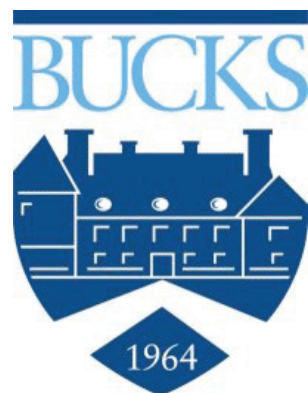


The Centurion



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Joe Biden Wins Presidential Race

KAYLA GIDZINSKI

Centurion Staff

American voters have chosen former Vice President Joe Biden to be their next president in an election that hinged on the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the country.

The result of the 2020 presidential election provided a historical moment for Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate, who will become the first female to serve as vice president and is also of Black and South Asian descent.

Following the victory over Pennsylvania, Biden ended the race with 290 Electoral College votes and Trump 214 votes. Altogether, to clinch the presidency, a candidate must earn a total of 270 votes from the college.

Due to the severity of COVID-19, mail-in ballots were put in place to ensure one's health, though the option slowed down the election's counting process as it was prolonged for a few more days.

Maria Cornwell, 44, expresses her relief about the results of the election and such.

Cornwell emphasized, "After the last four years of watching the current president put such a division between the people of this country, we finally got tired of it. We need a president that is for all Americans and not just the Republicans. We need someone to bring us back together as a nation and finally make America great again."

The Croydon resident went on to express her dislike for Trump.

"Trump has done nothing to calm the unrest in our country. He has spent more time rallying and golfing these last few years than anything. I think it is time for a change because we need to

do some good for once. Regarding Biden's win, I am looking forward to the future and what he has planned," said Cornwell.

On Saturday evening, Biden and Harris visited Wilmington, Delaware and presented their speeches as president-elect and vice president-elect.

Within Biden's address, he promised to serve as a leader who will unify, noting his appreciation towards the 74 million Americans that voted for him. Also, he sympathized with those who chose Trump as president, relating to their frustrations when he had lost past elections.

During Harris' speech, she demonstrated the campaign's positive influence on young girls by stating the nation's endless possibilities.

President Trump, as expected, paid no mind over the outcome of the race. His supporters claim that the election is rigged and posted several tweets about the unfairness of it all. Trump plans to take legal action as he is convinced many mail-in ballots were fraudulent.

18-year-old Richboro resident David Southworth shared his thoughts about the election.

"Well, to be honest, I am not necessarily happy with the results. However, I would not have been too fond if Trump won either. My worry is that Biden is a bit too old to be in charge and Harris is kind of a radical leftist. Plus, I do not like how she called Biden a racist on television, yet she ran with and all," stated Southworth. "Another thing I did not like was how their only plan was to basically dump Trump. I do not think Biden and Harris have any idea on how far they are about to bring down the economy."



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Students React to the Presidential Election Outcome

DEAN GUILIANO

Centurion Staff

The day of reckoning has finally come and gone, and yet as votes were counted, the US citizens along with the rest of the world waited to see who would be elected president.

On Nov. 7, the strongest voter turnout in 120 years amounted to 66.9 percent of citizens casting their ballots. President Donald Trump had strong voter support when the polls opened on Election Day, which led to an early lead over former Vice President Joe Biden in many states.

However, as the counting of the absentee ballots went on, Biden gained a significant lead in electoral college votes and the popular vote.

Swing states like Michigan and Wisconsin eventually went to Biden, giving him a large lead with 290 electoral votes to Trump's 214. Because of this, many were afraid that Trump would accuse some states of inaccurately and fraudulently counting the votes, threaten legal

action and get the Supreme Court involved.

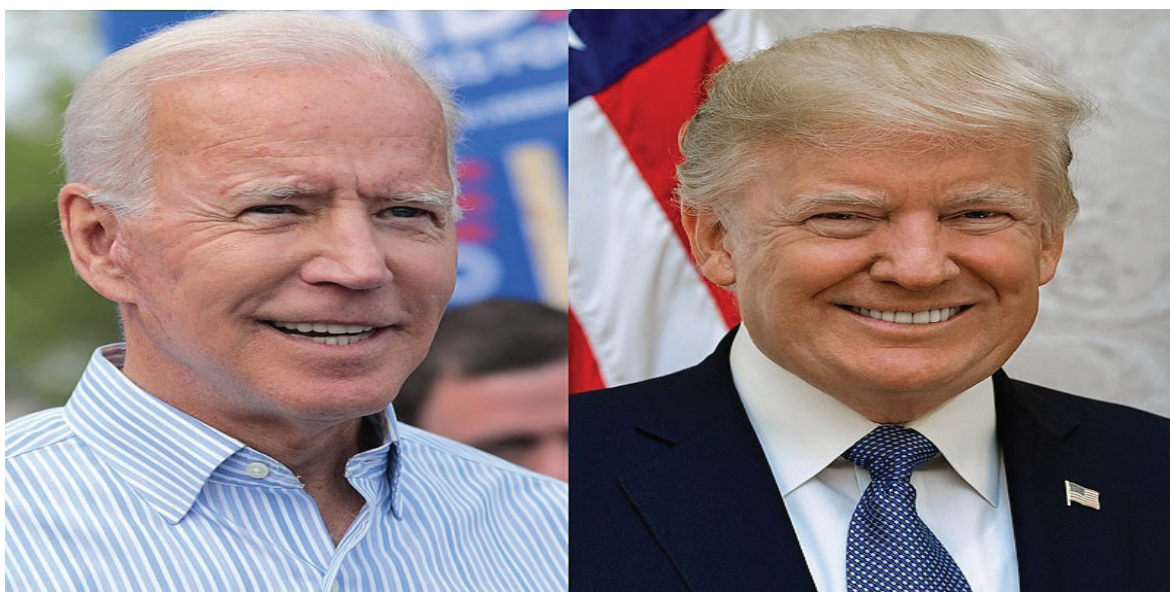
And that is just what President Trump did, saying what crucial battleground states such as Pennsylvania did was "unthinkable and illegal in this country."

Trump claims that the state had prevented him and his administration from watching much of the ballot count, after he had at one point a 16 percent lead in Pennsylvania on Election Day, just vanishing into thin air over the next few days.

Trump has been tweeting the past few days giving updates about Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Nevada. Trump capped off his updates with tweets giving hope to his supporters across the country.

"WE ARE MAKING BIG PROGRESS. RESULTS START TO COME IN NEXT WEEK. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! WE WILL WIN!" Trump tweeted.

Young and many first-time voters expressed their opinions on how they felt about the election and what it might mean for the



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

future.

Albert Wilson, political science major at Gettysburg College and Bucks County resident, stated, "I have mixed emotions. In the short run I'm very happy. A Biden victory seemed obvious even in the early Wednesday hours, so I've also been much calmer than I was on election night in 2016. However, the path forward is difficult. Democrats failed to re-

take the Senate and this will pose numerous legislative challenges in the next two years."

Matthew Davies, student at Temple University and Yardley native, said, "I believe Trump's early call of victory was ignorant and unprofessional."

Over the past week, Trump claimed he was going to win the election by citing his apparent leads in states, some of which

have since declared Biden as the victor of their coveted electoral votes.

As a Biden victory has been officially confirmed by the Associated Press, it is evident that Trump is not going down without a fight as he currently is refusing to concede. It is going to be a long three months until someone needs to be sworn into office.

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Bucks News

Bucks Spring 2021 Semester Will be Online

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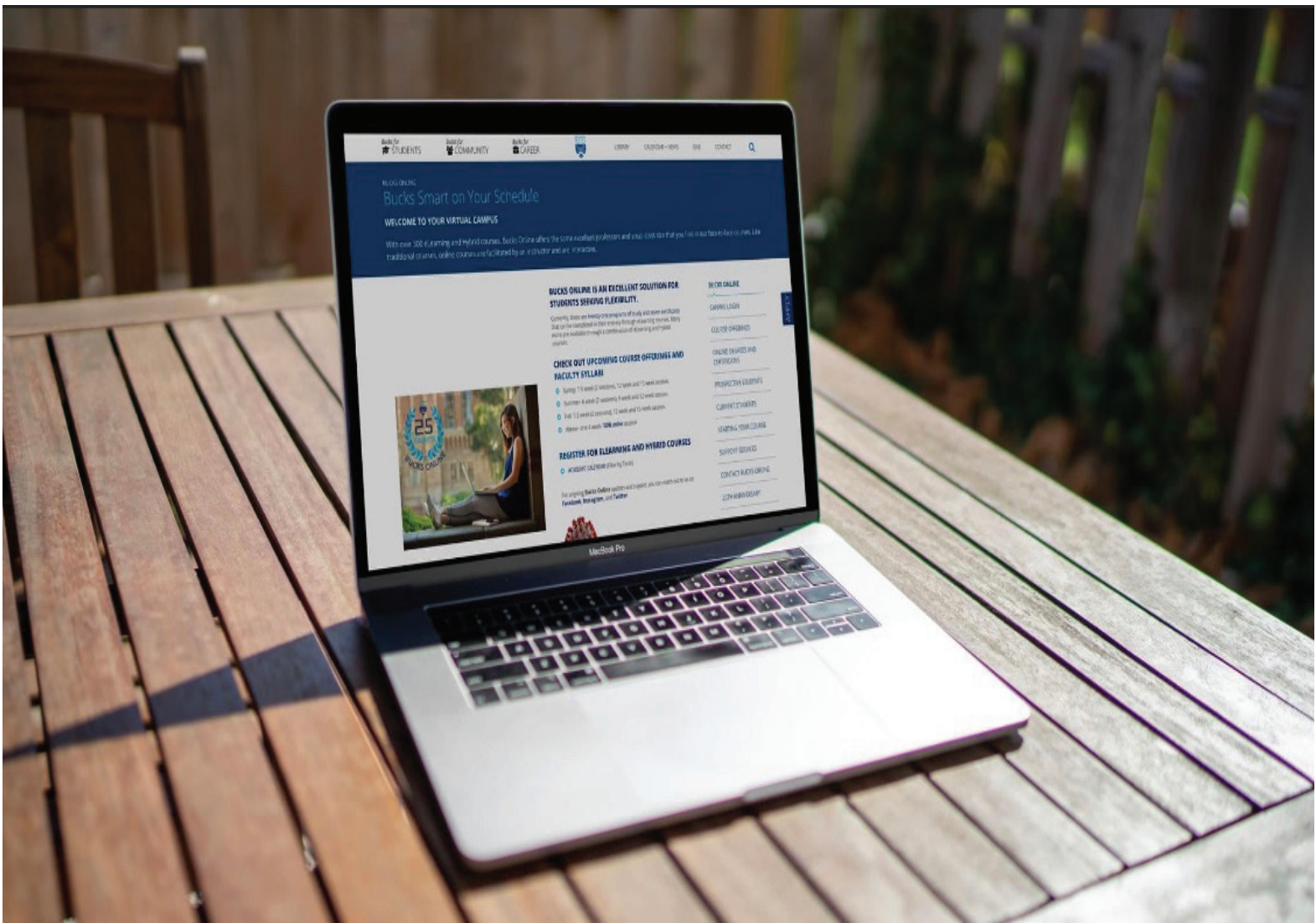
PAYTON SCHREIER
Centurion Staff

Bucks has announced that the spring 2021 semester will be online out of safety precautions for the COVID-19 virus.

According to the press release the college put out on the matter, the decision was made after consulting faculty and staff on what to do for spring classes.

“We did not make any of these decisions lightly, and our first priority is ensuring that our Bucks community stays safe and healthy,” said Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt, college president.

Not many students were pleased about the news. These students have aired their grievances about being online many times, but most



Courtesy of Bucks’ Facebook page

are not surprised that it has taken this route. Brittney Grida, a psychology major at Bucks said she was not expecting it to be online this upcoming semester and that she was hoping for more classes to be in person so she would have more options. With being online, learning has been very limited for many students.

Some have struggled more because of distance learning, while others have adapted to the situation. Students and teachers

alike have been struggling to keep up online, not only because of the heavy workload, but also because of the struggle to teach effectively online.

On the other hand, some students have been adapting very well to their new environment, albeit begrudgingly. With the upcoming spring semester, it may have students nervous for what’s to come. Not for Grida though, as she said, “I feel alright just because I’ve done it this semes-

ter and I’ve been doing fine and my grades are really good. But I feel socially I will still be lacking socially.”

An obvious major downside to being online is the lack of face-to-face contact between students, but more importantly student-to-teacher.

Most seem confident in their ability to continue being online, as they have had to adapt over this current semester also being online. Grida revealed that she is

confident in her skills, although she she said, “I am nervous because I am taking five classes next semester, and most of them are fully online so I will have to adapt to that, but I feel confident in myself to do the best I can do like I have already been doing.”

While there are conflicting thoughts within students on how this upcoming spring semester will go, for now, they will have to power through online just as they have been doing.

Bucks’ President Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt to Retire

LEAH MILLER
Centurion Staff

Earlier this fall, Bucks’ president Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt announced her retirement that will take place June 30, 2021.

Shanblatt began her position as college president in 2012 and is the fourth president of BCCC. The college has announced the search for her replacement with the help of an appointed search committee.

Staff members and students had a very positive perspective of Shanblatt. Elizabeth “Betsy” Watson, 20, communications major, stated, “I think the current president handled COVID-19 really well. I think having basically all classes remote was a great idea.”

Watson commended the college’s quick response to announce their COVID-19 plans, as Watson stated she saw no “changes” that she could think of regarding the president’s course of action.

Staff member and professor, Shawn Queeney, spoke positively regarding the president, and the changes she had first made after coming to BCCC, such as the introduction of guiding signs to the campus. Professor Queeney has been with the college for many years, since before Shanblatt.

Shanblatt has been transparent through the process or her retirement, which includes active updates to the student body on the website that the college has provided so the community can be effectively updated.

Blake H. Eisenhart, the chair of the BCCC Presidential Search Committee, has provided an update on the ongoing search. Eisenhart mentioned that their search committee is contracted with the firm Greenwood Asher so they may effectively search for Shanblatt’s replacement.

Shanblatt stated that she is “not actively working with the search committee because that is the role of the committee. The committee did seek (her) input regarding the opportunities for the new presi-

dent and (she) appreciated being asked.”

Shanblatt also shared details on the work the college is accomplishing this year and said, “We will complete the Newtown campus core beautification project. And, we have begun the implementation of Workday, a new computer system.”

“In January, we will begin using Workday for HR and Finance functions at the college. And, in the spring we will begin a multi-year implementation of Workday Student to replace our current system, Colleague. (Students may recognize it as Student Planning.) We will also begin construction on our new Center for Advanced Technologies next month and while it won’t be finished by next June, it should be well on its way. We are also continuing to strengthen our outreach to students to ensure they support and assistance to be successful. And, we are finalizing our Accreditation Self Study to ensure the college is reaccredited in 2022,” said Shanblatt.

Shanblatt spoke positively of her time at Bucks, and proudly of the work that she has accomplished. She spoke enthusiastically about the work done to fight food insecurity to the new Science Center in Newtown.

The president shared a final thought to leave with students, “Bucks is an amazing place. Regardless of who the president is or will be, what makes Bucks amazing is the faculty and staff. There is a true and strong dedication to ensure that students are successful and meet their educational goals. It’s a beautiful college – all three campuses have their own special beauty and personality – and a great place to learn.”

Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt, courtesy of Bucks’ website



Bucks News

Bucks' Poet Laureate 2020 Winner

JOSH THOMPSON

Centurion Staff

On Nov. 15, Bucks will be having its annual reading and reception with 2020 Poet Laureate winner, Jane Edna Mohler, on YouTube starting at 1 p.m.

Mohler is a Bucks County native and author of the book "Broken Umbrellas," which is a collection of her many poems. Its description states, "These poems are infused with striking images, 'the empty cereal box of winter,' sharing the challenges of human condition: the hospital, its neighboring museum, and the ongoing excavations that bind them."

In an interview with Jean Dolan of the college's marketing department, Mohler has entered the Bucks County Poet Laureate many times.

"Being a poet and a native of Bucks County, this competition always represented a brass ring for me to reach. The poetry movement based at the Bucks County Community College, nurtured for decades by Dr. Christopher Bursk, and now tended by Dr. Ethel Rackin, has made the large and dedicated community of Bucks County poets one that is known nationwide," said Mohler.

Mohler stated that she felt an

overwhelming sense of relief and affirmation when she heard the news that she had won the contest. "I thought, my poems have hit the intended target, complete strangers, and they responded."

Mohler has been a poet since she was nine years old when her teacher took her aside and told her that she was quiet a good writer. What inspires her to write is the fragile nature of life and the forces with which one would have to endure.

"I am driven to explore connections, coincidences, and collisions of people, events and objects. This is true of my career as a counselor also. Writing allows me to celebrate what I love: the details, the quirks, the sheer work and glitter of life. I also like to write about roadkill and roadside debris," said Mohler.

Mohler will receive a \$500 honorarium, a proclamation from the Bucks County Commissioners, and a reading at BCCC with 2019 Poet Laureate Mary Jo Lobello and runners-up Jenny Isaacs, Maureen Connolly, and Melinda Rizzo.

The livestream is free to view on Bucks Community Colleges YouTube channel, youtube.com/user/BucksCCC.



Jane Edna Mohler, courtesy of Bucks' website

Bucks County 44th Poet Laureate Reading + Celebration

Sunday, November 15
1:00pm



Jane Edna Mohler

Featuring

Jane Edna Mohler

44th Poet Laureate

reading with

**Mary Jo
LoBello Jerome**

43rd Poet Laureate

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Maureen Connolly

Melinda Rizzo

and Judge Liz Chang

No registration necessary:
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Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee and the Department of Language & Literature



Jane Edna Mohler is a native of Bucks County currently residing in Peace Valley. *Broken Umbrellas*, her full-length book of poems, was published by Kelsay Books in 2019. Her poems are forthcoming or have appeared in *Gargoyle*, *The Skinny Poetry Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *U.S.1 Worksheets*, *River Heron Review*, and the *2020 Bay to Ocean Anthology*. She is the 2016 winner of Main Street Voices poetry competition, a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee, a Robert Fraser finalist, and previously a runner up for Bucks County Poet Laureate. A presenter at the 2020 Bay to Ocean Writer's Conference in Maryland, she is scheduled again for 2021. Jane taught English over two summers at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in China. She is a school counselor through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. She shares her home with her artist husband and three distinguished cats. In addition to writing, Jane is a traditional rug hooker, gardener, and kayaker.

Knowledge is No Advantage

"Knowledge is no advantage when it is a matter of one's own dreams." – Carl Jung

The sidewalk may have been in Hopewell
beside the monument for my ancestor.
March snow topped the obelisks
and spalled slabs with sullen dollops of cold.

Then there was a garden, not ornamental cherry
or carved boxwood, but common crops,
heart-shaped green-bean leaves and large limas
with furred pods thicker than leather belts.

They too were covered in snow but strong
and oblivious to the clawing cold.
Still growing on the vine, unchosen,
waiting long into the disinterested winter.

Why not picked? I held one in my palm.
It was familiar as the face of a friend.
Here, an entire acre of vehemently
enduring lives, whom I knew well.

Bucks News

Bucks to Host Virtual Comedy Series

JACOB MAIRONE
Centurion Staff

Bucks is hosting a new monthly virtual comedy series in hopes to give students a good laugh during stressful times.

“Big Laughs on Campus,” hosted by comedy veteran Marc Kaye, is a series that features nationally touring comedians headlining from the comfort of their homes. The series goes on for an hour, starting at 7:30 p.m., and airs every third Thursday through December. The next event will be held on Nov. 19.

Kaye has performed in clubs across the country and is also an avid writer and musician. He is the founder of Eliro, a company that combines the discipline of marketing and the creativity of humor and improv to help train, develop content, and drive strategic planning.

Alongside Kaye, the series will feature comedians Chris Coccia and Mahesh Kotagi.

Coccia is a frequent guest on several Philadelphia radio shows, and works everywhere from the county club’s top comedy clubs to corporate events to colleges. He is a past winner of the Purina

Pet Comedy Challenge and has appeared on Comedy Central, The Game Show Network and XM Radio.

Kotagi is often spotted in comedy clubs in Los Angeles and New York City. He was voted “best of the fest” at the 2019 Burbank Comedy Festival. Kotagi also hosts a podcast called “No More Tokens!” about diversity in the entertainment industry.

Tickets are free, but donations are encouraged to support various fundraising campaigns that benefit Bucks students. Donations are accepted for the college’s Gateway to Economic Self Sufficiency scholarship. Go to tinyurl.com/DonateBucks to make a donation.

Free tickets must be reserved at bucks.edu/tickets. A link to view the event will be sent by email after registration.

“Big Laughs on Campus” continues Dec. 17 with Tracy Locke and Sean Conway benefiting the Bucks Student Emergency Fund. So register, kick back, and allow yourself to have some laughs.

Host Marc Kaye, courtesy of Bucks’ Website



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Local News

Sellersville Teen Shot at State Park

PAYTON SCHREIER

Centurion Staff

Jason Kutt, 18, was shot dead on Oct. 24 while on a date with his girlfriend at Nockamixon State Park.

The District Attorney at Bucks County, Matt Weintraub, is asking for help in searching for the shooter. “We need your help to understand how Jason Kutt died and we need your help to do that,” said Weintraub.

Kutt had been sitting by the lake with his girlfriend when he was fatally shot in the back of the head. Kutt had just graduated from Pennridge High School this year.

The shooting occurred at about 5:15 p.m., and Kutt was pronounced dead early on Monday morning. The shooting was close to Old Ridge Road, the access point into the Marina section of Lake Nockamixon.

Kutt’s girlfriend reported seeing a man wearing an orange vest, which appeared to be hunting gear. The distance between the shooter and the victim was approximately 550 feet away.

Game Wardens, as well as State Park Rangers responded immediately to the scene, where they found the victim with a gunshot injury to the head. First responders and the girlfriend performed first aid on Kutt before he was pronounced dead at St Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem.

Police were assisted by a K9 unit but had no luck in locating any suspects in the area.

Due to their currently being no



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

clear suspect or motive behind the case, Weintraub explained that, “We need to understand what the shooter’s intent was, whether there was actually any criminal mental state.”

Detectives from Bucks County are trying to identify the operators of three cars located within Nockamixon State Park around

the time of the shooting. The cars are a champagne colored 2000 Chevrolet, a 2000 silver Camry or Avalon Sedan, and a black SUV.

Along with a K9 unit, they also searched the area with the help of a state police helicopter, but did not locate any suspects using that method either.

Kutt’s mother issued a state-

ment about her son's death and said, “Jason was 18 years old and a 2020 Pennridge graduate. He loved... taking walks in nature to take amazing pictures and spending time with his girlfriend. Please remember to hug your loved ones because tomorrow is never promised.”

Weintraub concluded that, “The

evidence leads us to believe, at this point, is that when his girlfriend looked up, she was able to see a hunter in the roadway.”

The hunter appears to be the only suspect that was visible at the scene of the crime, although there are no main suspects at this point.

New Program to Help Those Who Struggle with Drug Addiction

JOSHUA THOMPSON

Centurion Staff

While America may be busy dealing with COVID-19, the drug addiction crisis hasn’t gone away.

Bensalem seemingly has the most drug problems in Bucks County, specifically heroin and meth. Sergeant Adam Kolman is the lead detective of the Bensalem Police department, and has seen and heard plenty of cases involving drug busts or people overdosing.

“We lead the county in drug arrests,” Kolman stated. “Thousands of drug arrests have been made here, and we have at least one overdose a day.”

According to Kolman, part of the reason for the drug problems has to do with Bensalem’s size and its proximity to Philadelphia.

The amount of drug overdoses in Bensalem isn’t going unnoticed, and a new program is trying to reduce overdoses while also getting people the help that they need.

Bucks County Police Assisting In Recovery (BCPAIR), is a program where people suffering with addiction can come to a participating police station, hand in their drugs, and will be assisted to resources that will help them recover.

The program was started by Fred Harran, a director of public safety for Bensalem Township. The goal of the program is simple: point people who have a drug addiction in the right direction. The program is similar to a treatment referral program set up in Massachusetts, also with the same idea of helping those with addiction.

If first-time offenders complete the program, drug charges are



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

dropped.

According to The Philadelphia Inquirer, the county’s Drug and Alcohol commission received a \$300,000 grant to expand the program.

“These are the programs that are relied on to stop drug overdoses before they happen,” Kolman stated. “For the most part, we deal with the law enforcement part when it comes to these situations.

According to Drug abuse.gov, since 1999 the number of drug overdoses nationwide has gone up, with 2017 begin the highest with 67,000 deaths, most of them among males. In 2018, the num-

ber of overdoses dipped slightly. Bucks County had 34 deaths per 100,000 in 2018, three less than in 2017 when they had 37 deaths per 100,000.

The Bucks County Courier Times also reported that drug overdoses in the county dropped by 23 percent, continuing into 2020.

Even if patients do recover, there’s still a good chance that they’ll relapse. This isn’t stopping Bucks County officials, who have been aggressively tackling the issue.

Bucks County Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo told the WHYY

that while the region has seen some progress, there’s still more work to be done with opioid addiction increasing along with the use of methamphetamines and cocaine.

DiGirolamo also told the WHYY that he had personal experiences with someone with drug addiction, his eldest son. DiGirolamo and his family had a hard time getting their son the help that he needed. There were plenty of resources out there, but there was a lack of navigation when seeking out those sources.

Kolman said a few hundred people have turned in their drugs

to BCPAIR in Bensalem. Despite this, Kolman hopes that BCPAIR can continue to reduce the amount of drug overdoses in Bensalem, and Bucks County as a whole.

While Bucks may have its fair share of problems with drug overdoses, that doesn’t mean there aren’t resources out there to help. Alongside BCPAIR, the Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission site (BCDAC) list of other resources and programs.

If you know someone who’s struggling with drug addiction, go to www.bcadac.org, or call 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

Health & Wellness

The 2020 Flu Season is Here

LEAH MILLER
Centurion Staff

Flu shot season technically begins in August and ends in March, but many doctors have recommended getting the shot in October, before the season begins to get ugly.

Students have shared their concerns over this year’s flu shot season. Kasey Ponce, 19, business major, stated that she doesn’t get them and that she believes this season might be worse for kids who haven’t been exposed after going back to school because of the enhanced COVID-19 restrictions.

Frances Spahits, 19, an electrical engineering and technology major, said, “I think that it’s going to be better because of masks. Nobody has been sick unless it is the Coronavirus. Everyone is extremely aware because of it.”

Spahits also stated that when everything goes back to normal, people will begin to get sick again because of the loosening of cleaning standards.

Dr. Constance Corrigan, professor and Dean of Health Sciences at Bucks County Community College stated, “The best thing that could happen is that everyone got a flu shot who is able to take the shot. Ideally you should have the shot before the end of October, but if that deadline has gone by, it’s not too late! As long as there are injections available, flu shots can be administered at any time. There is a bit of a lag time between the injection and when your body develops immunity which is



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

why October is the best time.”

Wendy Gangi, a Bucks alumnus, is a pharmacist in Perkasio for Rite Aid. Gangi relayed that a lot of people have been coming in for a multitude of reasons such as preparedness, fear, or that their workplace does not accommodate the service anymore.

Gangi stated that once receiving the shot, it takes about two weeks

before the shot is fully effective. The vaccine is not “live” and the shot is meant to give the influenza strains in an effective way so that a person’s body can create antibodies to protect themselves against whatever strain may hit during the season.

Gangi stressed the importance of the shot and recommended getting one if possible. Gangi also

recommends taking antioxidants to further one’s protection against any illness this winter season may bring.

While health officials recommend getting the flu shot, pharmacists like Gangi can also offer alternative ideas to keep yourself healthy, as well as the encouragement of the adherence to COVID-19 guidelines with frequent hand-



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