The Bucks mascot is finally home!

By: Rachel Za
Centurion Staff

Roaring students gathered at Bucks on Wednesday, Feb. 16, for a pep rally to cheer for the unveiling of the college’s first-ever live mascot, the Centurion, performed by Doug Winters.

The afternoon was a big success. The Gallagher Room was filled with students, staff and priests to witness the mascot’s unveiling.

Lunch, free t-shirts, a performance by the Dance Team, contests and prizes run by Radio Bux were included.

The afternoon evolved into a photoshoot as students did not miss a beat in taking selfies with the Centurion.

“I felt ecstatic, a moment I will never forget,” says Weinrich.

The idea was proposed by the Student Life Office in the fall and was approved by Bucks President Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt.

Student Government Association President Matt Kelly, a 20-year-old business studies major from Southampton, said, “we are getting into a time where it’s important for school spirit because sports are now flourishing, and the mascot is really the catalyst for this.”

Shanblatt said that on Nov. 2, 1965, students of Bucks were provided the chance to choose a mascot; in the end selecting the Centurion.

The Centurion is known for being, “vigilant, self-restrained, active, and ready to execute orders,” and was chosen because it “reflects the qualities most desirable in Bucks students.”

Director of Student Life Matt Cipriano said: “Student Life raised approximately $8,000 in five days to help pave the way for the professionally made costume,” which was produced by Keystone Mascots.

“Money was raised in donations from students, faculty and the community through Go Fund Me and collection jars.”

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Dean of the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) building, a collaborative effort between the community, college and students, set to open in Spring of 2017.

The college has seen a steady drop in enrollment over the past couple years, and staff are hoping that the new S.T.E.M. building will spark an influx of students onto campus that are interested in such fields.

Continued on pg. 2
Continued from pg. 1
Shamblett announced that this is the only first step for S.T.E.M. “This new science center is really just the first phase of our effort in order to transform S.T.E.M. on campus.” The next project will take place in Founders Hall, where new physics, engineering and health labs will be set up. Shamblett said the building “is a great start for students who wish to start the work-force, or transfer to a four-year school.” She added, “The country needs more folks to be competitive and use new technologies in order to move forward in this industry,” adding that jobs in such fields typically pay well.

Loughrey called the building a great investment and opportunity, not just for the college, but for the county. “Science, math, and technology are heavily involved in businesses today, which means they need skills from people who not only just graduated high school, but from those who are rebuilding their skills.”

He added that the county has a particularly key interest in workforce development as the workforce is continuing to grow, a live mascot will give the school more exposure in the community and help spread good things. “Dance team member Melissa Arendell, a 21-year-old physical therapy major from Levittown, believes that a mascot makes the school better because “it brings more energy and life to the school!” Members of the men’s basketball team, including sports management major Britt Wolf from Quakertown, 20, and pre-medical health major Forbes Williams from Philadelphia, 20, agreed that “having a mascot is really exciting because now we have so much more school spirit.”

Now that our mascot is here, what is the next step? A mascot must have a name. Students will now vote for one and the winner will be presented in the coming weeks.

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

March 9 Baseball vs. William Paton 3:30 pm Centurion Field Are you LinkedIn? 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, Student Commons, Lower Bucks Campus

as well as local companies will definitely benefit from this. We hope to see an increase in

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

Continued from pg. 1
Snyder also presented a virtual tour of the building, noting that it “has signature elements such as the glass and wood materials and corridors to establish an effective learning environment.”

Bucks wants to promote the idea that science labs no longer need to be closed or claustrophobic, but instead should be opened up to the whole school, and surrounded by great views of the outside environment.

The virtual tour revealed open and closed study spaces, in which students can gather for group work. “We want science to be accessible, not intimidating,” says Shamblett. Angelo also joked, saying, “We cannot wait to get into the building, faculty are already debating on who will get which space and talking about how they are going to use the new alternative teaching spaces.”

During the celebration, each speaker at the event contributed items to a time capsule that will be featured at different events and buried within the building in the coming weeks. Shamblett contributed a drone, Loughrey added an engine block, and Snyder added a bucks cell phone case, all of which were 3-D printed.

The time capsule is set to be opened in 50 years, at the college’s centennial celebration. The new science building is scheduled to open for classes in January 2017, and partners of the event are anxious to see the result. “It is an opportunity that really is going to fuel our students’ education,” said Angelo. The project will be followed on social media where people can follow tweets using hashtag #buckscience.

Additional reporting from: Karoline Lunddal Dam

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

March 3 Opportunities in the Armed Forces 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, Penn 257

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Penn 257 Voter Registration 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Newtown Campus Labor Learning Center, Newtown Campus Launch Pad—The Confident Communicator 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, South Building Library Learning Studio Upper Bucks Campus

OMBudsman Paul Landis stood behind the center with the contents of time capule. 

“Science, math, and tech-

Full reporting from: John Gannon, Political News Editor, and Melissa Arendell, Dance Team Member

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

March 4 Poetry Reading, Don Rad-
tor & Elizabeth Savage 7:30 pm in the Orangery, Newtown Campus

Millen said being a part of the mascot will be “a lot of fun,” and said that it will give her school spirit.

Shanblatt also announced plans for a virtual tour of the building, adding that people can “not only just walk through the building, but also look inside it.”

March 2 Centurion Board of Trustees 7:30 am to 8:00 am, Zlock PAC

Continued from pg. 1
Silver coins were placed in competing jars to try and throw off the curve, but in the end Business Studies and Art won,” said Kelly.

The mascot will not just represent Bucks at sports events, but will also “represent at community special events, and as future signing agreements,” says Cipriano. But who is that mascot? Assistant Athletics Director Jason Brawley says, “the mascot will not be just one person, but a couple of people, and students and faculty can apply for the opportunity (to be mascot) through Student Life.”

As Weinreich explained, “The costume was a bit tight, I’m 6’5”, so far who is the next mascot will fit into it better.”

Burroughs also says he is “very excited for this moment, because athletics are to just simply walk through the doors of this building next year. “This building has been a pipe dream of mine for 11 years and I cannot believe how quickly this has come together,” she said.

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Study abroad programs: why students should consider them

By Karoline Lunddal Dam

Studying abroad is an opportunity for students to expand their horizons, but how can current Bucks students do so and how beneficial is it?

There are many opportunities to go abroad during the college experience. Foreign Exchange Students Yama Rauf (Afghanistan), Hidemi Fuse (Japan) and Margrethe Myklebust and Alexander Rauff (Denmark) have all experienced this and agree that traveling abroad is a life changing experience.

"With exchange, you are no longer a tourist, you get to experience the country and its culture on a deeper level," says Rauff, who was an exchange student in South Africa in 2011.

The most memorable thing for both Fuse and Rauff, who stayed four months at a Danish Folk high school, was the total change of mind.

"As an Afghan citizen, we assumed people would think I am Taliban or a wild warrior, but we realized that the reality is completely different from what we see on television," says Rauff and Fuse agree, "I will never think 'others' again. We are the same people."

Myklebust, who is currently working in Germany, says that she is more independent now, "Mom and dad do not live around the corner anymore," she laughs.

Currently, Bucks does not offer study abroad to students, but Kelly Kelleway, interim dean of the language and literature department, does confirm that it lies in Bucks’ future. "We have begun discussions about how Bucks will roll this out, but I would not expect any official announcement or offering until next academic year."

In 2014, Delaware Valley University established a partnership with Tradum Business School in Denmark regarding exchange. Professor Lawrence Stelmach, Chair of Business and Information Management at DelVal, is leading the project. He is proud of the outcome of the work both schools have put into it, "Americans tend to be very inward looking, so meeting the Danish students in class and socially is a great experience," Stelmach says.

Though this won’t be an option until next academic year, there are plenty of study abroad options for students that are planning on transferring to a four year college after Bucks. If you are seeking transfer options, you should consider Temple. Bucks has an agreement with Temple’s campus in Japan, where students can study art, international business, communications or political science.

Students also have the opportunity to find a foreign school and bring their credits back to Bucks. To secure these credits, it is as simple as contacting the dean to confirm the potential transfer.

There’s even the option to attend a language school during breaks, which offers students a shorter abroad experience. These programs are worldwide, but especially known in Europe.

Students can also consider getting an internship abroad, and experience the foreign work life as Myklebust does. Some students never consider studying abroad because of the potential cost, but Rauf and A. Rauff believe the cost was worth the reward, "You will gain more than you spend! Global studies became a framework in every aspect of my life," says Rauf. A. Rauff continues, "It is simple; experiences are something that money cannot buy."

All students that are interested should contact the dean to confirm these credits, it is as simple as contacting the dean to confirm the potential transfer.

“"I am using the hands-on experiences at DelVal to give me knowledge to explore what I may or may not want to do in my career. These experiences have helped prepare me for ‘the real world’ without feeling like I wasted several years of my life.”

Francis Arnold ’16

Business Administration

PHOTO CREDIT: KAROLINE LUNDDAL DAM

> TRANSFER TUESDAY

March 22

delval.edu/transfer

to apply, plan a visit or request information

• Transfer scholarships available
• Articulation agreement offers guaranteed admission and core-to-core
• More than 25 academic degrees
• 100% of our students receive real-world experience before graduation
Bucks News

Artist finds the beauty in anything, dead or alive

Bucks Paralegal Club is up and running

One day her niece showed her a comment that said, "That is so terrible! How can she put a dead animal on a plate?" Witham thought, "I think that is what most people who are not vegetarians do every single night at supper time! Would it be an interesting study to go to the butcher's shop and buy a chicken and put that still life photo — would anyone care?"

Even though Witham does not care too much about online opinions, she does find what people think about her work interesting. She says, "I just would like to have some reaction." She says, "The beauty of the photograph would strike you first and you realize the creature is dead, you have to contemplate how it came to that way."

Witham’s favorite part is the tension of the idea that something can be so beautiful, but also kind of a darker side to it as well," she said.

The roadkill aspect is probably starting to dissipate somewhat," Witham adds. "There is a new project that I have started working on that involves portraits of things that have elements from the natural world."

However, the point of Witham’s art will stay the same, "The point of my work is that we are so completely separated from the natural world. This sort of thematically touches on people’s disconnect with nature is one of my real artistic concerns.”

By: Karoline Lunddal Dam

Bucks art Professor Kimberly Witham was profiled in National Geographic Feb. 16, in a story about her seven year old art project. The headline: “Making ethical art from dead animals.”

For almost seven years Witham worked with the visual beauty of roadkill animals. She collects the dead animals and arranges them with other decorations, for photographs. "It is a response to what I see around me every day," Witham says.

The idea came when she moved from New York, "I had not been driving in a car recently. But I started seeing things on the side of the road, I could not believe how many dead creatures I saw — that did not strike me as normal."

Witham’s works are informed by her knowledge of painting and art history, and by the things she collects from wherever, "In my studio I have so many dials and pieces of cloth. When I collect something I do not necessarily have a plan for it, but I know I like how it looks and that it is going to come in handy someday."

The animals in most of Witham’s photographs are not examples of accidents, but are simply shown the way she found them, "The animals are in rigor, so they can only pose in whatever position they died in," she says.

Witham works with the animals respectfully, "When I found them, I photograph them as soon as possible and then I immediately bury it."

Some people use the word barbaric when describing Witham’s art. She says she does not read the online comments, but is aware of the judgment passed on her distinctive artwork, "I respect people’s opinions. Certainly, all art is not for everyone, but to me barbaric is letting a beautiful creature get hit by a car and put it on the side of the road to rot,” Witham says.

Witham’s roadkill piece PHOTO CREDIT: KIMBERLY WITHAM

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By: Karoline Lunddal Dam

Bucks Paralegal Club President Jenny Hindes

PHOTO CREDIT: KAROLINE LUNDDAL DAM

Last fall, a group of Bucks students began the process of creating an official club for those interested in all things paralegal, and now the club has been officially launched. The new Paralegal and Law club holds monthly meetings, which are held at 12:30 p.m. and on some evenings. You do not have to commit to everything - whenever you feel it convenient, stop by. In February, the club had their first event, where a court reporter came and spoke about the connection with the paralegal field. It had a fantastic turn out, and new members were recruited.

The club is an extension of the paralegal program. Our mission is to prepare for the professors with mutual support and education," says Club Advisor Brenda Seibert.

The club’s purpose is to offer enrichment opportunities in the paralegal area, as well as providing relevant information to Bucks students who are seeking a degree in paralegal studies. "The purpose is job preparation," says Seibert. Paralegal professors Brenda Seibert, Heather Costello and Cara Simmons are a part of this club, but essentially, students run it, and according to club secretary and paralegal major Jenny Cramarossa, that is an exceptional opportunity. "The professors put the ball in our court," says Cramarossa, "they give suggestions, but they made it very clear that we can do and run the club the way we think it should be." Seibert adds, “The role of the professors is really just doing what is needed for the students to be successful.”

The club welcomes everyone. "It is for anyone who wants to learn more about the paralegal profession. Both the club and the program,” says Seibert, adding, "everyone is always welcome to sit in on a paralegal class to see if it might be right for them." Cramarossa says the club is planning to focus on networking with paralegals and alumni for future events. "When the students design their events, they keep in mind the greater college community, and select events that have interest for paralegals, but also for other groups on campus,” says Seibert.

The club has gone the extra mile to provide a high standard of learning. Therefore, it is approved by the American Bar Association. They hope that this improves the process of the club. “I think what speaks to the students is how the program has prepared them for the field, and we hope that the club builds on that,” says Seibert.

There is a lot that I am learning on the go, and I’m enjoying it,” says Cramarossa about her experience with the paralegal program and the work with the club. If this has sparked your interest, stop by the next event on April 5 at 12:30 or 5:30 (Penn Hall 410) and hear more about what the club can offer you!

For more information about the club, contact Club President Jenny Hindes (brenda2006@live.bucks.edu) or Professor Seibert (215-968-8277/brenda.seibert@bucks.edu).
Donations are needed to help Bucks County families in need

By: Lauren Savana

There are homeless men, women, and entire families here in Bucks County and we have the opportunity to help our fellow citizens that are in need of basic necessities. Living in the community of Bucks County there is a tendency to believe that we are surrounded by luxury and fortune. What we tend to overlook is that there is a group of people in our community that are surrounded by lack of luxuries and wealth.

Volunteer at Bucks is an event that Bucks has chosen to take part in, now for the past 3 years. This is a donation based event where all students have the opportunity to donate certain items to help the homeless here in Bucks County.

There are two kinds of donations Student Life & Athletic Office and the Centurion Club are accepting.

Centurion Clubs

By: Valarie Linabery

Students have the opportunity to also discuss financial aid options with the representatives for their particular school. Also by attending this fair, a few of the schools offer to waive the application fees.

According to Teddy Willis, a 19 year old media major who attended the previous Transfer Fair, he created a direction and a plan of action he didn't plan on originally taking when he started at Bucks.

When Teddy Willis created a list of schools he might consider applying to, he didn’t plan on originally attending the Transfer Fair, it gave him the opportunity to make connections with representatives from these colleges to discuss different programs they offer.

With 30 close colleges there, that is more than unlikely. Some of the larger schools that attended the previous Transfer Fair were Bloomsburg University, Gwynedd Mercy University, Temple and Villanova.

Over 30 colleges and universities attend Bucks transfer fair to help students take the next step

Bucks held a transfer fair with 30 college representatives in Founders Hall lobby on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The next fair will be held March 30 from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at the Linksz Pavilion.

The upcoming fair plans to be larger than the previous one, giving more opportunities to connect with different colleges.

This is an opportunity where students considering transferring can go to get information on possible schools they plan on transferring to, with the luxury of not having to go visit all the campuses. It can also create a chance for prospecting transfer students to discover schools that they might not have even considered applying to.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make connections with a representative from the college they might apply to.

There are two kinds of donations that are accepted. There are household items and personal items.

For household items there are two rules. The first one is the items must be new. This guarantees that these items will be usable when they are sold. The second one is that the items must be clean.

For personal items there are two rules. The first one is that the items must be new. This guarantees that these items will be usable when they are sold. The second one is that the items must be easy for them to carry with. The specific items that these families are in need of are listed below.

These donations are accepted until March 31 and are collected on a point system. A certain item gains a certain amount of points creating a contest for all that become involved. Whichever club obtains the most points will win a free lunch and shirts for club members.

This is the Centurion Clubs community service project. If you are not affiliated with a club there will be laundry baskets placed outside the Centurion Newsroom, Rollins room 127. Feel free to drop off whatever you can.

This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to your community and help those that are less fortunate than yourselves. So get your club involved.

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Transfer Fair in Founders Hall

PHOTO CREDIT: Valarie Linabery

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Some possible questions students should ask are what the admission requirements are for their particular school. Also they should discuss what the deadlines for transfer applications are and how many credits to they accept for transfers.

There are homeless men and women, and entire families here in Bucks County, and we have the opportunity to help our fellow citizens that are in need of basic necessities. Living in the community of Bucks County there is a tendency to believe that we are surrounded by luxury and fortune. What we tend to overlook is that there is a group of people in our community that are surrounded by lack of luxuries and wealth. These donations are accepted until March 31 and are collected on a point system. A certain item gains a certain amount of points; this creates a contest for all that become involved. Whichever club obtains the most points will win a free lunch and shirts for club members.

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Some possible questions students should ask are what the admission requirements are for their particular school. Also they should discuss what the deadlines for transfer applications are and how many credits to they accept for transfers.
The Centurion won six awards in 2016 Keystone Press competition, bringing the paper’s total number of awards to more than 70 since 2010.

The Centurion won first place for Public Service/Enterprise Package, for “Community Colleges at a Crossroads,” a package of stories about the challenges facing two-year colleges that was written by Michele Haddon.

The paper also won first place in the sports story category, for “Bucks Men’s Baseball Team Gets New Coaches” by Centurion editor Carly Pendergast.

Centurion editor Justin Bifolco won second place in the feature writing category for his interview with Dan Price, the CEO of Gravity Payments who made headlines when he raised the minimum salary at his company to $70,000.

Sports editor John Gannon won an honorable mention for his profile of star soccer player Reynaldo Bonilla.

Writer Melissa Cohen won an honorable mention for her review of “High Society” at the Walnut Street Theater.

The paper also won second place for its website, www.bucks-news.com.

The paper competed in the division 3 category, which includes community colleges from across Pennsylvania. Some of the schools competing included Community College of Philadelphia, HACC Lancaster campus, Community College of Allegheny College, and Montgomery County Community College. The Centurion has won 74 awards in the contest since 2010.

Professor Tony Rogers, the faculty adviser to the Centurion, said winning the awards felt great.

“It’s a testament to how hard the students in the journalism program at Bucks work,” he said. “Even though the Centurion has a very small staff, and most of the students who work on the paper also have jobs outside the college, they still manage to produce excellent, award-winning work. This is why many of our graduates go on to get jobs at professional news outlets.”

Rogers said the paper had been putting more of an emphasis on covering sports at the college recently.

“We always try to put an emphasis on covering the sports teams at Bucks because we feel they don’t get the recognition they deserve,” said Rogers. “Our sportswriters also like to write about the pro teams in Philadelphia, but we always tell them our first priority is to cover sports at the college.”

Rogers added, “We always want to achieve more, and we always want to keep improving. The problem with having a student newspaper at a community college is that you have so much turnover; students come into the program, get trained in the journalism skills they need, and then they’re gone.”

“We hope to soon introduce an app that will enable readers to access the paper on their smartphones,” Rogers continued.

Editor in Chief Pendergast, who is a big reason for all the success the Centurion has had in the past, was asked about her success and what she thinks of the paper’s editing and reporting team.

“I’m so proud!! Our program continues to see success at these awards and it really says a lot about Professor Rogers, that first-time writers are seeing success along with our more tenured writers,” Pendergast continued.

“We have a group of fantastic and dedicated writers that take what we do seriously, and now they are seeing results.”

The awards will be given out at the Keystone Press Awards Luncheon during the America East Media Business and Technology Conference, on April 6, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Centre.

Plaques will be provided to all first-place winners and certificates to all second place and honorable mentions winners in attendance at the award luncheon.

If students at Bucks are looking to pursue a career in journalism and don’t have the money to go to a 4-year college right away, they can find out more about the journalism program at www.bucks.edu/journalism.

Centurion award winners from left, Justin Bifolco, Carly Pendergast, and John Gannon.

PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN SAVANA
Adopt, don’t shop

BY: Jahmeelah Wilson

Who doesn’t love going to a pet shop, and looking at all the cute two- and four-legged friends as they come running up to the glass window to greet you as you walk by. All of the animals are irresistibly cute and you do almost anything to take one of them home. Unfortunately, most of the puppies sold in pet stores come from puppy mills.

According to the ASPCA, there are 7.6 million potential pets that enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and only 2.7 million of those actually get adopted.

“Purchasing pet store animals means not only supporting the cruel puppy mill industry but also taking a home away from one of the “4 to 5 million unwanted shelter animals killed each year.” Because of the in-breeding and filthy conditions common to puppy mills, they often produce animals with serious health problems which typically result in hefty vet fees. On top of this, pet stores generally do not socialize their animals. The puppies may come with a variety of health and behavioral problems which do not make them ideal as pets. Pet shops dispose of unsold animals, in at times, unsanitary ways according to leacal.org.

Juno the pitbull is a prime example of when shelters succeed in saving an animal’s life. The description of the pitbull reads, “Must leave shelter before 8 p.m. on 12/20/15.” It is 4 p.m. If the dog does not get adopted, she will be euthanized. She is a six-month-old pit bull, merely six days from death. Juno has been given a death sentence before she even gets a chance to live. At shelters, such as Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia (ACCT), they receive many dogs and cats that are abused, found as strays, or are owner surrenders. This particular puppy was a stray. Growing up on the streets is mentally and physically harmful. They have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally and physically beneficial.

When you adopt a pet, you get a friend and a companion. They’re a part of your family. They give you unconditional love, but they have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally and physically beneficial.

By: Jahmeelah Wilson

1. Because you’ll save a life
2. Because you’ll get a great animal

Animal shelters and rescue groups are brimming with happy, healthy pets just waiting for someone to take them home. Most shelter pets ended up there because of a human problem like a move or a divorce, not because the animal did anything wrong.

3. Because you’ll get a great bargain.

When you adopt a pet, the cost of spay/neuter, first vaccinations and sometimes microchipping is usually included in the adoption price, which means you’ve scored a major deal—a fuzzy deal who will thank you with kisses or purrs for years to come.

4. Because of the bragging rights.

No one needs to see another selfie—unless it’s a selfie of you with the adorable puppy you just adopted, like the hero you are! Adopt a pet, post the pictures and let the love (fleas) roll in.

5. Because it’s one way to fight puppy mills.

You’re smart to get a dog from a pet store or online seller—you might as well buy direct from a puppy mill. Pet shops are “factory style” breeding facilities that put profit above the welfare of dogs. Animals from puppy mills are housed in shockingly poor conditions with improper medical care, and are often very sick and behaviorally troubled as a result.

6. Because your decor will thank you.

Many of the pets from shelters and rescue are already housebroken, which means you’re not only saving a pet’s life, you may be saving your rug.

7. Because all pets are good for your health, but an adopted pet is good for your self-esteem.

Not only do animals give you unconditional love, but they have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally and physically beneficial.

8. Because you’re environmentally responsible.

You recycle your paper and plastic so it doesn’t end up in landfills, and you know that recycled materials make all sorts of things. A “recycled pet” can make something even better.

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One year ago, it seemed almost inevitable that the two presidential candidates facing off through the first rounds of the 2016 into November, would be the frontrunner, and it was the usual pattern that the counties process in a presidential election year: “Given the fact that this is a presidential election year and we are close to this is a presidential election year, we are very pleased with that part of the process,” said Director of the Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections Gerald D. Feaser Jr. “This tool will help provide us with the most accurate voter rolls possible as we approach the primary elections,” said Director of the Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections Gerald D. Feaser Jr. “This is especially important with the volume of new registrations and updates that the counties process in a presidential election year.” The website keeps personal data more secure than a paper trail because the forms are directly deposited to your county voter registration office. Cyber security is closely monitored and updated. The online voter registration site is linked to PennDOT. If you have a driver’s license or a state ID card and the website already has your signature, PennDOT will be quickly linked to your voter record. Those who do not have a state ID can print, sign, and mail the application or request the Department of State to mail you a signature card to sign and bring to your county office.

The vitriolic rhetoric that has been present in the race, notably on the Republican side, is generally considered to be used heavily in primaries, and in moderation during the general election. Hagen does not believe this will be as prominent a trend as in elections past, saying that “presidential campaigns now seem to devote more resources to mobilizing the party faithful than to persuading the shrinking number of swing voters.” He does concede however, that both eventual nominees will likely “try to shift voter impressions of them toward the center one way or another.” Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio all believe they can become the next president of the United States. The path for some may be tougher than for others, but if there is one thing we have learned during this election season, it is this: Expect to be surprised, because more twists are bound to be in store in the coming months.
The creative magic occurs on the second story of an average Levittown-type of home that has been converted into a studio-style apartment in Croydon. The room is made up of plain white walls, a partially wood paneled, between an average tan carpet and drop tile ceiling that can be reached when standing on the sofa. The only difference between this room and my high school basement is the missing haze of smoke and stench of marijuana. If you can picture the cast of That 70’s Show hanging out upstairs, rather than Foreman’s basement, then you get the picture.

The resident: a 29-year-old entrepreneur with a style of his own. A black Villyn baseball cap tops this ward- robe comprised of khaki colored skinny jeans and a green-screened Philadelphia Phillies “2008 World Series” shirt accessorized with black glasses—nearly an inch wide in each earlobe. A unique, grungy, hip hop swag. A Travis Barker/Mac Miller hybrid. He resembles a hard-core vape shop employer minus the pretentious ego. This creative genius, known as Tony Two-Step.

The man behind the cruffy rap moniker is Anthony Fiorelli. A local hip hop artist and aspiring clothing design- er. In a world where few pursue their dreams, Fiorelli is always taking the risks that are associated with success. Fiorelli went from performing in rock and hip hop metal bands in his high school years to becoming a solo artist in the Philly hip hop scene. “You can’t rely on anybody but yourself if you want to get things done the way you want to get them done,” says Fiorelli.

In his journey to becoming a solo artist, he experienced a domino effect of tragic losses. When he was entering high school, Fiorelli’s mother died and he was sent to live with his grandmother. Half way through high school, Fiorelli was faced with another unfortunate tragedy, his grand- mother passed away—forcing him to pack up and live with his father. He admits that he was trou- bled during these years. He would act out through tantr- ics, partying, underage drink- ing, at one point, even get in trouble for vandalism. The culmination of these behaviors led to him getting kicked out of Burlington High School and sent to an alternative school at the end of his sopho- more year. After graduating from Middle Earth, Fiorelli started writing and recording music right away.

“By the year 2008 it was saturated as it is now with everybody [that] thinks they’re a rapper,” he describes the hip hop scene in the early 2000s. “I could shine a little bit.” Fiorelli continues, “I could express myself in a different way then acting out.”

The benefits of music are clearly evident to Fiorelli. “There are no boundaries on creativity,” he explains. “It’s great to have an imagination still as an adult,” Fiorelli adds, “A lot of people give up.

In person, Fiorelli is a down-to-earth guy with a good sense of humor. Always appearing cool, calm, and collected. From cracking jokes whenever the opportunity arises, to the microphone, he can only be described as a verbal contortionist or a linguistic acrobat. He has a charisma that is accentuated by his hyperactive energy which his whole audience feels when he’s performing. “Man, there is no father to my style,” Fiorelli jokingly quotes the late Ol’ Dirty Bas- tard. “I’m not really boxxed in. It’s like an alternative/hip-hop mix,” he describes.

Fiorelli’s music is plastered all over the internet on sites like YouTube and SoundCloud. Tony Two-Step’s music videos play an important role in the Philadelphia hip hop scene and he has performed shows with more popular artists like Logic, PnB Rock, Dreezy, Rude, Snow Tha Product, and Audio Push. Fiorelli has been pursuing his musical dreams for over a decade despite the difficulties of trying to make a living in the business. “People aren’t really buying music like they were 10, 15, 20 years ago,” he explains. Artists spend thousands of dollars just putting an album together and it is not guaranteed that they will ever get that money back. Fiorelli wishes that he would have put more money into creating music when he was younger, “because I may be somewhere else now.”

To pay the bills, Fiorelli works full-time as a manager at Custom Apparel Compa- ny where he gets to use his skills in t-shirt printing that he has acquired over the years. Fiorelli is still writing and recording music, but he is considering putting it on the back burner so that he can focus on his own personal clothing line, Villyn Cloth- ing Co. Villyn apparel is an urban, street wear clothing company with a style that res- umes with the hip hop heads and skater crowds. Jokingly, Fiorelli says, “I am a grownpup now and I have to do grownup things.”

He still plans on putting out music, but there may be a few changes in his priorities. “I’m not giving up, I’m just being smart,” he explains. Fiorelli plans on releasing a full length album by the end of the year and also has plans to shoot a couple of more music videos in that time. His advice for young entre- preneurs is “to have money to put into it” Fiorelli explains, “Nobody’s going to take you seriously if you won’t back yourself financially.” With a few regrets about not putting enough money into promot- ing his music, he hopes to do things differently with his clothing venture. Villyn is currently available for sale at www.villynbored. com. Fiorelli’s five-year-plan includes opening a boutique, expanding his clothing line beyond t-shirts and hats, and possibly going back to school to study graphic or fashion design.

“It would be awesome to just be able to live off of what I love to do,” he explains. His ambitions used to be for fame, but that isn’t why he continues to chase his dreams. “I’m in it to be able to express myself.”

Fiorelli stays connected with his community do- ing charity work, feeding the homeless, and getting involved with non-profit orga- nizations like “The Freedom Project.” He came up with the name “Villyn” because he claims that “everybody has a villainous side to them,” but it appears that Fiorelli’s wicked side has been extinguished by a decade’s worth of musical experience.

Fear causes many people to abandon their ideas. The fear of failure, alone, deters many people from following their dreams. Even though there is “fear” in the rushed pronunciation of “Fiorelli,” he is confident enough to turn a stranger to the emotion. It’s clear; he does not use the “Tony Two-Step” moniker as a mask to hide behind or as a supplemental persona. Tony Two-Step is the passion-driven artist that re- sides within Fiorelli himself.

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Men’s Basketball makes a splash

By: George Pegg

The Centurion men’s basketball team is looking forward to next season. With a team of mostly freshmen, the team can only get better and better.

This season was seen as a success, as the team finished the 2015-16 campaign with a record of 13-13, and a playoff berth.

In order to progress further into the playoffs next year, the Centurions will have to decide who the head coach will be. Interim Coach Justin Dunbar is hopeful that he remains coach for next season. “There’s a good chance I’ll be there next year” says Dunbar, “They like me.”

This was an exciting and eventful year for Dunbar, 26. He took over in the midst of a 5-game losing streak, “It was a tough time for us… we would like to avoid those things next year.”

Even though this was his first time coaching, he’s already discussing areas where the Centurions can improve, and strength areas where they already have talent.

Dunbar believes his team showed great resiliency throughout a somewhat turbulent season. The team’s vigorous mentality was showcased in their playoff loss to Bergen.

The team started the game off on the wrong side of a 19-0 lead, and were still able to cut the deficit to just 3 twice in the second half. The Centurions’ tenacity is something Dunbar is looking forward to seeing again next year.

Resiliency can make up for a lot of inefficiencies. The team’s greatest fundamental weaknesses were “rebounding and shot blocking,” according to Dunbar. The Centurions didn’t have a true big guy to help with these flaws this year. “Our big (guys) are more perimeter players” said Dunbar.

The coach would like to address the issue before next season, but believes the current group of guys can overcome their fundamental disadvantages because of the experience and continuity they will have next season.

With any team, confidence is key. One thing Dunbar would admit to bringing to the table was his ability to “bring positive energy to the team.” The coach believes it is one of his biggest strengths.

This ability was put to the test in the middle of a 5-game losing streak in late January. The Centurions regained their composure just in time for a successful late season playoff push.

Dunbar believes both he and the team can learn from this year. “It was a learning experience for everybody, especially myself, being my first time (head) coaching,” says Dunbar.

The team will lean on their experiences from this year next season. There’s no question that experience is a valuable asset to the team, and the Centurions will have that on their side next season.

Twelve months ago the Centurions were coming off a disappointing 2-21 season, but there was none of that this year. In just one year the Centurions have made themselves into a real playoff threat.

With an experienced and talented team, the Centurions are poised to do big things next season. Coach Dunbar’s probable return could result in the perfect combination of talent, timing, and continuity. There’s a bright future for men’s basketball here at Bucks.

Centurion Basketball team

PHOTO CREDIT: CENTURION BASKETBALL FACEBOOK

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