only one positive out of this horrific virus, this could help halt the damage we're doing to the natural world.

Thankfully the spread of the virus seems to calm down, but that's until the second wave commences. A leading epidemiology researcher said, "Summer may slow the spread of the coronavirus a bit, but it will be back by fall with a second wave that looks a lot like the first wave."

The coronavirus has truly changed how we'll interact for the next few years.



# Now Let's Fight for the Economy

By Daisy Sanchez

Since the COVID-19 Coronavirus has reached the United States, it has totally affected all aspects of life here. Schools, supermarkets, laundromats and all other parts of the economy are hurting, and many businesses are being lost and many will not come back. Looking around town locally, this is the case. Passaic's economy is something that is talked about often. Small restaurants are failing, as well as local corner stores. Although stores like Walmart had customers, to the point that they had to restrict the amount of people going into stores.

Once the virus was shown to be infecting the population here, many ran to the biggest store they could, to get as much as they could. Many in the United States prepared for the worst. This happened mid-March and after that, many feared to be with other people. Even more because the news would broadcast that the worst two weeks were to come. It did indeed become true for many people. For the economy that meant no customers, no income, no way to have their own money to pay for bills and essentials.

The President has been urging states, realizing the nation was hurting, to open stores and the rest of the economy up. The CDC has provided guidelines, based on the latest research, and we already have a good idea what that is. Keep washing hands, and keep distancing, keep wearing masks, and limit the amount of people in crowds. Although many do say that even if the restaurants open and many other stores open up some will still go out of business. This is because although there are groups of people dying to go back to their normal life some still fear and have no plans of going out nonetheless eating out, letting others make their food.

In my point of view as one person living in Passaic, I understand the need for money to pay bills and the desire to go out. Although the fear is still there and a lot of these restaurants may still fail because no one is going to be going ev-

ery week to all these places. It will take some time for things to get even near some sense of normal.

In the business industry some places get more customers and the ones that don't will fail. I personally think that opening everything before the end of the year is a mistake. The chance that the reason we all stayed inside for two months will possibly be for nothing if we open the economy too soon. These are tough decisions to make, but people in power should follow the science. They should make sure of what policy should be enacted before they do it. People's lives are hanging in the balance of their decisions.

I do agree with jobs opening for people who need income to pay bills, but places that are opening for fun activities like the mall, Six Flags and the movie theaters should remain closed. I want to go out with friends to the movies and to the amusement parks as much as anyone, but there is a more important thing to do now and that is keeping this disease under control, for the safety of everyone. Essential places should be places for work only, as well as big supermarkets to stop the spread. The economy will rise one way or another but rushing to reopen is not going to help anyone.

If China, who first started this virus, understood how to manage its people and businesses, I am very sure the United States does as well but chooses not to, in fear of a big crash. Although we should take China as an example they are almost back to normal and their economy is slowly but surely rising. Look at other places like Italy where cases were terrible. They also remained calm and closed down and things got better over time. The point is to stay home and away from others, the economy will not go anywhere. This isn't the first pandemic to ever happen: there have been the Bird Flu and the Swine Flu pandemics, the Spanish Flu and many more. Years later the economy rose and right now it is on hold again. Let us do our best as a society to ensure that those in charge make the right



GOOGLE/CITYOFPASSAIC.COM

Veterans Memorial Park in Passaic.

## Do Your Part in the Park

By Giovanni Quirino

In the past two months we have been in lock down quarantine and I believe it was the best decision to do for the circumstances that have found ourselves. There have been many changes throughout the past two months. If anyone said in the middle of March that we would all be afraid to go outside and where masks everywhere we go, I would have laughed.

Now restaurants are only being able to do delivery or pick-ups, or stores only allowing a certain amount at a time and also they are only allowed in if they have a mask and gloves. One of these changes was even to close the parks, but now they have been opened again. It is tough to get things unless it is being delivered. Stores still do not have a great stock or selection, but everyone is doing their best to make the most of this.

At first the decision to close the parks made no sense to me. But then, thinking about it I began to think of the reasoning behind it. Then I realized that this choice was the best because while we were not attending school many people including myself were going out to the park every day. There were many people in the park without any masks and not practicing social distancing. So, this was a good idea to stop the massive spreading of the virus. During this time I was stuck inside and lessened my and other people's chances of contracting the infection.

I am not completely sure about the stats,

but I would believe that the stats show that when they closed the park there might have been a decrease in the infection rate. Even though many people did not follow this rule and continued to go to the park. This was established for I believe a month. But recently they have announced that the parks will be opened again. It has been around two weeks since the announcement. Even though I thought it was a mistake to close the parks in the first place, now that I have seen people in the parks after they have been reopened, I believe the decision to reopen was a mistake.

I strongly believe this because when I was at the park, many people did not wear their mask or keep their distance. This will begin to increase the infection rate because of the lack of care from the people at parks. When I went to the park I thought it might just have been in that one park. I went out looking for more parks, I realized that this was common. It was because people are not taking this seriously that I have stopped going to parks. Although this is a way to begin to get us back to normal, I don't think this will benefit us but rather hurt us. This will cause us to stay in lockdown longer and bother the people that are following the rules and keeping their distances.

My advice is to stay safe. Even though it is nice out, do not forget to keep your distance and stay protected. If the disease spreads again, then all the parks will be closed again and this will just last longer. Do your part in the park.

## New Jersey's Response to the Coronavirus

By Melissa Castillo

When there were first suspicions of the coronavirus in late 2019, the United States, specifically New Jersey, didn't really take it seriously. It was presented rarely on the news channels and when it was spoken of it was the Wuhan China virus. It was not something that would affect us here in the United States. We do not get pandemics like this.

As the months went by, the coronavirus was practically ignored in many senses until around February and March. During this month, the coronavirus started getting more serious and people were starting to panic because of the increasing death rate. More and more people in New Jersey started getting infected and this is when the government really started taking action. New Jersey was underprepared and didn't expect the coronavirus to blow up to be this huge and because of this the economy, education and everyone's lives have changed drastically.

To begin with, New Jersey's response to the coronavirus was

very late and this caused a drastic, negative change in the economy. Many jobs started closing down, people were getting infected at their jobs, and others lost their job completely. Since less people are going to work, that means less money is being produced, which is of course not a good thing for the economy. It was not until a few weeks ago that Governor Murphy decided to enforce rules that forced people to wear masks and gloves in order to enter a store. Obviously, he was a bit late with that enforcement because many people were going to stores without a mask and were permitted entrance when the coronavirus was already starting to become severe.

Moving on, New Jersey's response to the pandemic in terms of education and schools was very unorganized, to say the least. Students and staff had no idea what was going to happen for the next few weeks so many schools started giving students Chromebooks "just in case," in a very short span on time. Many things were rushed and some students didn't even re-

ceive Chromebooks until a few weeks after the last physical day of school. The last few days at school in Passaic High School specifically, were very overwhelming and messy in general. School calendars kept being changed and many things were being altered, which confused a lot of students and staff. Eventually, things got under control and Passaic High School is finally settled, for the most part.

In addition to this, because of the late response to the pandemic, everyone's lives have changed dramatically. People are afraid to come outside of their house even with a mask and gloves on. Many lives have been taken due to the virus which has destroyed families. Certain people have had to be quarantined away from their families because they don't want to spread it. Schools are closed and many jobs have closed as well. Certain families may not even have the money to buy things they need in order to survive because of the fact that their jobs closed down. The coronavirus has most definitely affected everyone's lives in a very negative way.

New Jersey's response to COVID-19 was very late and unorganized. Lives might have been saved and less affected by this pandemic if the state government took a more active role more quickly. Our state didn't really take the necessary precautions and action until a few months ago when the death and infected rate started increasing at a quick rate. Schools were closed down and remote learning is now taking place. Many people lost their jobs and only essential workers are working now and the economy has plummeted because of this. Certain laws were enforced to slow down the spread of the virus, but not everyone follows those laws which is another issue. In general, everyone's lives changed drastically after this virus exploded and things took a really bad turn because of how late New Jersey reacted to it. If people start sticking to the rules and being mindful of others' lives, eventually the virus will go away and things will finally go back to normal.

## Living Through History

Continued from Page 1

global supply of goods making it more difficult for U.S. companies to fill orders. It also affects workers in affected areas such as reducing labor supply and slows down the demand for U.S. products and services. This has also hurt New Jersey, and Passaic. Jobs are going away, and that means, money is going away. People are hurting and need help to get by.

Right now, during this pandemic, we have to do our part and stay home as much as we can and protect our loved ones and those around us. We should wear masks and wear gloves when we go outside so this pandemic can come to an end.

When this ends, we will all remember thinking at first that this was a joke, then we would be off from school for two weeks, and then the entire senior year disappeared. We can do it, though. We are living through history.



# The Government Took Our Prom

By Adrian Ramos

During the coronavirus pandemic, the role of the government was to keep us all in our house and locked in. They shut down any gatherings of large crowds to contain the virus from spreading. They would also go on to close small retail stores which are now suffering during this time. Another thing that they are doing is that now it is required to wear a face mask covering mouth and nose, and also wear gloves when entering any shopping stores, pharmacies, etc.

All of this is affecting us in some way shape or form, I say this because some people own a family business and they are not able to open their stores to the public which means that they are losing money and also depending if they are a restaurant they are losing money by products going to waste.

Another way that is affecting us would be in our personal ways such as being a senior in high school, we missed out on once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. I do not know of another class who did not have a prom or a graduation. I think the class of 2020 is sadly unique in that

respect.

The government closed down any gatherings of large crowds, which means any concerts, sporting events, schools, graduations, proms, which hurt a lot of us. This is an upsetting feeling towards us seniors and feel it's unfair but see why it can't happen. It's sad because we waited 12 years for this, some maybe more and to now see it all taken away in a blink of an eye.

Many people have a favorite sport for the spring season, and they have worked so hard and trained all they can and now their spring season has come to an end. We as seniors expected the best year of our lives and now it's not happening. Sadly, we have to deal with what is being done and move forward and take the next step in life.

Our government has put in place an order to wear masks and gloves at all times that we go out and into stores. To me it is the new normal. You see everyone in a mask every corner you turn and frankly everyone seems to be okay with it no one looks at your weird or anything it just the new things. Sick people are required to report to the hospital and hope that every-



THELEGACYCASTLE.COM

The venue for last year's prom was The Legacy Castle in Pompton Plains.

thing is well.

Overall the government has been trying to keep us safe and away from the virus but there are also consequences that others have to pay for. This is a time to see how our government can operate during a time like this and show us that they are willing to help us in any way they can even though there can be some controversy.

They do what they can to keep us safe and for the virus to stop spreading.

On a personal level like I said this had affected any students in their last year of high school or college, many of us were looking forward to getting to walk the grass or go to prom, have a senior trip and just experience those moments with the one who we love.

We, the Class of 2020 will not have any of those things that other years have taken for granted. However, we will still have the memories that we made over the twelve years of going to school in Passaic. We will have to cherish those memories and now it is time for us to graduate and then go one to make even more memories. Have a great summer.

## How The Coronavirus was Mishandled by the U.S.A.

By Rosa Gomez

If you ask anyone they will tell you that we are living through and witnessing history. Ten years from now, I am willing to bet that this will be written, annotated, and analyzed in various textbooks worldwide. But not many people will tell you whether the pandemic was handled in a good or a bad way in the United States. Because very frankly, the United States could have carried it out better. How and where specifically did the U.S. fail to keep the Coronavirus as controlled as possible?

While other countries were not more successful at containing the virus, the United States in particular had some faults and missteps. As much as I love this country there are some truths that need to be told in order to work on this nation and keep it flourishing. This is only one of those truths.

First off, not all states issued a stay at home order. What a "stay at home order" means is basically an instruction from the government calling for the state's citizens to remain at home unless it is for necessities and essentials. Iowa, Arkansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota are among those with no order given, despite the uproar amongst citizens calling for it. "Governor Asa Hutchinson, of Arkansas, said that the state will "help cities enforce restrictions on social interaction designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus, but he won't allow them to impose stay-at-home orders."

Iowa's government had decided to reopen movie the-



GOOGLE/KTEN.COM

A crowded group of people gather during Memorial Day weekend at Osage Beach of the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

aters, museums, and zoos, as well as wedding receptions, auctions, and pools, with precautions. Ironically the state of Iowa had also built three new COVID-19 testing sites along with those. "Reopening Iowa: Everything Opening, and Still Closed, in the State Today" KCCI News, reported, "the Iowa Medical Board begging Governor Kim Reynolds for a statewide stay at home order". This statement carries a lot of weight because you know that a measure is necessary when doctors and nurses themselves are the ones telling you something's wrong.

President Trump failed to call for a nation-wide lockdown. Even though President Trump did take some precautions such as restricting travel to and from China, those mea-

sures were just not enough, presumably because the virus had already been spreading inside the United States.

While it is a difficult thing to do, considering how enormous the United States is in terms of landmass, not issuing a nation-wide lockdown left states to decide on their own if it was a measure they wanted to take. Not to mention when as some states were on a state-wide lockdown others took longer to follow suit, which caused the virus to spread as well. This factor along with the lack of testing, was an immediate recipe for disaster.

The Centers for Disease Control within the United States had taken 12 days from when the first case of COVID-19 was announced to approve and ship their own

testing kits, while South Korea had shipped their own in just four days from when the first case of COVID-19 was announced in their country (they had announced their own case the same day as the U.S. did), according to the BBC News.

Testing in the U.S. was also very slow and rare within the first few weeks. So much so, that the CDC had to set specific guidelines as to who exactly got to be tested. They included patients who showed extreme symptoms. Which completely excluded those who were asymptomatic and those with minor symptoms, ultimately exposing even more people with Coronavirus.

The CDC website had the following to say regarding COVID-19 testing on March

31, 2020, "If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, try calling your state or local health department or a medical provider. While supplies of these tests are increasing, it may still be difficult to find a place to get tested."

Which indeed shows that there were initial struggles with finding and getting tests, adding to the mishandling of the situation.

And that leaves me to my third and final point. Citizens are just as guilty as our governors and our president. Many people themselves have been protesting the lockdown as if it was something we can control. They forget to realize that we are all going through the same things and that as much as we all want stores, restaurants, and businesses to reopen, it is still very early to do so. In Missouri there was a huge pool that opened its doors up to people. This specific case along with many others due to the Memorial Day Weekend caused Missouri's cases to soar up to 11,988 cases, up 236 new cases.

As experts have said, the most crucial point in time during this whole pandemic is within the first few days of a breakout. In the U.S.'s case, COVID-19 was prevented too little, too late. We are just now seeing what the aforementioned factors meant for us. Fast forward to this present-day week and we see what a catastrophe it has turned out to be. The coronavirus continues to rampantly spread. With more and more states reopening, many wonder if a second wave is likely. And truthfully, only time will tell.



# Coming Out of COVID-19

By Alexander Manzanares

During this pandemic of COVID-19, a lot of problems occurred to places in New Jersey such as the closing most of the stores, restaurants, parks, festivals, schools, amusement parks and beaches and now the people of New Jersey are not able to go out a lot. The government had a difficult decision to make and had no other choice in doing these things, even though many think it took away some of our liberty.

Since the thought of people going out without masks or gloves means that there would have been more people infected in New Jersey, causing the number of deaths to increase more. Since Governor Murphy decided to close some stores or restaurants in New Jersey a lot of people lost jobs and are unable to earn money since they do not have any job and many jobs are either closed or are not hiring anyone. This is a problem for them.

Even though the governor closed most of the stores and restaurants he decided with the other government officials to give out money to the people and even the NJ Labor department decided to help to and give them their payment. Murphy has said, "Independent contractors and others who are not usually eligible for unemployment insurance benefits will start being

notified of their PUA eligibility today, and the Department will begin making payments Friday." This is saying that they would help those who are part of the PUA and others that are not eligible would be able to become eligible by them and get paid too.

Now that time has passed Governor Murphy decided to open some restaurants and bars but are required to adhere to some strict measures if they want to remain open. According to NJ.com, "Restaurants and bars are open but have been ordered by Murphy to not accept dine-in customer takeout and delivery services can offered on a limited basis and establishment that survive alcohol will be provide a waiver for carrying out alcohol."

This test will tell us that now he have to follow the rules and respect it since we have to be six feet away from each other wearing mask and gloves to avoid any infection.

As the virus kept going and the number of people getting infected or dying from it was rising, Governor Murphy also decided for schools to be closed first for two weeks in order for the kids to stay safe and not get infected. Now they are closed for the rest of the year and we still do not know about summer programs or even next year, though the plan is for schools to reopen as normal in September.

"Murphy and New Jersey school officials are expected to provide more details on getting kids back to school and resuming summer camps and day-care." This is saying that schools will not be open back again soon. We are now in June and students are not able to graduate like others did, which shows that schools being open is mostly likely not going to happen soon.

School will not be open until Murphy decides, so the only thing to do now is for every student to do their work at home and keep learning so they can keep going with their education and be able to go onto the next grade. One day this will all be just a bad memory, though it is more serious for the class of 2020.

Students and stores are affected. During the pandemic in New Jersey, most stores are now finally being reopened. There are strict rules though. Stores are only allowed to be opened for a certain amount of time, so they close a lot earlier than before. As the pandemic of COVID-19 keeps going, some cities still have curfews from 8 p.m. up to 5 a.m. in the morning, so now the schedule of the stores, restaurants and bars have changed so they would have to close much earlier than before.

While many think that it is unnecessary, other businesses that have been severely affected by



GOOGLE.COM

New Jersey's Governor Phil Murphy has issued many executive orders related to the coronavirus pandemic in an attempt to flatten the curve and keep New Jersey residents safe.

the closed business orders are recreational. They have changed a lot, because no one is thinking about going out for fun right now. Anyone who has a business that is related to parks, golfing, fishing and swimming have been finally reopened again, but as before with many restrictions.

The rules from Murphy are as before, social distancing, mask wearing and limited access. "New Jersey state and county parks and golf courses may reopen May 2 in the first major change to the near-lockdown," according to NJ.com.

During this pandemic, going to stores, restaurants or any commercial place has become stricter here in New Jersey, since now I think Governor Murphy decided that only few people can go inside places, like only five or

six at time – even two in small places. When it comes to big places such as Costco, Walmart, Walgreen and Shoprite, at least 10 or 15 people at a time which is something new they do since they don't want any more people to get infected.

Right now not much has changed only that some stores are being reopened again but few people can go in with masks and gloves also schools are still closed and students keep doing work on the computer most people got their job back which now they are able to gain more money but that's pretty much it of what the governor of New Jersey is doing and making his choices.

Only time will tell if these things helped the people or just prevented us from graduating.

## Executive Orders

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Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Providing Critical Short-Term Support for Renters 4/24/20
- 129**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Retired Officer Carry Permits by a period of 90 days until after the Public Health Emergency ends. 4/27/20
- 130**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Allowing Municipalities to Extend Grace Period for May 1st Property Tax Payments until June 1st 4/28/20
- 131**  
Governor Phil Murphy Signs Executive Order creating commission charged with advising the administration on the timing and preparation for New Jersey's recovery from the COVID-19 shutdown. 4/28/20
- 132**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Allowing Electronic Petition Submission and Signature Collection for Initiatives and Referenda 4/29/20
- 133**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Reopening State Parks and Golf Courses 4/29/20
- 134\***  
Governor Murphy Directs U.S. and New Jersey Flags to Fly at Half-Staff in Honor of Former First Lady Debby Kean 4/30/20
- 135**  
Governor Phil Murphy Signs Executive Order Suspending In-Person Requirements for Receipt of a Marriage License and Marriage Ceremonies, and for the Receipt of Working Papers for Minors. 5/1/20
- 136**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Statutory Deadlines for Various Environmental Laws 5/2/20
- 137**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Recognize New Fiscal Realities Due to COVID-19 Pandemic 5/4/20
- 138**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Public Health Emergency in New Jersey 5/6/20
- 139\***  
Governor Murphy Directs U.S. and New Jersey Flags to Fly at Half-Staff in Honor of the 75th Anniversary of V-E Day 5/8/20
- 140**  
Governor Murphy Names Restart and Recovery Advisory Council 5/8/20

- 141**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Mandating that All Local, County and Regional Health Departments use the CommCare platform to Support their Contact Tracing Efforts. 5/12/20
- 142**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Permitting Resumption of Non-Essential Construction, Curbside Pickup at Non-Essential Retail Businesses, and Gatherings in Cars 5/13/20
- 143**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Allowing Beaches, Boardwalks, Lakes, and Lakeshores to Remain Open with Social Distancing Measures in Place 5/14/20
- 144**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Protect Public Health by Mailing Every Registered Voter a VBM Ballot or Application Ahead of the Primary Election 5/15/20
- 145**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Allowing Elective Surgeries and Invasive Procedures to Resume on May 26 5/15/20
- 146**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Reopen Charter Fishing and Watercraft Rental Businesses 5/16/20
- 147**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Reopen Some Outdoor Recreational Businesses and Activities 5/18/20
- 148**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Increasing Capacity Limit on Outdoor Gatherings 5/22/20
- 149**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Allowing Resumption of Child Care Services, Youth Day Camps, and Organized Sports Over the Coming Weeks 5/30/20
- 150**  
Governor Murphy Announces Outdoor Dining Protocols and Process to Expand Premises for Liquor License Holders 6/3/20
- 151**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Public Health Emergency in New Jersey 6/4/20
- 152**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Lifting Limits on Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings 6/9/20
- 153**  
Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Opening Pools Effective June 22, and Opening Additional Outdoor Recreational Businesses 6/9/20

## Write for The Hilltop Star!

Even though we cannot meet in person, we are still publishing online.

If you are interested in submitting an article, please contact Mr. Zeiler by email at [hzeiler@passaicsschools.org](mailto:hzeiler@passaicsschools.org).



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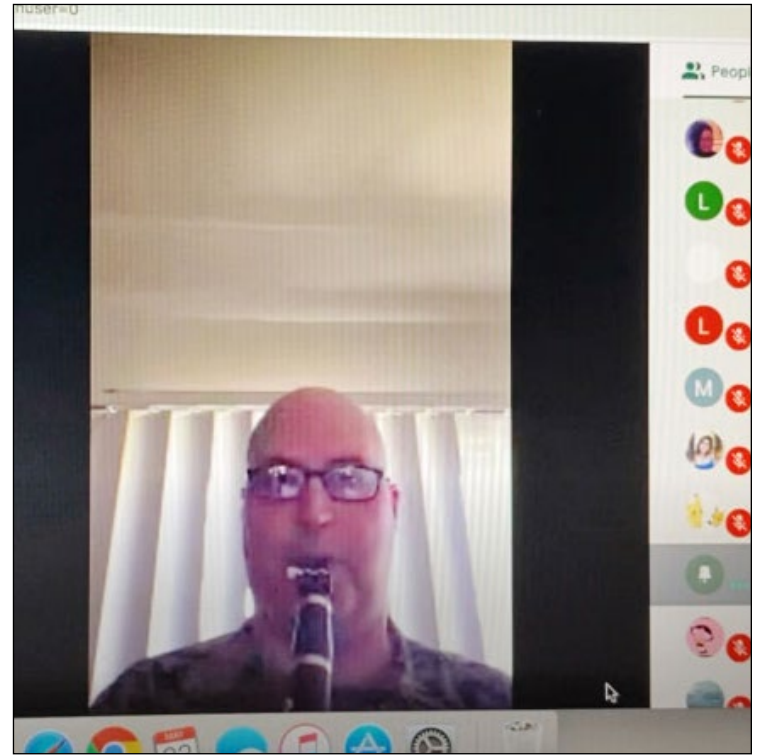
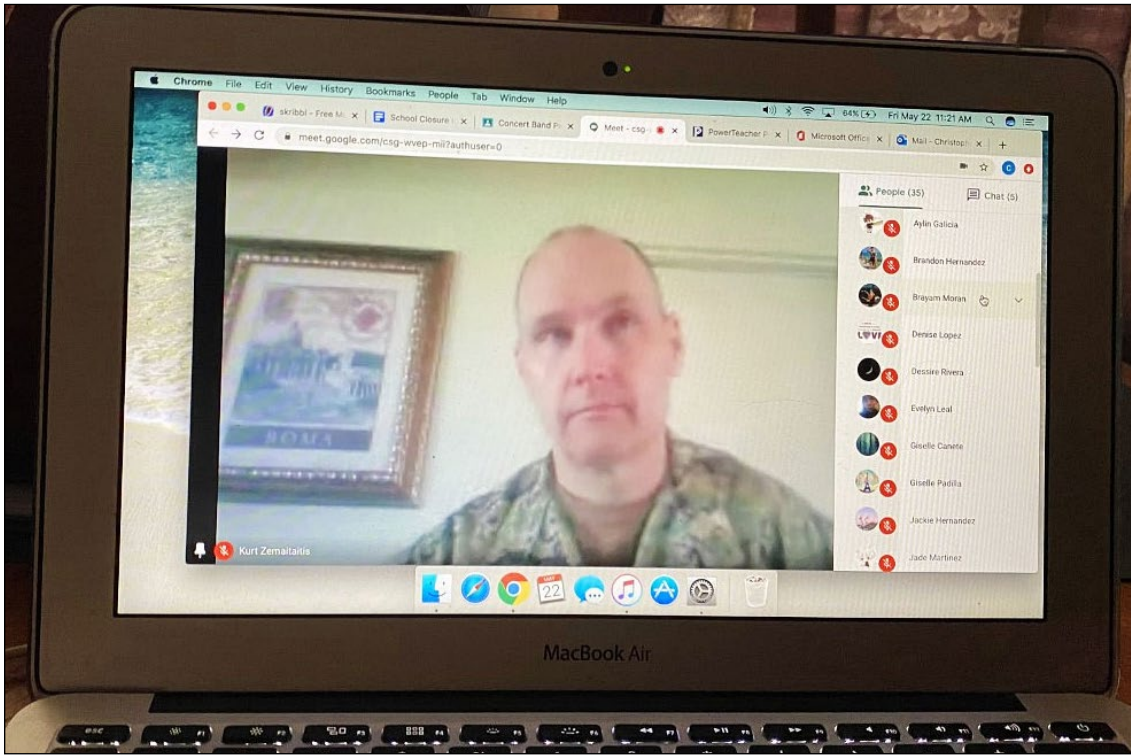
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Hilltop Logo Banner by Danny Rivera

Thank you to the members of the PHS community who have contributed photographs, information, and articles to this issue of The Hilltop Star. Without your help, this publication would not exist. We look forward to working with you throughout this school year! Reach out to Mr. Harris or a newspaper staff member if you would like to join, contribute information, or respond to newspaper content.

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PHOTOS BY MR. RUSCA

U.S. Navy Band members ran a workshop for Passaic Marching Band members. The workshop gave students pointers on playing woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.

# Marching Indians Get Tips from Naval Band

By Doris Garcia

While many of us are home trying to make the best of a bad situation. Maybe some of us are just trying to catch up on work that is due (or past due). However, to be the best it means that there can be no rest. Even though they cannot meet due to the social distancing measures, the PHS Marching Band has been practicing and trying to improve them-

selves, even during the lockdown. They are getting virtual workshops with the highly skilled and respected members of the United States Navy Band. The virtual workshop included members of the band giving pointers on getting the most out of their respective instruments as well as performance techniques and general musical advice.

Many students thought that it was great to just be able to talk

music with true professionals. "These are people who made it, who are doing it, and I just loved learning from them. They were so nice," said marching band member Denise Lopez. The workshop included musicians from all sections of the band including woodwinds, brass and percussion.

The program was so successful that after the school is reopened and we are all back to normal, the

plan is to continue this partnership between the U.S. Navy Band and the PHS Marching Indians. In fact, it was the Navy who contacted Mr. Rusca, director of the Marching Indians. "I think they reached out to us because they knew about us from the NJROTC program," he said. One successful program has created a new partnership in another.

The plan, hopefully, is to have in person workshops next year,

to allow students to get the most out of this new partnership. In fact, the marching band may even get the chance to perform on the U.S.S. Intrepid Museum next year during Fleet Week. The Intrepid is a famous aircraft carrier put in service and fighting in World War II, the Korean War, and also taking a key role in the space program, recovering astronauts and capsules shot into space.

## PASSAIC OPTIMIST

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# PHS STUDENT RECOGNITION



### STAFF MEMBERS

Please take a moment to nominate one student for consideration.

**FOUR GIFT CARDS WILL BE AWARDED WEEKLY.**  
We hope to select one student per grade if possible.