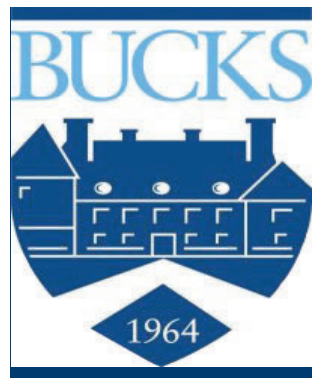


The Centurion



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Latex Spill In Delaware River Leaves Bucks Residents Frightened



DOMINIQUE NEWS

Centurion staff

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Bucks County residents were left to deal with the aftereffects of a latex product spill in the Delaware River that occurred on Friday, March 24 into Saturday, March 25. Health officials in Bucks County reported a leak coming from Trinseo Altuglas Chemical Facility in Bristol, PA.

While the leak was only a water-based latex finishing

solution, it is considered to be a hazardous chemical to consume. The leak itself was between 8,100 and 12,000 gallons of a water-soluble acrylic polymer solution, containing chemicals like methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate.

Bucks County officials reassured residents that water treatment plants are continuously being monitored and so far, have shown no negative impacts on drinking water

quality. This, however, did not relieve residents of their concern for their safety.

When asked how this event has changed her day-to-day living, Levittown resident Stephanie Chapman, 53, says she refuses to give her cats anything besides bottled water now, and even goes as far as to say, “honestly, I won’t even water my flowers with it [tap water] because you just don’t know anymore.”

Chapman uses a Brita water filter system, but even then, she is still unsure if it is effective. She claims to have very little trust in water filtration systems anymore.

Regarding the future, Chapman says “I’m more aware now and I think I’ll always be a little bit nervous. Most of these factories are right on the water and that fact alone makes you wonder - how many times this has already happened?”

Looking into the facility’s history, it appears that this is not the first time this has happened to Trinseo Altuglas. Over the past decade, there have been a number of instances in which hazardous material was spilled into the Delaware river. Granted, none of this capacity.

This stance brings forth the question of how safe our water is. How effective are our filtered water systems? Those questions make ‘panic-buying’ water from grocery stores seem reasonable and logical.

In situations like COVID-19 and natural disasters, water and other essen-

tials become scarce almost instantaneously. The panicked frenzy that this event has sent Bucks County into has left grocery store shelves bare in terms of water.

At what point does hoarding cases of water become unethical and selfish? Bristol Township resident Alison Schmukler, 20, feels that hoarding water is “a bit extra” and there should “definitely be a limit on how much you can purchase.”

Schmukler also gives her furry friends bottled water instead of tap, but as for herself she sticks to her Brita filter. Brita water filters are a lot of residents’ answers to this issue, but just how effective are Brita filters against this kind of hazard?

Residents are stuck in a catch-22 in which there does not seem to be a right answer. Fortunately, officials have been reporting that water is in fact safe to drink as of right now.

Bucks Develops “First Of Its Kind” Trades Program In PA

RAEANNE RACCAGNO

Centurion staff

Bucks County Community College launches the Building & Construction Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program after partnering with the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council to offer students the opportunity to learn many skills in building trades disciplines.

This new program is believed to be the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, and the development was inspired by the current need for skilled building and construction workers.

Bucks had decided to try and help lessen the load by generating and offering students this 10-week and 288 hours program that will educate students with the material necessary for graduates to apply for a Registered Apprenticeship Program or secure a high-paying, family-sustaining job.

Christine Harvie, the manager of workforce development programs at Bucks, explains how “the planning

for the program has been in the works for about a year, however, the idea of doing a Building and Construction Program was something we wanted to do since the beginning of the Center For Advanced Technologies Project.”

The Center For Advanced Technologies is a brand new building featured at the Gene and Marlene Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks in Bristol Township. The \$9.9 million building was finished in November and will hold the Building and Construction Trades and multiple other advanced manufacturing training and workforce programs.

Students will earn OSHA-10 and Ariel Platform Lift Safety certificates by graduation as well.

“Students will have class at the CAT on Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. On some Fridays, the group will take tours of local union apprenticeship training centers,” Harvie tells us. These tours will also allow trainees to get a feel of what trade they are interested in and help

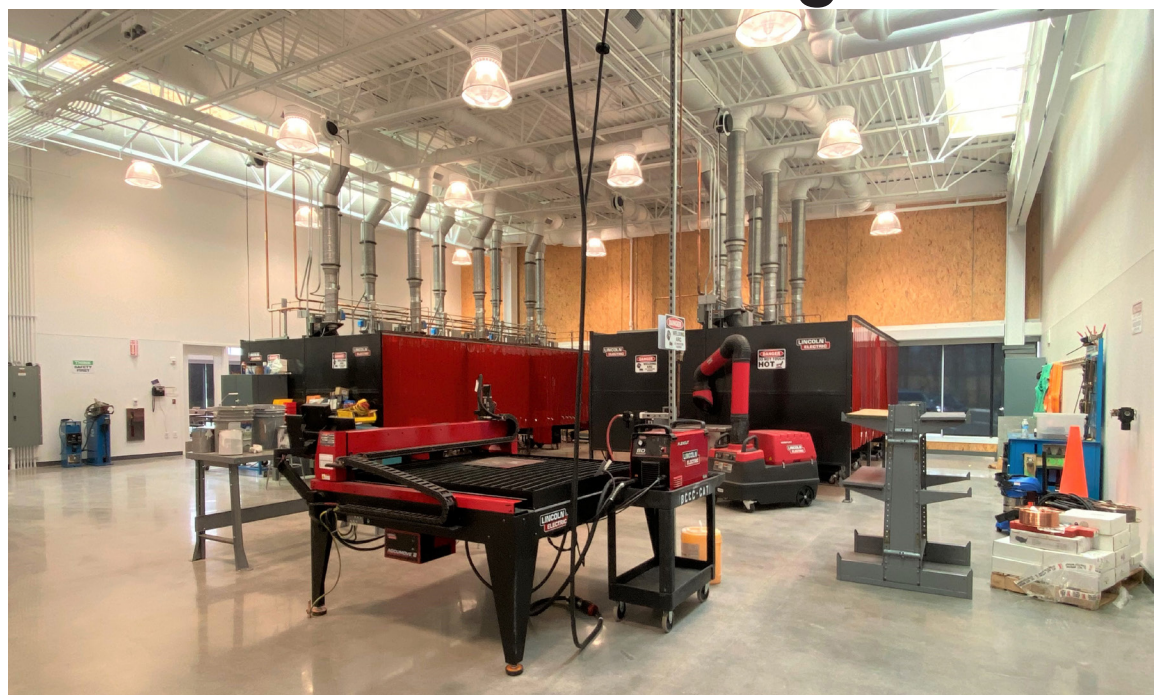


Photo courtesy of Raeanne Raccagno

them apply to those trades.

“We will assist with helping the students apply for registered apprenticeships in the discipline they are interested in pursuing,” she continued.

Another feature of the program is that it is free to those who qualify for the requirements. “We received a PA Labor and Industry PA Smart Grant to fund our program through 2024.

Looking ahead, we will continue to seek out grant-funding options so we

can continue to offer the program for free and serve even more students in the future!” Harvie shared.

The inaugural cohort of the Pre-Apprenticeship Program begins April 10 and will feature a total of eight students. Each cohort will acclimate eight students in future sessions. Over the next two years, current grant funding will be able to accommodate a total of 32 students.

“For many young people, a traditional four-year col-

lege degree is not always a viable option. This program will provide young people with the opportunity to earn a paycheck while they learn a trade,” Harvie says.

For more information, regarding the program or the program’s requirements, visit the Building & Construction Trades page on the Bucks website or contact Harvie at christine.harvie@bucks.edu.

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Email your letters to : Centurion@bucks.edu.

Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s full name and telephone number.

RAEANNE RACCAGNO
Centurion staff

To celebrate Women’s History Month, the Office of Community & Government Relations held the second annual “Women’s Power Panel” on March 23 at 12:30 p.m. at Bucks’ Newtown campus and streamed the event on Zoom.

Women were able to discuss life’s obstacles and

Women’s Power Panel Celebrates Telling Our Stories



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

challenges.

Many of these challenges include workplace inequality, as well as the opportunities they encountered on their paths to success.

The speakers’ goal was to then encourage other women to do the same.

The amazing panelists consisted of four inspiring women who, despite the odds, made their way to big and male dominated fields and positions.

The four women were Adrienne King, Sara Araya, Dr. Vail P. Garvin and Silvi Haldipur.

The panel was able to discuss the importance of their voices as women and why it matters that they are heard.

Haldipur, president and executive director of Desis of Doylestown explains “I’ve been there, but learned to not give up and keep at it.”

“ You then can address the issue with the people causing the miscommunication.”

Haldipur brings insight to simply solving this sad and unreasonable issue in a calm and orderly manner.

King, president of the Pair-UP Society, also stated the importance in being “intentional on making sure you are being heard.”

This helps bring a lot of clarity to women who feel they must lower themselves to even be considered heard in a male dominated environment.

The panelists, all being mothers and having full time

careers, also discuss how they navigate their busy lives as busy women.

King stated that “Not putting the stress on ourselves and sharing” has been a big help in navigating her busy life.

She explained that sharing helps offload some of the busyness by creating a clear mind.

They explained the importance of keeping at it and never giving up, no matter the obstacles thrown at them due to their womanhood.

All of the women agree that it is a must to take the time to find your place in any given field.

If you know how much you want it, your chances of

getting it are even higher.

“Life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent is how we react to it,” King explains.

When asked “What inspires you to make sure others are being heard?” Araya, JD and loan officer for Advisors Mortgage Group LLC answered by explaining, “I care that all my customers, but especially young women, have a say and that their choices and decisions are theirs.”

“Of course I’ll ask about business - but I’ll also always ask about their well-being and day-to-day.”

Araya ensures that all her customers, emphasizing on young women, have a voice and are using it.

The panelists provided insightful and inspiring information to not only women, but also men who want to become more educated on women empowerment.

Thank you to King, Araya, Dr.Garvin and Haldipur for taking the time to inform and inspire the students and faculty at Bucks.

Celebrating Women’s Achievements in Civil Rights

Virtual Transfer Information Session (4 p.m.):

April 17

Provides an overview of the process and timeline for transfer students.

On-campus Transfer Friday (11 a.m.):

April 28

Learn about the transfer admission process, programs of study, credit evaluation, financial aid, campus housing, dining, student life, and more. Includes a campus tour.

On-campus Transfer Information Session (4 p.m.):

May 2

Highlights the process of transferring to KU. Includes a campus tour.

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

www.kutztown.edu/transfer

ALLISON BRIDGWATER
Centurion staff

During Women’s History Month, the African American Museum of Bucks County brought a pop-up exhibition to Bucks to help honor the

contributions of women, namely those of color and those that helped especially in movements for civil and equal rights.

The exhibition from the museum showed many different women, each providing



Photo courtesy of Allison Bridgwater

an important story.

The Associate Vice President for Community and Government Relations and the Chief Diversity Officer for Bucks, Kevin Antoine, noted, “The significance of the pop-up was to show women in their rightful place as leaders of the anti-slavery movement. Women contributed significantly by leading enslaved people from the South to the North in the quest for freedom.”

Antoine added, “Women like Harriet Tubman, a spy for the Union Army, led hundreds of enslaved people via the Underground Railroad to freedom. Phillis Wheatley was a free African American female poet who people view as the Poet of the American Revolution. She was the first globally recognized African American female poet.”

American history is essential to remember, and Antoine believes that “the knowledge you learn is worth more than gold.”

Antoine continues, stating, “American history is complex because there were populations living long before the Europeans arrived on the continent’s shores. Giving Europeans’ credit’ for discovering America while millions were already living here is a narrative that needs correction, and having the Bucks County African American Museum exhibits on display here at Bucks County Community College is part of the correction necessary to tell the true story of the country’s history.”

Antoine and his office seek out community partners like the AAMBC to help educate students, and to show all the wealth of history and knowledge different cultures have.

He shares how “The goal of the AAMBC exhibit Building on the Dream: From Africa to Bucks County is to educate and pay tribute to the lives, culture, accomplishments,

and contributions of African Americans in Bucks County from their origins in Africa through the 21st century. The exhibit features a timeline of events in African American history in Pennsylvania, including a memorial list of African Americans registered as enslaved people in Bucks County in the 18th and 19th centuries.”

You can also learn about the Bucks Underground Railroad and the role of Bucks County AME churches in helping African Americans transition from slavery to freedom.

There will be more exhibits on various cultures to educate the Bucks students and staff on the history of Bucks County. To find out more about future events, contact kevin.antoine@bucks.edu.

To learn more about AAMBC, visit their website <https://infoaambc.org/> or the museum at 215 East Richardson Ave in Langhorne, PA.

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Sports

March Madness Continues to Excite Fans Everywhere

DAULTON PARRY
Centurion staff

Every year, March Madness finds a way to shock fans across the nation and this year they did it again in many ways by having the second, No. 1 seed to ever lose in the first round to a No. 16 seed.

This March Madness started off with crazy upsets from the No. 1 seed Purdue University losing to the No. 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson University, as well as a No. 2 seed the University of Arizona losing in the first round. This also marked the first time a No. 1 and No. 2 seed both lost in the same tournament.

Eddie Parry, a Wilmington University student from Levittown said this about the upsets- “I think that every year a top seed is going to fall, but it seems like every year more and more upsets occur, and they are becoming bigger as the years go on.”

These two teams are not only upset because the No. 13 seed Furman University beat the No. 4 seed University of Virginia, as well as No. 11 University of Pittsburgh beat No. 6 seed Iowa State.

Those were all the first-round major upsets, and Harlod Landman, a Bucks County Community College student, 23, from Levittown

said they were “Super embarrassing, especially for Purdue. The expectations are high and for one not to win their quadrant (Bracket), just terrible.”

The upsets do not stop there with the No. 15 seed, Princeton University, who beat the No. 2 seed and won two games by upsetting No. 7, University of Missouri. Another No. 2 seed Marquette University was taken down in the second round to the No. 7 Michigan State.

The last second-round upset was the No. 1 seed University of Kansas, who won the championship last year, got taken out by the No. 8 seed, University of Arkansas. Landman said, “It’s difficult to do - they lost a key guard and forward.”

He added, “The transfer portal allowed other teams to increase their talent, so I’m not surprised.”

The last upset came from the Cinderella team, Florida Atlantic University, which made it to the Final Four for the first time in the college’s history. They took down one of the best defensive teams, the No. 4 University of Tennessee, as well as one of the best offensive teams, No. 3 seed Kansas State.

For as fun as Cinderella’s story was, they were taken out by San Diego State Uni-



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

versity who made the championship. The first team they beat was the No. 12 seed College of Charleston and then beat No. 13, Furman. They took down the No. 1 seed University of Alabama which was given the first No. 1 over the University of Houston, Kansas and Purdue.

Alabama was the heavy favorite to win the championship once they moved past them, they faced Creighton University and just scrapped by winning by one point. Then beat, as mentioned, Florida Atlantic on a buzzer-beater by another one-point win.

On the other side of the bracket was the University of Connecticut which dominated everyone on their path first

taking down No. 13 University of Iona in a 24-point win then moved right on by No. 5 Saint Mary’s University in a 25-point dominating victory.

Next came No. 3 Gonzaga University winning by their largest margin of 28 points.

The final two games came against No. 5 University of Miami beating them by 13 points, the smallest margin of victory over a team they had in the entire tournament.

In the championship Game, it was San Diego vs. Connecticut, and Connecticut was in a decent lead for the most part of the first half going into halftime up 36-24.

Eddie Parry said before the game started on who will win- “They (UConn) have a history of being good in the

tournament, and this tournament they have blown out all of their opponents.”

It was looking like Connecticut was going to do it early, but credit to San Diego, they went on a 9-0 run cutting the lead down to 6 points. Connecticut answered right back with a 7-0 run of their own with a little less than three minutes left in the game giving them a 12-point lead San Diego was out of time to get back in.

Had they not tried to foul everyone to catch up in this game it would have been a closer score and more interesting but; they lost to Connecticut 76-59 making them 5-0 in the Championship games.

Bucks’ Softball Team Comes Back Swinging



DAULTON PARRY
Centurion staff

Bucks’ softball is looking to finally get back on the field for a purpose this season. For the first time in two years, they are back to playing a season with play-off implications, as the team could not play for two years due to the pandemic.

The Bucks Softball Team is looking to rebuild the program after the plethora of setbacks provided by Covid. Coach Meagan Finnerty acknowledged the struggles and how they plan to move on, “We had a lot of setbacks over the past few years due to Covid, we couldn’t field a team for two seasons, and last year we had to be a club team. This year is the first that we have a true roster and girls that want to move the program forward.”

Every coach knows that reaching the playoffs is a must. Coach Finnerty has set the same standard for her team to follow. “We would

love to get to the Small College World Series, and this group of girls definitely have the drive to get there.”

“Maddy Hower she is an unbelievable catcher and an all-around amazing player,” added Coach Finnerty. “Jess Kepner was first baseman last year but has taken a split role there this season, she’s stepped up and is now splitting her time at second base. Caroline Hansbury was my third baseman last year, but like Jess is taking a split role there, and proving to be a powerful designated hitter during her time off the field.”

It isn’t just the infield that’s loaded with talent, as Coach Finnerty made sure to recognize how Pitcher Jules Winglet has grown on and off the field. “Jules is a good pitcher, and has taken on a huge leadership role.”


Every good pitching staff has an ace that leads the way, and Kat Hastings is exactly that for Bucks softball. Coach Finnerty said this about Hastings: “The top arm in

Photo courtesy of the BCCC Website

our pitching staff is a transfer, Kat Hastings. If she keeps pitching the way she did against Penn State Scranton, we absolutely can make it to playoffs. She is an extremely good pitcher with speed and movement.”

Bucks softball not only has solid pitching, but they also have girls on the team that can flat-out hit. Lead-off hitter Allison Micklo has developed a knack for consistently starting the game by getting on base. The rest of the lineup does a great job of putting the ball in play to follow up.

Coach Finnerty made a point to mention how well this team is hitting wise by noting, “our power comes from Hower (.538 AVG, .615 SLG), Shana Gugliandolo (.429 AVG, .786 SLG), Maddy Croushore (.400 AVG), Hansbury (.308 AVG) and Hastings. These girls are consistently hitting the ball for extra bases and bringing runs home.”



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Practice can be hard work, which makes it easy for a team to become complacent or unmotivated throughout a long season, but Coach Finnerty has everyone working hard, “All these girls are coming to practice, giving 115 percent and it is showing in the field.”

In previous seasons, the team has had position holes mainly in the outfield. However, the team has shown flexibility by adjusting to the position previously seen as a weakness. “Micklo, Rosie Bartolome, Bri Keiper, and Winglet have taken on an outfield role, and they are keeping the ball in front of them.”

Being named the team captain is a prestigious tradition of the sport, and for this season, Bucks softball has two captains. “Winglet and Kepner are our team captains. They both proved to be team leaders through last year’s season as a club team.” With strong leadership, and an exciting lineup, this team has what it takes to compete in 2023!