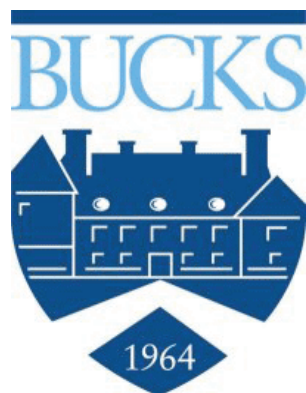


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Local Halloween Festivities Are On

JACOB MAIRONE

Centurion Staff

Don't be afraid to join in on Halloween festivities this year as some are still being held, just be cautious and considerate. Bucks County has yet to give official guidance about the safety of trick-or-treating, but there are still many festive fall functions to attend.

The Lower Bucks Drive-Thru Halloween House Tour, ending Nov. 1, is one example of a safe community events being held. There are 121 decorated spots and seven different suggested routes to take, and one wouldn't even have to leave their car to enjoy. For more information on routes, visit "The Lower Bucks Drive-Thru Halloween House Tour" Facebook event page.

On Oct. 31 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a trick-or-treat trail in Langhorne Borough. Local businesses will be giving out goodies for the trick-or-treaters, and there will also be a costume contest.

Middletown is hosting an event in the municipal building, the "Middletown Drive-Thru Trick-or-Treat Extravaganza" on Oct. 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It's a free event for folks to drive around the Middletown Municipal Center



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

wearing a costume and collect bags of Halloween goodies.

The Bristol fire house is hosting a similar event. On Oct. 31 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., you can pull up to the Bristol fire house and pick up a bag of goodies from the safety of the car.

Peddlers' Village is also holding Halloween events until Oct. 31. While they won't be having their usual trick-or-treating event, costume wearing will still be encouraged, masks required. While

at the event, you can also sign up for the Murder Mystery Walk-in tour.

For younger kids ages 1-12 still wanting to trick-or-treat safely, the Quakertown Farmers Market is hosting their trick-or-treating through the market event on Oct. 24 between the hours of 1p.m. and 3p.m. Masks are required and waiting in line before the event is not encouraged.

Afterwards, the market is having a free showing of the

movie "Goosebumps 2" at 7:30 p.m. Space is limited and guests are expected to bring their own chairs.

If trains are something you enjoy, go to the New Hope & Ivyland Railroad. They offer two events, one for all ages and one for adults, both on trains. The adult ride is focused on scaring the passengers while the "Trick-or-Treat Trains" are designed for children. Masks are required for the train and tickets cost \$49.99,

not including tax. For more information about scheduling a ride. visit the New Hope Railroad website.

Shady Brook Farms in Yardley is still open, offering all kinds of events like hayrides, corn mazes, and pumpkin picking. They also have live music throughout the weekend. Trick-or-treat safely this year!

Movie Theatres Suffer During COVID-19

KAYLA GIDZINSKI

Centurion Staff

Over the last several months, the Coronavirus pandemic has put several companies out of businesses, especially theatres across America.

Earlier this month, Regal Cinemas shut their doors down for the second time since the pandemic, leaving 536 theaters empty once again. Over 45,000 people could lose their jobs as there's no timetable for when Regal will reopen.

Movie lovers have resorted to watching films on streaming services. Netflix has seen an increase in new users from the first quarter of 2020 with 16 million, and throughout the year 27 million new subscribers.

Disney Plus is another major streaming service that's gotten over 60 million new subscribers in less than a year. Amazon Prime is also seeing an increase in subscribers by over 50 million.

With movies moving exclusively to an online platform, will theatres survive the aftermath of COVID-19? Bucks students express their thoughts over the subject matter.

Aidan Car, 19, shared whether he will be attending movie theatres once the pandemic ends.

"I personally believe that theatres will eventually reopen as time goes on. Once they open back up, I'm sure they will do everything they can to take pre-



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

cautions. The use of masks, heavy sanitation, and social distancing will do the trick. If individuals keep up with those three things, there should not be an issue," said Car.

Car is a business major who resides in Doylestown and is excited for cinemas and its potential relaunch, rather than scared.

"Ever since I was a child, going to see a movie was almost a hobby of mine. My family and I regu-

larly spent most of our weekends searching for a new film to watch. It's sad to know many theatres are running out of business due to the virus, though I hope there is still hope for them to open back up soon," Car said.

Katherine Centeno, 19, psychology major, said, "Given the circumstances we are under, it's difficult to predict if the movies will start up again. It appears the coronavirus is becoming worse as

we speak. The number of cases is rising each day and I feel that it is too soon to tell. Also, some people do not follow proper safety measures to ensure COVID-19 will not spread."

As of recent, reported cases of COVID-19 have spiked within the States, more so in more rural states, leaving millions of lives at risk.

"Honestly, as much as I miss visiting the movie theatres, I

don't think I'll be going if they decide to reopen. There's still a lot of people who need to practice avoiding physical contact with one another, hence why cases are rising," Centeno stresses.

Movie theatres are slowly beginning to reopen across the U.S., but because of social distancing protocols, it will be quite a while until we get back to the midnight premiere-packed theatres.

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How COVID-19 & California’s Wildfires Are Affecting Produce



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

PAYTON SCHREIER
Centurion Staff

The high heat levels tearing through California, along with the horrendous impact of COVID-19 has flipped produce departments upside down.

Not only in the area, but other departments around the world are suffering due to the decline in product and incline in demand. Social distancing has forced factories and production out of business. COVID-19 has taken the world by storm, not only in our homes and personal lives, but in food production.

The high heat levels in California causing the wildfires has had a horrific effect on crops. Row crops, which are mostly grown in

California, are foods such as berries, grapes, and stone fruit, are experiencing high quality defects due to the extreme temperatures. Some regions are experiencing 100-degree weather. Other crops being affected are oranges, iceberg lettuce, cantaloupes, and strawberries.

Not only are the crops being affected, but the workers’ jobs and safety. Social distancing has become a major problem for factories, leading to lack of production entirely. Also, because of the high heat, workers must start as early as 3 a.m. in order to beat the heat, cutting their days very short before the afternoon hits.

The crop defects are making

product scarce, even with the added precautions of early morning workers. Ash and soot from the fires are now beginning to settle on some of the crops, such as iceberg lettuce. Along with this comes the question of air quality. The workers continue to suffer, trying to get as much product out as they can, but are also being impacted by the horrid air quality.

Stone fruit calls for warm days and cool nights. These products cannot cool properly because of how high the temperatures are, day and night. There is no longer a cooling period for these fruits, leaving even more damage. This produce then can’t be sold due to the poor quality.

To combat this, crews go out early in the morning and pick the fruit, then store them immediately in coolers.

The quality of these fruits is an issue, but the size of these products are also shrinking. Cantaloupes have begun to shrink in size dramatically compared to their normal bulkiness. Strawberries are also being shrunk down to the point where packaging must be made smaller as well.

COVID-19 has negatively affected the produce departments in the area as well, to the point where some companies had to sign contracts with more producers to keep up with the high demand. Madalyn Hatch, mer-

chandise lead at BJ’s Wholesale Club said, “It affected all of us. We couldn’t even get our own groceries. We would get stuff in and it would just disappear.”

Produce was scarce when COVID-19 first hit. Shelves were wiped clean. With the added loads that eventually came in, it led to quality concerns on how early the product was being picked versus when they should be.

Overall, COVID-19 and the California wildfires have wreaked havoc not only on families and homes, but on the farms and grocery stores as well.



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Politics

After Downplaying the Virus, Trump Catches it Himself

ELIZABETH WATSON

Centurion Staff

The only thing scarier than an aggressive, deadly disease is that disease impacting a powerful group of people.

According to the New York Times, there have been 8.32 million COVID-19 cases in the United States resulting in 221,000 deaths. While a pandemic this deadly seems like it would call for obvious solutions, it instead has sparked very controversial discussions.

President Trump’s reactions to this virus includes him referring to it as the “China virus” and saying the United States “has it under control.”

After months of playing down the severity of the outbreak and hours after insisting that the end of the pandemic is in sight, Trump tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 2.

What many though would lead to a change in the conversation surrounding COVID-19, actually lead to even more polarity.

Justin Weismer, 20, of Doylestown said, “Trump getting it made people more afraid to get it because it shows how even through high positions of power where there’s probably big security measures in place, you can even get it then.”

“I think we should alter social distance rules and that there should be more distance in



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

between people, I think there should be like a 10-ft rule for old people,” Weismer added.

While Weismer thought people would become more cautious after the president contracted COVID-19, others thought differently.

Matt Bowe, 19, of Drexel University said, “At first people were more afraid of it, but now that he recovered many of the people that support him are feeling over confident.”

Maddie Jones, 20, of Doylestown said. “I think that Trump managed to twist COVID-19 into a political issue and so him getting COVID-19 didn’t really affect the fear factor in people but rather solidified preexisting feelings of support or dissent of him as president.”

But Trump wasn’t the only one infected. Due to his positive test result coming out shortly after the first presidential debate, many were worried Joe Biden had gotten the virus as well. Fortunately, his test came back nega-

tive, however, Trump’s wife and son, Melania and Barron Trump, and Trump’s senior advisor Hope Hicks, were not so fortunate.

“A good chunk of government officials were out of commission for a long time, even as far as the Pentagon which completely opened us up to national security threats,” Jones added.

The spread of COVID-19 between government officials lead to a lot of discussion surrounding how exactly the virus gets around.

Deanna Lorraine, a former GOP congressional candidate tweeted, “Does anyone else find it odd that no prominent Democrats have had the virus but the list of Republicans goes on and on?”

As Trump recovered, he used his recovery to prove to the American people that COVID-19 is not something to be afraid of and he believes that he found a potential cure. But with the election coming up, people are questioning whether Trump is being sincere or whether he’s trying to get more votes to save himself this election.

Residents Worry About Mail-In Voting Complications

DAKODA CARLSON

Centurion Staff

Residents of Bucks County are concerned their votes in the 2020 election won’t count due to complications with voting.

The 2020 Presidential election has caused Americans to think twice about voting. Residents have expressed concern of mail in ballots, the new way of voting that was established after a voting reform.

The concern stemmed when President Donald Trump made multiple comments regarding the U.S. Postal Service and mail-in ballots. According to The New York Times, Trump said, “Mail ballots, they cheat,” and “Mail ballots are very dangerous for this country because of cheaters. They go collect them. They are fraudulent in many cases. They have to vote. They should have voter ID, by the way.”

In addition to Trump’s comments, there are also other concerns. During a previous election, the company that Bucks County hired for providing the paper for mail-in ballots provided the wrong size. That made it difficult to scan the ballots.

The county was also pulled into three election related lawsuits. According to Bucks County Commissioner Diane M Ellis-Marseglia, the lawsuits were a waste of “taxpayer and judicial time.”

“I believe they were filed to stir up distrust in the election system. Having said that the court’s ruling does provide us with validity in how to manage the election,” said Ellis-Marseglia.

These lawsuits were filed in federal court against Pennsylvania’s three federal districts, Eastern, Middle, and Western. Each district dealt with a different lawsuit. The eastern district examined the ballots and the lawsuit against Bucks County was dismissed. The resolution to the middle district’s lawsuit was put on hold till after



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

the election. The western district also put the suit on hold. Its suit was focused on drop boxes, and related issues.

The concern regarding the mail-in-ballots were based on “absolutely nothing” according to Ellis-Marseglia and she believes that “it is people trying to cause distrust and fear in the election system.” These concerns were addressed and resolved during the recent meeting held by the Bucks County board of commissioners.

Ellis-Marseglia said there were concerns that the old machines could not perform a re-count, resulting in there being no way of verifying that the machine’s totals matched the actual vote totals.

According to Ellis-Marseglia, these concerns were brought to the previous Board of Commissioners in 2005, when they did not purchase new machines for the elections. Ellis-Marseglia voted

to “purchase the paper ballot machines” that Bucks County began using for the primary election.

Commissioner Robert J. Harvie, the vice chair of the board, recalled that the only concern that was voiced by residents regarding elections in the past was about those old machines.

Residents have also expressed concern over security at the drop off locations. Ellis-Marseglia said this is not something to worry about.

“There will be a camera as well as a sheriff deputy watching the drop boxes to be sure a person only drops off their own single ballot,” she said. “We have put out a video to describe how to mail-in vote so that folks remember to use the secrecy envelope.”

The secrecy envelopes are very important in assuring that the vote is counted. According to Ellis-Marseglia, Bucks County

has a very “meticulous system that is married to the State SURE system, that makes sure people get only one actual ballot mailed to them.”

This system helps to assure safety with your ballot and your vote. “The system logs in a request for mail-in ballot so a person cannot vote in person unless they bring that mail-in ballot to the poll and ask it to be spoiled” Ellis-Marseglia said. “We check identifying information and signatures when we receive a request for a mail-in ballot and when we receive a mail-in ballot.”

According to Harvie, running an election is very complicated. A lot goes into how the county prepares for elections and assures safety. Harvie explained that a lot of work and time goes into the system and making it work.

Under state law, ballots cannot be opened until election-day. Another concern is that if any ballots aren’t sealed correctly, or don’t include a secrecy envelope, the vote may not be counted.

However, if done properly, residents votes will be counted. There is a very meticulous system when it comes to counting the ballots. Harvie stated that there are other ways to vote also, which relieves some of the publics concerns.

The board has done a lot of work to address concerns. There is a specific election portal located on the Bucks County website that when accessed, explains with detailed information about the election and the process of voting.

The board has also been creating and sending out educational and informational videos regarding these concerns. “The board works hard to get info out to as much outlets as we can. A lot of media stories, and news companies,” said Harvie.

Arts & Entertainment

JK Rowling’s Transphobia Controversy

DEAN GUILIANO
Centurion Staff

J.K. Rowling, acclaimed author of the Harry Potter series, has been under fire recently after making controversial comments on the transgender community.

Rowling began by critiquing an article using the phrase “people who menstruate,” stating that the term should be limited to women only.

After receiving backlash, Rowling continued to open up her beliefs further: “If sex isn’t real, there’s no same-sex attraction. If sex isn’t real, the vivid reality of women globally is erased. I know and love trans people, but erasing the concept of sex removes the ability of many to meaningfully discuss their lives. It isn’t hate to speak the truth.”

Rowling added, “I respect every trans person’s right to live any way that feels authentic and comfortable to them. I’d march with you if you were discriminated against on the basis of being trans. At the same time, my life has been shaped by being female. I do not believe it’s hateful to say so.”

Writer Helen Saxby took to Twitter to show support for Rowling after expressing her views. Saxby tweeted, “If we are forced to say ‘transwomen are women,’ women’s rights will disappear overnight, and we are left with people’s rights. People’s rights favor men because men are default people, That’s why we fought for women’s rights in the first place.”

On June 10, she posted a lengthy article titled “TERF Wars.” TERF being an acronym for “Trans-Exclusionary Radical



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Feminist.”

Rowling commented, “Last December I tweeted my support for Maya Forstater, a tax specialist who’d lost her job for what were deemed ‘transphobic’ tweets. She took her case to an employment tribunal, asking the judge to rule on whether a philosophical belief that sex is determined by biology is protected in law. Judge Tayler ruled that it wasn’t.”

This chain of events led droves of social media users to speak out against Rowling’s comments and criticize the author for using her platform to spread such hateful opinions. Many actors of the Harry Potter films, including titular star Daniel Radcliffe, have gone against Rowling in favor of the transgender community

Albert Wilson, political science major at Gettysburg College and

Bensalem native said, “Unfortunately, JK Rowling isn’t the only celebrity who holds transphobic views. But what’s particularly harmful about her is how she goes out of her way to voice her transphobia. It’s one thing to hate, a worse thing to actively voice your hate, especially when you have as powerful a platform as her.”

Nicholas Guiliano, chemistry and neuroscience major at MIT

stated “She’s a bigot in a position of power because of her popularity. Like a less powerful Trump, really. But she did lose fans because of her comments since plenty of her fans were some form of queer or LGBTQ+. Yet she still said it, so she’s obviously meant it.”



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Sports

Eagles Score a Win Against the Giants



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

HUNTER SLEPPY
Centurion Staff

Somehow, some way, the Eagles came back and beat the Giants 22-21 to take first place in the NFC East.

It seemed unlikely heading into the game that Carson Wentz would finally break out and lead his team to a commanding victory Thursday night. Well, he kind of did.

The Eagles started out strong with an early TD run from Wentz, but the defense also had to play their side of the football too.

The Giants had some pretty big plays of their own, courtesy of the Eagles’ defense. Former Eagles

WR Golden Tate had a 39-yard touchdown against the Eagles and channeled his inner Rocky Balboa at the goalpost for the celebration.

The next drive for the Giants didn’t go as planned, as Jalen Mills grabbed an interception off of Daniel Jones. So, how did the Eagles respond after getting the INT?

Wentz threw a questionable pass into the endzone that cost his team an opportunity to add on to their lead, but right before halftime, the Eagles still had a chance to add to their lead. Just a simple 29-yard field goal from Jake Elliott, who’s career long is over 60 yards, was wide left.

Eagles held the lead at 10-7 at the end of the half.

In the second half, arguably the play of the night, Daniel Jones shocked the entire NFL with an 81-yard run that was almost a touchdown, but then he stumbled and fell short of that touchdown. Even though the play has now turned into a meme, Jones ran over 21 MPH, the fastest speed from a quarterback in the last three years.

The Giants would go on then to score on their next two drives and make it 21-10. The Eagles needed to respond, and they did just that after John Hightower caught a 59-yard throw from Wentz and Greg

Ward Jr. scored the touchdown.

The Eagles failed to get the two-point conversion and made it 21-16. After shutting down the Giants, Wentz took his offense back onto the field for a chance to steal the win.

It seemed like the victory was in sight, they were at the three-yard line and the offensive line got a 15-yard penalty after ripping someone’s helmet off.

The next play, Wentz threw an absolute dime into the hands of Boston Scott, hauled in the go-ahead touchdown. Once again, the Eagles went for another two-point conversion, and once again they failed.

They held the lead 22-21, leaving the Giants only 38 seconds and no timeouts to go down the field and snatch it back, but a holding call derailed all of the for the Giants, making things more difficult for themselves.

Two plays later, Brandon Graham stripped the ball loose from Jones, and the Eagles fell on top of it, to claim the victory against the Giants 22-21, and to claim first place in the bad, super ugly NFC East.

The Eagles next game is Sunday night, hosting the battered Dallas Cowboys who are now on their 7th round draft pick for quarterback, on NBC at 8 p.m.

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