



The Centurion



“The Voice of the Students”



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WHAT'S INSIDE:

LOVE NOTES



pg. 2

BHM



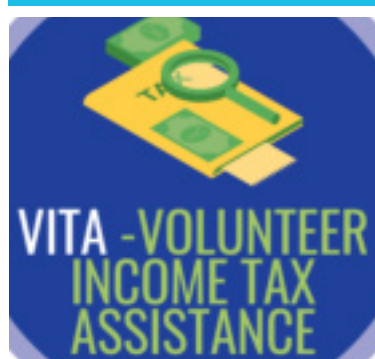
pg. 3

VR EXHIBIT



pg. 4

VITA



pg. 5

PLANE CRASH



pg. 6

Philadelphia Eagles WIN Superbowl LIX

Griffin Doyle
Centurion Staff

The tension is palpable. Someone could cut the air with scissors if they wished. The whole city of Philadelphia is at D.E.F.C.O.N. 5. There was a repeating sentiment throughout the fanbase and city, which was encapsulated perfectly by resident of Southampton, Brandon Stoch, simply proclaimed, “GO BIRDS.”

Fortunately, the Eagles came through with more than enough by putting up a whopping 40 points, leaving the Chiefs and Kansas City in dismay and the city of Philadelphia in a state of triumph.

Even when the Chiefs “answered” back, it turned out to be too little too late. They scored their first point well after the Eagles had scored forty points.

The Eagles finished their first drive with a punt, and after a decent drive from Kansas City, they also responded with a punt themselves. The Philadelphia Eagles scored a touchdown on the subsequent drive from a Jalen Hurts tush-push that was set up by a 27-yard pass to Jahan Dotson.

The former first-round pick was traded to the Eagles this past offseason from division rival Washington Commanders.

The first half was dominated by the Philadelphia Eagles. After an offensive touchdown, one part of “The Exciting Whites,” Cooper Dejean returned an inter-

ception for a touchdown to make the score 17-0.

This seemed to be enough for one-half of football, but the Eagles disagreed. They scored another touchdown on a pass to A.J. Brown to go ahead 24-0 going into the first half.

Patrick Mahomes only had 33 yards passing with two interceptions on 6/14 passing while being sacked four times by the dominant Philadelphia defense.

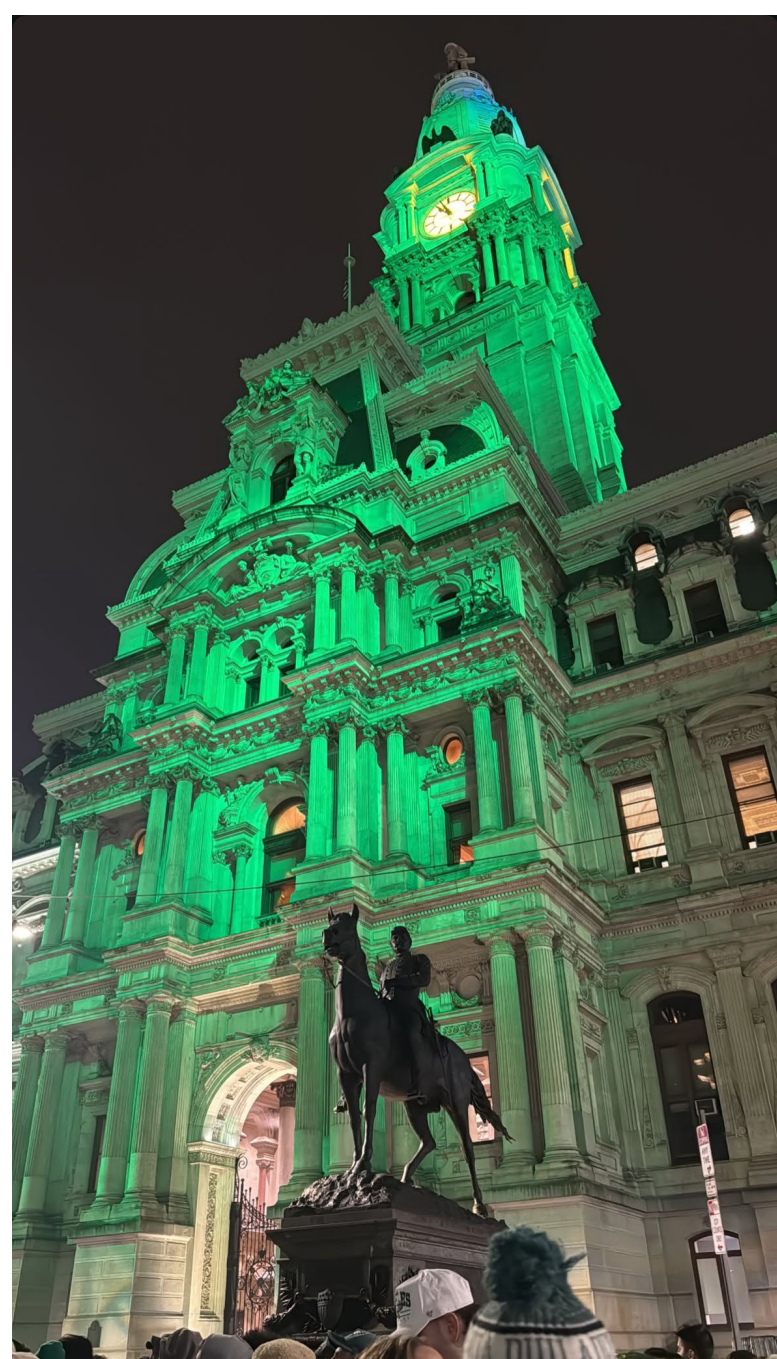
The Chiefs received the football at the beginning of the second half, only to be further bottled up by the stout Philadelphia defense, led by Zach Baun, Jalen Carter, Jordan Davis, Nolan Smith, Quinyon “Quintanomo Bay” Mitchell, and both of the “Exciting Whites,” in Cooper DeJean, the first white starting cornerback in the NFL since 2003, which is nearly 22 years.

Temple Student Angela Bouch said “I believe that Saquon Barkley was one of the main, if not THE main reason for the Eagles successes this time around compared to two years ago.”

The other half of the “Exciting Whites” is Reed Blankenship, who has been a staple of the defense since his rookie season in 2022 as the free safety position.

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts had faced the gauntlet of doubt when it comes to his individual performance in games that the Eagles still find a way to win.

Another University of Temple student, Emily



Superbowl Sunday, photo courtesy of Cassandra Castillo

Meyer stated, “This is such an exciting moment for Philadelphia as a whole to come together, regardless of different circumstances. I am proud to be part of this city and fanbase.”

Jalen Hurts is that reason. Even when he was benched at Alabama, Jalen managed to stay level headed and led his team to a National Championship after Tua Tagoviolia was rendered in-

jured, just a few years after Tua himself replaced Jalen in the Championship.

The Interesting History of Valentine’s Day

Samantha Davidson
Centurion Staff

February 14 also known as Valentine’s Day, has long been an excuse to celebrate love in all its forms. In the United States, Valentine’s Day is for trading small tokens of love, for confessions of admiration, and for all things heart shaped or red.

While the modern Valentine’s Day celebrations are a charming tradition, the Valentine’s Day roots have somewhat of a darker and complex origin. According to *history.com*, one legend suggests that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and fam-

ilies, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Others insisted that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other legends cite various historical people or events as being a possible source of the holiday’s roots.

Some theorize that “Valentine’s Day” was confused for “Galentines day” - a Norman holiday occurring in February celebrating



Photo Courtesy of Gavin Galante

love. In fact, the name “Galentines” can be translated into the phrase “lover of women”.

Yet another theory claims that the origin of Valentine’s Day is the Pagan holiday Lupercalia. For those not familiar with the legend of Romulus and Remus, the story claims that Romulus

and Remus were abandoned during their infancy, intended by those who abandoned them to die.

Instead, they were found and nurtured by a female wolf, before they reentered society and founded Rome.

continued on page 2...

Love is in the Air!

Valentine's Day History Continued...

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continued from page 1...
The female wolf was called "Lupercal" a play on the Roman fertility god names "Lupercus". According to History.com, to honor the wolf, the festival of Lupercal was held yearly. The festival would begin with the sacrifice of two male goats, meant to represent sexuality. After a feast, the revelers would cut strip of hide off of the sacrificial goats. Men would run around naked, whipping

any nearby women with the bloody goat hide. For the women, it was believed to aid in fertility. At some point throughout the festival, the men would randomly select a woman's name from a jar. The man and woman would then couple up for the remainder of the festival- the 6th century equivalent of a blind date. Often, the pairing would be fruitful, and the couple might even choose to marry. These are just a few of

the more popular legends concerning the origins of Valentine's Day. While the stories differ, it is clear that there is a common theme throughout the stories. Valentine married couples in secret, letting love win despite the risk. The Normans Celebrate the love of women. Roman men and women would take part in rituals meant to honor the nurturing of a wolf to two human boys, hoping to find their own love along the way.

It is clear that the history of Valentine's Day has always, and will always be intertwined with the theme of love- at whatever cost. This Valentine's Day, why not honor this? Maybe skip the whipping of females with bloody goat hide, (women might not find this romantic) but keep the sentiment. Tell that special person that you care about them. And in the spirit of this, Happy Valentine's Day to the Bucks community!



XO
OX
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
THANK YOU FOR BEING MY PERSON!!!
I WOULD LOVE YOU!!!

From: Anon
To: all my best friends
SGA, Drama Club,
all the silly goobers
I know <3

I love you Johnny Hoffman!
-ella

I Love YOU!
bucks students and staff

Sagwon Barkley,
never have I felt such love for a player, I would sacrifice my college education for you. XOXO
Id die for u
CALL ME!!!
267 987 8746

LOVE
Jordyn Carr!

There's a girl i'm really interested in talking to but when I go to talk to her I get nervous and walk past her. She's absolutely gorgeous while I'm just me.
-Inari

To Will-
Hey angel,
Missing you on Valentine's Day.
Love you!

To my drama club peeps,
thank you for being like a second family to me, you don't know how much you have changed my life. ♡
-A.S

Happy Valentine!
Cianni Wicker
Your face is like a beautiful sun.
Please be mine?

Ben A,
Love ya you tall, hot man
- Samuel

Happy Valentines Day
HUGS
Your very beautiful & sweet. I hope you will be mine
-love A

My best friend
hooked up with my ex a day after we broke up. *we're not friends any more

Hey Bear,
you mean the world to me! I love you

Jaden Liu,
-That Guy

words can't describe how I feel, since the day I met I never met anyone like you. You're beautiful, smart, funny and creative. That night I took you to prom was the best night of my life and you don't know what you mean to me. I love you.

I Love Christine Tran
XOXO

Nursing class of 2025
ROCKS

happy v-day
Doye Swartz
da goat
-Hailey D

(Alex)
You are the greatest person I've ever known

To the cutest girl on campus
-from the Pres XOXO

Jason,
Happy 1st valentine day! can't wait to spend the rest of them with you
I love you
All my love,
Keira

Keira,
I'm so glad I get to call you my valentine.
I love you so much
Jason!

for: Eva
You color my world
-secret admirer (AMB)

You Brighten My Day
Zu, Timek

Black History Month



Harriet Tubman monument in Bristol, photo courtesy of Gavin Galante

Kassandra Castillo
Centurion Staff

Schools, museums, and communities across the U.S come together to celebrate Black History Month all February long. Starting February 1, we came together as a nation to commemorate black history, culture, and education and Bucks County Community College is no exception.

Student life is encouraging students to learn more about the importance of Black history on Feb. 19 from 12:15pm-1:25pm in

the Ghallager Room. The hour-long event will provide free refreshments to any student who RSVPs via Bucks+, while showcasing a special tribute brought by Keith Spencer.

Keith Spencer is a nationally-recognized baritone vocalist who will be taking the campus on a journey of black history through his music, poetry, and letters by both enslaved and iconic black people throughout history, according to his website keithspencer.com

This month-long celebration dates back to over 100 years ago, when his-

torian Carter G. Woodson co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, after realizing the lack of public information on the accomplishments of black people up until that time. After starting the association back in 1915, Woodson believed he needed more recognition for his people so in 1926 he and the rest of the association declared the second week of February as “Negro History Week”.

Interestingly, the reason for choosing the second week in February was because that week includes

the birthdays of two very important people in the black community at the time: Abolitionist Frederick Douglass and former U.S president Abraham Lincoln, both whom fought against the enslavement of black people. The nation, who was moving proactively at the time began to recognize “Negro History Week” after its creation, in various schools across the country.

Woodson is credited as the “Father of Black History”. He died in 1950 but his love for his community lived on after his death as his community members demanded all his hard work to not go unnoticed.

The first official Black History Month being proposed by students and educators at Kent State University in February 1969 and by 1976, President Gerald Ford extended the week-long event into the official Black History Month we know today stating, “honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” He believed in the importance of recognizing all contributions black people made in America throughout history.

Black people had contributed a wide range of inventions by the time Black His-

tory Month finally reached national coverage, some of these inventions dating back to the 1800s.

After witnessing a terrible crash during a busy intersection, black inventor Garrett Morgan created the prototype and patented a three-position traffic signal in 1923 – an invention we still use to this day known as the traffic light.

While making a pot roast one-night in 1928, Marjorie S. Joyner a leading figure in the black beauty industry was inspired to use her pot roast rods as rollers thus creating the one-of-a-kind permanent hair wave machine we know today as a hair curler.

Black people are also attributed to the creation of multiple music genres including: blues, jazz, R&B, hip-hop, and rock and roll.

Black History Month is a true testimony of all the hard work black historians have done before us. It allows black people to see themselves reflected in history and should help motivate action to a more equitable society.

**EVERY DAY IS
TRANSFER DAY**

Holy Family University welcomes Bucks County Community College students as part of a long-standing partnership that recognizes the value of transfers.

**Holy Family
UNIVERSITY**

GET YOUR ON-THE-SPOT CREDIT EVALUATION

holyfamily.edu

Events

Hicks Art Center Gallery Welcomes the First Virtual Reality Art Exhibit to Newtown Campus

Emelia Yotko

Centurion Staff

The exhibit, “Reality’s Fugue: Virtual Reality Meets Art & Philosophy.” is a 10-minute interactive experience that will be at the Hicks Art Center now until March 1st, according to a Bucks press release.

The idea for this exhibition came to light in 2021. The author of Reality’s Fugue, F. Samuel Brainard teamed up with producer David Tamés, artists Carol Cruickshanks and designer Christian Kowalchuck to create this 10-minute immersive exhibit that focusses on art, philosophy and spirituality.

This exhibit is a true collaboration of “mutual interests,” said Brainard. The exhibit focuses on art, philosophy and spirituality. It has been through many stages, from a Claymation mockup to the video form

and all the way to VR.

The show features two booths equipped with VR headsets, headphones and custom 360-degree swivel chairs. There will also be some physical pieces of artwork on display featured in the VR experience, as well as a film on VR titled “*The History of Extended Reality*” produced and directed by Tamés.

The show highlights the idea of the collective being. Brainard said the idea is that “we aren’t just one person; we have the capacity to be whatever we want to be to an extent.” Exhibition Designer Christian Kowalchuck said, their aim was to use virtual reality as a medium to portray “this complex topic to the masses.”

They wanted to bring “awareness of the world in different ways,” said contributing artist Carol Cruickshanks. The idea was to “take VR to a socially

conscious realm.”

The show originally premiered at the New Hope Arts Center in early 2024. The exhibit is now on its third prototype, with this version containing a rewritten script and their custom chairs for the first time.

“This is just a stepping-stone,” says Brainard with hopes of one day having a completed production for use by museums or even through personal download. Come check out the Hicks Art Gallery before March first to see this perspective altering experience

The people who brought this exhibit to life are “producer and directors F. Samuel Brainard and David Tamés. The contributing artists include Carol Cruickshanks, Susanne Pitak-Davis, Aurelle Purdy Sprout, and Stacie Speer Scott. Patrick Nugent served as the developer and the 3D artists were Patrick Nugent and



Photo courtesy of Emelia Yotko

Katerina Pak. The composer was Linda Erickson, and the narration was written by Jenny Paschall with Fran Perlman narrating. Technical consultants included Danger Donaghey, Oscar Keyes, and Matt Seibert.

Special thanks go to New Hope Arts, Stanley Timek and the Bucks County Community College Media Center, Robert Bullington and Front Row Seat

Wordsmiths Event Features Poet Lisa Sewell

Griffin Doyle

Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College is hosting the first Wordsmiths poetry event of the 2024 spring semester on Friday, February 21st, at 7:30 P.M. in Tyler Hall 142 at the Bucks Newtown Campus.

The event is free and open to the public, with the help

of funding from the Committee for Cultural Affairs.

Lisa Sewell, author of *The Way Out, Name Withheld*, and *Long Corridor* (which won the 2009 Keystone Chapbook Award), is one of the featured poets. Her collection *Impossible Object* won the 2014 Tenth Gate Prize from the Word Works Press.

She has received grants

and awards from prestigious organizations, including the Leeway Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Sewell has also held residencies at renowned centers like the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the MacDowell Colony, and Yaddo.

She has edited several essay collections for Wes-

leyan University Press with a primary focus on twenty-first-century North American poetry, including her work with the North American Women Poets in the 21st Century: Beyond Lyric and Language, with Kazim Ali and American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics, with Claudia Rankine.

She is currently part of the editorial board at Alice James Books and a creative writing professor at the University of Villanova.

Thomas Devaney, a Pew Fellow in the Arts, is the second poet featured in the event. He is the author of five books, including *Getting to Philadelphia*, *Calamity Jane*, and *The Picture that Remains*. He is also the co-director of the 2020 Greenhouse Media film *Bicentennial City*.

Devaney holds a master’s degree in urban design

from Drexel University and works as the communications and engagement manager at Drexel’s Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation. His thesis, *Reimagining Urban Parks: Philadelphia’s FDR Park as a Space for People and Nature*, highlights his passion for improving urban spaces. and ongoing involvement with city spaces as well as potential fixes for numerous issues that can come into play when trying to make a concrete jungle greener.

This event is a great opportunity to experience the work of two veteran poets and to engage with them by asking questions after the event.

All students are encouraged to attend. If you have any further questions, please contact Dr. Ethel Rackin by email: ethel.rackin@bucks.edu.

bucks.edu

Lisa Sewell (left) and Thomas Devaney (right)



Bucks County College Short Fiction Contest

Juliana Zuccarello

Centurion Staff

Attention all High School students in the Bucks County Area! Do you like to write? Are you interested in sharing your short fiction story? Would you like to win up to \$200 worth of a visa gift card?

Then the short fiction contest is for you! The contest is organized by Elizabeth Luciano who is a Language and Literature professor here at Bucks. The short fiction contest is supported by Bucks County Community College’s Language and Literature Department.

Entries begin on March 13th and a link to the appli-

cation will be posted in English classrooms throughout high schools in the Bucks County area. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 23th.

If you are looking to submit a piece of short fiction to the contest, make sure you have 5-10 pages double spaced. No AI is allowed, just your work. Each person is allowed to submit one piece of a short fiction story they have written. All the submissions will be online and the actual celebration for the winners will be hosted shortly after the deadline of April 23rd.

If you are wondering what kind of work you should submit, any genre is allowed

if it fits into the short fiction category and isn’t longer than 10 pages. Fan fiction is not allowed to be submitted. Make sure it is your own creative work only.

Once you submit your short fiction piece to the contest, you will be entered into a chance to win a prize up to \$200. There are three different prizes for the top three winners. The 1st place winner is able to win a \$200 visa gift card, 2nd place winner can win a \$100 visa gift card and 3rd place can win a \$50 visa gift card.

“The short fiction contest has been going on since 2017,” Elizabeth Luciano described in the interview. This is a great opportuni-

ty to be able to share your short fiction story and get your creative juices flowing. Not only do you have the chance to possibly win a gift card, but it would also be something interesting to add to your college applications.

For more information or any questions, contact Elizabeth Luciano at: elizabeth.luciano@bucks.edu

If you are a college student at Bucks or a resident of Bucks County and are interested in the short fiction contest and want to get involved and share your story, do not fret! There is a Short Fiction contest held in the fall for anyone over the age of 18. You will be able to submit your short fiction story. The date is TBD.

Photo courtesy of unsplash



Sports and News

Bucks Baseball at it Again!



Photo courtesy of Bucks athletics website

Milo Condran
Centurion Staff

It's playoffs or bust for the Bucks Centurions. The Bucks baseball team barely missed the postseason in 2024, but a deeper, more experienced squad gives coach Tim Trainor hope as the 2025 campaign is on the horizon.

"We are a lot more talented," Trainor said. "We've improved at every position. We only lost a handful of

guys last year so there are a lot of returning players that will lead the team."

Starting pitching is the key, according to Trainor. "The sophomore pitchers will lead the way," Trainor said. "Having pitchers with experience like Matt Penonini, Isaac Galarza and Lucas Kimbrough will help the team. Pitching is the X factor in our league and so it's very exciting to have a strong group of pitchers heading into the year."

After finishing the fall season, the squad has been working all offseason to get stronger and ready for the grind of a long season. Having workouts at the Newtown Athletic Club has helped motivate the team to work hard and get stronger.

One player who has benefited from early morning workouts is Kimbrough, who is on another level this season due to his time in the gym. "Lucas Kimbrough went from sitting high seventies last year to sitting

mid-eighties in just one year," Trainor said. "His hard work sets an example for everyone on the team."

Captains Alex Fantasky and Kimbrough will set the tone for the team as it starts its season on Feb. 23 at Middlesex College. The team hopes to come together quickly and get off to a hot start. The Centurions didn't get into a groove last season until April.

When the squad started playing consistent ball it was too little, too late since the Centurions buried themselves in a deep hole. The group finally jelled but it just missed the playoffs.

The goal for the Centurions is to win the Conference title and move on from there. "Last year was a rebuilding year," Trainor said. "Hopefully we can end up playing in the Small College World Series this season," Trainor said. "I have high hopes for this team."

There is reason for optimism since the Centurions

have power, speed and pitching. The latter is arguably the most important element of baseball, especially when it comes to dominant starting pitching.

After countless hours spent together, The Centurions have built some good chemistry. The group has bonded in the gym during workouts but it'll be interesting to see if those connections propel the team on the field to a memorable season full of accomplishments.

The goal is to get to the playoffs. Anything short of that achievement would be disappointing to a driven team that hopes 2025 will be a memorable season for the Centurions.

The combination of veteran leadership and talented freshmen could be the perfect mix for a team that ended last season with unfinished business.

It's going to be a challenging season but much is expected of the Centurions.

VITA Starts Up at Epstein

Najet Cherif
Centurion Staff

As Benjamin Franklin once famously remarked "the only things certain in life are death and taxes." And while the idea of paying taxes can be intimidating, the Bucks County Community College network has a built-in tool to aid the members of our community who most need it. This tool, also known as VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), is a free program that seeks to serve those who make \$67,000 or less, are disabled, limited in English, and seniors. Additionally, the value of the entire home must not exceed \$67,000 jointly to qualify.

Operating in Bristol until the end of tax season, VITA volunteers help eligible

candidates receive maximum returns on their taxes, whether the taxes are Federal, State, or Local. In 2024, the Bucks County Opportunity Council stated on the VITA section of their website that 1,433 Tax Returns were prepared resulting in a total of \$2.2 Million dollars in Tax Services, (refunds, saved filing fees, credits, property tax and rent rebates) being provided.

Aside from the benefits for those who utilize VITA to file taxes, there also exists an opportunity for Bucks students. This program suits students majoring in accounting, finance, economics, and/or social studies as it offers hands-on experience that brings immediate change for clients. This experience is helpful for building resumes,

brushing up on people and problem-solving skills, and building compassion and empathy for different social or financial situations.

BCOC has five major program areas: Housing, Food, Weatherization, Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) and the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Program. Housing includes street outreach, rental and move in aid, and utility shut-off prevention. Food services supply food directly to families through a network of 74 food pantries and distribution sites. Weatherization services help families in reducing their energy costs. VITA provides free income tax preparation assistance. The ES Program assists individuals and families to leave poverty permanently

through case management, education, and employment.

Volunteering with VITA offers many the opportunity to demystify taxes as an unconquerable obstacle to be feared. There are countless sources of VITA training online to help you understand the tax preparer program and IRS requirements for certain tax breaks.

If you're interested getting your taxes done with VITA, check out <https://bcoc.org/vita-volunteer-income-tax-assistance/>. To schedule an appointment on the Epstein campus, call 215-436-8467. Epstein Campus hours are: Monday and Wednesday 4:15PM-6:30PM and Saturday 9:15AM-1:00PM. Appointments must be made online, no walk-ins. Available Feb 1- April 14 2025. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer,



visit <https://bcoc.org/volunteer-opportunities/> or email dbush@bcoc.org for more information. Note that you will need FBI fingerprint clearance if you have not lived in PA for more than 10 years.

For 60 years, the Opportunity Council has served low-income families in Bucks County by helping them to stabilize when in crisis, garner resources to achieve a livable wage, gain additional education and training, and work towards economic self-sufficiency.

Open Door Club Offers a Safe Space for Students

Gary Griggs
Centurion Staff

The Open Door Club, a student led organization provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ students. Within the first two weeks of his second term, President Donald Trump has signed nearly 40 executive orders, among them are the controversial directives concerning transgender people.

In a series of executive orders, Trump has made moves to ban transgender athletes not only from sports but even the possibility of competing, serving in the military, rejecting the existence of genders beyond male and female.

In response to this, Max Probst, an advisor to the Open-Door Club at Bucks County, says "the United States is moving backwards as a country when it comes to trans rights" - and that

Trump is "actively targeting trans people with federal directives such as the 2-gender executive order" which was signed on January 20th, 2025.

"Trans people (and others who will be targeted by this false idea of a gender binary) will be hurt by the policies created by Trump's administration", says Probst, "but we will never stop fighting for our rights to exist."

During the interview held, many subjects were addressed regarding transgender people and the LGBTQ+ community. Particularly in relation to the 2-gender executive order, and its substantial consequences for the LGBTQ+ community.

When Probst first heard of the order being signed, he said that he "wasn't surprised that such an order was issued because of the

trans targeting"- but that he was concerned for the queer and trans students at Bucks.

In his capacity as an educator, Probst tries to guide his students, helping them reach a better future for themselves. He expressed how difficult it is to demonstrate a brighter future for his students when they feel like their rights are being stripped away almost every day.

Probst then went on to state that the 2-gender order holds substantial consequences for the LGBTQ+ community, as it paves the way for other similar orders to be put in place.

He listed the military ban on transgender people, limiting access to affirmative care for transgender youth, ordering trans federal prisoners to be detransition as removing research from the Center for Disease Control

and prevention that reference gender, transgender, LGBTQ, and non-binary as examples of such orders.

Probst shared the sentiment that trans people - a small minority in this country - are afraid to speak out for themselves as the President suppresses their voice by signing targeted orders such as the recent 2-gender order and that the government takes advantage of this fear, continuously waging attacks that trans people cannot parry- thus creating an endless, vicious cycle.

Probst then went on to criticize the logic behind the executive order, citing that trans people have existed for as long as the concept of gender has- so the two gender ideology, the foundation of the order, is flawed.

On top of that, Probst spoke about how this order would also affect intersex



Photo courtesy of Max Probst

people who were born different, it wasn't a choice for them and yet they're getting punished for simply existing.

While Probst is unsure of whether Trump's 2 gender executive order will ever be undone, for the sake of all trans people, he remains hopeful that eventually that one day, the effects of the federal directives will be reversed.

News

Plane Crash in Philly Leaves Community Shaken

Kassandra Castillo

Centurion Staff

Residents in northeast Philadelphia are in mourning after the fatal plane crash that took place on Friday January 31, 2025. At approximately 6pm Friday evening, a medical jet departing Northeast Philadelphia airport came crashing down along Cottman Ave in front of the Roosevelt Mall. Officials say the plane was in the air for less than a minute before impact.

According to NBC Philadelphia, the Jet Rescue Air Ambulance was doing a routine travel to Missouri, before continuing its route to Tijuana, Mexico. There were 6 people boarded on the jet, 4 of whom who have been identified as part of the ambulance crew: Capt. Alan Alejandro Montoya Perales, co-pilot Jose De Jesus Juarez Juarez, Dr. Raul Meza Arrendondo and paramedic Rodrigo Lopez Padilla. The remaining 2 passengers were identified as Valentina Guzman Murillo, the 11-year-old patient who was being treated at Shriners Children's Hospital for a lifesaving procedure, and her mother Lizeth Murillo Ozuna who was accompanying her throughout the trip.

All individuals on the



Photo courtesy of NTSB

plane were from Mexico and were headed back home. All aboard the flight perished in the incident.

During the time of take-off, air traffic controller made contact with the plane, with a successful response from the pilot. Shortly after the departure air traffic controller attempted multiple times to reach the pilot again, but with no response. The official cause of the crash is still unknown but it is believed that the victims died before hitting the ground as it's confirmed the jet exploded in the air before plummeting to the busy intersection.

According to Philadelphia Mayor

Cherelle Parker, officials believe at least 24 people were hurt due to the crash, many of them listed as critical condition involving children. One person who was driving down Cottman Ave. was pronounced dead at the scene.

Besides the tragedy of the lives lost and injured in the event, many people are also suffering due to the physical damage left behind. More than 10 homes and a few businesses surrounding the area were destroyed by the impact. Debris has been found miles away from the incident, with parts of the plane landing in various homes and scattered across the shopping center. Investigators recovered the cockpit voice recorder – 8 feet into the crater where the site of the initial impact took place near Cottman Ave. and Rupert Street.

Northeast Philadelphia resident, Ashley Matos who lives on Cottman Ave was luckily still stuck at work during the time of the crash. When asked about how she felt about the incident she stated, "I had absolutely no idea until a coworker ran into my office and started talking about a plane crash on Cottman. She didn't say what intersection, but when she said Cottman, my heart sank. I called my brother (whom she lives with) immediately to make sure he was okay, which he was.

"Everything was okay, we were not personally effected but it's a tragedy to the community."

Ashley Matos is one of many northeast Philadelphia residents who are shaken up about the crash. Cottman Ave is a very prominent part of northeast Philadelphia, especially on a Friday night with so many stores and restaurant surrounding the vicinity. Now the area is cautioned off with many parts of Cottman Ave. still closed due to the ongoing investigation.

This plane crash came just two days after one of the deadliest U.S air disasters in over a generation, when an American Airlines jet with over 60 passengers collided midair with an army helicopter in Washington D.C.

All those impacted by the Philadelphia plane crash were urged to head over to the American Red Cross Greater Pennsylvania Region 24-hour shelter in place

located at Samuel Fels High School.

Mayor Parker continues to speak on the matter as she says "The situation is fluid and it is active."

The Bucks Community expresses our sorrows to all those effected by the Philadelphia plane crash.

**ONE
MOVE
CLOSER
TO LANDING
YOUR
DREAM JOB**

On-campus Transfer Friday (11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.):

February 14

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

Virtual Transfer Information Session (5-6 p.m.):

March 26

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

KUTZTOWN
UNIVERSITY

www.kutztown.edu/transfer

**Interested in joining
The Centurion?**

**We have meetings
every Thursday at
12:30pm in Rollins
127. Free pizza to all
who attend.**

**For any questions
or more information
on The Centurion,
please feel free to
contact us at:**

**[buckscenturion@
gmail.com](mailto:buckscenturion@gmail.com) or
[bucksjournalism@
gmail.com](mailto:bucksjournalism@gmail.com)**

All students welcome!