

# THE CENTURION

“The Voice of the Students”



@Centurion\_Bucks

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Bucks-News.com

## Dr. Ganther Resigns Early As Bucks President

Madison Kifolo

Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College President Dr. Felicia Ganther announced her res-

ignation last week after just two years in the position. She will officially step down at the end of the Fall 2023 semester.

Ganther attributed her

abrupt departure to personal issues. “The passing of three of my presidential colleagues unexpectedly in the past few weeks and other personal challenges have made me

reevaluate my purpose for the work I do and my life priorities,” she said, appearing via Zoom and reading a prepared statement at the college’s Board of Trustees meeting in Tyler Hall.

Read more on page 5 ...

## NOVA Sextortion Educational Presentation & Panel Discussion at Bucks

Rafael Melendez

Centurion Staff

*Sextortion: the threat to expose sexual images in order to make a person do something.*

The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) held a lecture and discussion panel educating the public about sextortion on Oct. 16 at Bucks County Community College.

Sextortion is a heinous sexual crime that affects both children and adults alike; a sexual crime that is gaining increased attention due to its heightened proliferation in this digital age.

Founded in 1974, NOVA is a comprehensive victim service agency that serves Bucks County and offers trauma-informed counseling, victim advocacy, prevention education for safer communities as well as forensic services for victims of abuse.

The event’s panel consist-

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## FEATURED PANELISTS



**Jamie Pfister**  
Training Coordinator  
NOVA



**Brianna Dion**  
Victim Advocate  
NOVA



**Tory Baram**  
Prevention Educator  
NOVA

## Upcoming Events



**10/26**  
**Savage Sisters Narcan Training/Demo**  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Rollins Center - Solarium  
Newtown Campus

**10/27**  
**Health Sciences, Kinesiology and Sport Studies Day**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Student Commons  
Upper Campus

**10/27**  
**Bucks Dance Club Showcase**  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Zlock Performing Arts Center  
Newtown Campus

**10/30**  
**Department Trick or Treat**  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Founders Hall

## SEPTA Looks To Modernize Its Aging Public Transit System

Christian Grosso

Centurion Staff

A revamped bus network in Bucks County? It’s in the works.

A subway line in Bucks County? Possibly.

A better public transit system in Bucks County? Almost certain.

And it’s all thanks to a recent push by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, commonly known as SEPTA. The nation’s fifth-largest Public Transit Authority is looking to modernize, streamline and make all of its systems in the Philadelphia area easier to use. Some of the initiatives may seem small but will have a big impact.

One is the ability to use tap-to-pay, such as Apple Pay and Android Pay to pay for fares across the system.

WHYY reports that SEPTA rolled out this feature last month to buses, metro lines and trolleys, and will eventually be rolled out to Regional Rail.

This is part of a long-running initiative to update SEPTA’s fare system that saw the creation of the Key Card and elimination of tokens, something transit agencies in other parts of the US had done away with years ago.

SEPTA has also been aiming to make the entire system ADA-compliant. Many train stations, particularly along the Broad Street Subway Line, don’t have elevators or ramps for handicapped people to use. NBC-10 reports that SEPTA inked a \$5.8 million contract in March to make three of these stations accessible.

At most Regional Rail sta-

tions, the platforms are too low for a wheelchair-bound person to enter the train.

SEPTA has been fixing this by rebuilding many stations to have a high platform, which allows someone to enter a train without climbing steps. This includes the Levittown Station on the Trenton Line, which was rebuilt in 2019, according to Levittownnow.com.

For other stations that aren’t old enough to be rebuilt but lack accessibility, SEPTA has opted to install ramps specifically for wheelchairs on the station’s platform, such as at Langhorne Station on the West Trenton Line.

In recent years, the agency has replaced all high-level buses with low-level ones that can lean to the side so people can get on with ease. In February, SEPTA paid

\$863 million for new trolleys on both the inner city “streetcar” routes and the Media-Sharon Hill light rail routes. These will replace the existing 1980s-era cars that are very narrow and cannot fit wheelchairs.

The agency is also undertaking the arduous task of redesigning SEPTA’s wayfinding system. This includes installing new signs that better direct you throughout the stations and terminals, making SEPTA.com easier to use, and improving network-wide maps.

But the core of the project is a complete rebranding of the “inner city” routes. The agency wants to rebrand these lines as the “SEPTA Metro.” The rebrand would include a new naming scheme for the lines that would use a common letter

to represent it.

For example, the Market Frankford El Line would become the “L” line, as many people simply call it “The El.” The Broad Street Line would become the “B” line, and the Media-Sharon Hill lines would be named the “D” lines as they are in Delaware County.

This isn’t SEPTA’s first time using a system like this. From 1984 to 2010, Regional Rail lines used R-# to represent the line, but this was discontinued due to widespread confusion on where the lines terminated.

Of the more costly projects, SEPTA is continuing to revamp the entire bus network that hasn’t had a major update since it began nearly half a century ago. A final proposal was recently introduced with

Read more on page 5 ...



# World News

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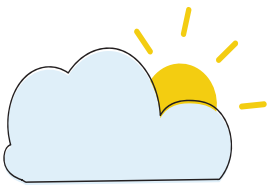
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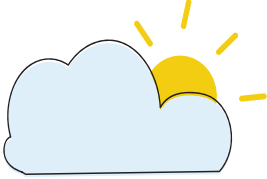
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Weather

Thursday 10/26



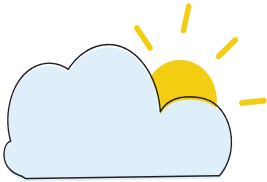
Friday 10/27



Saturday 10/28



Sunday 10/29



Monday 10/30



Tuesday 10/31



Wednesday 11/1



## How The Bucks Community Is Handling the Israel-Hamas War

Leila Kelley

Centurion Staff

Members of the Bucks community expressed their shock and sorrow over the horrific Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel.

On Oct. 7, Hamas launched a barbaric and gruesome assault against Israel. Hundreds of people were killed, and hundreds more were taken hostage.

“The Jewish community is deeply connected to Israel, and many people in our area have family ties there—extended family living there, as well as friends and colleagues—and many people have lost someone, or know someone who has been called up as a reservist,” said Paula Raimondo, an assistant professor in the Language and Literature Department.

Raimondo said her daughter “was studying in Israel when the conflict began. She decided to leave, but she hopes to return in a few weeks.”

Gillian Lane, one of two presidents of the Hillel Club for Jewish students at Bucks, was asked about family members or friends being in Israel, and said, “No blood-related family no, but I have friends that I grew up with over there.” She added, “One of my best friends from middle school’s 16-year-old sister is currently in a bomb shelter in Israel.”

Hamas, officially the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a Sunni Islamist political and military organization that currently governs the Gaza Strip. The group was created in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin who was a Palestinian refugee that at the time was living



Palestinians taking in the damage after an Israeli airstrike on the El-Remal area

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

in Gaza. Hamas has vowed to annihilate Israel and has been on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations since 1997.

In 2007, Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip, violently overthrowing the Palestinian authority. The Israeli government in response used a blockade in an attempt to subdue Hamas. The blockade however only trapped the innocent Palestinians with Hamas and destroyed the local economy within. In response to the Hamas attacks, the Israeli military has vowed to launch a ground incursion into Gaza to utterly destroy Hamas.

As of press time, news accounts estimate that more than 1,400 people have been killed in Israel since the war began, mostly civilians killed in the initial Hamas assault. The United Nations estimates that more than 5,000 have been killed in Gaza, amid intensifying Israeli airstrikes.

Lane said Hamas was “using the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine as an excuse to attack. ... It is important to really em-

phasize the fact that Hamas does not equal Palestine and that the citizens of Israel do not equal the Israeli government.”

When asked about how people can help the innocent parties, Raimondo suggested donating to the American Red Cross as they are a neutral humanitarian agency that helps both the innocent Israelis and Palestinians who are being affected.

Lane suggested going straight to Magen David Adom, Israel’s national emergency, medical, disaster, ambulance and blood bank service, to support the innocent Israelis who are being affected.

“There was always going to be some sort of conflict. It was conflict from the beginning but the bombs and everything else was because no one can communicate,” Lane stated, referring to the inevitability of a conflict between Hamas and the Israeli government.

“It’s scary,” Lane said. “It’s scary for everyone, and with the amount of hate and misinformation being spread around we are en route for World War III and that is so

scary.”

Fears of a larger war had already been triggered by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The growing conflict in Israel has only heightened tensions.

Lane decried the fact that most of the casualties so far have been civilians. “I am so upset by it. The civilians had nothing to do with anything. The single mom and her kid should not be afraid to go to the park or go to the supermarket and they are. Wars should be between the armies only. It should never involve the civilians.”

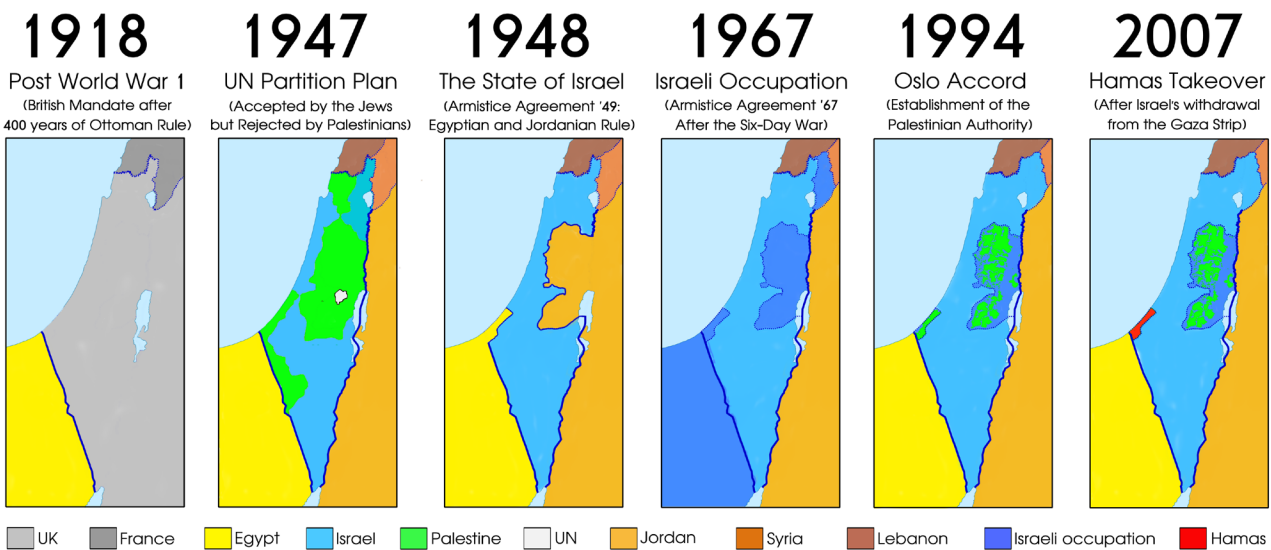
Lane added, “They are just civilians and they fear for their lives because the front lines are on their doorsteps. There are people who sign up to fight for what they believe in. Civilians, however, didn’t sign up for this fight and they are getting caught in the crossfire. Innocent lives have been lost because of the brutality of these attacks; everyone needs to do better in protecting the bystanders.”

Lane also feared that the recent events would spark a wave of antisemitism in other countries. “The racism and antisemitism that this war is breeding is absolutely unbelievable. At the end of the day, we are all people and that’s what comes first. There is no excuse for hatred. Please talk to those you know who may be affected and support them. Now is not the time to spread hate, now is the time to lift people up and support them. I’d also like to state that I am not an expert and I strongly encourage everyone to do their own research and come to their own conclusion before you fall to the opinions of social media.”

Photos and Graphic Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Scenes of destruction and body bags in the streets in Kibbutz Bari, Israel after the Hamas invaded





# Bucks News

## How The Bucks+ App Adds To Your College Experience

**Dante Campana**  
*Centurion Staff*

The Bucks+ program, implemented in 2020, continues to enrich the college experience at Bucks County Community College by informing students of events and encouraging student participation in the various activities held on campus.

The program is accessed through the Sutable app, which keeps track of the events you participate in. By using the QR code reader embedded in the app, you can earn points by scanning codes located at the event locations. Sutable will also keep a record of all points gained and add it to your account.

Maria Ender, a Business and Innovation Department administrative assistant, says that Bucks+ offers a “robust view of upcoming events, tasks and activities that can be completed on your own time.” Bucks+ can also be used to “track your progress in real-time with both the web and mobile applications.”

The convenience of having the mobile app accessible makes it effortless for students to reap the benefits available without having to go out of their way to do so.

The benefits of attending Bucks events are extensive. The cultivation of Bucks pride allows people to meet others who are similarly passionate about the activities they are participating in, allowing for connections to be made with peers.

This interaction with others also develops global and cultural awareness through events informing attendees about new concepts. Personal and professional development is likewise promoted, causing positive physical, mental and emotional changes that will help in both one’s personal and professional lives.

Community engagement is the overarching theme, building communication skills and the desire to interact in engaging social environments. All of these skills can be used one way or another in daily life and are important to develop. Bucks+ can also be helpful in landing job interviews and applications to other colleges.

In general, employers and colleges appreciate having well-rounded individuals with many experiences and involvement in outside activities. Employers and colleges are able to see the activities you have done

in Bucks+, which can be a great resource to prove your individuality in fields that are often highly competitive in nature.

Points gained can be carried over and contribute to programs at other colleges such as Temple University’s Fox Leadership Development Program. This allows

students to get a jumpstart on gaining the points necessary for undergraduates to earn if they consider transferring to other colleges. You can also earn digital badges that can be displayed on a LinkedIn profile.

Bucks+ can be accessed by downloading the Sutable app. In the College Success

Seminar course, it is mandatory to download, but any Bucks student can download it for free as well. Bucks+ is frequently updated with new events, so be sure to check the app daily. The effort invested into your future today will help in the long run.

*Photo Courtesy of BCCC Wesbite*

A promotional graphic for the Sutable app. At the top, the Sutable logo is displayed. Below it, the text "Introducing" is written in a script font, followed by the "BUCKS" logo and "Bucks+" in a large, bold, blue font. Underneath, the tagline "Add value to your future" is written in a smaller blue font. At the bottom, the text "Scan here to download the app" is written in a script font, with a blue arrow pointing to a QR code.



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# Bucks News

## The Taste of Rome at Home: Centurion Ale Exploratore MMXXIII



**Dante Campana**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks has collaborated with Moss Mill Brewing Company to craft its very own beer, Centurion Ale: Exploratore MMXXIII. Dr. John G. Darab, Ph.D. part-time professor of Bucks’ brewing programs, provided some insight as to the inspiration behind the project. During a meeting with the President of Bucks County Community College, Dr. Felicia Ganther, she recommended including “Centurion” in the name of the product to represent the influence of Bucks.

Darab took this idea and ran with it, working hard to formulate a beer loosely inspired around Casta Regina, a Roman city located in modern-day Regensburg, Germany, which was discovered to have the ruins of a malt house during an archeological excavation. Darab states he “started to consider what the characteristics would be of the malt produced at the Casta Regina area” and the “beer produced from that malt.” Darab’s goal instead was to “pay homage to the beer made for the Roman Third Italian Legion” by recreating

*Photo Courtesy of Professor Darab*  
it with other materials to make it more widely acceptable so more people could enjoy it. However, he also says he didn’t make an exact recreation of Casta Regina beer since it “would likely not be palatable to today’s consumer.” Ray Melendez, a 48-year-old Warminster resident and Bucks student had the opportunity to taste the Centurion Ale for himself. He described the flavor as having a “terrific taste that is smooth, mild and light.” Centurion Ale is an “amber ale” with a 5.5% alcohol con-

tent and is priced at \$2.50 for 4 ounces and \$7 for 16 ounces. Melendez highly recommends getting it alongside Moss Mill’s “Spicy BBQ Burger.” Although the inspiration is loose, the steps taken to re-create the drink of days gone by were meticulously done. Aspects ranging from the type of ale yeast used, the body and flavor of the beverage, to the varied color of the malt during the kiln process, all of these aspects were taken into account during the production process. The quality control was greatly helped by the folks at Moss Mill Brewing Company, owned by Nick and Evann Rodgers. Moss Mill Brewing was started in February 2018, and their expertise in the field of brewing helped with the formulation and process of producing Centurion Ale. As a result of all the experimentation, this particular batch was entitled the “Exploratore” edition, marking the initial experimental release of Centurion Ale, and MMXXIII for the year of release, 2023. It stands testament to the hard work that went into it when it stands up to, as Darab de-

scribes, “the harshest critic - himself.” Centurion Ale is a seasonal ale, and Moss Mill plans on continuing to partner with the Bucks brewing curriculum and expects to produce new flavors in the future. The sleek graphic on the can featuring a Roman centurion helmet was the winning design of an art contest held in March earlier this year. It was produced by Susan Alexander of Quakertown and is proudly emblazoned upon the Centurion Ale: Exploratore MMXXIII label. Bucks’ Brewing and Fermentation Science program (BRFS) offers a branch of courses oriented around the art of brewing, allowing new and experienced brewers alike the opportunity to learn more and even work hands-on at Moss Mill Brewing. Even for those who only want to learn more about the fermentation process and the science behind it, these courses are worth considering. Feel free to try out Centurion Ale for yourself at Moss Mill Brewing in Huntingdon and try out the brewing program offered at Bucks if you’re interested.

## NOVA Sextortion Educational Presentation & Panel Discussion at Bucks

*Continued from page 1*... ed of informative lectures from members of the NOVA organization, Jamie Pfister, Tory Baram and Brianna Dion, as well as Detective Lou Bell of the Hilltown Township Police Department. The audience gathered in the Gallagher Room was presented with an informative PowerPoint presentation that brought awareness to the various challenges individuals and advocates face concerning this difficult issue. NOVA’s panelists informed the crowd that sextortion is not a new crime. Before 1997, sextortion typically occurred only in person but, with the advent of social media sites, its frequency increased exponentially. However, sextortion didn’t become a crime in Pennsylvania until 2019. In the summer of 2022, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed HB 2271, or “Lindsey’s Law.” According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape(PCAR), this is a landmark legislative measure that enhances sentencing in cases of sexual extortion where the victim suffers serious bodily injury due to a suicide attempt or dies by suicide after being extorted. NOVA’s panelists went on to highlight the details of sextortion penalties, which

entail increased sentencing and penalties for juvenile victims, as well as examples of both offline and online sextortion tactics. **Over the past year, law enforcement agencies received over 7,000 reports related to online sextortion of minors, resulting in at least 3,000 victims, primarily males. Sadly, more than a dozen victims were reported to have died by suicide.** Attention was brought to the recent case of Ian Pisarchuk, a 26-year-old Bensalem man sentenced to 20 to 51 years in prison for multiple sextortion crimes, one of which led to the suicide of Lindsey Piccone, the catalyst for the introduction of the aforementioned “Lindsey’s Law.” Unfortunately, one in three victims of sextortion crimes are never reported. Bell, a veteran of law enforcement since 1989 who also works as a Forensic Interviewer with the Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center under the NOVA organization, went on to discuss what law enforcement can do as well as the investigative process and its limitations concerning digital forensics.

He brought attention to various social media apps that perpetrators use to access victims such as Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Bumble and Kik, to name a few, and discussed the numerous sordid tactics these perpetrators utilize. Various panelists discussed behavioral indicators in victims, the profound psychological impact of these crimes, and “do’s and don’ts” for social media. Also discussed were effective responses to support victims as well as the immediate response; stop the chat, take screenshots, block the perpetrator’s account and report the crime to the CyberTip Line. Listed resources for reporting are Thorn, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), MaleSurvivor, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) and of course, NOVA. Bell conceded that, while there are numerous resources for reporting such crimes, the willingness of victims to come forward is not easy. He said “Some victims are hesitant to contact the police because they are embarrassed and feel ‘stupid’ that they were conned into sending images of themselves.” “They also are fearful of additional people they don’t know, such as police officers

will see their naked images and videos. We understand the humiliation and reluctance to report, however, one question victims should ask themselves is, ‘if the person who was victimized before I was had reported this, would that have prevented me from becoming a victim as well?’” Bell added. He also discussed the important role parents play in the safety of their children. “Parents have to evaluate the actual need of a child under 15 years old to possess a smart device for everyday, personal use,” he said, “kids always want what their peers possess, and parents want their kids to have everything but they need to ask ‘At what risk are we providing iPhones that can access pornography with a mistyped search word?’” He went

on to “recommend setting parental controls on devices of younger kids into at least their mid-teens.” For those interested in becoming involved with this important issue, Pfister said “One of the best ways to get involved is to help raise awareness. Attend a training, join NOVA’s coalition, communicate with the young people in your life about the concerns of digital safety, or volunteer with NOVA to help spread the word about our vision to eliminate crime in our communities.” For additional information about volunteer opportunities with NOVA, you can visit [www.novabucks.org](http://www.novabucks.org).



*Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons*

**Victims of sextortion can also use this address to report crimes as well as the 1-800-675-6900 24/7 Helpline and text line at 267-323-4545.**



# News

## Dr. Ganther Resigns Early as President of Bucks County Community College

Continued from page 1 ...

But her announcement comes just months after the college’s faculty union, the Federation of Teachers, held a vote of no-confidence in her leadership.

Ganther was the top choice of faculty at the time of her hiring and staff had “expected a strong collaborative relationship but it had not materialized,” Federation President John Sheridan said at the time.

In her resignation announcement, Ganther expressed pride in the work she had done as president. “I have fallen in love with Bucks and am proud of the great strides we have made over the past two years. However, I have decided to transition to new professional opportunities where I can pursue my passion

to work with students and engage them in phenomenal student experiences, bringing the community into the college’s space, and partnering to create a web of support for students who need us the most.”

In her statement, Ganther said the college had seen two years of record levels of philanthropic giving and had secured grants totaling \$4 million.

When she started as president, one of her main goals was to improve enrollment by getting involved with K-12 schools in the area. She said she had “developed an unprecedented and growing partnership with all K-12 Bucks County school districts in which we are not only providing dual enrollment but aligning career pathways and providing es-

sential exposure to students and their parents on how Bucks can serve them now and in the future.”

She was elected president in 2021, and her contract would not have expired until July 1, 2024. She made history as the first Black woman to hold the president position at Bucks.

Ganther’s tenure as president coincided with the Covid pandemic that decimated enrollment at community colleges nationwide. Bucks’ enrollment plunged during this period and the college still faces a multi-million-dollar deficit as it works to boost enrollment numbers.

Photo Courtesy of BCCC Wesbite



## SEPTA Looks To Modernize Its Aging Public Transit System

Continued from page 1 ...

minimal changes from the previous proposal. In Bucks County, many routes would be rerouted, eliminated or shortened, including Route 130 from Buck’s Newtown Campus, which would now end at Neshaminy Mall instead of the City Line Loop in Torresdale.

If all goes according to plan, the new system will be in place sometime next year.

In addition to replacing the Trolley cars, SEPTA is planning on replacing both the 50-year-old Silverliner IV cars on Regional Rail, and the only 25-year-old M4 cars on the Market-Frankford Line that were poorly designed. These cars will take years to build, being expensive and time-consuming.

But SEPTA’s projects and plans haven’t been without issues. In 2017, the agency ordered 45 double-decker cars from Chinese manufacturer CRRC as added capacity on Regional Rail.

According to Philly VOICE, these trains were supposed to be delivered in late 2019, but have been delayed constantly due to the pandemic, and due to a new law mandating that public trains be made in the US. SEPTA last reported that these trains would be delivered in late 2023, but they have still yet to be seen.

The biggest blow to SEPTA came when the Federal Transit Administration denied funding for King Of Prussia Rail, which was to be a branch of the Norristown High-Speed Line. The line would have served commuters in the fastly growing office district in the King Of Prussia area, and the King Of Prussia Mall.

The FTA denied the funding in March due to projected ridership numbers being “sub-par,” averaging only 5,000 riders per day. Billypen.com says that there has been plenty of criticism against the rail line, particularly from transit advocates

who said it would be a waste of money, and better spent on more accessible projects such as the Roosevelt Boulevard Subway.

The Roosevelt Boulevard Subway is a project that has been in the works for over 100 years, but was first canceled due to World War II, and canceled three times afterward due to budget constraints. The line would run along Roosevelt Boulevard as a branch of the Broad Street Line, branching at Erie Station. A study in 2003 showed the line would have daily ridership nearing 124,000, at the time the highest of any proposed rail line in the country.

The line could have a huge impact on Lower Bucks County, as plans have surfaced about the northern terminus ending around the Neshaminy Mall area in Bensalem Township. The mall is currently a hub for multiple bus routes in the area, including routes to Buck’s Newtown and Bristol

campuses.

As recently as January, SEPTA CEO Leslie Richards told the Philadelphia Business Journal that the line was not feasible, “estimating that it would cost at least \$3 billion, money that the regional transit authority doesn’t have.”

But on Oct. 11, SEPTA told NBC-10 Philadelphia that they were working with PennDOT to update the 2003 study on potential ridership numbers. The comments were made at a City Council hearing about the possible subway, where public comment extended over an hour long, with most speaking in support of the new line.

Another big question is, will riders notice these changes? SEPTA is still dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with ridership still down 46 percent from before the pandemic, and many feel the system has become too dangerous to use.

In 2022, NBC-10 high-

lighted the crime epidemic on the system by surveying about 2,500 SEPTA riders, and asking what the agency needs to improve. When asked, “How safe do you feel on SEPTA?” 25.1 percent said they felt “unsafe,” and 23.9 percent said they felt “very unsafe.”

One way SEPTA is trying to combat crime is by recently contacting ZeroEyes AI to implement a system that can detect if a person has a gun using artificial intelligence. The company’s software has been used by other communities locally, including Ocean City, NJ, which implemented the software last month on its boardwalk and schools, according to ABC News.

Regardless of whether or not the big ticket items like the Roosevelt Line or the redesigned bus system come to fruition, you can guarantee that your SEPTA ride will get better, even with the smaller changes.

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash





# Events

## HAPPY NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The start of #pinktober when we show support by wearing pink for those currently going through with their difficult cancer journey and for those we have lost. No rest until a cure is found and more awareness is shown.

RISE



## Bucks Students Explore The Haunted Eastern State Penitentiary

Terrie Blair  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks County Community College students went to the most haunted prison in Pennsylvania, the Eastern State Penitentiary on an educational field trip on Friday Oct. 13.

When students arrived at the former prison located in Philadelphia, first impressions varied with responses of curiosity, intimidation, and excitement. Emily Blair, 19, a Photography major says “The building was intimidating and almost eerie to look at. It looked spooky.”

Forty-five students made their way through the looming gates of the historical prison which opened in 1829 and closed in January 1970 and is now considered the most haunted prison in America. Known for its grand architecture and strict discipline of inmates this penitentiary was a prison designed to instill true regret into its prisoners.

Students were guided through the historical building learning about the rich history and haunting stories of isolation, solitude and segregation. Amy Dobondi, 19, a history major at Bucks said, “Learning about the treatment of prisoners, the children born there, the segregation of prisoners and the problems with our justice system today especially when compared to other countries made me feel somber.”

Students had the opportunity to learn about the justice system and incarceration rates during this trip. With charts being displayed compare America which holds the sixth-highest incarceration rate as of 2023 to other countries.

Another subject talked about how prisons functioned in the past vs the present and the difference between government-owned versus company-owned prisons. Blake Rubin, 18, an education major at Bucks says, “I wasn’t aware of that, it made my stomach crawl thinking about how many



people were probably innocent and sent to jail.”

Afterwards, students saw the penitentiary’s most famous resident cell Alphonse “Scarface” Capone who spent eight months at the Eastern State Penitentiary from 1929 through 1930.

Deborah Hammond, 23, Undecided major at Bucks said, “My favorite part of the trip was visiting Al Capone’s cell. It was easy to see the influence Al Capone had over the prison itself just by seeing how luxuriously his cell was decorated.”

The Eastern State Penitentiary had over 100 people attempt to escape the Penitentiary with Leo Callahan being one of just four people that got away with it. In 1923 Callahan escaped with five other prisoners using a ladder to scale the east wall of the penitentiary.

Emily Sabella, 19, a Nursing major at Bucks County Community College said, “The most interesting thing I learned was how many prisoners tried to escape and that only four were not found.”

With it being the most haunted prison in America it should be no surprise that students felt a chill in the air with Sabella saying, “I think



the place is haunted there was a noise coming from a room where nobody was in, and my one friend who was taking pictures her camera was focusing on something that wasn’t there.”

Even with the long walks and odd noises, students seemed to enjoy the day, with Guljahan Genjiyeva, 19, a criminal justice major saying, “My favorite part of the trip was that I made

*Photos Courtesy of Terrie Blair*

new friends, and the trip made me feel really happy and I really liked it.”

## Comic Section by Connor Sturza





Sports

Men’s Soccer Team Moving Forward After Slow Start

Jesse Fischer  
Centurion Staff

After a slow start to the season and losing most of their returning players, the Bucks men’s soccer coach is confident in his team and their odds of turning around a 1-4 record.

The defending Eastern States Athletic Conference(ESAC) champions have a new look this season. With only four returning players from last year’s conference championship team, there are now plenty of new faces on the roster.

“We’re pretty much starting completely from scratch” Head Men’s Soccer Coach Justin Burroughs stated, mentioning the trials of a young team that’s learning how to play soccer at a college level with new teammates. “We’re starting to see a lot of progress being made with these guys and we’re very confident that we can right the ship.”

Burroughs in his 18th coaching season, praised the players on the team that have really stepped up in the early stages of the season when talking about the progress that the team has made. He mentioned Captain Carlos Hernandez, midfielder Aiden Perry,



defender Chase Ralston, and goalkeeper Jordi Ronal Ambrojo-Uceta.

“These guys have been crucial to our team and have brought excellent leadership,” remarked Burroughs. With such a young team and a lot of new players coming in, leadership has been imperative to the team’s development moving forward and these players have been key.

The team began the season with a 1-4 record through five games with their lone win being a 4-1 win at home over Lehigh Carbon on Sept. 7.

With crucial conference

games coming up Burroughs stated, “These upcoming games are a huge opportunity for us to right the ship.”

These games won’t be easy however, with Bucks being the defending ESAC champions teams seem to have much more of an incentive to beat them. “I believe we’ll have a bit more of a target on our back with these upcoming conference games being the defending top team of the conference,” said Burroughs. “It’s crucial that we match the intensity that these teams bring us.”

With having a young team, the focus right now is holding ground against schools

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with overall older and more experienced rosters.

“We’ll really have to limit our mistakes in these upcoming games” commented Burroughs on what would be the biggest part of turning around an early season slump.

On top of the imperative upcoming conference games, the team is also looking forward to their final game of the season on Oct. 25 on the road against Berkeley College New Jersey, a 4-year school. Burroughs said, “This will tell us how far we’ve come.”

With 10 games left on the schedule, half of which

are in conference play, the men’s soccer team still has plenty to play for. This includes two conference games against both Williamson and Manor College and a second time playing against Central Penn at home with Central Penn winning 3-1.

Upcoming Sports Events at Bucks

10/28 Women's Soccer ESAC Championship Check BCCC athletic website for updates

10/29 Men's Basketball Scrimmage - USCAA#12 p.m. Penn State Schuylkill

11/2 Men's Basketball HBCU Showcase 6 p.m. Community College of Philadelphia

11/3 Men's Basketball Benchoff Tournament 8 p.m. Penn State Mont Alto

Big Help from Bucks County Opportunity Council

Jesse Fischer  
Centurion Staff

The Bucks County Opportunity Council offers a helping hand to Bucks County residents who may be in an unfortunate situation and need aid to get back on their feet.

The Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) is a non-profit organization that helps low-income families in the Bucks area. The organization has four locations across Bucks County in Doylestown, Warminster, Bristol and Quakertown. “It

offers housing programs, food programs, emergency support, and aid to senior citizens,” stated Lee, a staff member of the council. Lee added, “These benefits are offered to Bucks residents only.”

Included in the BCOC program are special programs for Bucks students. Low-income students enrolled in a certification program or degree can qualify to apply for scholarships. The program can also provide students free support for tools such as books and technology

to help complete work for classes.

The program can also deliver fresh food to the homes of those who need it every month. This is just one of the five key programs that can support those in Bucks County. Housing, food, economic self-sufficiency, weatherization and Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) are among the programs. According to the BCOC website, 48,638 people were helped between 2021-2022 with at least one of these

five vital initiatives.

The BCOC has a core belief system on its website stating that they believe that people living in poverty are problem-solvers and fully capable of change.

It believes that poverty is a complicated issue that cannot be helped with a “cookie cutter” approach. The program is prepared to handle complicated situations with the appropriate resources for those who need them.

The website’s about section also states that their

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main goals that have taken a primary focus are diversity, equity and inclusion. These goals are being adhered to with the idea of seeking to eliminate racial inequities and to advance economic stability in Bucks County through reducing poverty.

During the summer and winter months of the year which have much harsher temperatures, the Opportunity Council offers heating services. Lee said, “Heating and cooling are offered to those who are struggling and may be behind on their bills and payments. The council can repair the heating and cooling units for those who need them.”

The BCOC program was established in 1965 under then U.S. President Lyndon Johnson who had created a network of over 1,000 agencies across the U.S. with the goal of combating poverty. The agency has remained strong during its almost 60-year run with its continuing goal of battling poverty and creating self-sufficiency in Bucks County.

For more information on the Bucks County Opportunity Council visit [www.bcoc.org](http://www.bcoc.org) where one can register and apply for any of the programs offered. The BCOC office on campus at Bucks is also open to student services in Office 11 of the Rollins Center. The office is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.





# News

## Hispanic Heritage Month and its Importance to the Hispanic Community

**Cristopher Ramirez**  
*Centurion Staff*

Hispanic Heritage Month commemorates the contributions, customs, and influence of the ever-growing Hispanic community in the United States during Sep. 15 through Oct. 15.

According to the United States Census Bureau, Hispanic Heritage Month started as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 but was extended to a month approximately 20 years after its creation. Both began on Sep. 15 due to the various Latin American countries celebrating their Independence Day on Sep. 15, such as El Salvador and Guatemala.

“It is pretty nice that we have a month where we can reflect on important figures in the Hispanic community and also for the community to get together,” Justin Ayala an 18-year-old computer hardware major expressed his thoughts about his Hispanic heritage, “I believe that these things [heritage] can be celebrated honestly whenever, but I do see it [Hispanic Heritage Month] as a positive, seeing the community coming together. My

heritage shapes me into who I am and I’m proud of it. I love my culture!” Ayala added, “I think it [Hispanic Heritage Month] promotes a good message just like all of these months for specific groups. I think, if anything, it brings many together, and it celebrates the voices in their respective communities and the history in each of them.”

18-year-old Bucks County Resident Angeline Quintero comments, “It’s important to know we have at least a month we are known and appreciated.”

Sam Rivas, a student at Holy Family University, shared similar sentiments, saying, “Hispanic Heritage Month means the recognition of Hispanic cultures and influence. Everyone deserves recognition of their culture and backgrounds.” Says Rivas.

In contrast, Temple University student Adan Hernandez said, “Hispanic Heritage Month is just another ordinary month for me. I don’t think there’s a need for months like Hispanic Heritage Month,” he explains. “If you put the spotlight on a specific group for a month, we bring it back to the issue of race.”



According to CBS News, a study from the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and Unido-sUS showed that while the percentage of Latino public school students in the U.S. has been growing, high school textbooks still overlook a large portion of Latino history.

Chief Diversity Officer at Bucks and Associate Vice President of Community and Government Relations, Kevin Antoine, J.D., stated, “The importance of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month is multifaceted. It educates the public on the sacrifices and successes of

people who identify as Hispanic and the impact they have on the United States and the Western Hemisphere.”

“Hispanic Heritage Month to me means taking pride in my parents’ heritage and appreciating every sacrifice they have made up to this point to grant me a better life and caring for their heritage to future generations,” said Bucks Student Business Major Eric Juarez. Juarez adds, “I think everyone belonging to a specific group that has gone through blood and sweat for a better life should deserve at least a day/week/even month of recognition

*Photo Courtesy of Unsplash*

to know such specific groups’ history and what they have gone through.”

According to data from July 2022 from the U.S. Census Bureau, there are about 63.7 million Hispanics in the U.S., which is around 19 percent of the population in the U.S.

Chris Lopez, a 21-year-old Liberal Arts major from Holland, states, “While these months [about specific groups] are nice things, they drive certain people up a wall-- which is a shame because it turns a nice thing into a hated thing.”

ART THAT

Blooms

LINE • COLOR • FORM

November 10, 11 & 12 • Newtown Campus



Join our art and floral design students as they showcase their best work in this collaborative exhibition weekend. Gorgeous blooms blend with fabulous art throughout the halls of the Hicks Art Center. This special exhibition will feature dozens of stunning interpretative floral displays, incredible paintings, beautiful glass sculptures and rich wood working. The Art That Blooms festival will include a demonstration series from both the Art Department and the Continuing Education Department floral team and students. This festival is free for the community to attend!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Fri., November 10, 6 - 9 p.m.: Invitation Only, Opening Night!

Saturday, November 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.:

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 30-minute live demonstrations at the top and bottom of every hour from both artistic disciplines

Sunday, November 12, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Make & Take Activity for Lil' Buds. Children up to age 15 are invited to make a fun floral craft!

12 - 3 p.m. 30-minute live demonstrations at the top and bottom of every hour from both artistic disciplines

3:30 p.m. Announcement of Winners: Showpiece, Designer of the Year Competition & People's Choice

Throughout the duration of the festival, guests will be welcome to roam the halls of the Hicks Art Center to take in the many floral and art pieces on display.