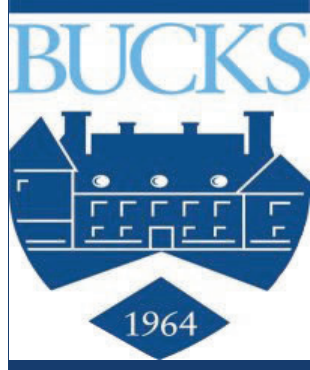


# The Centurion



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## BUX Fest is bringing local talent to the Newtown Campus



By: JUSTIN BIFOLCO  
Centurion Staff

BUX Fest is being held at the Links Pavilion at Bucks' Newtown Campus on Saturday, April 23rd. The free music festival will span most of Saturday afternoon

and evening, beginning at 12p.m. and concluding at 7p.m., it is the first of its kind to hit Bucks since the 70's. The fest, being hosted by Radio Bux, that is headlined by Swift Technique will also feature performances by Last Minute Hero, Fool Me Once, Dirty Purple, Don-

ald Schuler, Jr., Wabi Sabi feat. Kidd Funkadelic, Tiny Giants Club, The Walldos, and Voila. Complete with food trucks, games and other activities, BUX Fest will be an opportunity for all students, alum, and members of the community to enjoy a full day of music, food and games. "[We're looking to] create an outlet for the community to enjoy the talent of Bucks County Community College students and alumni." John Sheridan, Radio Bux club advisor says. Donald Schuler Jr., who is performing, describes his music as "lean crisp mainstream Hip-Hop and R&B." "I am excited to perform for Bux Fest 2016. I went to Bucks from 2008-2009 and I was employed by Bucks this time last year. It's an honor to perform on my old stomping grounds and I look forward to rocking the house!" Schuler said. Damon Hunnicutt of Wabi Sabi also showed great excitement for the upcoming BUX Fest. "Everyone in the band is really excited to have the opportunity to perform at BUX Fest 2016! Wabi Sabi has been inactive for the past three years so we have been hard at work in rehearsals the past month reacquainting ourselves with each other, musically speaking." Hunnicutt describes the music

Wabi Sabi plays and even discusses some of the special guests they will be bringing on stage," Everything that we do we try to keep funky! We have some special guests performing with us at BUX Fest. We have Michael "Kid Funkadelic" Hampton from Parliament Funkadelic fame and the very talented Chelsea Via Cava from the event's headliner Swift Technique." The list of games is endless, everything from bottle ring toss, to cornhole, and even a temporary tattoo station! Benjamin Woodring the General Manager for BUX fest talks about his responsibilities," In this role I am interfacing with administration to make sure everything behind the scenes is in place. I am interfacing with the musicians to make sure they have everything they need. And I'm making sure all of our teams in general have everything they need to be set up for success." Ultimately the goal for BUX Fest is for everyone to have a good time and enjoy local musicians but the radio team hope to succeed with the first BUX Fest, "What we are looking to achieve with BUX Fest 2016 is to make a big splash of music on campus. I've heard plenty of stories from faculty and alumni about how BCCC used to have concerts all the time for all different types of

genres and how it's faded away over the years. So we are ultimately trying to make BCCC a place for local musicians to have an audience which is achieved with events such as this." Woodring explains. There are high hopes for at least a couple hundred people to show up to the festival, but in reality the attendance doesn't matter much since it's the first try, but hopefully this won't be the last BUX Fest. Woodring agrees, "Attendance isn't paramount in this situation because Radio BUX, and Clubs and Organizations at BCCC in general, have a very difficult time getting the word out to the right people. We have exhausted our resources advertising through all possible mediums so we are going into this event knowing we got the word out to as many people as we reasonably could. If the people who attend the event ultimately enjoy the event it opens up the gates for us to have more concerts on campus, and the possibility for BUX Fest 2017." The quad can hold hundreds of people, so bucks students are encouraged to bring their friends, family, anyone that is a music lover that wants to soak up the sun on a spring afternoon and help support Bucks and the Bucks County community as a whole.

## Bucks introduces GradesFirst, the newest advising program



A professor meeting with his student.

By: RACHEL ZABLOCKI  
Centurion Staff

Dr. Clayton Railey III talks about the new advising program called GradesFirst and how it is a better means for communication between students and faculty. Along with Dr. Railey's many goals here at Bucks, advising has always been a top priority, so it's no surprise that a new communications tool has been implement-

ed. After clarifying a legal standing with the Federal Communications Commission, Bucks now introduces GradesFirst as a new way in which students and professors can communicate via text in order to remind students when it is time to meet with advisors. Railey said, "It is primarily a means for communication between the advisor and the advisee. Faculty members can text

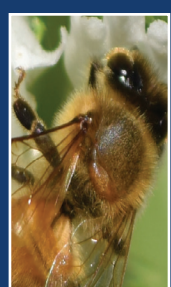
or email the students in order to make advising appointments." The goal behind this new invention is better communication and immediate connection with students. In today's society, the digital age has drastically taken over the ways in which people communicates. With the invention of cellphones and smartphones, most people prefer texting and email over phone calls. However, not all students check their email on a regular basis. Railey said, "A lot of students say they don't check their email, but they are always checking their text messages." Ergo, GradesFirst. Incidentally, GradesFirst is also a means for scheduling appointments, rather than just a reminder for students that it's time to meet and pick classes for the upcoming semester. "Faculty can put in the calendar their availability, in which students can then sign up for a convenient time," said Railey. Along with planning student's future academic semesters, GradesFirst can also help with student's successfully finishing current semesters. With the invention of GradesFirst, advisors can now see midterm and final grades in all courses a student is currently taking. "I find this to be a phenomenal function because it helps to better the conversation, especially for those who are struggling in courses," said Railey. The program was launched Fall of 2015 as a test and will be utilized this spring pending faculty training.

However, not all students check their email on a regular basis. Railey said, "A lot of students say they don't check their email, but they are always checking their text messages." Ergo, GradesFirst. Incidentally, GradesFirst is also a means for scheduling appointments, rather than just a reminder for students that it's time to meet and pick classes for the upcoming semester. "Faculty can put in the calendar their availability, in which students can then sign up for a convenient time," said Railey. Along with planning student's future academic semesters, GradesFirst can also help with student's successfully finishing current semesters. With the invention of GradesFirst, advisors can now see midterm and final grades in all courses a student is currently taking. "I find this to be a phenomenal function because it helps to better the conversation, especially for those who are struggling in courses," said Railey. The program was launched Fall of 2015 as a test and will be utilized this spring pending faculty training.

Railey said, "160 faculty members were trained in the program this spring, and by next fall everybody will be using GradesFirst." Whether this new program will cost students anything, Railey said, "I hope not," as it all depends on students' cell phone plans; though students do have the choice to opt out of texting and strictly rely on email. Moreover, the program will be integrated with a new product that will launch this fall called Navigate. "It will start with new students coming in July, and continue on with those starting in the Fall of 2016," said Railey. He said, "The student planning module will go away and all students will use Navigate as the new tool for academic planning." The link for GradesFirst is found on the portal as an icon bringing those directly to the webpage, and, a single sign on will be adopted. The single sign on has already been embraced, though a few kinks still need to be worked out. Railey jokes, "It's a single sign on again, and again, and again."

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# Bucks News

## Student Government Associatition elections are upon us



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

**BY: GEORGE MEANS AND LAUREN SAVANA**  
*Centurion Staff*

The Student Government Association (SGA) is holding their Election Week from 9:00 am April 25 through 9:00 am April 28, 2016.

The SGA has 10 available positions in the cabinet that need to be filled. Student body President and

Vice President are two of the roles that call for the most attention.

The SGA acts as a liaison between students and leaders of the college. They are looking for new candidates looking to improve their leadership skills, network with staff and faculty, and become the voice of their fellow students.

SGA funds student clubs and organizations, as well as Athletics, student programming, and other areas that benefit the student body

of Bucks.

They are looking for eager and determined students to fill the positions of president, vice president, director of events, treasurer, and secretary.

They also need councilors of student involvement, public relations, clubs and organizations, student advocacy, and a counselor at large. They are even seeking new liaisons for Lower Bucks and Upper Bucks campuses.

The objective of the candidate should be to meet as many students as possible so they can become familiar with the name and face, as well as the person's character and ideas. The prospective candidate should also become familiar with the inner workings of the SGA so that they can better address strengths and weaknesses of college programs.

Requirements for eligibility are basic, allowing almost any student to become a contender. Students are only asked to have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better and to be enrolled in three or more credits.

Candidates are required to complete a biographic data sheet, as well as a petition sheet, and file it with the Student Life Office by April 15.

Running for SGA office is great experience for political science majors and makes an amazing addition to any student's resume.

Current secretary, Razin Karu is running for President as well as Elizabeth Mortimer, current Vice President.

Those that hold their current position in the student government have to give up their position after a year so there is fresh blood in student government. This rule is also enforced to ensure and encourage new students to get involved in their student government, student life, as a way to give back to their school.

It's important for all students to come out and support their school by voting for the candidates for Bucks student government, so make sure to take the time to come out and vote!

All bucks students will get an email notifying when the polls are open, you can vote on your MyBucks page, a notification will be on the sidebar on the portal.

All students have received the application and eligibility forms in the MyBucks portal under "announcements." Students in need of assistance can contact Student Life Programs at 215-968-8257 or Matt.Cipriano@bucks.edu.

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# Job Fair

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## Thursday April 21, 2016

11:30 a.m. to  
1:30 p.m.

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### Linksz Pavilion Newtown Campus

275 Swamp Road  
Newtown, PA 18940



# An enviornmental change needed in a modern world

## Centurion staff takes on environmental issues

BY: JUSTIN BIFOLCO  
*Centurion Staff*

In a world dominated by profit-motive, it may have become all too easy to sacrifice the natural value of the planet we inhabit. Despite the statistical and factual evidence available- not to mention the unprecedented obtainability of that evidence offered by modern technology- we still see dissent and denial on a mass level. This denial, often originating as civil ignorance, is perpetuated by the \_ This collection of stories touch-

es on six issues that are direct effects of the ignorance of man and the decisions we make regarding our environment. This package extensively covers the Paris Climate Conference and its outcome, the dwindling bee population due to climate change, fracking in the region and its effects, a green restaurant owner and her, and the PennEast Pipeline and its financial and environmental implications. The first story in the package covers the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference. The

conference, held in Paris France, produced the Paris Agreement: a proposed reduction of the effects of Climate Change. Another story touches on the decreasing bee population, caused in part by loss of habitat, biodiversity, and industrial farming. The piece also touches on possible solutions to the detrimental issue. Following that article is a piece on hydraulic fracturing or ‘fracking’ and the environmental effects as well the economic advantages it brings.

That is followed by a story about a green restaurant owner in Montgomery County who has made her community a better place while giving back to the environment. Another story tackles the issue of Elcon Recycling. A foreign owned company applying for permits to a build a hazardous waste processing facility in Falls Township, PA. Our final article in the package discusses the proposed PennEast Pipeline, currently slated to cut through 88 waterways and 30

parks across several Pennsylvania and New Jersey counties. Each article represents the potentially devastating causes and effects of mankind’s current inability to achieve both economic prosperity and environmental justice. Let these stories serve as a reminder of the fragility of the planet we inhabit- and hopefully a preface for the change needed to resolve the issue Climate Change and its effects.

## The Paris Agreement: Collective climate control

BY: LAUREN SAVANA  
*Centurion Staff*

On November 2015, in Le Bourget, France, the Paris Climate Conference, officially known as the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) was held. Despite it being the 21st conference, it was the first time 150 world leaders attended this annual conference with a focus on climate change and a shared sense of urgency to save the planet. Over the course of 11 days, every world leader was allotted three minutes to speak. According to an article in the New York Times, written shortly after the conference was held, one of the most important items discussed was, “the atmospheric temperature rising to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. (Since 1880, the temperature has already risen by nearly half that) and the fact that most countries agreed on this broad principle.

However, countries such as, Tuvalu, Kirbati and Micronesia, which could be submerged by rising sea levels in a just a few decades, say the goal should be 2.7 degree’s Farhenheit or less.” Countries that represent 90 percent of the world’s carbon emissions submitted the plan dedicated to reducing emissions, known as “Nationally Determined Contributions.” Unfortunately, several studies have shown that those plans would still allow for a rise of as much as 6 degrees Fahrenheit according to New York Times

A majority of leaders at the conference wanted something that would be “legally binding” for all the countries. The several countries that have been attending this conference since the first meeting in 1979, when it was only the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, were part of creating the Kyoto Protocol, the first step toward international emission reduction. “The Kyoto Protocol was a beautifully written, watertight, fully legally binding international treaty, but it never met its objectives, because it wasn’t ratified by the U.S (during George Bush’s presidency), and not by Russia until it was too late. And none of the countries that failed to meet their commitments under Kyoto have been sanctioned,” Fiona Harvey, a reporter for The Guardian, discussed. Out of fear that any treaty agreed upon at the 2015 conference would end up with a similar fate as the Kyoto Protocol, countries wanted legal documents to be put into place. The new deal that was agreed upon is titled the Paris Climate Deal. “The text of the climate pact establishes a commitment by 195 countries to take concrete measures to reel in planet-warming carbon emissions,” Coral Davenport, of the New York Times, reported. A climate science reporter, Justin Gillis, explains that this agreement tackles the limit of keeping



**John Kerry** the temperature well below the global average. “If that were to be actually achieved, it would likely ward off some of the most severe effects of climate change. For example, though we don’t know the exact temperature, there is a trigger point at which the whole Greenland ice sheet and the West Antarctic ice sheet will melt.” With serious dedication to this part of the document, the world could avoid that trigger point. Another long overdue specific provision included in the Paris Climate Deal is, “policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests.” This is the first time that world leaders are acknowledging, “the role forests play in offsetting human actions. It is a political signal that countries should enact policies that have been developed over the last decade to save the world’s remaining intact forests,” Gillis reported. This deal gives incentives to tropical countries, which will be paid with public and private money if they successfully reduce or limit forest destruction. Another significant issue discussed was greenhouse gas emissions. Coral Davenport, an environmental policy expert reported, “Advocates say this wording sends a clear message to the fossil fuel industry that much of the world’s remaining reserves of coal, oil and gas must stay in the ground and cannot be burned.” Despite this recognition, the

agreement did not state “reaching greenhouse gas emissions neutrality in the second half of the century” as a goal like it did in previous conferences. The language suggested that some fossil fuels can still be burned, as long as the greenhouse gas emissions are absorbed by “greenhouse sinks,” such as new forests. One of the disappointing contributions to this deal was the fact that no specific number was given for how much money would be provided to poorer countries. This makes it impossible for them to keep up with the rest of the world in moving towards more renewable energy. There was a goal of at least \$100 billion a year from richer countries, but this was not legally binding. “Developing nations maintain that even that sum would not be enough to help them...or cheaply enough based on renewable energy sources rather than coal or oil,” reported Melissa Eddy, a Berlin correspondent that attended the conference. Although smaller islands were dissatisfied with the outcome of public funds given to their countries, they were acknowledged for their suffering from the effects of climate change due to the leading contributors of the problem. “Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change,” the Paris Climate Deal states. This is a major step towards acknowledging and holding countries accountable for the damage from the rising global temperatures. In conclusion of the Paris

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS Agreement, all countries are legally required to come back to the conference, “every five years with new reduction targets for emissions that will be evaluated.” Sewell Chan, international news editor, explained that “five-year limits constitutes a tightening of the accord, as some countries, India in particular, had demanded 10-year cycles.” So now, four months after the Paris Climate Conference, which countries have shown their dedication to honor the agreement? According to Climate Change News’ website, a total of 188 countries have submitted their climate plans. Anyone has access to look at each countries specific plan and by what percent they each plan to generate renewable energy, increase forest carbon stocks, cut emissions, etc. April 22 is the first day the United Nations accord will be open for government signatures. The Paris Agreement will only enter into legal force when enough countries have signed. Collectively the signatures have to make up 55 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. On March 31, the New York Times reported that President Obama and President Xi, China, announced together they would be signing the Paris Agreement on April 22. They are making a statement of joint resolve as the world’s two largest greenhouse gas polluters. There are doubts that the U.S will be able to hold up their end of the Paris Agreement due to a recent Supreme Court ruling against President Obama’s climate policy for the U.S. The Supreme

Court ruled that, “the regulation curbing greenhouse gas emissions will not be put in place until legal challenges by 29 states and several business organizations have been resolved, which is unlikely to happen before next year,” Coral Davenport, New York Times reporter stated during Obama’s and Xi’s meeting in Washington. If Obama’s regulation were to be put into place, the U.S could cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26 percent, from the 2005 levels, by the time we reach 2025. Besides the Supreme Court having doubts in the U.S holding up their agreement, here at Bucks, biology professors, like Caryn Babaian, are also apprehensive about the progress the U.S is making towards a better environment. “There seems to be a trend of ‘change without change,’” Babaian discusses. In Babaian’s opinion, the only people that are really committed to making a change are the ones that are seeing the repercussions up close. “When people are distanced from the problem or don’t make the connections between the planet’s health and their own, they tend to postpone any change. If you’re a beekeeper than you see up front the idea of colony collapse. Likewise, if you’re an islander you experience sea level rising. It all comes down to how well the people drafting the laws and voting understand the dynamic, interconnectedness of planetary life, including their own and their grandchildren’s.” If there are significant strides made towards curbing the rise of the world’s temperature the results would be substantial. “Reducing carbon emissions would be beneficial for human health, disease rates would drop, air quality would dramatically improve, so it is a win-win situation but no one can predict how the earth will react, and in what way to our continued actions,” Babian explains the biological aspect. She continued, “We can estimate some of these things but there are far too many moving variables, and such enormous complexities that are far beyond our scope of understanding. We cannot even predict what our actions will do to our health or to future generations and their health.” Ultimately the fate for the role of the U.S in the fight against climate change will fall to the next president. Candidate Hilary Clinton has pledged to take part in the Paris Agreement, while Republican candidates, Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, have openly denied the science of climate change. Trump outwardly denounced the Paris Agreement as a whole. The following months are detrimental not only for the fate of the U.S., but also for the entire world’s environment. Will we join the collective fight against climate change, or continue to ignore the scientific evidence of the world’s rising temperatures?



# An enviornmental change needed in a modern world

## Local Landownners are speaking up about the PennEast Pipe Line

**BY: JUSTIN BIFOLCO**  
*Centurion Staff*

Local landowners in several counties along eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey may find the intentions of PennEast and their proposed gas transmission project- The PennEast Pipeline- very concerning.

In November of 2015, the Obama administration rejected the Keystone Pipeline, a proposed oil pipeline running from Alberta, Canada to the southern United States. Despite this victory for environmental activists- a group whose victories may seem few and far between- a new opponent has arisen. This time, the fight is the backyards of many families and businesses who call Bucks County and the surrounding counties home.

The opponent: PennEast Pipeline.

PennEast Pipeline is comprised of several energy companies, including AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, PSEG Power; SJI Midstream, Spectra Energy Partners, and UGI Energy Services (UGIES).

The PennEast Pipeline, a 118-mile, primarily 36-inch diameter, natural gas pipeline, is being currently proposed to run through Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks County in Pennsylvania, as well as Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey.

The purpose: reducing energy costs

The pipeline will operate as a method of transportation for natural gas. According to PennEast, local families and business will benefit via greater access to affordable, clean-burning natural gas.

“Had the PennEast Pipeline been in service only a few years ago,” Kornick disclosed. “Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey electric and natural gas consumers also would have saved more than \$893 million in energy costs during winter 2013-2014.”

Of course, the creation of thousands of jobs in the process is an obviously desirable externality.

“The design and construction of the PennEast Pipeline is estimated to generate an approximately \$1.6 billion economic impact during its construction phase alone,” says Kornick. “Supporting about 12,160 jobs and an associated \$740 million in wages.”

These figures are derived from a study PennEast had conducted by Drexel University and Econsult Solutions.

What does all of this mean for the local communities being effected? From a purely financial stand-point: potentially great things.

According to PennEast and their studies, the intended outcomes are, in a simplified manor, as follows:

Lower energy bills result in increased consumer disposable income. This then leads to increased spending within the economy.

According to the Drexel study, for every \$10 million in increased disposable income resulting from lower energy prices would generate a total economic impact of \$13.5 million and support 90 jobs.

Despite the seemingly well-intended monetary benefits of this project, not everyone shares the same level of confidence that the laying of the PennEast Pipeline won’t result in detrimental effects to the local land.

Enter: Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline.

Among those fighting against the pipeline is an organization dedicating to spreading the word of the environmental- as well as monetary- costs of PennEast’s proposed pipeline. The CCAP, or Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline, is fueled by local land

and homeowners, environmental activists, and all-around alarmed citizens who fear what allowing this pipeline may mean for their community.

“The environmental devastation this pipeline would cause is staggering.” Elizabeth Balogh, a founding member of the organization, says.

Balogh has spent time in the past working towards environmental justice with her work in anti-fracking groups. But when it comes to the PennEast Pipeline- the fight became personal.

“The pipeline will be going through the Delaware River just outside of the town that I live in. Says Balogh. “It will cross the Delaware canal and towpath where thousands of people cross each year.”

Balogh and others are working to provide the public with information about the environmental effects of the Pipeline.

“First of all, it will be crossing 88 watersheds. Many of these watersheds contains streams that are of ev1 or C1 quality, which means they are of exceptional water quality.” Says Balogh.

PennEast is currently in the Application phase of the FERC review process. FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) is the federal agency responsible for regulating the sitting of interstate pipelines.

However, in order to obtain the land necessary to build under, PennEast will need the use of eminent domain. This means temporarily seizing private land from local residents.

“Once a pipeline is placed underground, landowners may use their property – including for farming -- as they had prior to construction, with the exception of building atop a pipeline or planting trees on it.” Says Kornick.

But just exactly what are the “anti-pipeliner’s” fretting over? After all, in accordance with FERC’s regulations, the pipe is required to be at least three feet underground. What dangers could arise?

“Just imagine a pipeline, 36 inches in diameter with 1480 pounds of pressure going through it continuously in order to pump the gas.” Balogh warns. “That pipe will always be a temperature of 98 to 114 degrees Fahrenheit. At all times. In the winter you will be able to see the pipeline’s path because no snow will collect along the path. The ground will be that hot. How long do you think it will take to diminish a watershed, even dry it up?”

The environmental worries are not exclusive to the pipeline itself, but also the infrastructure that will be needed to be put in place in order to keep the pipeline operating.

“In Kidder Township, Carbon County, they are planning to build a compressor station that is 47,700 Horse power.” Balogh claims.

But why the worry?

Well, typically compressor stations of this size emit 169.68 tons per year of nitrous oxide.

Additionally, they emit approximately 392.4 tons per year of carbon monoxide, 1.89 tons per year of hazardous air pollutants, and 3.75 tons per year of sulfur dioxide- and resulting in a total of 238,116 tons per year of greenhouse gases a year.

These figures come from taking the emission numbers of a 9,500 HP compressor station currently being built in Easton, PA, and multiplying by 2.4 (equal to a 46,800 HP compressor station) to adjust for the magnitude of the proposed station.

According to the CCAP, the location for this compressor station is in the middle of a pristine forest where many “of concern”

and endangered species inhabit- including the flying squirrel, bald eagles, bats, etcetera.

“No less than 40 acres of mature trees will be felled in order to construct this poison spewing infrastructure. So where once existed a naturally oxygenating area, there will be one that spews pollution in its stead. These are the few examples offhand that I can give out of many that will happen.” Warns Balogh.

PennEast, however, believes that environmental security and affordable energy are not mutually exclusive.

“PennEast is committed to environmental stewardship and has teams of highly qualified professionals -- including health and safety specialists, engineers, biologists, geologists, and archaeologists -- dedicated to minimizing impact on the community and environment while allowing for safe construction and operation.” claims Kornick, adding that already 2.6 million miles of pipelines across the United States exist harmoniously among rural and urban areas alike.

When pressed for the measures PennEast plans to take to ensure that no environmental costs will be made, the spokesperson spoke confidently.

“PennEast has spent the last 19 months evaluating numerous environmental and socio-economic factors critical to developing the best route and measures that will minimize impact.”

According to Kornick, these factors include public water supplies, wetlands, protected and preserved areas, threatened and endangered species, and wildlife.

As part of the FERC process, PennEast also must submit a comprehensive plan regarding what mitigation and restoration techniques will be implemented.

“In addition to the restoration plan, PennEast has developed an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, as well as a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan. The plans are part of the application before FERC, which also will have a third-party monitor to oversee construction and ensure compliance with permits, regulations and industry best practices.” says Kornick.

The CCAP, however, is convinced the intentions of PennEast are not as advantageous for the local community as they say.

“Very few homeowners along the pipeline route will see one atom of this gas. The gas going through this pipe is meant for other regions, not ours, so the idea that anyone whose land would be taken, or whose communities would be disrupted would benefit from the gas is a straight up lie.” Said Balogh,

Furthermore, despite assertions from PennEast denying the intentions of exporting natural gas overseas, the CCAP is not entirely convinced.

“Many of us believe that the gas will eventually go overseas where they may fetch more money for it than they do here. In the past year many laws have been either loosened or done away with in order to facilitate this very thing.” Balogh says.

Additionally, the CCAP warns that the consumer may bear the burden twice cases- thanks to an accompanying caveat policy

put in place when the PennEast Pipeline was first proposed called “Cost Recovery Mechanisms for Modernization”.

“That policy, which went through, means that pipeline companies may charge ratepayers for the entire cost of building the pipeline. This means they really have no outlay, no risk, etcetera, because all of the costs of building the pipeline will be made back by charging you, me, the entire region higher rates for their electricity and gas.” Urges Balogh. “No one but the private corporations behind the PennEast pipeline will profit from this.”

PennEast feels confident that the consumers will benefit greatly from the move to lay the pipeline.


“While some people might be opposed to natural gas development, the majority favors the use of safe, clean and affordable natural gas to heat their homes on a cold night and provide the electricity to recharge their phones and power their air conditioners, lights, computers and televisions.” Kornick states.

Pending regulatory approvals, PennEast anticipates the Pipeline will be operational the second half of 2018, rather than late November 2017. Construction will take between approximately seven months and one year. Nearly every town along the route have passed a resolution against the pipeline.

For more information regarding the PennEast Pipeline and the campaign against the pipeline please visit [www.PennEastPipeline.com](http://www.PennEastPipeline.com) and [www.Stoppenneast.org](http://www.Stoppenneast.org), respectively.


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# Enviornmental

## Falls Township Residents React to Elcon Recycling Plant Project



The Delaware River

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA.COM

BY: TERRELL GREEN  
Centurion Staff

Falls Township residents are speaking up about the Elcon Plant Project that is trying to be developed in Falls Township.

Elcon is trying to develop a hazardous waste treatment facility at the Keystone Industrial Port Complex in Falls Township.

Many local residents are angered with the possible project and are beginning to speak up about it.

Elizabeth Pfile, 25, employee at Giant (Oxford Valley Road), resident of Falls Township reported that she does not agree with what Elcon is doing.

“Have you seen what the Delaware River looks like now? Its already in bad shape,” said Pfile. “This plant is not going to make things better, it will only make it worse.”

The Elcon industry reportedly said that the plant they plan to build will discharge untreated waste to the Delaware River and spew all kinds of deadly toxins into the air.

Among the toxic chemicals discharged by the plant are arsenic, mercury and benzene.

Cameron Kline, 20, student majoring in journalism at Shippensburg University, is another Falls Township resident and reportedly, is concerned about the Elcon project.

“I just don’t think it’s safe,” said Kline. “Putting hazardous waste into the Delaware like that, it’s wrong and they know it.”

Jake Bernard, 21, student majoring in business at Jamestown, resident of Falls Township reported that he heard that the plant will be good for the Township.

“I went on their website and found some pretty interesting facts,” said Bernard. “From what

I saw, the plant will be far away from Delaware River and will not harm anyone.”

On Elcon’s website, [www.elcon.com](http://www.elcon.com), they reportedly stated that the facility that would be built will be located on 22 developed acres of a larger 33 acre property inside the Keystone Industrial Port Complex in Falls.

In addition to this, they also reportedly stated that the planned facility would be roughly one mile away from the river and no treated water would be released into the waterway.

Matthew Peterson, 20, employee at GameStop ( Oxford Valley Road), resident of Falls Township reported that he is ok with the plant being built.

“It seems to be an ok project,” said Peterson. “I think people have to go to their website and look deeper into the project. Realistically, it isn’t hurting anyone or anything.”

One fact about Elcon that has residents concerned is that 596 of harmful chemicals will be released from their facility and drop in what many believe to be in the Delaware River.

Courtney Balmer, 42, stay at home mom, resident of Falls Township reported that she is a strong supporter of not letting Elcon bring in their plant.

“I completely disagree to whatever Elcon states to people,” said Balmer. “They are a bunch of liars and only plan to use us as another resource to dump their hazardous toxins.”

Around Falls Township are numerous Elcon signs with a big red circle surrounding it, telling people to not support Elcon.

The Falls Township Board Committee remains silent in their position within the matter.



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# An enviornmental change needed in a modern world

## Local restaurant owner changes community & environment



Earth Day Ad posted in Tex Mex Connection

BY: LAUREN SAVANA  
Centurion Staff

As I sit down at the bar I wait just a mere moment for the whirlwind that is Jane Keyes, the owner of this bar, the restaurant above it, and the houses surrounding it, to talk about her life and how she came to be a powerful business owner, passionate environmentalist, and hero to many in her community.

Jane grabs a bar stool next to me, exhausted from another day of running around the restaurant. Traveling from her 25-acre farm in Quakertown, to come deal with payroll for the week, count the drawers from the bar last night, or whatever other tasks need her attention.

Jane gives off the vibe of a weathered goddess; hues of blonde run through her hair, shimmering blue eyes, while rocking a vintage bohemian blouse and supporting the latest sandals she picked up on her latest trip to Italy. Though starting this restaurant on her own 31 years ago, the two kids that she had along the way now help make this restaurant run. Cyle 35, her son, is now the front of the house manager and is destined to take over the operation, when Jane takes a well-deserved step back from Tex Mex. Katy, 32, also growing up in the Tex Mex environment since she was a rugrat, working as one of the first servers. She now has her own graphic design company but still manages to bartend a few nights a week.

The bar Jane and I sit in, most recently renovated, is North Wales' diamond in the rough. The newly gray paneled floor and the 15-foot-long wrap around bar takes up most of the area, with an expansive hand painted sun done by Katy. A desert-themed wall of lizards, tumble weeds, and bison skull, also done by Katy, and one of the longtime bartenders, ironically nick-named, Texx, transports patrons to the Southwest. The exterior of the building sticks out like a well designed sore thumb, on the corner of Walnut and Second streets. Its walls of orange and blue with mosaic patterns make Jane's statement, saying to all who drive or walk by - "Hey we're Tex Mex Connection! Come on in!"

As you take a trip up the stairs to the dining room, you enter a foyer with tiled floors, always a set of freshly arranged flowers and the faint sound of Mexican guitars coming from the stereo. As you enter the front dining area, there are hand-painted chairs from Mexico covered with sun figures and parrots, another whimsical addition that sets Tex Mex

apart from the typical Chilies' chain.

Though a smaller dining room, for most it gives the feeling of being in your own home, adding both warmth and a sense of comfort. Some of the servers have been a part of the Tex Mex family from day one, serving regulars for so many years, that they've witnessed kids growing into adults, marriages and families forming. The theme song from 'Cheers' comes to mind..."where everybody knows your name..."

Butch, a local, comes in at 3 p.m. on the dot everyday and sits across the bar from Jane and I. "I've been coming here for 25 years, I sit in this same chair, and though I've watched the look of this place grow and change, I never felt out of place sitting down right here, enjoying my frosted mug of Budweiser."

Besides the mom and pop bakery, a breakfast joint, gas station, and local biker bar, North Wales Pub, informally known as Mike's, is really all there is in this quaint town. Tex Mex has become a staple for all the locals to have a watering hole with some of the best liquor prices and authentic Mexican food with a Texan spin.

"I never intended to start a restaurant, no one believed I could do it, but that just made it all the more worthwhile," Jane tells me over a Tito's and club, her eyes never breaking contact, an attribute that makes her strong - and maybe even intimidating - to those who don't know her. Her toughness helped her build this restaurant from the ground up, and has kept it going for 31 years. As you get to know the enigma that is Jane Keyes you learn that her heart is just as big as her ambitions; she will and has given the shirt off her back to those in need.

Jane was born in Philadelphia with two loving parents, Millie and Bill Keyes, who are still part owners of the beloved Tex Mex. She spent her early years growing up in Bucks County. Jane attended Temple University, majoring in business, but eventually left to travel the country. "It's a good thing I left, who knows what would have happened if I ended up staying here for my degree," Jane reminisces. Things could have turned out a lot differently.

Jane met her first husband, which led her to move to Dallas for her husband's work. She traveled throughout the Southwest, tasting authentic barbeque cooking and traditional Mexican style cooking. "I didn't understand why I never had food like this on the East Coast," Jane continued. Aside from the typical fast food quesadilla from Taco Bell, Jane realized there were no restaurants selling authentic Tex

PHOTO CREDIT: KATY KEYES

Mex cuisine and she wanted to make that a possibility in her neck of the woods.

So, Jane headed back east, with visions of her own Tex Mex menu, serving her friends and family, and being involved in something significant in her community.

"My dad and cousin bought the bar when it was Davis's bar and grill, turned it into North Wales Junction, where it was a typical shot and beer bar. I convinced them to let me have the dining room that was not even being used." Jane describes how it all started. "There were just a few tables and we were only open for a couple of hours for lunch on Thursdays. Within the first day I knew I was way in over my head."

Jane couldn't have started it all on her own. "Our signature house dressing, my mom just came up with that one day. Someone ordered a salad one day and I realized, oh shit! We don't have any salad dressing. She threw some ingredients in a bowl and it became our well-loved Southwest ranch."

It was the same with the Tex Mex Connection staple of homemade salsa and chips, all recipes that were made off the cuff, simply because Jane realized there was a void to be filled.

Once a few North Wales citizens spread the word of how wonderful the enchiladas were, The Reporter, a local newspaper, wrote a feature piece about Jane running a kitchen and dining room all on her own. So the quaint, one-person restaurant started getting some attention.

"Once the article came out, things changed forever," Jane said. The dining room could no longer cope with the amount of business flowing in. So they bought the house next door, ripped it down, turned it into a parking lot. Then, she bought the apartments upstairs and turned them into the dining room.

As the business grew, the staff did as well, which brought new menu ideas and new concepts of how to make Tex Mex Connection a part of the town of North Wales and Montgomery County. One of the most compelling components of Tex Mex that makes this restaurant stand alone is the simple fact that it is a scratch house that uses no frozen, artificial products brought in from a truck. Everything is made by a group of talented, hardworking chefs who dedicate time and patience every day to making the Tex Mex menu authentic, fresh, and flavorful.

With Jane's new power in the community her first decision was to adopt the plot of land directly across Walnut Street. Jane turned

the little stretch of dirt and rocks across the street into Walnut Street Park. Flowers were planted, a bench was put in, and the park is now maintained by the Tex Mex staff. This was one of the first steps Jane took into making North Wales a place where people wanted to be.

The most famous and loved events Tex Mex holds every year are the Tiki Parties. A charity event that started with just a party in the parking lot with Cyle and a family friend, slinging drinks and flipping burgers. "I still remember, they got their asses handed to them." As the years passed, more planning went into the event. Now the parties have expanded, with a live band, a cover charge that goes to charity, food, and drinks, all with a tiki theme. There are five parties starting with Cinco De Mayo, ending in August that have become woven into the summer fun in the North Wales Community.

"I wanted to become involved with a local environmental cause, when a friend told me about the WVWA." Jane first became involved with the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, which is now Tex Mex's largest beneficiary. The WVWA is a non-profit land trust that protects the quality and the beauty of the Wissahickon Creek. WVWA has worked with landowners, local municipalities, Montgomery County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to preserve and improve woods, meadows and wetlands in the Watershed. Jane is overjoyed to be involved with an organization that has had such a tremendously positive effect on the local environment.

Jane started organizing a Tex Mex 5K, where all runners who

the environment. "I knew how hard it would be to maintain a restaurant without harming the environment," Jane continued, so she started the very rigorous process to becoming a Green Star Certified restaurant. To be a Green Star Restaurant there are seven environmental categories she had to succeed in - water efficiency, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable durable goods and building materials, sustainable food, energy, reusable and environmentally preferable disposables, chemical and pollution reduction. You have to reach at least 100 green points to gain two of four stars. Tex Mex Connection reached three stars within two years. There are about 27,000 restaurants in Pennsylvania, and only seven are Green Star Certified. Tex Mex Connection is one of those, something Jane, and the whole Tex Mex family, is extremely proud of.

It's a given that someone so passionate about having a significant impact on the environment would celebrate Earth Day and use it as an outlet to educate the community about what is happening to our planet. Earth day for the Tex Mex family always was viewed as an opportunity to have people bring in their old computer batteries for a free margaritas. This Earth Day will mark the first party Jane will be throwing. Party for the Planet will run the same way as the Tiki Party, but besides a celebration, Jane has set up demonstrations of how to plant certain native plants, and how reusable water basins can be extremely helpful in saving water. There will be drop off locations set up through out North Wales where people can bring plastic bottles, cans for example to dis-



Janes Keyes and son Cyle Hall

PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN SAVANA

pay to be a part of the run have to put together a team, get sponsors and raise at least \$1,500. Jane throws a private drink/dinner party for the winner. The whole parking lot is closed down for the race, and it's an entire day of music, drinks, food, and fun for the whole community. This is a 100 percent charity event, staffed by volunteers, with food and drinks donated by Tex Mex. The money raised goes to the charity that Jane chooses. 2016's 5K will now be the 27th anniversary of this event, and in total Jane has raised over \$700,000 for the Watershed and also for charities such as the North Penn and Indian Valley Boys and Girls Club, an organization dedicated to supporting children and young adults in disadvantaged circumstances

Keyes always wanted to have a significant role in conserving

pose of the properly

The jukebox came to life with the classic ballads of Patsy Cline, "Hold on I'm going to just need a minute, I don't think I can hold a conversation while 'Crazy' is playing." Jane says, as she closes her eyes for just a moment. I take a minute, sitting next to her, letting the sultry voice of Cline wash over me. It's almost cathartic. Moments like this remind me and prove to those that are lucky enough to witness, how Jane Keyes is a kindred spirit. A unique, fiercely witty, and bright woman that redefines what giving back to the community really is. Keyes will continue on that path by any means necessary, savoring every moment on the way, while singing alone to Earth Wind & Fire and maybe some Stevie Wonder too.



# An enviornmental change needed in a modern world

## The rapid decline of the honeybee: Time for a plan bee



*Honey Bee on flower.* PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM  
**By: LAUREN SAVANA**  
*Centurion Staff*

Over the past century there has been a radical and unprecedented decline in the populations of honeybees.

Bees are a vital organism as the primary pollinator of native plants and cultivated crops. Their steady decline is a desperate cry for help to the ones destroying their population, humans.

The Journal of Natural and Environmental Sciences (JONAES) reported that from 1945 to 2005 bee colonies have decreased from around 6 million colonies to less than 3 million colonies.

It's more than just the U.S. The honeybee is disappearing globally. There has been a 25 percent loss of commercial honeybees in Europe since 1985 and a 45 percent loss in the UK since 2010.

Bees are responsible for pollinating around 70 percent of the world's crops.

JONAES conducted a study

sive, slow, and extremely costly.

From an economic standpoint "bee's pollination work has been estimated around \$298 billion annually, worldwide," GreenPeace reported.

Not only do the bees support human food consumption, they work for humans, playing their essential role in the ecosystem.

There are several major causes for the rapid bee decline. The first and most detrimental being insecticides.

Since the early 1990s these chemicals, as the name indicates, are designed to kill insects. They have become widely applied in cropland areas, more specifically genetically modified crops.

Genetically modified farming is constantly creating stronger and more lethal insecticides as insects attempt to build a tolerance to these chemicals.

"It is becoming increasingly evident that some insecticides, at concentrations applied routinely in the current chemical-intensive agriculture system, exert clear, negative effects on the health of pollinators – both individually and at the colony level," Green Peace reported.

Climate change also plays a major role in the global bee decline. The loss of habitat, biodiversity, and lack of forage directly threaten honeybees and other pollinators.

For the bees that do serve the insecticides and destruction of their habitat show severe physiological effects. "This occurs at multiple levels, and have been measured in terms of development rate, and malformation rates," BBC News reported in their article Bee decline linked to falling biodiversity.

The time it takes for a bee to

reach adulthood and the time it takes for cells to produce inside the hive are slowing.

David Aston from the British Beekeepers' Association explains how the loss of diversity in plants and food may be connected to the bee decline.

"If you think about the amount of habitat destruction, the loss of biodiversity, that sort of thing, and the expansion of crops like oilseed rape, you've now got large areas of monoculture; and that's been a fairly major change in what pollinating insects can forage for."

Aston explains that if bees don't have access to a variety of pollens their immune systems weaken, causing bees to have less of a survival rate.

There are many solutions to help stunt the bee decline. Action needs to be taken on a global and, maybe even more importantly, on a local level.

There is an urgent global need to stop chemical-intensive industrial agriculture and to move towards ecological and organic farming. "Ecological farm ensures healthy farming and healthy food for today and tomorrow by protecting soil, water and climate, and promotes biodiversity," GreenPeace states on their website.

Ecological farming doesn't contaminate the environment with chemical inputs like pesticides or genetically modified organisms.

Throughout Europe, ecological farming is widely used. Experienced farmers, scientists, and eco-entrepreneurs are all dedicated to ending the bee population decline with supporting their own beehives and planting native plants in their backyards.

There are plenty of people in

the U.S doing their part as well. At Bucks there are students that are dedicated to being a part of the solution. Mal Thomas, 19, from Plumsteadville, has started keeping her own bees once she learned about the issue.

Buzzing Across America, an organization of 200,000 beekeepers, are also playing their role in helping with the bee population.

One of those members, Lauren Nemuth, owns several acres in Bucks County with over 300 colonies. She says, "We need the bees just as much as they need us. I'm happy to help them, no matter how small my contribution is. If everyone contributed something, we could make a huge difference."

Caryn Babaian, a biology professor at Bucks, gives her opinion on how we can all be apart of helping the honeybee and the environment as a whole, "I think we will have to use less and innovate more and become more creative like nature, giving back, not just taking. Ecological systems have to renew themselves and we are not giving them that chance."

Babaian gives a final piece of advice. "I have a friend who raised monarch butterflies and other species last summer. She let her yard and garden go 'native,' and it was shockingly beautiful with dandelions, clover, queen's Ann's lace, and of course milkweed, and it was amazing to see how quickly the pollinators returned. The health of the soil returned, wildlife and birds returned, and the web in that small space brought itself back and reemerged whole. If everyone did this, it would be an actual change you could see and relate to."



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# An enviornmental change needed in a modern world

## Fracking in Pennsylvania raises concerns among citizens



A drilling rig and ‘fracking’ protestors.

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

BY: JAHMEELAH WILSON  
Centurion Staff

Hydraulic Fracturing also referred to as “fracking” is a technique used to extract natural gas, and has become equal with all things gas drilling. It involves shooting water, sand and a mix of chemicals at high pressure deep into a wellbore to help split the shale rock and release the gas that lies tightly squeezed into the rock. But is fracking an opportunity or danger to our environment?

According to energyshale.org, the Pro-Fracking website claims that, “Hydraulic fracturing is safe and well-regulated by federal and state agencies. Fracking technologies and processes continue to be improved, guided by industry standards developed from experiences in the fracking field and which undergo rigorous review before adoption.”

The pros of fracking are, that there are enough fossil fuels locked in bedrock shale formations under American soil to make the United States energy independent, and a net exporter of oil and gas, in the near future.

By tapping into those energy sources, it would allow the United States to become less dependent, economically and politically, from countries such as Venezuela and the Middle East.

Fracking allows access to alternative sources of fuel, it reduces surface toxicity, lowers energy cost, and provides more jobs.

In 2012, the oil and gas industry in America employed more than 1.2 million people, which further increased due to fracking.

Because fracking can be done within local jurisdictions, it will also decrease a city or country’s dependency on foreign oil. But with oil prices plummeting, fracking can shake the oil and gas industry and the entire economy.

BanFracking.com states, “Each gas well requires an average of 400 tanker trucks to carry water and supplies to and from the site...It takes 1-8 million gallons of water to complete each fracturing job and approximately 40,000 gallons of chemicals are used per fracturing.”

In fracking fluid alone, there are up to 600 chemicals that are used such as lead, uranium, mercury, ethylene glycol, radium, metha-

nol, hydrochloric acid, formaldehyde, and carbon disulfide (CS2).

The Shell Oil Company issued a US Patent #8097230 on January 17, 2012 on the subject of Carbon Disulfide stating, “Carbon Disulfide is known to be a suitable solvent for enhanced oil recovery by miscible flooding. In enhanced oil recovery by miscible flooding, a solvent for oil is introduced into an oil reservoir and driven through the reservoir to increase oil recovery from the reservoir beyond what can be achieved by conventional means.”

According to EPA.gov, the short term effects of carbon disulfide exposure to humans are alarming, the agency states, “Short term exposure to carbon disulfide to humans causes changes in breathing and chest pains. Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, fatigue, headache, mood changes, lethargy, blurred vision, delirium, and convulsions.”

Sam Bernhardt, 29, Senior Organizer of Food & Water Watch, an organization that stands up to large corporations and advocates for all people to have access to the resources they need through clean water and sustainable energy.

On the topic of fracking, Bernhardt stated that, “Fracking is a danger to our water supply, our most precious resource...” he continued, “it is a danger to the air we breathe and can cause serious health complications, and it is ultimately contributing to climate change.”

The issue is not only the process of hydraulic fracking but that only 30-50 percent of the fracturing fluid is recovered, and the rest of the toxic fluid is left in the ground and unfortunately, it is not biodegradable, causing the chemicals to enter the water system.

This past Monday, presidential candidate Bernie Sanders spoke heavily on the subject of fracking in Binghamton, NY during one of his rallies. Ignited by the crowd, with poise, Sanders made it be known, that New York had officially banned fracking.

Sanders stated, “What you have done is proved to the world that when people stand up and form a grassroots movement of the environmentalists, public health advocates, farmers, working families, and religious leaders, there is nothing that we cannot

accomplish...what may have considered unrealistic or pie in the sky just a few years ago has now been achieved in New York because you made it happen and that is how real change always occurs when people stand up and fight back.”

Prior to New York officially banning fracking in its state, Vermont was one of the first states in the nation to ban fracking. And just last year, Maryland imposed a moratorium—a temporary prohibition, on fracking until 2017.

On Jan. 20, 2015, Governor Tom Wolf signed an executive order banning the practice of hydraulic fracking in Pennsylvania state parks and forests. The order reversed the policy implemented by the former Republican Governor Tom Corbett, where he made it legal for the practice of fracking to be done.

Molly Lichtner, 22, the former President of Eco-Club at BCCC and Conservation and Wildlife major stated, “There is so much progress that is being made in the

goal to ban hydraulic fracking as a whole, but there is so much that needs to be done in order to terminate this practice...” She continued, “It is important to contact your state legislator and get involved because in the end it affects all of us.”

If you are interested in getting involved to end fracking in Pennsylvania go to <http://www.paagainstfracking.org/> to sign up.





# Bucks News

## BCCC Receives a grant from PECO for restoration project

By: **BROOKE KOBLE**  
*Centurion Staff*

PECO has provided Bucks County Community College with a \$10,000 grant to support a habitat restoration project, beginning this spring, in Tyler State Park serving indigenous birds, butterflies, and plants.

Two of the three habitats will be planted in the beginning of spring with the help of PECO staff, Bucks students, and other community volunteers. Ramona Riscoe Benton, PECO Corporate Relations director was noted saying, “This habitat restoration demonstrates our ongoing commitment to helping our communities protect and improve green spaces across the Greater Philadelphia region”.

The first two habitats spread over a one and a half acre area at the main entrance of the park. These habitats will be planted with milkweed plugs as well as native seed mixes.

The third but largest habitat, which is about 10 acres, will be located on the western side of the park. This habitat will take about

five years to fully restore.

A few key components of all three of these new habitats include avoidance of insecticides, native milkweed to provide food for monarch caterpillars, and a mix of native flowers with different bloom times, including some overlap in the blooming, to ensure a stable food source for the butterflies.

Being that this is a large restoration project, many groups of people have partnered up in helping out with it. STEM instructor Michael Bernarsky is leading the project with the park manager Brian Flores. Many others are involved as well such as Bucks’ Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics department, PECO, the community, and Tyler State Park.

Michael Bernarsky was quoted saying, “This project presents our STEM students with a unique opportunity to father, report, and interpret actual scientific data, thus providing insight into how much information becomes scientific knowledge in their textbooks”. He also said, “PECO’s financial support of our project has provided the launch pad toward making these opportunities



for our students a reality”.

It is noted that PECO is spending \$15.3 million over a five year span to help protect and preserve everything green.

These three habitats are part of the nation-wide effort to save the monarch butterflies. Over 12,000 habitats are registered

through MonarchWatch.org which is a research program based at the University of Kansas. Their mission is to educate the public about monarch butterflies’ biology and migration, as well as how to use monarchs to further science education in schools.

Park manager Brian Flores

mentioned that “this habitat-restoration project will enhance the park’s natural resources and provide additional opportunities for the parks’ environmental education program and park visitors”.

Later in the spring there will be a formal dedication of the habitats.

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# Bucks News

## Tibetan Monks visited Bucks to give a glimpse into their culture



A collection of photos from the production of the mandala.

PHOTO CREDIT: TONY ROGERS

**BY: CHARLES DINGMAN**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks hosted Tibetan Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery for a week-long glimpse into their culture from April 4 to April 8.

The monks created a sand mandala – a large sand sculpture used for prayer. The event drew people of all ages and faiths to the Solarium to witness something that most had never experienced.

The cultural pageant on Tue. April 5, filled the Zlock Center and left people in awe from the amazing choreography and music.

Highlights of the event included

the Snow Lion dance, which symbolizes freedom, as well as the Yak dance, representing strength and playfulness.

Prayers and a debate among the monks were also featured, and were warmly received by the audience.

The Sacred Art Tour by the Drepung Gomang Monastery has been rolling through the United States for about a year. They share their culture, performances, and prayer in contribution to an ultimate goal, world peace.

The head of the tour and senior member, Geshe Tsewang, talked about what lies ahead for the monks.

“This is the second year, we

started last July. Next, we are going to New Hampshire. In June, we go back to India,” Tsewang said.

Tsewang became a monk at 11 years old and joined the Drepung Gomang Monastery in 1986.

The Drepung Monastery was invaded by Communist China in 1959, leading the monks to lives in exile in India. They have done all they can to preserve their culture and provide support for their community during times of need.

Their appearances in the United States have brought light to these issues. Many would not otherwise be aware of the situation.

The event at Bucks was organized by Peter Chiovarou, the

Director of Community Programming & College Events. He was impressed with the amount of interest the monks attracted.

“I was extremely happy with the response we received. We had approximately 450 visitors per day in the Solarium, and had a full house for the Cultural performance,” says Chiovarou.

The Solarium saw a number of interested visitors not only for the creation of the sand mandala, but for the various gifts and clothing available for purchase.

Continuing with the themes of kindness and compassion, the monks who were a part of the Sacred Arts Tour “gave a gift to Bucks for the college’s recogni-

tion and unstinted support to the Drepung Gomang Monks,” said Chiovarou.

Chiovarou has “been receiving multiple emails and phone calls after the monks’ visit from attendees who are thankful that the Cultural Affairs Committee brought this to the community and students.”

With such a positive reception toward the Drepung Gomang monks, Bucks will be working to have them return next year.

“We hope to have the Monks back when they tour the U.S. again in fall of 2017,” said Chiovarou.

## Bucks Business Association hosts second annual Business Etiquette Dinner

**BY: GEORGE MEANS**  
*Centurion Staff*

When she asked her friends if she was always serious, a unanimous “yes” came from all of the club members. Elizabeth Lightkep, president of the Bucks Business Association, has always been about business. Elizabeth’s mother, Claire, confirmed that she was “all business all of the time.”

At the age of eight, Lightkep was already playing the role of a businesswoman. On a camping trip in Ocean City, NJ, she made her dad take her to KFC, over and over again, because they had something called “laptop lunchboxes” at the time. That particular vacation, LightKep spent all of her free time in their RV talking on her fake phone, with her plastic laptops open around her, pretending that she was a business lady.

Lightkep admits that she has been organizing things every since she was little girl. She has always been crossing her T’s and dotting her I’s, and now, as a business student, she’s learning to watch her P’s and Q’s.

On the evening of Thursday, April 7, the Bucks Business Association hosted their second annual Business Etiquette Dinner where about 40 people, both students and staff, were taught how to properly navigate their way through a delicious three-course meal that was catered by CulinArt.



A group of staff and students at the Buissness Etiquette Dinner.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE MEANS

The evening began in the Lobby of Tyler Hall with a chance for all attendees to get free professional headshots taken. Once inside, everyone was sat at an assigned seat in front of a place setting that was far more sophisticated than the typical knife, fork, and spoon setup.

The evening included speakers such as, local business leaders Patrick Zuccarini, of River

Restoration LLC, and David Witchell, of David J. Witchell Salon in Newtown. The business department unveiled the professional makeovers given to the two winners of the second annual “Dress for Success” essay contest. The 300-word essay asked one question: “How can making a good first impression aid you in reaching your business goals?” Maddvnn Towle and Ryan Alv

came out sporting their new hairstyles and business suits, compliments of their makeover packages, estimated to be up to 1,000 dollars each.

The informative presentation called “You Can Outclass the Competition” was given by business etiquette expert, Deborah Firth. Attendees learned “basic guidelines to make it more comfortable for you.” Firth explained,

“Take the path of least resistance, but keep it comfortable. It’s more about being kind and considerate.”

Everyone was taught basic manners from greeting to eating, simple tricks to memorization, and even given brief history of silverware. Originally silverware was worn on a sheath as a part of one’s garment.

The BBA Secretary Arseni Sutton, 19, explained the importance of these events, “It gives people the basic knowledge of how to properly conduct themselves at a formal business event.” Sutton mentioned how students often forget the information that they retrieve out of their textbooks, “This is useful. You can implement it in the real world,” Sutton added.

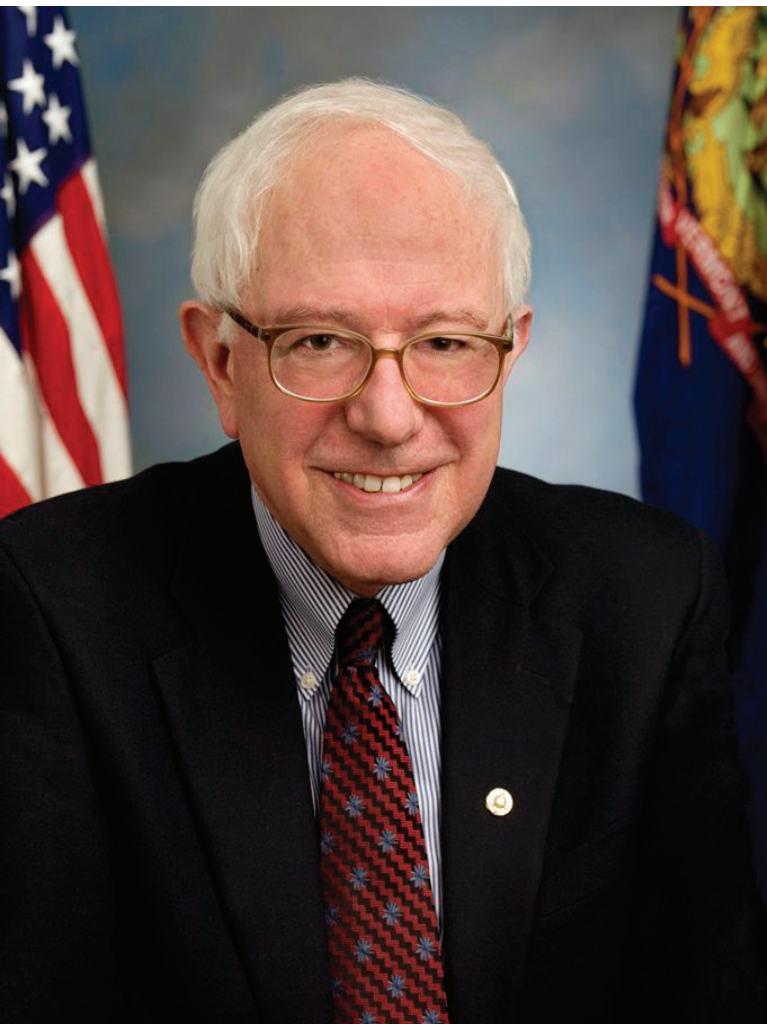
Lightkep believes that it is very important, “to help business students successfully navigate a three-course meal,” and plans to keep this as an annual event offered each spring semester. Sutton says that he is determined to better advertise next year’s event in hopes of attracting student’s from other majors.

In “The Taming of the Shrew,” Shakespeare wrote, “Frame your manners to the time.” The rules of etiquette are unwritten and have to be adjusted as time goes along, but it is good to know the basics because a person can only effectively improvise, as long as they have a reference point to start from.



# National News

## Battle begins for Pennsylvania’s youth voting demographic



*Photo of Senator Bernie Sanders*  
**By: JUSTIN BIFOLCO**  
*Centurion Staff*

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

With Pennsylvania’s Primary process set to begin on Tuesday, April 26th, candidates from both sides of the political isle are relying heavily on young and first voters.

The voter registration cut-off period for the General Primary was March 28th. What that means is anyone not currently registered with the party of their choice will not have the ability to cast a vote in the Primary election. The way the state’s primary process is set up, the winner- regardless of how much they win by- takes all.

“Pennsylvania has 20 electoral votes, one of the largest states. And if the Republican or Democratic candidate wins by only one vote, all 20 electoral votes will go to that candidate.” Rawley explains.

With the 2016 political landscape marked as the year of the outsider, Democratic nominee hopeful Bernie Sanders and Republican nominee front-runner Donald Trump have benefited greatly by the sudden surge of new voters entering the political process.

However, reaching younger generations in an age dominated by social-media and smartphones means utilizing mediums different from the ones used to reach your grandfather’s generation.

“We have used Social Media to get the word out about the party,” Brad Cooper, volunteer for the Bucks County Libertarian Party, says. “Basically using different avenues that most of the older parties do not use. [We’ve] been to voter registration drive and talked to students about Ron Paul, Gary Johnson and the Libertarian Party.”

Political Parties and organizations have taken to the streets (or more likely high school and college hallways) in protest against the trends of apathy in today’s youth when it comes to politics.

“We hold Candidate forums for elections, prepare Voters’ Guides with info on candidates, and prepare contact information on legislators so citizens can contact their legislators with their concerns”, said Madeline Rawley, a member of Bucks County’s League of Women’s Voters. “We run voter registration events at high schools and colleges. We have been at all three branches of Bucks Community College in recent years Remember that we vote for Electoral College delegates.

While reaching the youth vote is considered difficult across the board, conservative parties

financing this education should be split three ways. One third from the state, one third from the county and one third from student tuition. Yet now students are paying about 50% and the state and county split the other 50%. Rawley spoke out. “In general, college tuitions are becoming astronomical. Students are accumulating huge amounts of debt. And when they graduate, jobs are hard to find.”

“Environmental changes that many scientists are saying that sea rise from melting Arctic ice might many of our coastal cities by 2050, strong storms, droughts, can cause water and food shortages, etcetera. The old folks will have passed on – and the young will need to deal with it.” Rawley

went on, explaining the environmental effects of current policies- attempting to rile up the younger voters.

With so many young people staying home on Election Day, it begs the question why such an important demographic feel no desire to play their part.

“When I have been at Community College registration drives, some students have replied that their vote would not make a difference, that all politicians are the same.” Rawley says. “An increase in the number of young voters voting could make a difference.”

To further push the issue of the importance of youth participation in the election process, Rawley spoke about the “bellwether” nature of Bucks County.

“Here in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, voters could have a greater impact on the winner because Bucks County is known as a “swing county” because there is such a close difference between the number of Republican and Democrats, and we have so many voters. “


The Primary process is set to culminate in late July, with the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention being held in Philadelphia and Cleveland, respectively. Pennsylvania’s Primary and the 20 Delegates along with it can be a huge factor in the process of deciding our next President.

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# Sports

## Men’s golf comes in first place at the Bucks Invitational

By: CARLY PENDERGAST  
Centurion Staff

The BCCC men’s golf team is off to a great start in their spring season with a first place finish in the Bucks Invitational at Five Ponds golf course.

In only their second match of the spring season, our men’s golf team hosted seven different schools at the colleges very own invitational.

The invitational is decided by stroke play; this means that each school adds their best four scores from their four best players to determine a team winner.

The Centurions difference between the second place finishers, Delaware, was eight strokes.

Their final tally was 324, Delaware finished with 332, and the third place finishers, Harrisburg, tallied a 335.

Head Coach, Scott Bradshaw, spoke on the team’s victory saying, “It’s a total team victory, and it takes four good scores to win.”

Three of those fours scores came from Kyle Henofer, Shane McIntyre, and Cody Sterner.

Bradshaw spoke on their behalf, “they’re one, two and three for us so far. They are all great players who not only perform well as golfers but are excellent students.”

Kyle Henofer shared medalist honors with Joe Hurn of Lackawanna for carding the lowest scores of the tournament, a 75 each.



Members of the golf team at the Bucks Invitational

As for the rest of their season, “I feel we will do well based on what I have seen in practice and our two matches so far. I’ll know more in the next two weeks.”

The following weeks for the Centurions brought the Lehigh Carbon Invitational on April 15

that they placed in 5.

“I know other teams will get better. We need to be consistent, which is difficult playing on courses we don’t know,” said Bradshaw.

However, It was an extremely close match; only 11 strokes

seperated the first and last place teams.

Also, on April 19 the team participated in the Northampton Invitational and their finish was unknown at the time this article was sent to press.

Next up for the Centurions is

PHOTO CREDIT: BUCKS.EDU

their Reginal Qualifier on April 25 to decide if they will make it in the Regional Championship.

As always it is encouraged that you come out and support your Centurions as they work towards the Regional Championship.

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