

Bucks Shut Down Due to Threat



SARAH SIOCK
Centurion Staff

On Tuesday, Sept. 25 an anonymous third-party tip was sent to Newtown Township Police Department it was deemed credible and contained information which directly targeted Bucks County Community College.

The threat was specific to the date Sept. 26 and affected only the Newtown campus. The college followed police recommendations and closed the campus on Sept. 26. Spokeswoman for the college, Jean Dolan, weighed in on the threat, “Our number one priority is keeping staff and students safe, which is why we decided to close

the school.”

The Newtown Township Police continued to investigate and released a statement that said, “The threat has not been substantiated,” and that the investigation was a “top priority.” The police did not release any further information on incident on Wednesday. The college did make an alert late Wednesday evening that the campus would be open Thursday. The school assured staff and students that there was no ongoing threat.

Early in the morning Sept. 27 Newtown police released an updated statement on the threat, “Based on the diligence of detectives, the source of the information has been identified and, after assessing all of the information,

the threat of violence was deemed to not be credible.” The police have also stated that the investigation is still ongoing and no further information regarding specifics of the threat and identification of the source can be released at this time.

President of BCCC, Stephanie Shanblatt, assured the staff and students that the campus was safe to attend in a statement posted on the school’s Twitter page. Shanblatt wrote, “Newtown Township Police have traced the origin of the threat and are certain that there is no danger to anyone on campus.” She also thanked the Newtown police for responding quickly to the incident.

The school has received various

threats in the past that have resulted in parts of campus closing. In 2005 there was a bomb threat found in a women’s bathroom. Again, in 2008 a bomb threat was made to a specific location on the campus. Once more in 2015, a student reported that he heard classmates threatening to bomb the library.

In the afternoon on Thursday Sept. 27, Stephanie Shanblatt released an updated statement on the incident which gave some insight on the threat, “Newtown Township Police have identified one of our students as the source of the threat of violence” said Shanblatt via Twitter. Shanblatt assured staff and faculty that the student has been suspended and

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH SIOCK

is not allowed on campus. The Police are continuing to investigate and have not issued a public statement on the identity of the threat.

BCCC wants this event to serve as a reminder to students to report any suspicious activity they may see or hear in the future to a security officer. All students can stay updated on campus alerts by signing up for the e2Campus alert system.

A Sit-Down with Republican Candidate Brian Fitzpatrick

JENNIFER ABELE
Centurion Staff

Brian Fitzpatrick is the Republican incumbent running in the House Race against Democrat Scott Wallace to represent Pennsylvania’s eighth district this election on Nov. 6.

Congressman Fitzpatrick has lived in Bucks County for nearly 40 years. He is a certified EMT and was even an Eagle Scout. Congressman Fitzpatrick is a former FBI Agent who worked on counterterrorism efforts including the Iraq conflict during the War on Terror. Fitzpatrick also worked as a Special Assistant United States Attorney prosecuting drug and gun offenders.

Brian Fitzpatrick’s main platform is the importance of term limits. Fitzpatrick thinks that it is important that new congressmen and senators are elected to provide new ideas.

Congressman Fitzpatrick’s agenda consists of term limits and adding steps to anti-corruption laws. A key part of this agenda

is to create more urgency for a budget to be passed, including withholding pay for congress until a budget is passed. He also wants to remove the “pensions for life”, and all laws passed by Congress are to be applied by its members.

Fitzpatrick has also added the entrance of third independents and non-affiliated voters into Congress on his agenda. He believes they will be key in the solution for issues brought about by gerrymandering: he feels that independents and non-partisan citizens commissions should be tasked to redistrict instead.

This agenda speaks to the Congressmen’s feelings on the importance of centrist ideology and bipartisanship. “We have to end this Hatfield-and-McCoy brand of politics where the pendulum keeps rapidly swinging one way and another every 4 years in midterms,” he stated. “At some point, the pendulum has to stop in the middle. As long as we keep allowing emotion to guide our decisions rather than facts, logic, and thoughtfulness, then the Hat-

field-and-McCoy brand is going to perpetuate.”

“I love the Problem Solvers Caucus that I’m on, the ‘no labels’ group,” Congressman Fitzpatrick stated. “We’re a bipartisan group we come from all walks of life, different thought processes, and it’s an amazing organization.”

Congressman Fitzpatrick has also voted on The Right to Try Act and The Interdict Act, noting that these are the most rewarding pieces of legislation that he has voted yes to. “The Right to Try was a big lift for me,” Fitzpatrick noted. “It’s helping people with terminal illnesses get access to experimental medication to try to save their lives.”

“The Interdict Act, which deals with the opioid crisis, will significantly cut down the flow of synthetic opioids coming in from the contributor which is causing a lot of [overdose] deaths since the pill is laced with fentanyl,” he explained. “A lot of it is manufactured from China, and it’s coming in from ports of entry...Continued

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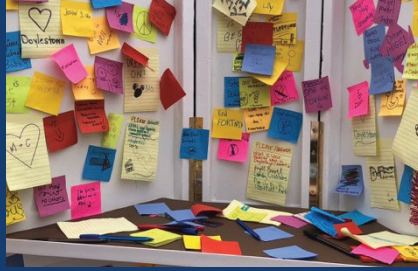
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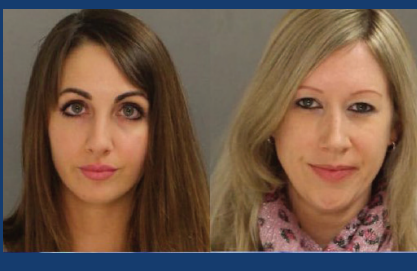
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Bucks News

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Pastor Aden Pays Yet Another Visit to the Newtown Campus



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCIS KLINGENBERG

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG
Centurion Staff

Students were horrified and upset on Sept. 24 when Pastor Aden and company visited the Newtown Campus, insulting passing students and screeching obscenities at the top of his lungs.

Campus security spent the morning setting up barricades in preparation for the infamous preachers visit.

Pastor Aden leads the Key of David Christian Center, which is a non-denomination Christian church.

He has been visiting Bucks for the past three years. Just the mention of his visits to a professor or student draws a grimace or nervous laughter.

Minutes before noon, there was an eerie feeling to the air. The barricade was all set up as police and students anxiously waited for the pastor to arrive.

This nervous anticipation was broken when Pastor Aden was seen walking down the hill toward the barricade at 11:54 a.m., with six other members of his church carrying signs and wore shirts with vulgar messages on them.

Among the seven people were the pastor, three other adults, and three children. They placed their belongings in the closed-off barricade and started lifting the signs up in the air.

Pastor Aden was wearing a shirt that included an anti-gay symbol, with the words “Obey Jesus” underneath the symbol. He was also wearing a hat that read “I love haters.”

It wasn’t long before a crowd started to form. Pastor Aden

started off by shouting at everyone in the crowd, using sexist and anti-gay obscenities.

“I’ve heard rumors of there being wh**res and homosexuals on this campus.”

This and many more of his insults were met with outrage and anger by the crowd. Police officers stood between the barriers, blocking students from entering the blockade.

Security Lieutenant Bill Torpey explained that the barricade was to protect the students, not the pastor. “We don’t want any students to jeopardize their education because of a hateful man.”

Pastor Aden continued to hurl more sexist remarks at the women in the crowd, drawing boos and curses. The pastor used a banana to point at the people he was addressing.

“God wants girls to make babies and learn how to cook,” Aden said taunting the crowd.

Unlike the eerie, cold atmosphere from before, the crowd’s anger had boiled the air. Students took turns returning his remarks with vulgar phrases.

“Don’t curse in front of my children!” reprimanded Pastor Aden, who had been shouting expletives for the past half hour.

The pastor spoke about illegal immigrants and Muslims, going on to ask the crowd if there were any in the crowd but, nobody in

the crowd spoke up.

“Oh, there are no Muslims here? Well, I guess we don’t have to worry about any bombs going off!”

This remark was met with unanimous disapproval from students.

At one point, he pointed to a black student, yelling. “If the cops tell you to hold your hands up, you hold them up or you get shot!”

These attempts to draw reactions from the students in the crowd succeeded, and the anger had finally boiled over. Many in the crowd screamed at him, others started chants however, they would die off in minutes.

“Boring, boring, boring!” was such a chant. It drowned out the pastor for a moment before he turned around to grab a sign.

“Stop acting like children” was written on the sign he held up.

A student jumped onto a nearby bench and tried to disperse the crowd.

“Don’t interact, just bounce!” he yelled at many unhearing students. “What else are you going to do, you are just feeding into this!”

Taylor Stevenson agrees with his sentiment. She said, “Pastor Aden is just here for a reaction.”

One saddened Bucks employee went on to say, “I wish they would see his attempts to stir up negativity.”

Just before 12:30 p.m., Pastor

Aden stopped preaching and switched with another adult wearing a black hoodie. This preacher was similar to Pastor Aden.

Alissa Manning was watching from afar, afraid to get close to the crowd and pastor. She said, “This is disheartening, it’s a clear disruption of peace.”

She continued to say, “It is sad.” She pointed out the daughters and mourned, “I feel bad for the daughters seeing this chaotic scene.”

Pastor Aden had brought along his two young daughters. Both were sitting next to each other, playing with sticks and grass around their chairs.

This went on for the afternoon, Pastor Aden and company holding up signs and yelling at students to draw a reaction.

Many students skipped classes to view this chaotic scene, and many students were encouraged by this atmosphere to do outlandish acts.

One student stole a sign from nearby. He paraded it around the barricade with cheers from students. The sign read “hate has no home here.”

Another student asked for a face to face conversation with Pastor Aden, hinting at wanting to fight. The pastor goaded him into becoming enraged and tearing off his shirt.

Students even began to argue

amongst each other, threatening to fight. Others wanted to jump into the barricade and hurt the pastor.

As the afternoon progressed, the crowd finally began to dwindle, and the pastor left. What left in his wake was a defeated peace, upset students, and a charged atmosphere.

When asked how students should fight this outrageous event from ever happening again, Alissa Manning said, “I think students should e-mail the school and explain how they feel about this.”



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Clubs

Get Creative With the Tyler Literary Club

BRADLEY HARE
Centurion Staff

The Tyler Literary Club is kicking the year off in high gear. The club has already hosted several meetings and they’re in the midst of planning for future events. Their preparations are all in the name of promoting students to become more willing and eager to share their own writing and artistic expertise with others.

This club is responsible for producing “The Canon,” a college magazine which includes various art forms created by the students. The magazine was formerly named “The Tyler Literary Review,” before being given a name change.

The club’s advisor and Professor of Language & Literature, Eric Specian, says that the club is a way for the club members to showcase their talents,

“It gives them the opportunity to share their love of writing with the college community,” said Specian.

Specian also clarified that it can be a way to encourage student poets and authors to advance their writing and try out new styles.

In the past, the club hosted several events, some memorable ones being when poet Susanna Rich gave the entire campus an exclusive preview of her one-woman show, “Shakespeare’s *itches.”

The club has also gotten involved with sharing reading and writing with the children at the

Early Learning Center.

This year, the club is planning a s’mores-packed fundraiser for later in October. The date is still currently undecided, but there will be flyers around the school promoting the event, so keep an eye out for them.

“There will be a candy-gram fundraiser at the end of November,” said the current President of the club, MaryKate. MaryKate is a 21-year-old music major.

According to MaryKate, “The most fun aspect of this club is to share and be around people who don’t judge; where you can be openly creative.”

The theme of community and how welcoming everyone is happened to be a running theme when other club members were asked about what their favorite part of the club was.

Talyn Trobiano, a 19-year-old Psychology major from Doylestown, said, “My favorite aspect of this club is how welcoming everyone is, and that it’s a safe space.”

Michael Doane , a 21-year-old video production major from Levittown, joked that his favorite part of the club was seeing Talyn. He then sincerely added that his favorite part of the club was “The people, because everyone is really creative and welcoming.”

Caidy Albanom, a 23-year-old Neuroscience major from Yardley, said that “It’s very motivating, and I enjoy being around people who do so many different things.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

“We’re publishing our magazine and we’re looking for submissions. The deadline is Nov. 2,” said MaryKate.

The club accepts stories, poems, lyrics and even visual art, whether it be photos, drawings, or even paintings.

“All students are welcome to join, and all forms of writing are accepted,” Specian said

You can participate by sending

your submissions and contact them at their email, thetylerlit-society@gmail.com.

You can also join the actual club itself. The Tyler Literary Club has meetings on Tuesdays at 12:30 in Grupp Hall, room 232.

Students Can Unwind With the Gaming Club

BRADLEY HARE
Centurion Staff

The beginning of the fall semester also marks the beginning of club season. Clubs all over BCCC are actively seeking new members, and the Gaming Club is one of them.

If you’ve had a rough day at school and you are looking to lay back and relax a bit, then the Bucks Gaming Club is the place to be.

This year, the club is under the fearless leadership of new President, 24 year-old-multimedia major Ricardo Ramirez from Sellersville. Although Ramirez may be the current president, he is not the founder of the club.

“This club started about three years ago,” Ramirez said. “It was formed because there was a need to create a safe space where people can go and relax after a long stressful day.”

Ramirez went on to say, “People can go there and make friends in a less stressful environment than other clubs,”

He continued, “The Gaming Club offers a chance to actually communicate and talk with others, unlike the other clubs.”

“There will be three events the Digital Gaming Club is planning on hosting,” Ricardo assured.

The first one, a “Soul Caliber 4” tournament, will take place on Sept. 25. The current location is unknown, but the ideal location will be either the Linkz Pavilion or the Gallagher room.

The second event is a gaming flea market, but as of now the date is unknown.

The third event is a Smash Brothers Tournament in December. They would like it to be the latest game in the series, but afraid it may just be the fourth installment instead of the fifth.

There are no requirements to joining this club besides being a registered student at the campus.

The Digital Gaming Club takes place at the Rollins Center, Room 115, on Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Be sure to equip yourself with some games and join them!

If you want to join their Discord server, their invitation code is always on the board in the club meeting room.

If you want to talk to Ramirez about the club, his office hours are 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. before club meetings and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. after club meetings in the gaming room. If you have any suggestions or complaints for their club, be sure to send your words to their suggestion box in Rollins 115.



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Student Life

Bucks Is Fall-ing For Fall

FRANCESCA DESCANO
Centurion staff

As sad as it sounds, summer is officially over. The heat has bled into a humid, wet mess and fall leaves have hit the ground. But, with the season’s change, the students at Bucks couldn’t be more thrilled with the upcoming season change.

Many chalk up their excitement to the annual introduction of comfy sweaters, cozy blankets, and pumpkin spice everything.

“I am extremely excited about the change in weather to come,” says 19-year-old liberal arts student, Alyssa Adams. The Fairless Hills native also adds, “The best part about fall is the cool, breezy air, so you can throw on a comfy cardigan and enjoy not sweating!”

Stephanie Studley, 19, a biomedical engineering student from Levittown, has a similar outlook on the forthcoming change in weather, “Of course I am excited [for the fall weather], because I am tired of sweating,” she explains.

To stay warm in the chilly fall air, students will have to change up their wardrobe. “My overall favorite part about fall is the clothes and style,” Adams says. “Time to bring out the comfy sweaters, cute jackets, and boots!”

Dental hygiene student, Elizabeth Pena-Patino, 20, shares Adams’ excitement for fall fashion. “Wearing coats, scarves, and boots is one of my favorite aspects of fall,” she says.

Alongside the departure of warm weather, comes the emergence of an overall warm feeling according to 19-year old journalism student, Melissa Stewart. “My favorite part about fall is the energy people give off,” says Stewart. “There is a certain warmth in the air, and, all around, people are just warm as they prepare for the holidays.”

Halloween festivities are also a popular autumn activity for many Bucks students. Pena-Patino says, “My favorite thing to do in the fall is go on haunted hayrides.” Adams shares this sentiment, exclaiming, “I love the thrill of getting spooked by scary people dressed up in horrifying costumes and makeup.”

A popular haunted hayride spot in the Bucks County area is Shady Brook Farm’s Horrorfest. “I love going and drinking hot cocoa,” says Stewart.

Another farm activity frequented by Bucks students is pumpkin and apple picking. “Ever since I moved to Bucks County, it has always been a tradition to go apple and pumpkin picking at a local orchard,” says 19-year old psychology student, Abby Vitcov.

“After we finish picking, we go home to bake apple treats and then carve pumpkins while they bake!” Vicoy said.

Speaking of pumpkins, Jennifer Moore, 22, a business and floral student, says that her favorite part of fall is “pumpkin everything!” Adams shares this excitement, saying, “The fall season is full of amazing things, and pumpkin flavored everything is one of them.”

Moore also enjoys the visual beauty of autumn, mentioning, “I love the look of campus in the fall.” Vitcov also appreciates the look of fall, saying, “My favorite part about fall is the scenery, the color change of the leaves, hay stacks in front of stores, and seeing people crowd around local places never fails to be pleasing to the eye.”

Studley also enjoys the vivid scenery fall has to offer. “Without a doubt, my favorite thing to do is walk,” she says. “The color change and different atmosphere is so beautiful.” Whether embracing the fall season by strolling near a lake or in the park, Studley says, “There is something so peaceful about being surrounded by it.”

Bucks students are determined to make the most of all that the Philadelphia area has to offer this fall season!



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Bucks County News

Pop-up Park Attracts Tourists in Doylestown

SARAH SIOCK
Centurion Staff

An urban oasis was created in downtown Doylestown by local residents on Sept. 21-23 to help support local businesses while providing a communal hangout space. Sidewalks on the corners of West State and Hamilton Streets were turned into a temporary pop-up park for a fourth year in a row.

One of the park’s main intentions is to show the importance of green spaces in a dense city like Doylestown. Tables and chairs were set up along the sidewalk for people to sit and enjoy the temporary greenery.

The park was created by local residents and a few business owners who were funded by donations. There were several events that took place at the park, including a kid’s concert and morning yoga.

The temporary park was community-orientated with a center for community feedback placed in the middle of the green space.

Father and daughter Michael and Caroline Marks returned to the pop-up park for their second year. “I love the park and I wish it was permanent!” said Caroline. Michael described the park as a “communal use of space.” Marks also said, “There is nowhere to just sit and hang out in town. It is refreshing to just sit and relax with others who live here.”

The park provided a place for residents to be together without being in a busy environment, like the local Starbucks. First-timer to the pop-up and Doylestown resident, Shannon Rittenhouse, said, “It is really peaceful here. I got to catch up with some friends who I

have not seen in while. They just so happened to be passing through the park as well.”

The park was simply decorated but had an urban feel. “I like how the trees have sweaters,” laughed park-goer Mary Lyler. The tables had construction paper taped over them with a bucket of crayons sitting on top, allowing for a community art space. Residents were encouraged to post sticky notes on the feedback bulletin. Many wrote positive messages about Doylestown and why they like living there.

A local boutique worker, Av-e-nale Trobiano, shared her opinion of the pop-up park. “In theory the park should help my business, said Trabiano, “However, there is just not enough promotion for the park. Many customers did not even know the park was here this weekend.”

“I do think they should keep doing things like this,” she added. “It is a good use of space and does bring traffic into stores. I just want them to do a bit more promotion to get people excited!”

Those that did attend the park left with the desire for more green spaces in compact city areas. Riley Kleemeier, 18, of Plumsteadville drove over just to check out the park. “It just looks so pretty!” she said. “I wish there were more areas like this!”

The pop-up park has plans to return for a 5th year. Hopefully, with a bit more promotion, the park can continue to help local businesses and encourage more greenery in city spaces.



Souderton Church Brings International Flavors to Community

ZACH WILLITS
Centurion Staff

St. Philip Orthodox Church in Souderton drew a large crowd on Sept. 21 and 22 at its annual international food festival, including an array of foods and fun activities.

This community event featured food from many different countries, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Greece, Lebanon, Romania, and Russia. To decide what foods were made, “native cooks who go to our parish decided based on what would be enjoyable for all, while also being authentic,” said Father Noah Bushelli, the priest at St. Philip.

With many people at the festival smiling and enjoying themselves quite a bit, it certainly seems the community outreach was a success this year. And while that is one of the reasons the church hosts the festival, Father Noah explained that “the primary reason for having this festival each year is to reach out to the community and to evangelize.”

This is why they include a church tour as part of the event. The walls of the worship area are covered in icons depicting various saints, biblical figures, and biblical events. “The icons are like windows into heaven,” said church volunteer Ken.

Iconography is an important tradition in the Orthodox faith. They are displayed and viewed with great respect, being venerated frequently at churches and homes. Outside of the worship

area is another attraction-- an iconographer at work. “They’re a way for us to communicate with God and saints,” explained the iconographer while working on her latest icon. “We use them to help us concentrate and help us ask for help.”

A large selection of icons were available for purchase in the great room, as well as an assortment of various trinkets and jewelry. A lot of the items were from historically and predominantly Orthodox Christian countries.

Great Vespers, the evening service, was held mid-day Saturday at the church. This service was special, as visitors from the community had their first experience of Orthodox Christian worship. These service traditions go back for centuries. “We’re the original church and we do things old school,” noted Father Noah. “Our tradition can be traced back to the original apostles.”

The service engages all five senses. There is an audience of icons all around the room with chants and singing throughout the whole service. Then, the priest proceeds all around the room with incense.

On whether this community event spoke to people on a deeper level, Father Noah believed: “Yes, absolutely. The events here are spiritual, and people will be moved by the peace and joy shown by the members of the church.”

“We hope to have our eighth annual food festival at the end of September in 2019, probably the

third weekend,” Father Noah said. “We invite you all to come and see our church. Vespers is at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. Our

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Politics

Fitzpatrick

Continued from page 1
...and border crossings. What we’ve done is arm those crossings with chemists and medical screenings with equipment. Any microscopic amount on your fingertip can lead to exposure. That’s why we gotta protect our people.”

Congressman Fitzpatrick also voted yes to a bill amending Title IV, Empowering Students through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act, which modified the loans for students in higher education for those in the student federal aid programs.

Additionally, Congressman Fitzpatrick has taken strong stances on hot-button issues. He is strongly against President Trump’s opinion on separating children from their parents at the border. He briefly spoke out against the separation procedure imposed by President Trump on his webpage in June 2018, where he stated: “I firmly detest the heartless and inhumane practice of separating children from their parents at the border. This extreme measure must end.”

Simultaneously, Congressman Fitzpatrick also believes in the importance of a border wall while also protecting the children who came to the US for a better life. “We have to differentiate the people who are coming to the border to get away from religious persecution, or coming for a better economic way of life,” he explained. “On the other side of the coin there are some people that are coming here that are gang members, or involved in drug cartels.” He encourages illegal immigrants to come out and obtain American citizenship. He believes in the importance of America’s identity as the nation of immigrants.

Fitzpatrick maintains this centrist ideology in regards to the issue of abortion. On Oct. 3, 2017, Fitzpatrick voted yes to Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act: the Act prohibits an abortion after 20 weeks unless it’s a case of rape, mother’s life is endangered, or incest.

The congressman has also addressed the controversy regarding gun control and the second amendment. Congressman Fitzpatrick voted no on the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017. The act passed and it allows qualified individuals to cross state borders with a concealed weapon in a carrier after 90 days the bill was enacted.

“Protecting the second amendment and protecting the community safely are not mutually exclusive. We can accomplish both. We can respect both. That’s the way I approach gun control,” Fitzpatrick said. “There are a lot of common sense things we could do like universal



PHOTO COURTESY OF FITZPATRICK CAMPAIGN

background checks, gun violence restraining orders, etc. I want to make our community safer, and there should be no dispute on that. We need to keep people safe, but also preserve their constitutional rights.”

Congressman Fitzpatrick has not been very vocal about the death penalty, but he did vote yes for The Blue Thin Line Act: this act enforces the death penalty onto anyone who attempts to murder or murders a police officer, or any other first responder.

In regards to the controversial Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, Fitzpatrick believes that the truth needs to be uncovered through a thorough investigation of the sexual assault accusations.

“I think that we always need to treat any victim with the utmost respect and give them every benefit of the doubt,” he noted. “I think what’s happening here is it’s a hard thing for someone to step forward and tell her story. I think that all the facts need to be fully vetted and fully investigated. That’s my perspective as a former FBI Agent with any scenario. You always need to uncover the facts to get to the truth with anything.”

Congressman Fitzpatrick encourages voters to engage him and communicate so that he can hear your voice.

Remember there’s still time! The Deadline for registering to vote is October 6! You still have two days, get out there and make sure your voice is heard for the mid-terms!

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Bucks News

Bucks Short Fiction Contest is Back for a Second Year

MADISON PICKUL
Centurion Staff

The 2nd Annual Bucks County Short Fiction Contest is underway! It started in the fall of 2016 as Professor Elizabeth Luciano’s sabbatical project, it was first run in the fall of 2017. Since Bucks County already has a poetry contest, the short fiction contest was created to give fiction writers a chance to showcase their work.

According to Luciano, the two contests complement each other well. “It was a real diversity of work submitted,” said Luciano, referring to the 60 plus submissions the contest received its first year, which was much more successful than expected. The contest was originally funded through the Strategic Grant, which is good for one year only. However, due to its popularity, it is now funded through the Bucks Language and Literature Department.

When asked how she found this contest beneficial to Bucks, freshman Jennifer Abele said, “It forces people to revive creativity and display their talent. [It shows] that people have similar lives, but, at the same time, somehow different.”

“If you feel a desire to be creative, send it in,” encouraged Luciano. “We would love to give you a voice.”

In order to enter the contest, writers must be a resident of Bucks County over the age of 18, out of high school, and not be a full-time or part-time employee of Bucks County Community



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

College. All submissions must be received no later than noon on Thursday, Oct 25, 2018.

Luciano reviews all of the submissions before she selects the top six works that will then go on to a local ‘celebrity’ judge, picked by Luciano. This year, the final six submissions will be judged by Philadelphia author Elizabeth LaBan. She is the author of several books, including the young adult novel, The Tragedy Paper and the novel The Restaurant Critic’s Wife. LaBan will pick the top three finalists.

The finalists will be notified by the Director of the Bucks Short Fiction Contest within a few weeks of the contest closing date. The first place finalist will receive a \$200 honorarium, the second place finalist will receive a \$100

honorarium, and the third place finalist will receive a \$50 honorarium.

A reception will be held in the Orangery on Dec. 2, 2018 from 2:30-4pm. The three finalist will be able to read their piece, and LaBan has been offered the opportunity to either read a piece of hers or give a speech.

When asked if she was interested in continuing the contest, Luciano said: “As long as the community is interested, I am interested.”

For more information on the contest and where to submit go to the Language and Literature department page at Bucks.edu or email Professor Luciano at elizabeth.luciano@bucks.edu.

A Professor’s Take on Serena Williams and Her U.S. Open Loss

ADRIANNA WOLF
Centurion Staff

In a surprising upset, tennis’ biggest star Serena Williams lost her match against first-time finalist Naomi Osaka in the women’s final of the U. S. Open tennis tournament. But the upset was not Williams’ loss: it was that she finished with three penalties, creating controversy in the tennis world.

The event took place on Sept. 8, the day of the women’s final of the U.S. Open tennis tournament. Osaka beat Williams 6-6, 6-4 in the final, making her the first Grand Slam champion from Japan and the first Haitian-Japanese woman to win a major title.

The tennis match started like any other with high stakes on each side of the court. Williams had the chance to out title Margaret Court, a retired Australian tennis champion, and her record of 24 grand slam titles.

Osaka was playing against her childhood idol, Williams, who she has looked up to in her tennis career. She also played with the chance of being the first Grand Slam champion from Japan.

But trouble was brewing when things got heated during the second set of the game. The umpire, Carlos Ramos, gave Williams a warning for receiving sideline coaching from her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou.

Directly after the call was made, Williams went up the empire and explained she was not using “codes” with her coach. She denied the claim and became extremely offended stating, “I don’t cheat to win, I would rather lose” and walked away from Ramos.

The second penalty came during the second match. The ball travelled between the players until Williams hit it into the net, causing her to lose that game.

Williams then went on to smash her racquet onto the tennis court, bending it

out of shape. Ramos then added a point penalty for racquet abuse. Williams felt the point she received should have been her warning due to the false claim of her cheating earlier in the match. When Ramos refused, Williams demanded an apology for attacking her character.

After Ramos refused to apologize, Williams claimed he stole a point from her and went on to call him a “thief”. This action was not in Williams favor, because it then lead Ramos to deem it as verbal abuse, giving her a game penalty.

Williams then called the referee onto the court when she was given the penalty. The referee agreed with the call which brought Williams to tears out of frustration.

Ultimately, Osaka won the match while simultaneously making history. Osaka then shed her own tears after winning such a hard fought match.

The events within the match created disapproval from the crowd and they were not afraid to make their opinion known, booing while Osaka was receiving her title. In the moment, Williams’ penalties seemed to overshadow Osaka’s achievement.

Following the match, there has been much public scrutiny from sports fans, tennis enthusiasts, feminists, and defenders of race. Somehow, these worlds collided over a tennis game .

Was Williams’ behavior unacceptable? Or, are certain members of society only judging Williams this harshly because she is a black woman in a profession entrenched in patriarchy, and in a world dominated by race?

Some within the tennis world feel Williams overreacted, while others claim Ramos was merely doing his job as an umpire. They also feel any male athlete would have received the same game penalty on the third warning.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Other athletes and fans of Williams understand her frustration and believe she had every right to act the way she did on the court.

Professor Susan Darrah teaches women’s studies at BCCC. She spoke about the match from her perspective. Being a fan of Williams allowed her to quickly hear about the event.

“I have seen far worse behavior in the past from male players, with fewer penalties, so why be so severe with Williams? One reason is the inherent sexism and disadvantages we [women] all face because we live in a patriarchal society,” said Darrah.

The sports industry originated with men and continues to revolve around patriarchy. This fact makes it difficult for women to reach success in the profession. Even if a female athlete does attain success and fame, she is vulnerable to the public scrutiny that comes with the title.

This is exemplified by Williams in social media from the past week. We see her in commercials for sportswear, jewelry and products directed towards mothers due to her recent pregnancy.

But, all of that is forgotten when she shows some form of emotion on national television without any editing. Women are penalized for reacting to things that upset them, especially in the sports industry.

Darrah touched on this when she noted, “Williams may have violated, from the point of view of Ramos, ‘unladylike’ behavior, which might prejudice him against her- Williams was angry and showed it.”

When watching the match between Williams and Osaka, Williams is visibly upset. Maybe she did overreact by damaging her racquet and yelling at the umpire. **Continued on page 8**

Update in Bucks Cheating Scandal



Pictured: Marryott and Morosco Courtesy of Crimewatch

MADISON PICKUL
Centurion Staff

Last November, two Bucks County women were arrested for hacking into the Bucks County Community College computer system to change theirs and other students’ grades.

The two women arrested were Kelly Margaret Marryott, a 37-year-old from Yardley employed at a medical office and Aleisha Morosco, a 30-year-old part-time student at Bucks from New Hope.

Marryott used her position at a doctor’s office to gain personal information about a professor at Bucks and was able to pass the information to Morosco. Morosco then used that information to access the Bucks computer system to change her grades for her Microbiology class, along with other students’ grades as well.

Morosco and Marryott were both arrested back in November and had bail set for \$40,000 which they were able to post.

Marryott went to trial on March 29, 2018 and her case was presented before Honorable Michael W. Petrucci of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas. She was charged with six different counts, including fraud, conspiracy,

identity theft, and illegal use of a computer. For each of the charges, Marryott was to complete 200 hours of community service over a period of 24 weeks and was not allowed to be in any form of contact with the college.

The charges against Marryott were later changed to misdemeanor charges instead of federal charges. Court records show that Marryott paid \$242 in expungement fees, which gives her the ability to rejoin the workforce.

Morosco was set to go to trial on March 5, 2018, but the trial was cancelled. However, she did attend an ARD court, which is for non-violent offenders with no prior or they have a limited record, on March 20, 2018. Like Marryott’s case, Morosco had the same charges filed with Judge Petrucci presiding over the case.

For each of the charges, Morosco was to complete 100 hours of community service over a period of 12 months. The charges against Moroso were also changed to misdemeanor charges instead of federal charges. Court records show that Morosco, like Marryott, paid \$242 in expungement fees.

Both of the women received no jail time. Marryott and Morosco’s cases have since been adjudicated.

Sports

Big Changes Are Coming for the Women’s Soccer Team

ROBERT SIMMONS
Centurion Staff

The Bucks Women’s Soccer Team returns for the 2018 season after what was arguably the greatest season in program history, with record wins and record-shattering goals scored. However, speculation surrounds the success of the Lady Centurions now that they have a new head coach.

Most teams that suffer the loss of a successful head coach are bound for a season of rebuilding and setbacks. That does not seem to be the case with this team, as expectations are sky- high for head coach Maria Grady. Grady comes from a rich soccer background and hopes to build upon the foundation she’s inheriting.

As a player, Grady set a record for career goals at her South Jersey high school Our Lady of Mercy. An impressive 86 goals is a record that still stands to this day. Later, her exploits caught the attention of the coaches at The College of New Jersey, where she went on to play for another four years, including a run to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament in 2009.

Following her career as a player, Grady moved on to coaching at Holy Cross Academy in Delran, New Jersey where she began as the assistant coach. As an assistant, she helped lead the varsity squad to a Non-Public South Jersey Championship.

Winning is in her DNA, and it’s an attribute Bucks hopes is contagious. “I am a coach who respects

the hard work that is put into the game, on and off the field,” said the first year coach. It will be about more than just hard work for the Lady Centurions, however. Grady realizes the successful season this team had last year and understands the importance of not trying to change too much.

Last season Bucks saw the greatest goal-scoring season in program history, due in large part to player Brooklynn Smith. Smith notched an incredible 25 goals a season ago, which was also a Lady Centurions record. Although Smith and her knack for scoring is something difficult to replace, there’s a few more than capable candidates on this squad.

Sophomores Teresa Yeager and Jamie Apple look to lead the way this season up front. As freshmen, both Yeager and Apple contributed 11 goals each, along with six and five assists respectively. With the experienced core of sophomores alongside the incoming wave of first-year talents like Brianna Columbo, there’s goals to be had this season-- goals that will be much needed in some big matchups this year.

Another emphasis for this season will be on team comradery and family. “I think the one thing I want to do it make sure the girls feel like they are part of a family. I come from a college program where traditions were so important to our team and that part of the game is something you cannot teach,” Grady noted. “I want these new traditions to be passed down from year to year and not come



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BUCKS ATHLETICS FACEBOOK PAGE

from me, but come from the second year [players] so the girls can feel more together on this team than anything they have been a part of before.”

There will be a heavy reliance on the returning second-year players to step into leadership roles and implement the traditions of which Grady spoke. Team captains Teresa Yeager and Kailie Mitchell have been especially crucial in helping this year’s incoming class feel at home. “Having a year under their belts has really made a difference in helping the new players adapt quickly,” said Grady.

but there are two that I am really excited for and that is Rowan College at Gloucester County and Cumberland County,” said Grady. “I have a good relationship with both of these coaches and know what they bring to the table as coaches. They both have great programs and I am excited to see how we match up.”

It will be interesting to see how this team handles the changes of a new coach and new faces along with the pressures of following up on an incredible 2017 season. All early signs indicate that they’re in good hands and look poised to make another successful run this season.

Bucks Baseball Hopes for Better Year

ANDREW BURDEN
Centurion Staff

After a devastating 3-16 record in the spring, the Bucks baseball team is faced with a new fall schedule and a new coach, who is actively implementing an improved mindset for the team. Coach CJ Brancato hopes to focus not only on these upcoming games, but making this stretch from fall to spring much better than last season.

Last year, the team had been changed to a club due to the size of the roster and the ineligibility of some players. Following this outcome, scheduling became more difficult-- a problem exacerbated by the players’ class and work commitments, and a lack of players due to the smaller roster.

Since the team had a late start, Coach Brancato is doing a lot of to make up for lost time. “We’re able to recruit due to us having a fall schedule, shape the team, and see what each player can do. Just in sheer numbers, we are between 30-40 guys. If we have enough going into spring and they are eligible, we can see what they have to offer,” said Brancato.

With this new roster, the question remains- how many games this team will be able to play? With the cancellations last year, the team missed out on a number of games.

“As far as the schedule goes, it’s pretty full, instead of having to cancel midweek games due to the roster,” Brancato explained. “We’re sitting at 15 pitchers, and shooting for a 25 full man roster. With this, we’re able to play 30 plus games, and fundraise more which allows us to go on a spring trip. We’re in the middle of fundraising right now.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUCKS ATHLETICS FACEBOOK PAGE

“Just the fall games allow us to showcase some of the players we have to other four-year programs. For instance, playing Delaware Valley, Drexel, and Philly U in the fall allows those programs to look at members of our team and see if they fit, baseball-wise.”

With the season approaching, Coach Brancato wants everyone to know of the changes the team and coaching staff have gone under. Brancato announced, “We changed the coaching staff. I feel that we have a much more consistent staff this year being their seven days a week-- [we have] myself, [and] we added Coach Lihotz to the pitching staff. He’s been the pitching coach at Holy Ghost Prep the last three years. He’s turned out a number of Division 1 prospects while there, [and] he’s also my pitching coordinator at Rake Baseball Academy. He knows what he’s doing and relates well to the guys.”

Brancato continued, “We also added Steve Sable as out hitting

coach, he’ll be on as a part-time volunteer assistant and Coach Trainor will be back as our primary assistant. Frank Gonzales, who played as one of our catchers last year, is going to be our statistician and another volunteer assistant coach. He’s been doing a great job in the fall with working with the younger catchers and helping out with basic workouts. Frank has done a great job of recruiting when we go to Northeast Philadelphia on recruiting trips.”

And speaking of new recruits, the Centurion baseball team added a new catcher, Noah Ruiz, from Montgomery Community College who is a strong-armed catcher, and Brendan Jordan, from Neumann University, a 6’4 shortstop. When it comes to improving from last year compared to this upcoming fall and spring promises to be a good year, the structure both the team and the chemistry has been changing for the better.

Serena Williams



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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But, it all comes back to the same question: would a male athlete receive the same penalties if they behaved the same way?

After the match, Williams attended a press conference to talk about the highlights of what took place.

Near the very end of the conference, Williams said, “The fact that I have to go through this is just an example for the next person that has emotions and wants to express themselves, and they want to be a strong woman. And they’re gonna be allowed to do that because of today. Maybe it didn’t work out for me but it’s gonna work out for the next person.”

Williams’ voice started breaking in the middle of that sentence. Even after being penalized on the court, she shows raw emotion to a room filled with the press.

Darrah feels that sports are always an important part of patriarchy, so this event will have an impact on society. “I hope Williams is right. My sense

though, is that what happens in men’s sports matters more,” said Darrah.

Even though the match between Williams and Osaka was frequently talked about, it is only a matter of time before a male athlete takes the spotlight.

But, hopefully Williams’ actions inspire other females to show raw emotion on the court to normalize that behavior in sports for men and women.

Women should not have to constantly worry about being “ladylike” to please society. Just like men should not have to worry about being “tough”.

The tennis match between Osaka and Williams overpowered the news and social media. Sadly, not many articles have been written to congratulate Osaka on her success, instead choosing to focus on the controversy surrounding the match.