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Bucks Students Restore Trail at Tyler State Park

SHANNON GOLDHAHN & JOEY LOMORTICELLO

Centurion Staff

Through the Intro to Environmental course at Bucks, students have begun to plant roughly 300 trees and shrubs native to Pennsylvania by the Covered Bridge Trail in Tyler State Park.

Dr. Kathi Knight, a professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Bucks planned the tree planting project. Knight explained that the tree planting project is part of the service learning curriculum in the introductory environmental science course at Bucks. Students in Knight's class along with other volunteers have been working since the first week of the semester to restore the trail.

At first, the students worked on a meadow restoration project, to bring in more pollinators such as Monarch butterflies and bees. After a few weeks, they then moved onto a section of Tyler State Park to clear trails and cut suffocating vines around trees.

The class has now moved to a field on the Covered Bridge Trail where they began the process of planting 249 trees, 40 shrubs and 80 perennials. At 4.9 acres the Covered Bridge Trail is a historic attraction in Tyler State Park.



Students in Professor Kathi Knight's environmental science course work on the tree planting project., courtesy of Shannon Goldhahn

The project is being funded by Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, who granted \$10,000. The BCCC Foundation matched the amount to a total \$30,000 in funds.

The students first arrived in the middle of October and have been coming almost every Tuesday and Thursday, weather permitting.

Some of the students were excited right from the beginning.

Bryce Rose, a 21-year-old psychology major from Doylestown, said, "It looked like a pretty cool option when signing up for classes. Now I know that it's a great experience and place for people to interact while also helping out the

environment."

All the trees and shrubs that are being planted are completely native to Pennsylvania. This means that these are the plants that were here hundreds of years ago and were not synthetically produced to have appealing characteristics.

Story continued on page 3

Slack's Hoagie Shack Cafe Leaves Lower Bucks Campus

LINDSAY ROTH

Centurion Staff

Slack's Hoagie Shack Cafe located at the Lower Bucks Campus recently closed, leaving students with only vending machines to fill their hunger.

Slack's Hoagie shack was with the Bristol campus for several years. When the business closed it affected many students. Slack's Hoagies was known for providing sandwiches, coffee and Redhouse bagels to students to help them get through their busy school day.

Faculty at the Lower Bucks Campus is working swiftly to replace the beloved food company.

"The school is trying to fill the spot ASAP," said James Sell, director of the Lower Bucks Campus.

The departure of the business leaves students and teacher without an option to receive hot food. Currently, the only food on campus is the snacks from the two vending machines.

Many students are resorting to filling up on chips and pop-tarts from the vending area. The college recently started putting out fruits like bananas, oranges and apples to keep the energy flowing for students, but people are still craving a hot meal.

Harley Burroughs, an 18-year-old student majoring in Early Childhood Education said, "I real-



Empty space that was once Slack's Hoagie Cafe, courtesy of Lindsay Roth

ly think it sucks not having a place to get food on campus. I think we should get a vending machine with frozen foods like hot pockets and frozen pizzas, or even mac and cheese single serve at least."

Students have already been discussing what should replace Slack's Hoagie Shack. Some hope that the new restaurant will be incorporate food like pizza, deli style or homemade.

Sandy Ritterson of Croydon

said, "I hope we get a pizza place in there, I love pizza. It makes college a little easier to bear".

Besides having food ready for the students, the next most essential item on the menu is coffee as expressed by the majority of students, teachers and employees.

Justin Hemphill, 21 of Levittown said, "I didn't think a hoagie place fit in well here. I think we should have a Starbucks like the Newtown campus does. I can see

myself getting a coffee in between classes and not a cheese steak".

Most students find that they don't not have time to leave campus to get food from the nearest fast-food restaurant. This leaves most students and faculty to either bring their own lunch or rely on the vending machines for now.

The Centurion will continue to update you of when the new restaurant will be established.

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Sarah Siock

Managing Editor
Alyssa Moore & Shannon Goldhahn

Assisting Managing Editor
Francis Klingenberg & Amala Rajesh

Graphics Manager
Katerina Pak

Advisor
Tony Rogers

Letters to the editor:

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MORGAN TAYLOR
Centurion staff

Bucks’ second annual #Hold-OnYouMatter Suicide Prevention Walk took place last Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Upper Bucks Campus in Perkasié.

The executive director of the Upper Bucks Campus, Dr. Rodney Altemose had the pleasure of overseeing the entire event for the second year in a row.

“I was just simply asked about it last year and just said ‘sure’,” Altemose said about his reception to the position of overseeing the event for the past two years.

When asked if he had a special

reason for wanting to be a part of the event, Altemose had a very relatable response.

“The walk is extremely powerful, as well as very emotional. Suicide has affected many lives, and we need to remind ourselves and those around us that it can be prevented,” he said.

Over 500 people came out to the walk this year, which lasts about two hours. There was a small program before the walk began to remembers those who have taken their lives and enforce the idea that suicide effects everyone.

Aside from the walk itself, there were activities participants could

take part in. Many of those who attended the walk this year were using the time before and after the walk to write on the sidewalks with chalk in memory of their loved ones.

Most, if not all, social service agencies come out to the event to set up a table where people can stop by before and after to ask questions and receive more information in regards to suicide and how to prevent it.

Considering all of the different things that were going on at the walk, Altemose kept it simple when asked what his favorite part was.

“I love hearing the stories from different people who attend each year. Most people think it is a sad event, but in reality, it is extremely powerful and uplifting,” said Altemose.

Altemose was also thrilled with not just how many people showed up, but who showed up.

“Miss Pennsylvania Tiffany Seitz was on campus to welcome people, as well as other political people came and provided a welcome. It was truly a great day,” said Altemose.

The walk is an extremely important day for those who have lost someone to suicide, or who

may have struggled with suicidal thoughts themselves. It gives those who are struggling a place to finally let go of all the hurt they are feeling and turn it into something that can help others.

If you or someone you know may want to get involved in next year’s walk, you are asked to visit <http://www.buckscounty.org/LivingAndWorking/SuicidePreventionTaskForce> or contact Altemose at Rodney. Altemose@bucks.edu for more information.



Tiffany Seitz, Miss Pennsylvania 2019, at the suicide prevention walk.



Community members at the suicide prevention walk.

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Student Life

Students Find Success at the Tutoring Center

AUDREY JAKUBIK
Centurion Staff

As the semester begins to close, the Academic Success Center continues to offer free tutoring services to students in various courses in which they are struggling.

The Academic Success Center is located in Library 210 on the Bucks Newtown campus and is open from Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lauren Humphries, the director of the Academic Success Center at Bucks, says that there are many different aspects to the tutoring center.

“Students can make their own appointments through our website using their Bucks username and password,” explained Humphries. “Writing, reading, study skills, some sciences and many of the humanities that we tutor, require that an appointment be made.”

Most often, appointments are one-on-one with a tutor; however, for certain courses, students may opt to arrange a group appointment with some of their classmates.

“Drop-in tutoring is available

for math, physics, accounting, and some economics,” said Humphries. “For this type of session, students come in when they have some time to work, and the tutors move throughout the room, spending up to 30 minutes with students at a time before the student is asked to work independently for at least 20 minutes to practice the skills just reviewed.” The tutors can come back if the student has additional questions.

The center also offers to facilitate group study sessions, set up workshops, digital badges, peer mentoring, and online touring.

“The tutor will help the group to create a study plan and help them overcome any hurdles with the content,” said Humphries. “However, the goal is that the students maintain ownership of the group, and the tutor is there to offer support and facilitate review sessions.”

Regarding the success of the facility, Humphries said that, “98 percent of the student feedback we receive states that working with a tutor increased their understanding of the material.”

All of Buck’s campus, including online, provide access to an



The entrance of the Academic Success Center, courtesy of Audrey Jakubik

academic success tutoring center. With any further questions, call the Newtown Center at 215-968-8044.

“We strive to help students

become independent learners and remind them that learning is a process that takes time,” said Humphries. “All of our tutors are trained to help students figure out

the strategies that work best for them, and our writing tutors can cover writing, reading, and study skills support for any course.”

High School Students Earn College Credits



Neshaminy High School logo, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

SOPHIE LAURENCE
Centurion Staff

Bucks’ dual enrollment program is growing as the college is beginning to welcome more high school students on campus.

The dual enrollment program allows students in high school to get a head start on college credits by taking classes at Bucks.

The program began three years ago with Neshaminy High School located in Langhorne. The goal is to better prepare students for college after high school.

The program started out small, but each year the number of students wanting to participate grows.

enrollment major with Neshaminy High School.

Deciding to be a dual enrollment student is a big decision since college level courses are often more intense than high school classes.

“The work is a lot different, and the professors are a lot different than my teachers at the high school,” dual enrollment student AJ McClurkin, 17, said. “It’s left more up to me, which took some getting used to, but it will benefit me later”.

There are some Neshaminy students that do not wish to enroll in the program.

“There are so many classes at Neshaminy that I would’ve had to miss out on if I did the Bucks program. It’s cool and all, but I have plenty of opportunities here,” said Kelli Kowalick, 17, senior at Neshaminy High School

Other students expressed regretted for not taking advantage of the program.

Jess Manning, 17, senior at Neshaminy High School said, “You guys get to come in later, and you’re getting experience and prepared for the future more than I am.”

For more information high school student can visit, <https://www.bucks.edu/admissions/high-school/>

When asked if they would recommend participating in this program to an underclassman, students who currently participate in the program had the same response: absolutely.

“Like I said, it was a no-brainer for me, and it should be a no-brainer for everyone else,” said Kirsh.

** Sophie Laurence is dual enrollment student**

“It was a no-brainer for me. Free college credits, more preparation, and less time in Neshaminy? It was too good to pass up,” said Dora Kirsh, 17, a dual

Tree Planting Program



Students stand next to a planted tree, courtesy of Shannon Goldhahn

Story continued from page one.

A high school student from Yardley, 18-year-old Brooke Kersten, is proud of the work that has been produced.

“I’ve always been interested in Environmental Science and finding new ways to better the environment. This project gave me a new appreciation for the people who do this for a living and the amount of time and effort that goes into planting one tree,” said Kersten.

The hope for this project is that the trees and shrubs will act as a watershed from water runoff. The plants are also supposed to provide habitats for multiple species. For example, there should be 200-300 insects per tree which adds biodiversity to the ecosystem.

Andrew Flick, an 18-year-old

Environmental Science major from Yardley, believes this type of work should be more popular.

“It’s way easier than I thought it would be. We can plant a tree in a few minutes! I feel if more people would do this than this (the crisis of deforestation) wouldn’t be much of an issue. It doesn’t take too much time out of your day,” said Flick.

The students have worked the project on days where its been hot, cold, windy and drizzling just to make sure they can plant the trees in time before winter hits. Even though some of the days were terrible conditions, the students are still happy to help.

Environmental Science major Richard Brown, a 25-year-old from Croydon, thinks the tree planting program is great learning experience.

“I’ve dug holes, learned to

properly plant the trees while learning to stake them with the help of others. There was even a guy who came to help that took this class previously years ago. I mean, this was just a field of grass and now there’s a bunch of trees,” said Brown with an excited grin.

The students gained a lot from this service-learning class. Mary Robinson, a 19-year-old Environmental Science major from Doylestown, can’t wait for the project to be finished. She said, “I feel like once it’s all done and we can see it all together, it’s going to be really rewarding. We can really appreciate all of our hard work.”

To find out how to help with the Cover Bridge Trail Restoration project, contact the head of the project Knight at kathi.knight@bucks.edu.

Arts&Entertainment

The Controversy Behind “Joker”

AUDREY WILSON
Centurion Staff

The new movie “Joker” has sparked a huge amount of controversy and anxiety because of the gruesome violence the film depicts.

The film directed by Todd Phillips shows a man, Arthur Fleck, played by Joaquin Phoenix, struggling to achieve his dreams of a comedian. Fleck can hardly hold his job, lives in terrible conditions with his disturbed mother, and is constantly bullied and humiliated. It gets to the point where he’s had

enough and begins to lash out using violence.

There’s been plenty of talk that this movie is disturbing and gives people the wrong idea that violence is the answer to a bad situation.

Many Bucks students have their own opinions as well.

“I think it’s a work of art. A movie doesn’t cause violence and society needs to stop taking things too far. Thousands of movies have violence,” said Ian Sullivan, 20, business major at Bucks.

Sullivan made a good argument,



but there are students who completely disagree.

Jamie Karol, 19, an economics major, responded, “This movie disturbed me so much I almost walked out of the theatre. Several people enjoy movies because of the message they send out, this movie sends out the wrong one. The sad truth is that our society is filled with people like Arthur Fleck nowadays, so it’s just such a sensitive time to be putting out films like this one.”

Everyone has their own opinions on the film. According to the website Thrillist, audiences did not react well to “Joker.”

Due to social media posts the U.S military sent out an email to service members warning of the potential risks to seeing the movie. The social media posts were in reference to the 2012 theatre shooting in Colorado where a man dressed as the Joker killed 12 people during “The Dark Knight Rises” premier.

These types of posts caused waves of fear and anxiety that this could potentially happen again.

Despite the controversy and harsh criticism, “Joker” is the highest grossing R-rated movie.

It has currently made \$788.1 million and could potentially be the first movie to ever reach \$1 billion if the film is released in China.

“Joker” is currently playing in theaters.



Kanye West Fans are Confused by a New Album Release

JAKE SULLIVAN
Centurion Staff

Rapper Kanye West shocked fans with the release of his first gospel album, “Jesus is King.”

The initial announcement of “Jesus is King” threw fans off as they did not know what to expect. West previously announced an album named “Yandhi” that never came to fruition. Fans were skeptical if “Jesus is King” would ever even be released.

“Prior to the album coming out, I honestly didn’t know if he was even going to come out with an album after all the hype he built up for Yandhi, and how am I supposed to believe Kanye was going to put out an album titled “Jesus is King?” Something just didn’t add up,” said Cole Huebner

a small business major and a huge Kanye fan.

On Friday Oct. 25, “Jesus is King” was put onto music platforms around the world. The album was set to drop at 12 a.m. but due to mixing issues it did not come out until 12 p.m.

Fans were irritated by the delay as they began to think they fell for the “same old Kanye” and there would be no album.

“I stayed up until midnight to hear it only to be met with nothing. This really took the excitement out of listening to it the next day angry and tired,” said Megan Kelly, a chemistry major and a fan of rap.

When the album was finally



Kanye West, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

released it was met with mixed reactions from West’s fanbase and many other music fans. Members of the Christian community found it “very odd” that a man so controversial as West would release a Gospel album.

Arlo Vooz, a secondary education major, said, “I’m not the biggest fan of Kanye and the things he does, but I did listen to his new album and I respect him for trying something different and not doing horrible to be honest.”

Although met with mixed reactions from fans, the album is doing well on the music charts. All 11 tracks on “Jesus is King” have acquired spots on the Billboard Top 100 songs. The song “Follow God” is currently at number seven on the list.

Even though the album has done well on the charts that does not mean it has done well in the eyes of the fans, with many saying that this is not the West grew up listening to.

Jacob Geruntho, a psychology major, stated, “I think it’s a good album but probably my second to least favorite Kanye album. Although I can understand why certain people and fans would like it, its just not my thing.”

What’s next for West? Will he continue down this path of religious albums? Or will we see the return of the “old Kanye?”



Kanye West’s album, “Jesus is King”

Around Bucks County

Safety Initiatives in High Schools

BRADLEY HARE
Centurion Staff

Keanon Lowe, a football coach from Parkrose High School in Portland, Oregon, managed to do the impossible when he stopped a potential school shooting with a hug.

Angel Granados-Diaz attempted to shoot up Parkrose High School. Lowe grabbed the weapon away from Granados-Diaz and let another teacher take it to a safe location. Before grabbing the weapon Lowe hugged Granados-Diaz and let him know he cared for him. Granados-Diaz suffered from a mental health illness, and Lowe’s reaffirmation of his care for him helped cool the incident.

Not all potential shooting end this positively. According to Education Week, 24 school shootings happened in 2018 that resulted in 114 people either injured or killed.

In response to the growing problem schools throughout Bucks County are taking approaches to implement safety in the classroom with new programs.

Pennsbury High School started a new initiative called “Safe to Say Something (S2SS).” The program is a anonymous tipping service for people to submit help to the Pennsylvania state law enforcement about those that may be a danger to themselves or to others.

“The S2SS program trains students and school staff members to treat every warning sign seriously and to act quickly to get help,” said Superintendent of the Pennsbury school board, William Gretzula.

Gretzula added that students

can always tell a trustworthy adult figure warning signs they see, but now they can be reported by phone, mobile app, or website to the Pennsylvania S2SS Crisis Center.

S2SS is based on a three-step system. The three steps are as follows: An anonymous tip is sent in, the call is received by a 24/7 crisis center and the school officials and law enforcement intervene and help when needed.

“In the wake of the tragedy in Parkland, the Pennsylvania legislature determined that steps were necessary to increase school safety in Pennsylvania,” said Elizabeth Aldridge, Director of Student Services for the Neshaminy school district.

Aldridge views the program as largely positive. She said it provided a readily accessible method to report concerns of any kind, including concerns about a friend, about school safety, and about dangerous behavior in school, like vaping and selling drugs.

“There are some functionality issues,” Aldridge admitted. “I cannot do a search of the system if I am looking for one type of tip or one school.”

The biggest hurdle in Aldridge’s eyes for the program is that it requires school personnel to be on call to respond to tips at every single possible second.

“I have gotten calls for tips while boarding an airplane, while at my nephew’s birthday party, while on vacation, and many other interesting places,” Aldridge said. Despite this pressure, she still supports this program.

The majority of tips the schools received were about students who



Safe to Safe Something Logo, courtesy of safe2saypa.org. S2SS is the anonymous tipping service used at various high schools in the county.

are already are the staff” S radar. There were a few instances where tips led the faculty to find students that were depressed or resorting to self-harm.

“Because we have such great partnerships with the police departments of Lower Makefield Township, Falls Twp, Yardley Borough, and Tullytown Borough, managing the tips has gone incredibly well in terms of our collaboration with police,” Aldridge said.

This, alongside other safety procedures, has resulted in an increase of security, helping to prevent disasters.

“I feel safe at my school,” said David Calderbank, a teacher in Neshaminy school district. “All doors are shut and locked and we have one officer and three security guards on campus during the school day.”

Neshaminy High School also practices safety drills, including fire drills, evacuating the football

stadium, and practicing against threats from the inside and outside of the school.

Despite all of this, Calderbank wished the school could have multiple exits for extra safety. He also believes that while the officers should be the only ones using guns, teachers should still know how to use them.

Thanks to a partnership with the Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit group that works to improve school safety, the S2SS program was able to finally take off.

Conwell Egan Catholic High School (CEC), located in Fairless Hills is taking a different approach to the school safety. They plan to deal with the problem head on with a Anti-Bullying Policy.

Assistant Principal of Student Life, Chris Dileonardo, said, “We believe all individuals at CEC have the right to learn and work without intimidation, humiliation

or harassment.” He added that bullying is unacceptable and everyone has a role in stopping it.

The anti-bullying policy at CEC prohibits harassment, hazing and other demeaning behaviors.

“The administration shall answer questions about this policy, investigate complaints and take appropriate corrective action,” Dileonardo explained. He also encouraged those that felt victimized to report it.

The policy promised that the school will investigate all allegations as privately as possible and will act when needed.

In between all of these procedures and programs, safety has only been improving throughout Bucks County high schools. The security of the future generation is being taken seriously by the staff of schools throughout the county.



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Around Bucks County

Solebury Murders: Sean Kratz Faces a Jury

ALEC SAGER
Centurion Staff

The trial for Sean Kratz who is accused of helping his cousin, Cosmo DiNardo kill three young in Solebury Township in 2017 began on Nov. 6 at the Bucks County Courthouse.

Kratz faces the death penalty if found guilty for a role in the 2017 murder case. DiNardo was set to testify against his cousin but prosecutors revealed he refused to appear in court. DiNardo is currently serving four life sentences for the crimes.

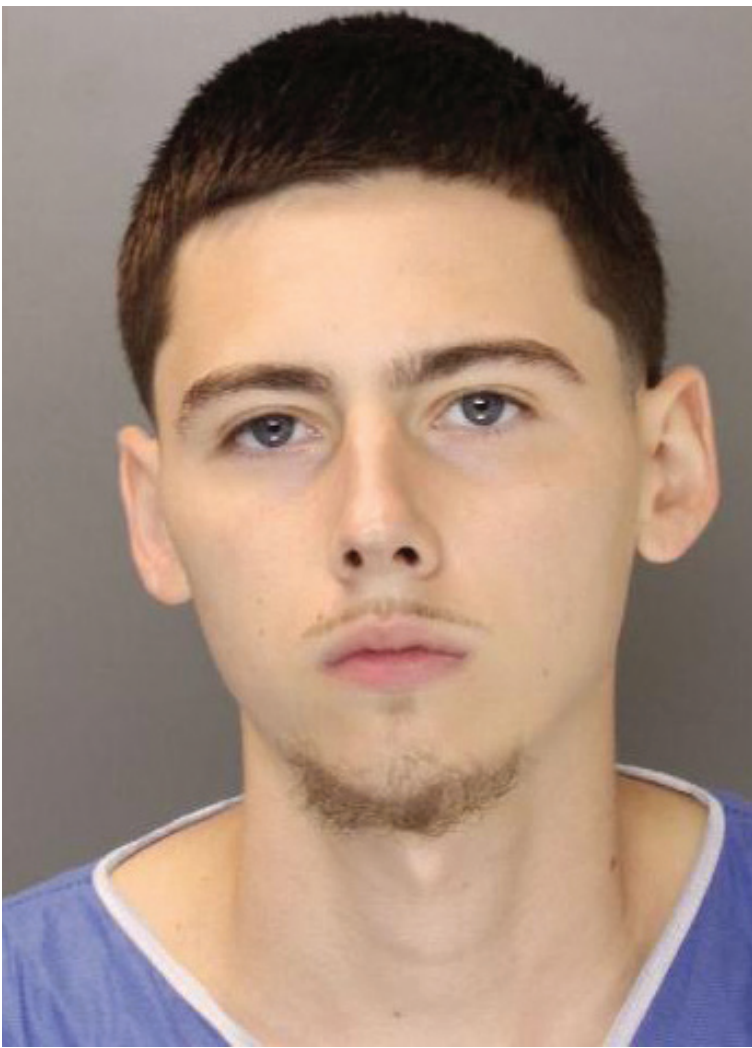
On Nov.7, the coroner and leading forensic pathologist, Dr. Ian Hood, testified to the nature of the murders. Hood shared graphic photos of the victims’ burned bodies and the tattoos detectives used to identify and match names. He determined how each young man was killed.

“The defendant stood there cold watching, not screaming for help, watching,” prosecutors said.

Defense attorney A. Charles Puerto argued that Kratz was crippled due to a leg injury at the time of murders and was not able to protect himself. Puerto told the jury that Kratz was “as thin as a rail” and not did have the strength to assist in the murders. The defense also stated that with an IQ of 79, Kratz did not have the mental capacity to help DiNardo. Puerto added that Kratz was fearful for his life and feared what DiNardo would do to him if he was not compliant.

“He thought every second with Cosmo could be his last,” said Puerto.

James Cartagana, a longtime



Sean Kratz, courtesy of bucks.crimewatchpa.com



Cosmo DiNardo, courtesy of bucks.crimewatchpa.com

employee of the DiNardo’s company testified that he witnessed Kratz using a heavy-duty pressure washer after the night of July 7.

“They’d have to be pretty strong and stable to use it, it’s a two-hand tool,” said Cartagana.

Cartagana described how DiNardo’s ATV accident that happened years prior had affected him.

“He wasn’t the same kid, it was like his brain was being rewired,

or it had short circuited or something. People can take advantage of you when you’re in that state of mind,” said Cartagana. “Either way No one wins in this case, all those families lost sons, The DiNardo’s lost a son, nobody wins either way.”

Phone records showed that Kratz and Cosmo spent several days together prior and after the crimes. Including jersey shore trips for the fourth of July and

dinner at a stake restaurant after the massacre.

The defense asked witnesses who had seen Kratz close to the days of the of the murders if he was limping or using a cane. All witnesses stated they saw no problems with his legs. One detective who interviewed Kratz days after the event had thought Kratz was embellishing his injuries.

The jury was shown Kratz’s

2017 interrogation video. In the tape Kratz originally denied having any direct involvement with the killing of the victims. Later Kratz’s mother, Vanessa Amodei, was brought into the interrogation room. She begged her son to tell the truth and Kratz disclosed the location of the guns used in the crimes.

This case continues to shock residents across Bucks.



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A 2019 Flu Season Guide

ALYSSA MOORE

Centurion Staff

Flu season is upon us. Chilly weather, holidays, and the inevitable head cold will be here before you know it. This is the time of year you hear the classical phrase, "Make sure to get your flu shot!"

The influenza virus infects millions of people worldwide each year. Influenza has multiple strains that affect both humans and animals alike.

The seasonal influenza vaccine has been able to lower the risk of

a person getting the flu by half.
Doctors say that getting the yearly
flu vaccine is the best way to
protect yourself from the sickness.

The flu is a mild disease. If a healthy person comes down with the flu, they might be bed ridden for a few days and get prescribed antibiotics.

People who are more at risk of developing serious complications include pregnant women, infants and children, the elderly, and peo-



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

population. However, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as 56,000 people die from the flu or flu-like illness each year.

A controversial criticism towards vaccines that is well known is that they cause autism in children.

A mercury-based preservative called thimerosal that was used in some vaccines was thought to have caused autism. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that the preservative did not cause autism.

As winter grows closer, we should be watching out for our health. The cold weather suppresses everyone's immune system differently. So bundle up, cough into your shoulder, and get your flu shot from your doctor.

ple with chronic health conditions like asthma or diabetes.

Vaccines have been considered to be one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century. But not everyone agrees with that.

Criticism towards vaccines isn't new. Since the 1800s when vaccines were first being introduced, people found it unethical to protect someone from the small pox virus while injecting them with cowpox blisters. Some also stated that it was against their religion.

Today's criticisms towards vaccines are a somewhat different. Some people still claim religious reasons for not getting vaccinated, even though most modern-day religions do not condemn vaccines.

Misconceptions surrounding vaccines has caused eradicated diseases to come back. In 2002,

measles was declared eradicated in the U.S. Then in 2014, the disease had found its way back into the country's population. This year alone, more than 700 deaths in the United States are due to measles.

Measles has been proven to control germs' abilities to fight diseases, especially in kids. Dr. Michael Mina told the Bucks County Courier Times that, "It's doubly important to vaccinate children. It's a vaccine that protects against the specific target (measles), but also against immune suppression."

Some had allergic reactions to the shot or still got sick anyway and question the effectiveness of the vaccines. Others believe there isn't a need to get a certain vaccine if the disease has been practically eliminated from the

Is Homework Necessary?



A student completing homework, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

seventh grade and up. For younger students, the relationship was much weaker," she stated on today.duke.edu.

Computer Science major Tom Hoelzel from Westminster is not in favor of homework. "From my experience homework was never helpful. It was more of a chore. I don't feel I learned anything," he said.

Hoelzel's opinion is shared with European country, Finland.

Finland's education system is regarded as one of the best in the world, yet they do not assign homework. Their graduation rate is 99 percent while America is below the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average at 83 percent according to the National Center on Education and the Economy.

The OECD consists of 36 countries that promote economic progress.

Other nations are striving to adopt Finland's philosophy of well-paid teachers, ample recess time, and no emphasis on homework. 66 percent of Finnish students go on to higher education

"I just never understood why homework is a thing," said Justin Henderson, a Business major from Warmminster. "You go to school six to seven hours, then are rewarded with more school work, the effects will only be negative."

School Lane Charter School in Bensalem has adopted Finland's philosophy of no homework to the delight of students and parents alike.

“School is a time to focus, learn, and grow. After school is a time to play and be a kid,” said CEO Karen Schade explained to parents at a meeting in 2016.

Will homework become an idea of the past, or will it continue to be the dread of all students? The debate continues to rage on.



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Sports

Cross Country Season Wraps Up

PAUL SCORZAFAVA
Centurion Staff

Bucks' Cross-Country team ended their 2019 season on a high note with brother sister duo Logan and Reland Saugling making All-Conference

"Now in our second year as a team, we want to continue to build on the success from this past season. Our runners were competitive in all of our meets this year, and we were fortunate enough to have success at the conference, regional and national level," said Head Coach Brian Thomas. "Based on the Saugling's success during the season and Region 19 meet, both had the opportunity to run in the NJCAA National Championship Meet in Westfield, MA, where they turned in personal and season best performances."

Thomas also mentioned freshman runner, Samantha Beverly

who improved each week and turned in a season's best performance in her last meet at Region 19.

The Centurion runners had three meets to finish out their season before the NJCAA National Championship on Nov. 1. The next meet was at Jack St. Clair Invitational in Bryn Mawr, PA on Oct. 12. Reland Saugling finished 85th running a 30:39.7 and Beverly finished 111st running 37:38.3, both in the women's 6k. Logan Saugling finished 53rd running a 31:16.8 in the men's 8K race.

The team continued to impress at the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (EPAC) Championship at Luzerne County Community College on Oct. 20.

Reland Saugling had an amazing outing, finishing 5th overall in the women's 5K with a personal record of 22:34 earning her first team all-conference honors. Beverly



Women's Cross Country starting line



Reland Saugling (orange shoes)

erely also had a fantastic day finishing with a season best time of 26:46.

Logan Saugling took 2nd place in the EPAC Championships. He finished the 8K with a personal best, 27:49, earning him First Team All-Conference Honors.

Rounding out the month of October, the Centurions competed in the Region XIX Championship at Delaware Tech on Oct. 26.

Logan Saugling took 9th place in the men's 8K finishing with

an impressive time of 30:07. The women's team also had solid races with Reland Saugling finishing in 12th place with a time of 24:55, and Beverly who finished in 27:41.

The Saugling siblings had an outstanding and record-breaking performances on Nov. 2 at the 2019 NJCAA D3 National Championship.

Logan Saugling finished 58 out of 200 which is within the top 29 percent in the men's 8k race

and set his new personal record. Reland Saugling finished 58 out of 121 which puts her in the top 47 percent of the women's 5K and her placement in the race sets a new season best.

As one season comes to an end, players and coaches alike always prepare for the next challenge. "We look forward to continued success next year as we welcome a new team of runners for the 2020 cross country season at Bucks," Coach Thomas said.

Bucks Men's Basketball 2019-20 Season Preview

ANDREW KLEPPINGER
Centurion Staff

As the weather outside gets colder, the Bucks Centurions men's basketball team is heating up.

Head coach Dominic Farello and assistant coach Ryan Charity are firing their team up in order to make a statement in the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (EPAC) this season.

Team players have several improvements that they are hoping to work on this season.

Sophomore, forward Keith Howard, and intended sports management major, said, "I'm looking to shoot the ball more often. I didn't take many threes last year and it's something I've been working on improving this year."

Freshman shooting guard Kris Shields, also an intended sports management major, stated, "The part of my game I want to improve this season is my conditioning and my eating."

Howard talked about what the team needs to work on this season as a group.



photo courtesy of Andrew Kleppinger

"The only thing we lack as a team is the experience. There's only three returning players from last year's team and I think it's going to be a shock to all the freshmen seeing how different it is to play at this level compared to in high school," Howard said. "The team needs to work on and improve our communication skills while on the court and in practice," Shields added, "everything else will just fall into place."

Both Shields and Howard admit-

ted that the life of a student athlete can be overwhelming.

"It definitely isn't easy. You really need to make sure you're organized and plan out when you do your work. Our coach emphasizes that school work always comes first," said Howard.

Shields added, "Handling basketball and school is all time management. While your friends are out partying, you have to be home finishing your school work."

Despite the players busy sched-

ules, the basketball season will kick off in February and the team plans to give it their all.

"Every game we play is a must win game to us. It doesn't matter if it's a league game or crossover game," said Shield.

"I feel like every game is a must win game, especially at the beginning of the season so we can set the tone early on. We need to show everyone we are serious and are ready for a playoff run," said Howard.

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