

Record Turnout for Midterm Elections



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH SIOCK

SARAH SIOCK

Centurion Staff

Republicans' enthusiasm for President Donald Trump and Democrats' desire to renounce him caused a record number of Americans to vote for their representatives this midterm election.

Donald Trump's presidency has caused a divide of opinions across America and the polls on Nov. 6 reflected this divide. People came out to the polls in hopes of shifting the balance of power in Washington.

The local polling places had people lined up ready to vote even before the doors opened.

Bucks County resident, Dennis Weldon, weighed in on why he

felt this election attracted a high number of voters, "When one party is in power, the other side is always fired up," said Weldon. "What makes this election special is that the Republicans are fired up as well."

The number of registered voters that came out to the polls was approaching those of a presidential election. According to Bucks County Republican Committee member, Howard Schargel, by 3 p.m. 50 percent of registered voters in congressional house district number one had already showed up to vote. This percent was expected to rise before the polls closed later at 8 p.m. "People just keep coming, even in this rain," Schargel added.

Schargel pointed out that the mass turnout in Bucks County voters could not only be due to the current administration, but to Bucks County's desire for bipartisanship. "Candidates like Brian Fitzpatrick and Marguerite Quinn have shown that they will cross party lines, which is important to people around here" Schargel said. "It motivates voters to come to the polls to keep people like them in power."

Fitzpatrick was able to maintain his position in the House of Representatives over opponent Scott Wallace. Fitzpatrick and Wallace had a fierce campaigns with several ads criticizing each other.

While Quinn lost the race for a seat in the Senate to Steve

Santerserio. Quinn had previously served as a State Representative since 2007.

Perhaps, people have begun to realize the impact of their elected officials and that is what drove them to the polls.

Joe Flood, a candidate for State Representative, described the power of local government when he said, "I worked as a Doylestown Borough Councilman for years and from my experience, I can say the decisions made in local government directly affects everyone. Sometimes people can underestimate the power of their state representatives."

"People see how much effort and money both parties put into the election, which can be a driving force to vote," Flood added.

Flood lost the election to candidate, Wendy Ullman.

Some felt that the results of last presidential election caused more voters to show up at the polls this time around. "Being irresponsible and not voting in the past is what got us into the mess we are in now," said Democratic candidate for State Representative, Wendy Ullman. "Our voice is our vote and allows us to participate in the government," Ullman added. Ullman was among the record number of women who were elected into the House of Representatives. Ullman's husband, Dan, also weighed in on the large voter turnout when he said, "People came out to vote today because they are embarrassed of Donald Trump," **Continued on page 7**

Lunch With BCCC President Stephanie Shanblatt

NICOLE AQUINO

Centurion Staff

On Thursday Nov. 2 students were invited to have lunch with the President of BCCC Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt.

The event took place in the Gallagher Room from 12:30-1:30 p.m. with free pizza, cookies, and beverages.

The lunch with the President was an opportunity for students to sit with Shanblatt and voice their concerns with the school.

It was President Shanblatt's decision to make the event public to give students the chance to come up and talk with her and discuss their issues.

Shanblatt said, "I've come to the Gallagher Room a couple times and went up to students to say hello and introduce myself. I sat down and invited students to come up and talk, but noticed they were reserved and uncomfortable to come up."

At every Bucks campus, fliers along with an email sent with the information about the event, encouraged students to come and

voice their opinions.

Shanblatt was very open and heard each student's concerns and answered them to the best of her ability. Ray Varla, a film major, asked about the tuition rate and questioned if it will increase or decrease.

Back in April the Bucks Board of Trustees unanimously voted that tuition would be increased by \$5 at the start of the 2018 fall semester. This increase was made to maintain both the quality at the college and the fiscal balance.

Shanblatt answered honestly and spoke about how the state determines how much money the school needs for its budget.

A major topic brought up was about ALEKS, a math program that is taken along with math courses such as Algebra.

"It's like taking two courses instead of one and it is a much bigger workload," Shanblatt said.

Shanblatt took down the information and stated, "I will definitely bring it up to the faculty and see what they have to say about it, but I appreciate you bringing up the problem. I understand that

it is a heavy workload and must be hard to handle with your other classes."

20-year-old Deanna Hackmeister, a business major from Yardley, voiced her concern with transferring. Hackmeister wanted to know if it was okay to defer a semester when you have a transfer agreement.

Shanblatt, responded saying, "It is perfectly fine if students want to defer a semester or two until they want to attend the college."

Shanblatt said, "Bucks has a lot of colleges that are with our transfer agreement and they are flexible when it comes to a student wanting to take a semester off or more. The college will still hold the students place."

Overall, the students that attended had a positive reaction. Some added it was nice to meet the president and have a chance to sit down with her and speak about the issues they had.

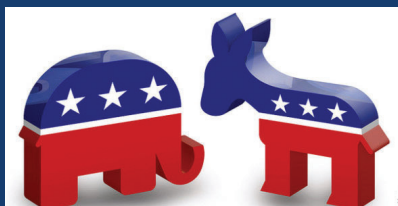
Shanblatt hopes this event will encourage students to share their concerns at any time and know they will be heard and taken into consideration.



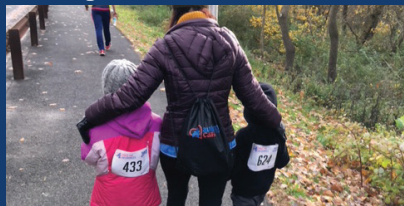
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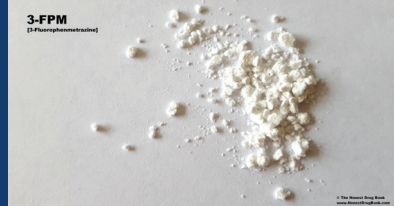
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Learn what you can do to help end this crisis

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Gabby Houck

Managing Editor
Nico Cisneros & Timothy Gramling

Assisting Managing Editor
Sarah Siock & Anthony Drenzo

Advisor
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The Midterms Explained

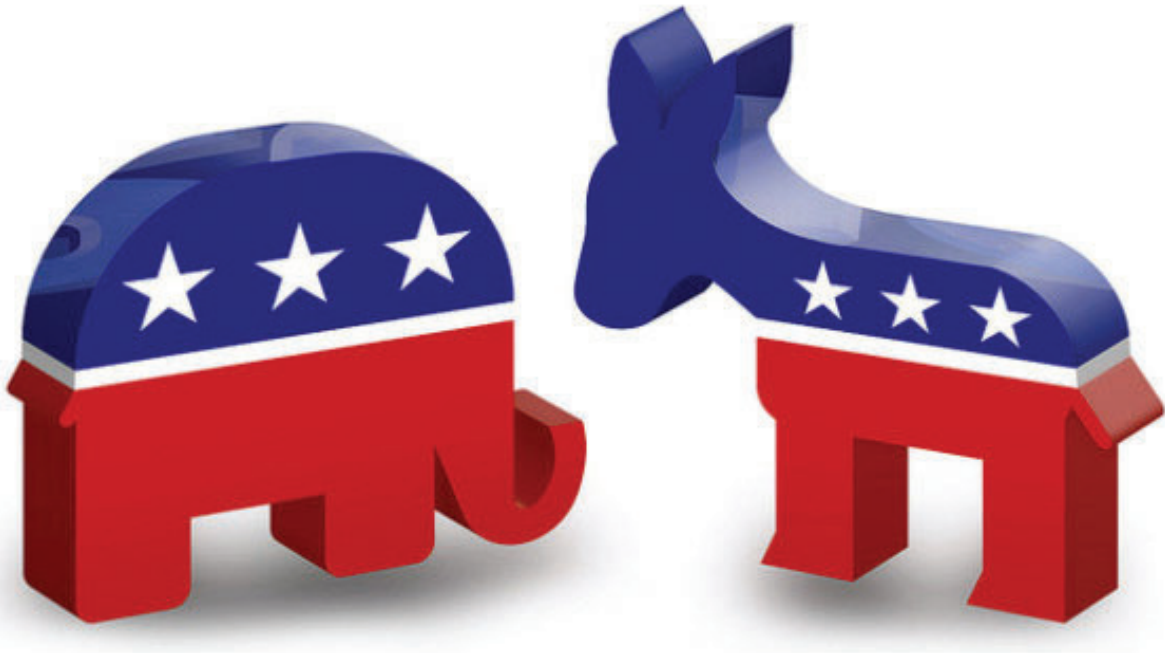


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KERI MARABLE
Centurion Staff

On Nov. 6, United States citizens voted in the midterm elections. The midterm elections are the general elections held every four years near the middle of a president’s term. Positions up for election include members of state legislature and the United States Congress.

The Pennsylvania’s General Assembly includes the Pennsylvania Senate with 50 members and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with 203 members. One Senator and one Representative are elected from each of the voting districts.

Bucks County is a part of Pennsylvania’s first district. There are four state senatorial district seats and 10 state house of representative seats that represent the first district in the state congress.

The four state senatorial seats in Bucks County are Pennsylvania’s 6th, 10th, 12th, and 24th districts. Historically, all four districts have been Republican. The Democratic Party flipped two senatorial seats in Bucks County, creating an even split between the parties.

Bucks County, while not aiding towards the overall Democratic win, still saw a thrilling race. The historical swing state of district 1, which includes Bucks County

and part of Montgomery County, re-elected Republican Brian Fitzpatrick. He defeated Democrat Scott Wallace, winning by only 2.5 percent more votes in one of the most watched races in the country this election.

Even though the Republicans held this district in Pennsylvania, they lost the U.S House of Representatives to the Democrats.

Professor John Petito weighed in on the results of the congressional race. He is an associate professor of history and government at Bucks. He teaches early and modern U.S. history and American national government.

“Brian is an attractive candidate because of his bi-partisan efforts,” Petito explained. “I wish he had voted against the tax-grab-for-the-rich bill, but he has voted independently on other issues. Hopefully he can influence his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to choose consensus over conflict. My hope is that the moderate middle can acquire power over the extremes.”

Petito also believes that the democratic majority in the House could be game changing, saying, “If they listened to me, the Democrats would focus on policy and establish a legislative record that will give them something to run on in 2020.”

“The Senate may not agree, or the President may not sign a bill, but at least the Democrats would have a policy record that voters could agree or disagree with – on military defense, cyber-defense, domestic security, net neutrality, environmental protection, agriculture, infrastructure, commercial and financial regulation, taxes and spending, immigration, healthcare, other social benefit programs,” Petito said. “Democrats in the House have to stop letting the Executive Branch and media set the agenda for national discussion and legislation.”

Petito stressed the importance of bipartisan cooperation. “[The Democrats in Congress and the President] will never agree on much – they just have to find one thing they can agree on, then another. It seems to me that infrastructure is a good place to start trying to find agreement.”

Agreement will definitely be something both sides will have to work towards, especially here in Pennsylvania. In Bucks County, there are 10 state house of representative seats for each of the 10 districts within the county: the 18th, 29th, 31st, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, and 178th.

Historically, Republicans dominated with seven districts while Democrats only represented three. The Democrats’ flipped four districts from red to blue, bringing Bucks County to another even split for state legislature.

The two Democrats that flipped the districts were Democrat Wendy Ullman, who took the previously held Republican seat after defeating Republican Joe Flood; and Democrat Brian Kline, who flipped the seat from blue to red after defeating Republican Craig Staats.

Even more “blue wave” upsets in this election. One happened in the 10th District, where Democrat Steve Santarsiero flipped the seat after defeating Republican Marguerite Quinn.

Another occurred in the 12th District, where Republican Stewart Greenleaf Jr. lost re-election to Democrat Maria Collett.

Three of the seats were re-election for democrats like in the 31st District, where Democrat Perry Warren was re-elected in his second race against Republican Ryan Gallagher.

The 140th District re-elected unopposed Democrat John T Galloway, who’s been representing since 2007. In the 141st District, Democrat Tina Davis was re-elected in the race against Republican Anthony J. Sposato. She has held the position since 2011.

Still, some Republicans held their ground. In the 18th District, voters re-elected Republican Gene Digirolamo, who has been representing Bensalem for 24 years and received 56.5 percent of votes. Digirolamo defeated the Democratic newcomer Jimmy Lamb. In the 6th District, Republican Tommy Tomlinson was re-elected in the race against Democrat Tina Davis.

In the 142nd District, Republican Frank Farry was re-elected to represent for the tenth year, receiving 56.3 percent against Democrat Lauren Lareau.

Republican Wendy Thomas held her seat against Democrat Helen Tai in the 178th District. In the 24th District, Republican Bob Mensch was re-elected in the race against Democrat Linda Fields.

In the 29th District candidate Republican Meghan Schroeder defeated Democrat Andrew Dixon and in the 144th District, Republican Todd Polinchock defeated Democrat Meredith Buck.

In this election, Bucks County is represented by an even split between Democrat and Republican candidates for both the House of Representatives and Senate of the Pennsylvania General Assembly state legislature.

Democrat Tom Wolf was re-elected for Governor, winning 57.6 percent of the state vote and defeating Republican Scott Wagner. This will be Wolf’s second term as governor, which helps the Democratic Party gain the power of veto over the republican majority still in Pennsylvania’s General Assembly.

Democrat John Fetterman joins the Wolf team as a newcomer to the state’s capitol, but not a new face in politics.

Fetterman served as the mayor of Braddock, just outside Pittsburgh. He has now been elected Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket as Tom Wolf.

Pennsylvanians re-elected Democrat Bob Casey for Pennsylvania representative in the U.S Senate, with 55.6 percent of the vote, defeating Republican Lou Barletta.

Previously, Republicans held 13 seats and Democrats held five. This election, the Democrats were able to flip four districts while the republicans only flipped two, bringing the number of democrats and republicans representing Pennsylvania to an even split.

However, the Democrats’ four new representatives reflected the blue wave coming to the U.S Congress.

As the Trump administration reaches its midpoint in the term, this election could mean many things for the United States. On a federal level, the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives brings a new twist to the coming two years until the next presidential election, and could possibly bring new moves. However, with the Republicans holding the senate, bipartisan cooperation is required moving forward.

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Politics

Coffee With the Candidates



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCCC DEMOCRATS

JOHN FEY

Centurion Staff

Bucks Democrats hosted “Coffee with Candidates,” an event to give students an opportunity to speak face-to-face with Bucks County Democratic candidates before the midterm elections.

“This is the most important election of my life,” said congressional candidate Scott Wallace.

Wallace later lost to Republican incumbent Brian Fitzpatrick by about 9,000 votes.

While Wallace was the star of the show among his other candidates, students in attendance also had the pleasure of speaking to other Bucks County Democrats like Perry Warren of Newtown, Tina Davis of Bristol, and Wendy Ullman of Plumstead Township.

Wendy Ullman is no stranger to the Newtown campus. She was a former English professor at Bucks who is ran on the promise of protecting those in her district. Her pamphlet has her quoted saying “I will challenge the status quo for the hard working families of Bucks County.”

Ullman ended up winning a seat long held by republican Marguerite Quinn, she is now the state representative for the 143rd state house district.

Wendy was eager to speak to students, “This event gives students the opportunity to talk to candidates, and we hear you!”

When asked about the current administration, Wendy commented “We’re just not doing what we’re supposed to be doing,” referring to both Republicans and fellow Democrats in office.

But Ullman plans to change all that. One way she plans on doing so is by pushing for universal background checks for those wishing to purchase firearms. She mentioned how Bucks County has been affected by this, mentioning the killings of four young men last year by Cosmo DiNardo.

“Our students and younger generation should be a major priority to us,” Ullman said.

The message of protecting students and all people in Bucks County was shared by all the politicians enjoying coffee and food with students and faculty.

One other such politician was Meredith Buck of Chalfont. Buck knows what it means to care for others. A longtime nurse, she volunteered with the Red Cross to give medical aid to those at Ground Zero on 9/11. She has also been an attorney for the last 15 years.

“We are about the people, and we will listen to the people,” Buck said.

Buck ended up losing her race for the 144th state representative seat to Republican and former U.S. Navy pilot Todd Polinchock.

Another hopeful Democrat at the event was Helen Tai of Solebury, a member of the House of Representatives from the 178th District.

Helen was the first minority woman state representative in district 178, a big change for the area and encouraging to see the diversity of voters in the Bucks County area.

Helen knows some students don’t necessarily care about politics, she said, “Voting is a privilege that we should all take advantage of, everyone has some reason to vote whether you realize it or not, so have your voice heard!”

Helen spoke of the main issues she would push if elected: healthcare, funding education, and protecting the citizens in her district.

She was elected in a Special Election in May and hoped to secure her position, but ended up losing her seat to Wendi Thomas on Nov. 6.

Campaign manager PJ O’Brien also spoke on why young citizens need to realize how these elected officials decide on so many major things like the economy, job availability, and healthcare.

“We need to realize so many of our decisions run through the people we choose to run our country,” O’Brien said.

Around 10:30 a.m., Scott Wallace entered the Solarium with a crowd of supporters and students surrounding him. A few students with “Wallace for Congress” shirts could be seen amongst the crowd.

Having Wallace, arguably the most talked about Democrat in the Bucks County elections present, made the event all the more serious. One could see the interest in politics in the students and staff of Bucks when it came time for him and other Democrats to ask questions.

Wallace spoke of healthcare at length and what he would do to protect it for all residents of Bucks County. He wants to make sure Medicare is available to all those in need, especially for those with pre-existing conditions.

At one point while speaking, Wallace mentioned the downsides of his opponent Brian Fitzpatrick.

He believes that Fitzpatrick, who supports many of the policies of President Trump, is working to help the wealthy 1 percent, something Wallace opposes greatly.

He also mentioned Fitzpatrick’s strong ties to Paul Ryan, something Wallace mentioned in previous debates with Fitzpatrick.

“He talks about being bi-partisan and then goes on to support Trump and Ryan, two of the most partisan politicians in America,” Wallace said.

“I’m a Democrat, (and) he’s a Republican. We have both chosen sides and he wants to pretend like he is fair and even,” he said.

Wallace and the other candidates talked and conversed with students until around 11 a.m. The interest in politics and policies being offered by the local Democrats held the attention of all the students present, which was a telling sign of the high voter turnout on Nov. 6.

With all the enthusiasm and strong belief in American politics that could be found in the Solarium that day, one has to wonder if an interest in politics is here to stay in a once apolitical generation of students.

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Bucks News

BCCC Holds Annual Race for Resources 5K

JOSEPH SHERIDAN
Centurion Staff

Dew glimmered on the grass and compassion filled the air as many Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia County residents lined up to walk, run, and jog in support of community members with autism. On Saturday Nov. 3 BCCC held its annual 5k and 10k “Race for Resources” to support the Autism Cares Foundation.

Autism Cares Foundation (ACF) was founded in 2007 by the parents of a child with autism along with other professionals that offer life-enriching experiences for people living with autism in a safe and welcoming environment.

Over the past 10 years, ACF expanded and opened its programs to those with autism and other special needs. The Bucks County, PA-based non-profit organization has grown from six events in 2007 to hosting more than 200 free life-enrichment activities and events annually to over 4,700 people in the tri-state area. This incredible growth demonstrates the demand for activities for an underserved population.

Funds from the race provide opportunities for loved ones with special needs to enjoy the same opportunities and acceptance as their peers. Through their fundraising efforts, Race for Resources is able to host an average of 15 free events each month, creating social and educational opportunities for children, teens, and adults

with autism and other special needs.

An educational expo started at 7:30 a.m. while race participants and community members prepared for race. The expo included music, a moon bounce, face painting, and much more to entertain the kids as the parents were able to meet representatives from different providers and services dealing with and related to autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other special needs.

One of the big crowd pleasers at the expo was the BCCC Artmobile parked along the race trail that demonstrated the pollination process of bees through artwork such as videos, pictures, microscopes, and other interactive learning devices. The Artmobile’s goal is to help assist those with

special needs and is designed to be handicap accessible. Rachelle Moes, an Artmobile Educator, was running the Artmobile and made the whole experience captivating by presenting information with factual tidbits and follow-along activities.

As 9:00 A.M. drew near, the air began to buzz with anticipation as runners and walkers the met at the starting line. The participants in the race came from far and wide to show their support for autism awareness. Valerie, whose nephew has Autism, hails from Holland, PA and has shown her support through the race for the past 4 years. “It’s very important to come show support for those with Autism and at the same time contribute and help the community,” she said.

Walkers and racers ranged from teachers, students, adults, and even young children. A young boy, Declan P., threw on a winter cap and walked for miles with a smile on his face to show support for his brother. John Schmidt, a special needs teacher, was happy he was able to relive his old cross country days for a great cause. “Everybody knows that running’s the worst,” he laughed. “But the ability to help people and put a spotlight on autism is definitely one way to make it worthwhile.”

If you are interested in helping support those with Autism there is still time to donate. Just visit <http://raceforresources.org/> and click donate at the top to help make a change!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSEPH SHERIDAN

Plans Announced For New Building at Lower Bucks Campus

KERI MARABLE
Centurion Staff

Officials from Bucks County Community College and the County of Bucks on Oct. 17 announced the construction of a new building, the ‘Bucks County Center for Economic & Workforce Development’, at the college’s Bristol Township campus.

The Center will provide education and training for individuals looking to reskill, and for businesses that want to further train their employees. In addition, the new building will house labs to facilitate that work.

“This new center will allow us to integrate workforce training and employment services to better serve our regional businesses by building programs that address the shortage of skilled workers in the region, offer higher level training and provide space for businesses to engage in talks for meaningful economic growth,” explained BCCC President and Bucks Workforce Development Board Member Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt.

The cost of the new center is estimated at about \$14.1 million. The building will be paid for by a combination of local, state, and federal dollars.

The center will expand the college’s new industrial and metalworking workshop programs created to help with the current high demand for employment in the industrial industries. This de-

mand has shown in the program’s expansion to the Upper Bucks campus, where over 200 students have completed the program with a 94 percent job placement rate.

Hoping to build upon this success, this center aims to consolidate the college’s and county’s workforce development and career offices into one location. The building will also include BCCC’s partners, including the Bucks County Workforce Development Board. They identify issues affecting the workforce system in Bucks County and create policy in response; address the needs of the emerging workforce through youth development activities; and identify eligible providers of intensive and training services.

Another partner housed within the center will be PA Career-Link, a part of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry’s initiative to change how job-seekers find jobs. It provides help with job search, resume and skill building workshops, unemployment assistance, GED preparation program, and many other services. Its current office will also be moved to the new building.

Conceptually, the center will be a 35,000-square-foot, two-story building with classrooms, offices, meeting spaces, and large, two-story garage bays. Ground-breaking is expected in late 2019, with completion around 2021 with an estimated time frame of 12-18 months.



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Bucks News

Learn a Trade in Bucks’ Metalworking Program



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ZACH WILLITS
Centurion Staff

Students interested in learning how to work with their hands for a living should look no further than the Bucks metalworking training program. This is a 12-week program that teaches students fundamental concepts required to be a machinist in the manufacturing field.

Students will be able to use this program to find lucrative career opportunities. Experience is not required to sign up. Stephanie Wenger, the Interim Assistant Director of Workforce Development at Bucks said that students, “Just need to pass an interview and an aptitude test in order to qualify.”

“Our students are of all ages, all in different stages of their career

and living throughout Bucks County,” said Wenger.

Wenger continued, “I recommend this program to anyone who enjoys working with their hands and is looking for an amazing career opportunity.”

“Interested students will gain an entry-level understanding of manufacturing and fabricating. Additionally, [students] will also learn blueprint reading, shop math, hand tool use, and forklift safety training,” Wenger said.

Curious students should be aware that some of the things taught in this program are risky. “They can be dangerous, which is why all students receive safety training within the first week of the course,” said Wenger.

The danger may be worth it to students considering this line

of work over white collar work. “This is an awesome opportunity for a high-paying career without any educational debt.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for someone who enjoys working with their hands and is not interested in an office job,” said Wenger.

Wenger continued, “There are tons of high-paying jobs in Manufacturing and students can get into them without incurring any debt. Manufacturing is alive and well in Bucks County. According to the Workforce Development Board, by 2020 there will be 3,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs in Bucks County. To say there is opportunity for young people is an understatement!”

Students who are lost in their search for a major, concerned

about student debt, and looking for a new direction should definitely consider this program as a potential path to take in their academic lives.

After finishing this program, students can look forward to an entry-level job in manufacturing such as a CNC Operator, Welder, Plasma Cutter, Grinder, etc. These jobs will grow into so much more and can give students the foundation to run a manufacturing site, shop and/or company.

When asked why there is stigma around trade jobs today, Wenger said, “People don’t know about the career opportunities that exist in manufacturing. Our employers make things that are essential to our everyday lives and futures.”

“A lot of our manufactures are doing high-tech, cutting edge

things and to be on the ground floor of that, while earning a high-paying wage is outstanding. They are making ground breaking devices in medicine, marking parts for planes, our infrastructure and most importantly working to make our country and people stronger,” said Wenger.

Not only is the work promising, largely debt-free, and available, but it is also quite important work that plays quite the role in the world.

More information on the program can be found on the Bucks website. The program is offered in Bristol and Perkasio. Bristol sessions begin Nov. 5 and Perkasio sessions begin Nov. 12. Be sure to check it out!



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The Election

The Psychology of the Election

SARAH SIOCK
Centurion Staff

Due to our technology-obsessed world, this midterm election had political campaign advertisements reaching voters across a plethora of different media outlets. Bucks students were relieved that the midterm had come to an end due to the bombardment of political campaign advertisements. The ads reached students through television, the internet, and talk/text. It seemed almost impossible to escape the ads this election season. Advertisements are utilized every campaign cycle. They serve as a way for candidates to reach voters. Ads allow for each party

to state their claim of superiority over their opponent. However, many people view ads as a daily annoyance. Advertisements seem to follow people throughout their entire day. It seems that the campaigns are centered around advertisement. “I just really hate the commercials,” said Bucks student Macy Mahar. “They can be confusing. And how do you know even they are even true?” Many other Bucks students have expressed the same fear as Mahar, regarding the validity of televised campaign advertisements. “They can just be so dramatic that I end up ignoring them,” said student Rachel French.

“When I see two commercials back to back with one endorsing Scott Wallace and one criticizing him, it is hard to trust either view,” added French. Candidates use advertisements in hopes of changing voters’ opinions. However, students at Bucks felt that campaign ads this season were not affective in their swaying voters. “People already have their views and just because I see a dramatic commercial about a candidate does not mean I will change my vote,” said student Gabby Adornetto. Adornetto also stated that she had received both phone calls and text messages urging her to vote for a certain candidate. “I am just happy that it is finally going to

stop,” laughed Adornetto. Another student, Andrew Burden, expressed his frustration with the excess of advertisements via the internet. “It is definitely excessive. Every single YouTube video has an ad relating to the election,” said Burden. “Often, it is the same one that keeps playing.” Television ads are often very dramatic in order to draw viewers’ attention. Computer science major, Brendan McGoldrice, shared his opinion on the theatrical techniques used in the ads. “They have started to become a joke between me and my friends. They can just be so dramatic that it’s laughable,” said McGoldrice. “At least they can get the candidate’s name out there.”

The excess of advertisements could be due to the money that they produce. The Washington Post stated, “TV consultants employed by campaigns typically earn 10 to 15 cents for every dollars of television ad time their candidate purchases.” The more ads, the more income the consultants earn. The money involved with these campaigns and ads could be the source of Bucks students’ aggravation toward advertisements. As computer science major, Brendon McGoldrice put it, “It seems that it’s a battle to see which candidate will spend the most money in order to win.”

Midterms...

Continued from Page 1... he also stated, “This is our response. Instead of fighting, we vote.” With the record numbers of voters at the polls there was an expectation for a major shift of power. However, the results did not show the large blue wave that the Democrats had promised in Congress. The Democrats were able to take majority in the House. However, the Republicans remained in control of the Senate. The results of the election mirrored the split opinions voters shared

at the polls. This new spilt of powers in Congress could make it even harder for legislation to get passed. The current state of our country has people expressing radical views on each end of the political spectrum. People, now more than ever before, are speaking their minds, which in turn, helped cause a large voter turnout. The fear of not having a voice in our government spiked the number of voters too, as voter, Dennis Weldon, put it, “If you don’t vote you don’t matter.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH SIOCK



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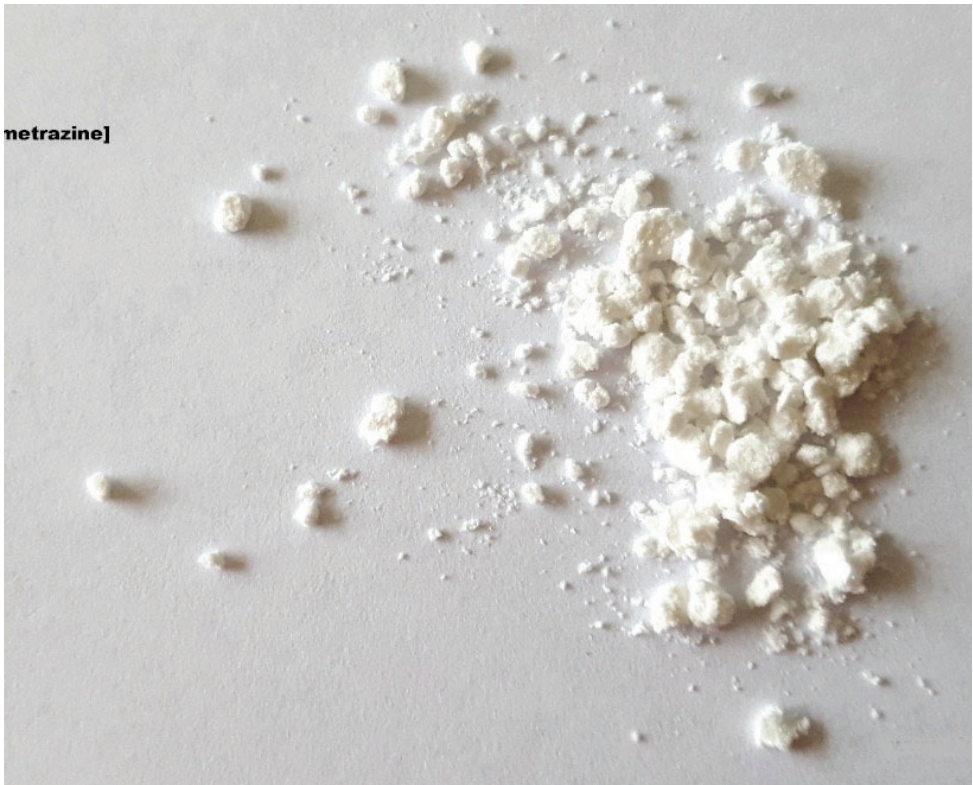
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Bucks County

The Opioid Epidemic: It Starts With Us



BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

GABBY HOUCK
Centurion Staff

Doylestown, located in central Bucks County, is nothing short of picturesque. The old buildings evoke a sense of nostalgia that draws tourists from all over the country.

The people are friendly, the shops are small and personal, and the restaurants create unique dining experiences that keep customers coming back for more.

But underneath this pretty, nicely decorated band aid of a town, lies a festering wound that only seems to be getting worse: an opioid epidemic is hiding in the shadows of this suburban safe haven.

With 30 years on the force, Central Bucks Chief of Police Karl Knott has seen his share of drug crises.

“In all of my years, I’ve never seen an epidemic this bad,” he said. “The only one I could even consider coming close to this one would have to be the crack cocaine epidemic.”

District Attorney Matthew Weintraub agreed with Knott, noting that in his 25 years he’s never seen something this bad besides the crack cocaine epidemic.

Doylestown started feeling the effects of this opioid epidemic in 2010.

“It was around then that we started responding to more and more overdose calls,” Knott explained.

As of 2017, there’s been 231 drug overdoses throughout Bucks County, with numbers getting higher at an alarming speed.

“When you’re looking at this in numbers, it’s easy to become a little desensitized. But when you’re there on the scene of an overdose, it’s hard to emotionally detach yourself,” Knott admitted.

“Some of the most heartbreaking cases are when we get there and it’s someone we’ve already responded to before,” Knott said. “You see the person we saved once before [who] promised they were going to get better, but then there we are and we can’t even do anything because they’re already dead. That’s the most frustrating and the most heartbreaking.”

Weintraub also admitted to having cases when it’s hard to put emotions aside. “Any case where a mother accidentally kills her child is one that I have trouble dealing with,” he lamented. “Just recently we had a mother give birth in a hotel room because she didn’t want her baby to be taken away due to her addiction. The baby ended up dying that same night.”

Heart-wrenching instances like Knoll’s and Weintraub’s that prompted Weintraub to call for funding for longer treatment stays, after-treatment follow up, and transportation to and from treatment centers.

Robert Whitley, an attorney based out of Doylestown, agrees with Knoll and Weintraub. He found that since 2017, Bucks

County has averaged two overdoses every three days. This prompted him to establish truth-speaks.net, a website that encourages the community to come together to combat this opioid epidemic by erasing the stigma surrounding addiction.

But for the community to come together, they need to recognize the issue as the threat it is-- something people in Doylestown are failing to do. The overdoses in this town are considered “out of left field”, because they happened “Good Kids” and “Star Students” who just didn’t fit the bill for drug addicts.

Thanks to this misconception and the stigma around addiction, we’ve seen the tragic fates of young people like Kaitlyn Murphy, a soccer star from CB South who lost her battle to addiction in 2012.

My own brother, a CB West graduate, lost his battle at 22, and I can confidently say that neither of my parents saw it coming. My parents loved my brother very much, there was no neglect or an unwillingness to recognize the problem, but my parents did unfortunately fall victim to the notion that their personable and charming son in the upper-middle class could be an addict.

However it’s not just parents that need to become privy to the idea that addiction can happen to anybody: students need to be educated as well. “I think schools need to do more constant and consistent education on this topic,”

Weintraub said.

“A once-in-a-while assembly isn’t enough. While they are educational and informative, they need to be reinforced and happen more consistently.”

We’ve lost straight-A students on the path of success because this affluent community is failing to realize that there is no stereotype for an addict: it can happen to anyone, anywhere, regardless of home life or socioeconomic status.

“This isn’t a matter of drugs coming in from the city anymore,” Lt. Knott said. “This is a matter of things happening right in our own backyards.”

Unfortunately, in an affluent area like this, there’s a reputation to uphold. This attitude has not only made it harder to recognize or admit to addiction, but it has created barriers to the solutions.

“Because of the stigmas around here that surround addiction, it affects where we can open halfway houses, treatment centers, and recovery houses too, because no one wants them in their neighborhoods,” Weintraub said.

“Every successful treatment means one less person suffering, and potentially one less person for the criminal justice system to deal with. I believe in safe spaces for treatment.”

Although the circumstances may seem grim, Doylestown has taken small steps to ease the effects of this epidemic on the community.

“In 2016 the state legislature allowed us to start carrying the lifesaving drug nalcron, which has just really been a godsend to help first responders like us who are there immediately even before EMS to help be able to save a life,” Knott said.

Nalcron is a nasal spray that can help reverse the effects of a drug overdose. Both Central Bucks Police and Central Bucks EMS carry the lifesaving drug.

Another effort began in 2014, when Weintraub started a drug take back program, “A big step we as a community need to take is getting rid of our old prescription drugs,” Weintraub said.

Since its establishment, Weintraub’s take-back program has been surpassing similar initiatives in the state by a landslide, with over 116,000 pounds of old prescription pills collected to date.

Doylestown Health, the borough’s main hospital, has also declared themselves a “narcotic responsible hospital”. The program was started a few years ago to manage the prescribing of narcotics in the hospital’s emergency department, so that patient’s pain can be handled accordingly but they can also be shown non-narcotic alternatives.

“I am cautiously optimistic that that trend may be slowing down,” Weintraub said. “At the halfway mark of 2018 we’ve had 100 opioid overdose fatalities. Same timeframe last year, we had 117. Too soon to tell, but I am hopeful that we’ve bottomed out.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GABBY HOUCK

Page Title

STEMgirlz Working Towards a New Future

KERI MARABLE
Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College program STEMgirlz hosted an event called “Discovery Day” on the Newtown campus last month. Middle School girls were invited to engage in various hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related activities with professionals in those fields

Professor Emeritus Arta Szathmary from the Computer Science Department at BCCC is the STEMgirlz founder and coordinator. Szathmary is celebrating her 10th anniversary of retirement and her 40th Anniversary with BCCC, as she still teaches part-time.

Szathmary had help from many participating groups to bring this event together, “Registration, scheduling and staffing of most sessions was done by the current STEM Department. This year, all expenses were covered and the foundation provided each girl and volunteer with wonderful Tee Shirts,”

Szathmary continued, “I feel confident the tradition will continue long after I am unable to participate. The AAUW of Makefield, Lower Bucks, and Doylestown provided wonderful SWAG BAGS, and manned registration in the morning. They were very helpful and we appreciate it.”

Szathmary worked with Techgirlz in Philadelphia, and wanted to bring a similar operation to

Bucks County. With the help of the Dean of STEM department at the time, Lisa Angelo, Szathmary made Techgirlz at BCCC now known as STEMgirlz. STEMgirlz at BCCC is just one of many programs being implemented across America today to encourage girls to engage in STEM.

The U.S. Department of Commerce reported that in 2015 America still lacked females in the STEM field. According to the report, women filled 47 percent of all U.S. jobs in 2015 but held only 24 percent of STEM jobs.

“Diversity in STEM is important for the future of America, we need to have more creators in the future,” Szathmary said.

Two professors of the STEM department, Professors Adrienne Morelli and Debra Geoghan, shared their experiences within the STEM field and their outlooks for the future of more females in STEM.

Professor Adrienne Morelli has worked for BCCC for 14 years. and is now currently an associate professor of math. When asked what inspired her to go into the STEM field, Morelli explained, “I always loved science and math as a child... I won a math contest in seventh grade and I knew then that I wanted to do something with math.”

Morelli believes that “it is very important for young women to realize their potentials despite their gender. Many times, girls are told that they are not as smart as boys and can’t achieve the same thing

especially in math and science classes.”

As a female in the STEM field, Morelli went on to say, “Often people are surprised and make comments that I teach math let alone college math. There is a stereotype that only older men can teach college level math. Because I don’t fit into that stereotype,”

Morelli continued, “I get weird reactions from people... in [an] industry that women constantly must prove themselves as being able to do the same work as men, I don’t feel that way here because we have an amazing group of administrators and faculty that all work together regardless of their gender.”

To encourage more females to enter the STEM field with programs like STEMgirlz, Morelli believes that “The first step is to expose young girls to STEM activities. Also, we need to give girls confidence to explore many different fields that were once thought to be things only men could be successful at. This may mean changing teacher’s perceptions in elementary school by treating girls the same way that they treat boys. Besides my parents, I had many teachers who believed in me and did not discourage me from following my dream of a career in STEM.”

Professor Debra Geoghan has been a professor of computer science at Bucks for 18 years. She is also the STEM Department Coordinator.

Geoghan was inspired to join



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

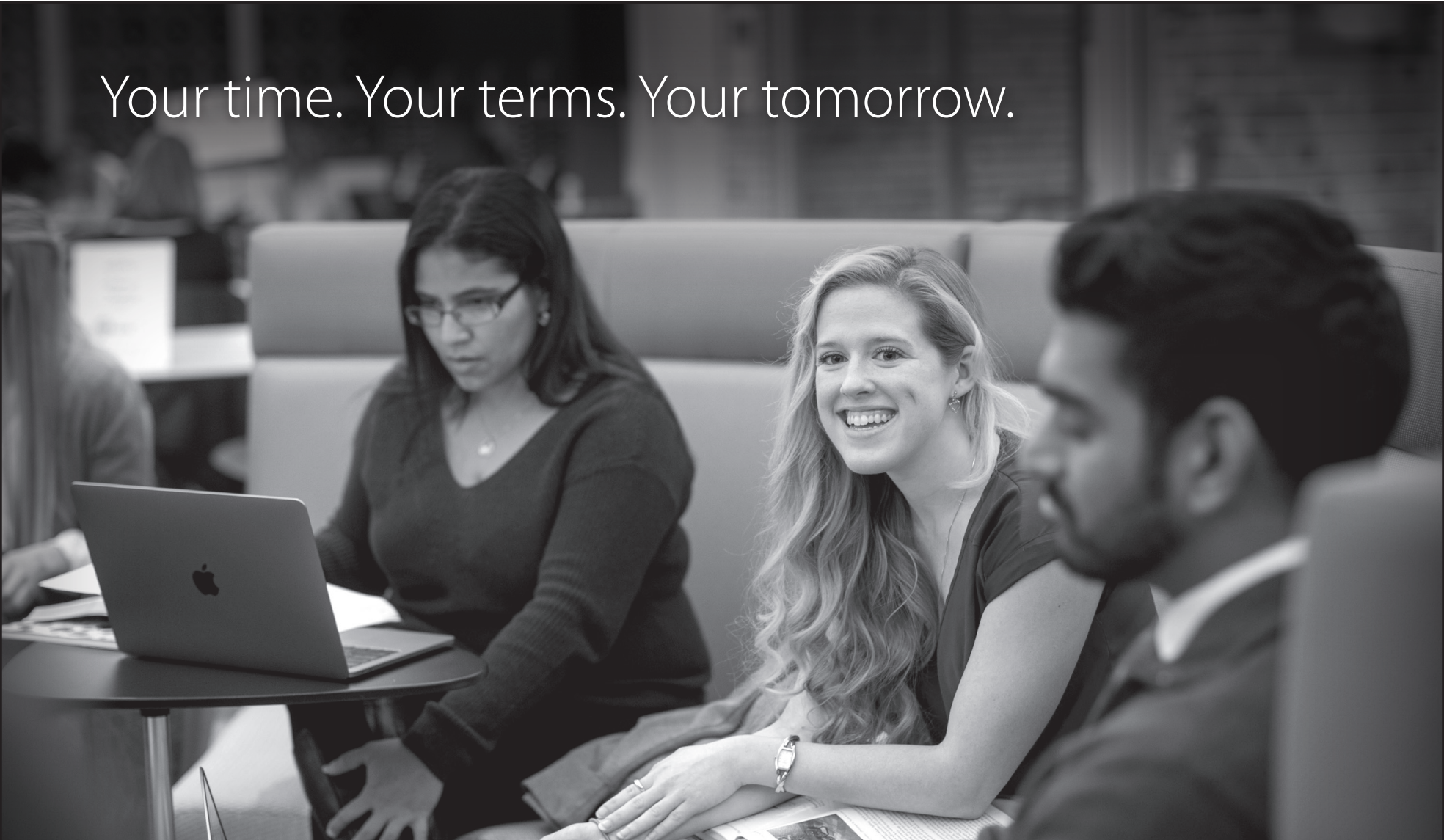
the STEM field because, “[she] was always interested in how things work and taking them apart and putting them back together. Science, and Computer Science in particular are exciting because things are always changing and expanding.”

Geoghan believes that the need for females in STEM is important because, “the perspectives that decide on research and development- new products, technologies, medical research- need to represent all of the population not just a portion of it.”

Geoghan goes on to explain the prejudice she has faced as a woman in STEM, “When I was younger, there were men who

would not answer the phone if they saw it was my extension. I used to use my colleague’s phone when I needed someone to pick up the phone on the other end. It was very frustrating. Over time, I earned the respect that my colleagues got automatically, but I had to prove myself over and over to get there.”

In order to bring more females into the STEM field Geoghan believes, “We need to make STEM fields appealing to females, make them understand the importance of pushing into male-dominated fields- how it is good for society and good for them as individuals.”



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Opinion

Freedom of The Press in Jeopardy?



BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG
Centurion Staff

Journalists are the overseers of the government and they keep the freedom of press alive. The foreign governments that attempt to control the media pose a significant danger to the very idea that democracy is established upon. The freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and petition is written into the First Amendment of the United States Constitution’s Bill of Rights. It protects the fundamental framework that a democratic thrives off. George Washington once said, “the freedom of Speech may be taken away—and, dumb & silent we may be led, like sheep, to the slaughter.” He emphasizes the importance of free speech, and the

consequences of its being taken away. We can view these consequences in a recent event in international news. The death of the Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashoggi was a blow to many democratic nations. He was killed in the Saudi Arabia Consulate in Istanbul for his journalism. Often you will find the killing of reporters to be a clear sign that the freedom of speech in a country is limited. His death, and many like it, deserve to be recognized as an attempt to squelch the light in the darkness. It is to prevent discontent against a regime and stop any rebellion from occurring. A single journalist can have an incredible influence on public opinion. One word can cause a riot. A sentence can destroy a campaign.

An article can create a new country. A series of works can take down a leader. Watergate is an example that shows the power one journalist has. Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward were assigned to cover a simple burglary in a Washington D.C. hotel, The Watergate Hotel. What they uncovered and wrote removed a sitting president from office. Carl Bernstein, long after the Watergate scandal had come to pass, said, “The great thing about Watergate is, is that the system worked. The American system worked. The press did its job. We did what we were supposed to do.” This quote brings up a strong point. The job of the press is to be the watchdog of the government. The press ensures that the public hears

what is happening, and what the government is doing. This was why our founding fathers ensured that there was a freedom of press written into the Bill of Rights. Woodward says, “Using these unnamed sources, if done properly, carefully and fairly, provides more accountability in government.” Being able to keep the government accountable keeps the Great American Experiment, our democracy, healthy and pure. Ultimately, this is why foreign governments kill journalists and control the press. If the government is able to print lies in the newspaper, then the masses will be none the wiser – it will be the truth to them. It is the job of the public to fight for their rights, to fight for the freedom of the press. Without

it, anything can be printed by the government. Jamal Khashoggi is only one, but there are countless journalists who put their lives on the line to expose corruptions and scandals. The Committee to Protect Journalists says that there are 45 journalists who were killed in 2018 alone. In the past ten years, 633 were killed. Since 1992, there have been 1324 killed. The numbers will only increase, especially as more fascist ideas spring up over the world. It is the job of the citizen, you, to protect journalism and the first amendment, as well as the Constitution and what it represents. Democracy fails when We The People fail to protect the United States Constitution.

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Bucks News

Bucks Republicans Host Opioid Awareness Panel



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCCC REPUBLICANS

KERI MARABLE
Centurion Staff

On Nov. 1, The Republican Club hosted an addiction crisis panel at the Zlock Performing Arts Center.

Members of the Republican Club brought two guest speakers to the Newtown Campus to raise awareness of the current addiction crisis in America.

Zach Shoester, a 19 year old political science major, is the President of the Republican Club.

The club was very motivated to bring this event to campus to ignite change with the current way society deals with addiction, “These people have a disease and shouldn’t be penalized as they are under our current system, they need help in rehabilitating themselves,” Shoester said.

Shoester spoke about what personally inspired him to host the panel, “Two of my aunts passed

away because of their addiction, one due to heroin and another because of prescription opioids like OxyContin, that’s why this is such a big issue for me and I want to raise awareness,”

Shoester continued, “This epidemic has gripped Philadelphia, my hometown, and Bucks County for so long, most people don’t even know or try to do anything, and meanwhile kids are dying every day.”

Shoester believes the lack of awareness and stigma halts society from working on the opioid crisis.

“Not enough people recognize this issue, even our politicians don’t seem to realize the gravity of the issue. Also thanks to programs and pop culture there’s a stigma towards addicts as being irredeemable, criminal, and not able to be helped. When in reality these are people who made mistakes and need a little leg up to

get the help they need.”

Shoester went on to explain that the current addiction crisis affects everyone, “This issue isn’t isolated to the city or poor areas of Bucks- it’s in schools. Rich areas in upper and central Bucks even have this going on, we need to get college students out helping to fix this issue because eventually we will all know a student or friend who’s been affected either directly or indirectly.”

Shoester emphasized that this panel goes beyond party lines, “this isn’t political. We just want to raise awareness of what’s going on in our community, how we currently combat the epidemic and what steps students can take to combat the issue because it all starts right here on a local scale.”

The second speaker at the panel was Morris Derey, Program Director and Mentoring Coordinator of No More Pain, Inc.

“The first time I spoke to Morris

at his “Love for an Addict” event we spoke about a possible solution for the crisis to help battle addiction and it was a system almost like 302, when someone is deemed a danger to themselves or others and is institutionalized. I personally think this should be extended to addicts as well because these people are a danger to themselves,” said Shoester.

No More Pain, Inc. is a mentorship based program that assists at-risk adults who are battling with Homelessness, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Cancer.

Their mission statement on their Facebook page is “To bring education, awareness, understanding and a positive outlook on those who may need us”.

Some services offered by No More Pain are one on one mentoring and community service.

Derey says that their “only goal is to change lives by inspiring, motivating, encouraging and em-

powering others.” No More Pain, Inc. started as a vision in 1996 while Derey was incarcerated. It was established and recognized as a non-profit organization on Nov. 6, 2014.

Derey spoke of the importance of raising awareness of the opioid epidemic and addiction lies with the record breaking death counts, “people are dying and thousands of families are suffering.”

Derey says that the major obstacle is finding the right solutions that help people fight this disease-like getting people into outpatient programs that work with individuals coming out of treatment centers.

Derey urged students to come out to the spring panel, “College students are the future, they are the future politicians and lawmakers, it’s important for our future to find ways to end this epidemic today because tomorrow is too late.”



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Sixers Acquire All-Star Jimmy Butler

Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%
SG	42	0	8.5	0.8	1.9	.405
SF	82	20	26.0	2.9	6.2	.467
SG	67	67	38.7	4.1	10.3	.397
SG	65	65	38.7	6.5	14.0	.462
SG	67	67	36.9	7.0	15.4	.454
SF	76	75	37.0	7.5	16.5	.455
SG	59	59	36.7	7.4	15.6	.474
SG	10	10	36.1	7.4	15.7	.471
	468	363	32.9	5.4	11.9	.453
	399	294	32.3	5.0	11.2	.448
	69	69	36.6	7.4	15.6	.474

Butler’s Scoring Statistics courtesy of Basketball-Reference.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ANTHONY DIRENZO
Centurion Staff

With early struggles, the Sixers made a move that shakes up the entire eastern conference. Acquiring all-star Jimmy Butler, and Justin Patton from the Minnesota Timberwolves for Dario Saric, Robert Covington, Jerryd Bayless, and a 2022 second round pick. He immediately impacts this team giving them that impact scorer they desperately needed at the wing. He is also held as one of the premier defenders in the league, so losing Covington isn’t as det-

rimental as some would imagine. You would hope Justin Patton can bounce back after overcoming injuries early in his career, a trend the 76ers are used to.

Jimmy Butler will come in to join an MVP candidate Joel Embiid, who has had nothing but impressive numbers to start the season, as Joel is proving all of the doubters wrong. Butler immediately not only helps Embiid, but also all on the floor. His ability to score alone will have to keep the defense on their toes, leaving the offense much more wide open. His isolation scoring is something

basketball fans in Philadelphia haven’t seen since back to the Iverson days. Butler is one of the “high usage players”

Considered with some of the most clutch points per game, only with LeBron James, not bad company.

This also will help lessen the pressure on Fultz, who has not had an ideal start to his young career. After battling injuries and now adjusting to the NBA game, he simply has not been able to play as he, or everyone else anticipated. This helps him focus on his game, and the best way

he can help the team. Hopefully having players like Jimmy Butler will now help learn how to work on his own game. Hopefully this can help Simmons shot as well, he will be able to isolate himself and get to the lane more often, with less pressure to shoot as often.

This is a hard trade for fans of “The Process” Saric, and RoCo were huge parts of the team, and had played very solid roles on this team. At the end of the day, they simply could not get it done scoring wise with that roster. This is a gamble, but it immediately sures up the 76ers chances in the

Eastern Conference. If Butler and the Sixers can work together, this big three of Butler, Simmons, and Embiid, could be very dangerous.

To this point in the season the Sixers are third in the Eastern Conference, and they are thenth in the league in scoring. Obviously Embiid and J.J. Reddick have been the main guys, but now opening up the offense even more for when they do hit some struggles during games. Time for the new look 76ers to show what they are capable of.



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