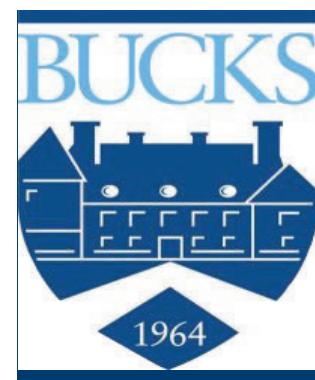


# The Centurion



The Award-Winning, Student-Run Newspaper of Bucks County Community College

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## Fetterman and Shapiro Victorious in PA Midterms

GRACE LEVY

Centurion staff

Pennsylvania voters took to the polls on Nov. 8 and chose Josh Shapiro to be the state's next governor, sent John Fetterman to the U.S. Senate and re-elected Brian Fitzpatrick to represent the 1st Congressional District in Congress.

In a midterm election comprised of issues like abortion, inflation, crime, and student loans, these candidates used their stances to sway voters and win their seats.

Nationally, some of the Democratic wins were surprising. While polls had predicted large victories for Republicans in the House, the Senate was uncertain, and Pennsylvania was a state that strategists were unsure of. President Biden's approval rating is below 51 percent, and "historically the party out of power wins by a lot" during the midterms, and yet Republicans seemed to underperform, reported NPR.

Fetterman, who beat Republican opponent Mehmet Oz by over 100,000 votes, built his Senate campaign around protecting women's reproductive rights, fighting inflation, and criminal justice reform. His win gained Democrats another seat, furthering their

hopes for winning the 51-seat majority they need to secure control of the Senate.

Fetterman's campaign took a hit when he had a stroke in May, and Oz released many television ads questioning his opponent's ability to serve in office. However, Fetterman continued to campaign by showing voters he was not a standard politician and shot back at Oz with TV ads attacking Oz for his wealth.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Fetterman recognized his win and said, "It's official. I will be the next U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania. We bet on the people of Pennsylvania - and you didn't let us down. And I won't let you down. Thank you."

Incumbent Fitzpatrick defeated his opponent Ashley Ehasz, and he secured his 4th term as Representative of Pennsylvania's 1st District, which includes Bucks County and parts of Montgomery County. Ehasz's campaign focused on abortion rights and had received an endorsement from The Philadelphia Inquirer in October. Fitzpatrick beat Ehasz by nearly 40,000 votes.

Democrat Josh Shapiro won the governor's race against Republican Doug Mastriano, amassing over 500,000 votes more than

Mastriano. Shapiro celebrated the win at his election night party, where he also live-streamed his speech on Facebook.

"Real freedom prevailed here tonight," said Shapiro. "I can stand before you here tonight, and say that because of you, our democracy endures. Your efforts here in Pennsylvania reminded me that the foundational principles that kept our commonwealth and our country moving forward, they really are strong."

Shapiro, currently the state attorney general, built his campaign around protecting women's right to abortion, funding schools, reforming the state's criminal justice system, and affordable healthcare. Mastriano's campaign, endorsed by former President Trump, focused on abortion bans and voter fraud.

"I understand you chose to [vote for me] not because we agree on everything. And because you understand that it's okay that we don't agree on everything. But what we agree on is that we have to keep on working at it together, that we have to keep coming together to make progress," said Shapiro to a cheering crowd of supporters late Tuesday night. "That is what we agree on."

*Photo courtesy of Unsplash*



## The War of Political Attack Ads

JENNA LOWENTHAL

Centurion staff

While the midterm elections are now over, political attack ads played a prominent role throughout. These attack ads highlight flaws in an opponent's political platform, which is made to persuade their audience.

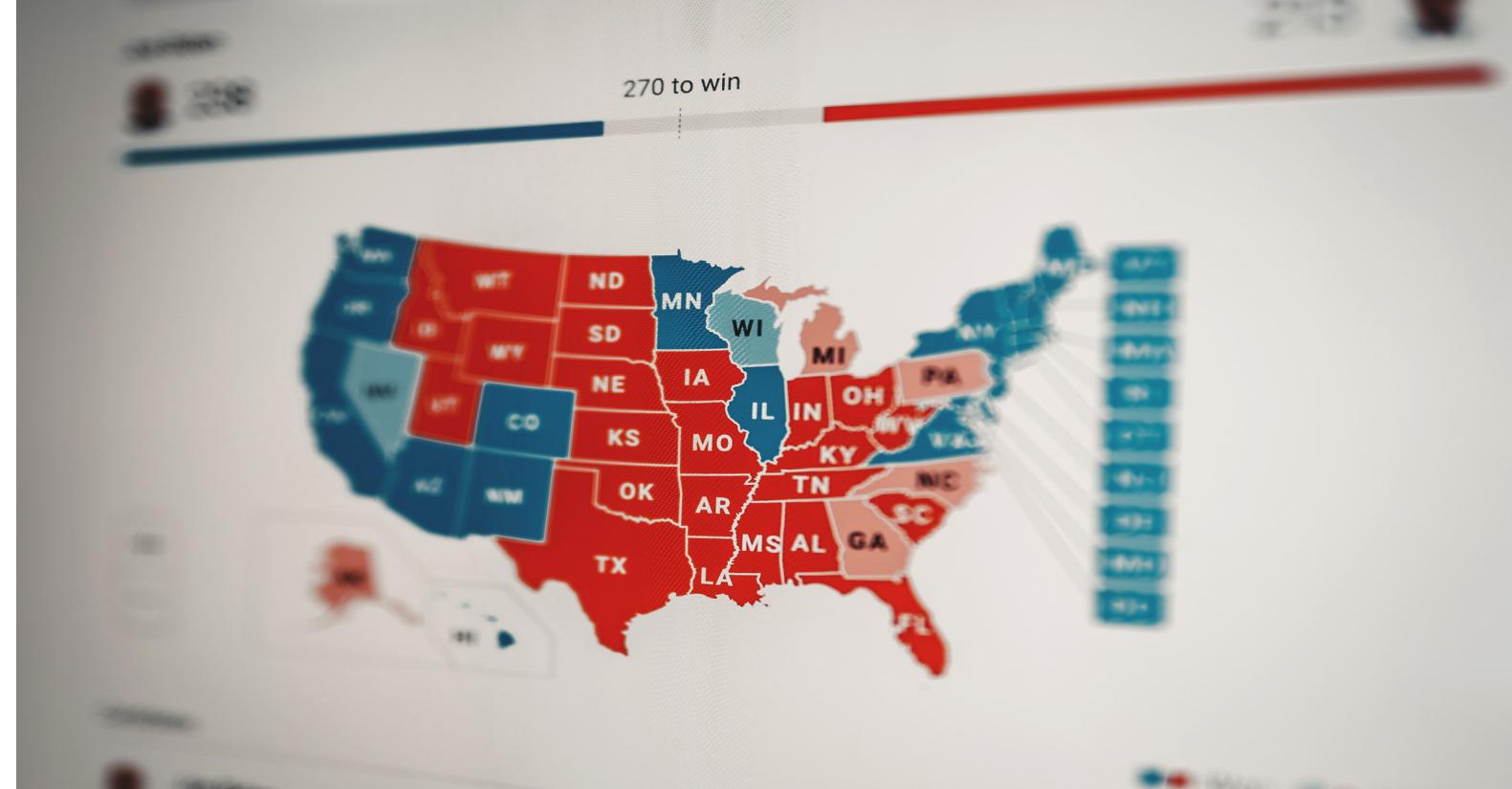
You see them everywhere, when you turn on the TV, when you go on your phone - there is no escaping them & these attacks are nothing new.

Arts and Communication Studies Professor Shawn Queeney from Bucks County Community College says "he's fascinated & confused by these attacks & whether they manage to perform their persuasive outcome." Discussing the purpose of these attacks, Queeney mentioned how Bill Clinton described politics as a "full contact sport", and that people are going to get rough.

Queeney states how it could maybe be a part of "tradition & American culture, it's competitive". He expressed how it's just the nature of politics & how people might complain about the arguments but deep down they expect it & possibly enjoy it.

Although this content is everywhere, that doesn't mean everyone who views these ads pay attention to it or cares. In fact, "the way the world consumes media is to do everything we can avoid ads," said Queeney.

Their target is more so for politically minded people that are unde-



cided of their opponent" according to Queeney.

"With the size of this country, it would be challenging to get all messages across without them", Queeney remarked. Therefore, it's not necessarily about the complete truth regarding the candidates or if they performed the correct job, it's more so on how many people they can get to view them.

Queeney states that he'd "love

to see what the data looks like in terms of getting people to vote, " but unlike normal advertisements, these attack ads don't have measures. That leads to the curiosity of why they are putting so much effort & money into these strategies. It's not really the measure or the message that was received, it's more so a convenient way to spread these ads into the world where they can be shown.

Queeney professed "it is a chal-

lenge to figure out what these ads portray or the idea of them, it's not exactly cared & improved ads but more so a win or take all system, it's just what politics comes with. There are more ways to persuade without the ads, but it's easier for the ads because that's what is "embedded into our culture."

The most crucial factor Queeney declares these opponents should focus on is "education", that they

should include more "policies & problems", rather than just criticizing other opponent's ways, explain the good about their strategies & how they will be a bigger help.

Queeney claims "the attack ads are more towards creating the persuasion of "sense of fear, sense of uncertainty, sense of doubt & persuasion ethically. These political attack ads are more geared at that emotionally gut level, they are geared about fear."

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# Bucks News

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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.

**HANNAH BOSCOLA**
*Centurion staff*

Oct. 21, - Bucks' historic Tyler Hall filled with quiet excitement as the public gathered to share their passion for poetry, welcoming a former poet laureate back to the stage.

Bucks students, past and present poets laureate, and literature enthusiasts stirred inside the mansion, escaping the cold Oct. chill in anticipation for Bucks County Community

## The Poetry of Tsering Wangmo and Julie Fratrik

College's longstanding tradition, the Wordsmiths Series.

The atmosphere turned warm as people kindly greeted one another, shuffling off their coats in the process. Established Wordsmiths host and Bucks Literature Professor Ethel Rackin took to the microphone to welcome new and familiar faces to the reading.

The crowd welcomed professor and author, Tsering Wangmo Dhompa, and former Bucks County Poet Laureate, Julie Cooper Fratrik, who both shared several readings of poetry.

Fratrik, winner of an Achievement Grant from The Leeway Center in Philadelphia and of the first Robert Fraser Poetry Award, commenced the event with her piece "Universal Poem."

Fratrik's poetry takes listeners on a romp through a garden of "holistic, earthy, and other worldly delights," Rackin mused. Fratrik takes inspiration from her own life when writing, referencing the daily wonders that come from living and the plenitude of nature.

Fratrik, who says she loves Bucks, read award winning poems, "Jars with pollen from buttercup, dandelion, pine (2), moss", "Milkstone", and "Six ships in beeswax, wood construction."

Fratrik's books include The Space of Appearances, Breathing Lessons, and Further Lovely Lettuce Lore. She has published book chapters in Tupelo Press Quarterly and



*Photo courtesy of Hannah Boscola*

Under the Sun, and poems in Fourth Genre, Rhino, The American Poetry Review, and many more acclaimed institutions.

Following up Fratrik's performance, Dhompa then shared several pieces. These included works from her poetry books "My Rice Tastes Like the Lake" and "In the Absent Everyday", as well as her unnamed on-going project.

Dhompa's poetry "quietly and confidently carves out a space for questioning, contemplation, meditation, and wisdom," said Rackin.

Born in India, Dhompa was

raised in the Tibetan refugee communities in India and Nepal. She currently teaches in the English Department at Villanova University.

Dhompa's first non-fiction book, "Coming Home to Tibet", was published in the US by Shambhala Publications in 2016 and by Penguin, India in 2014.

Dhompa brought the readings to a successful conclusion, sharing "the edges of the wound shrink over time around a scar, that, like maps, tell an incomplete story."

Guests chatted with the two visionary poets during the

book-signing and the dessert reception that followed.

"The Wordsmiths series places Bucks County Community College at the center of the region's literary life," says the Language and Literature Department at Bucks.

The next Wordsmith Series will be held on Nov. 13 at Bucks County Community College in Newtown featuring Bucks County 2022 Poet Laureate Tom Mallouk. The event is free, and no registration is needed.

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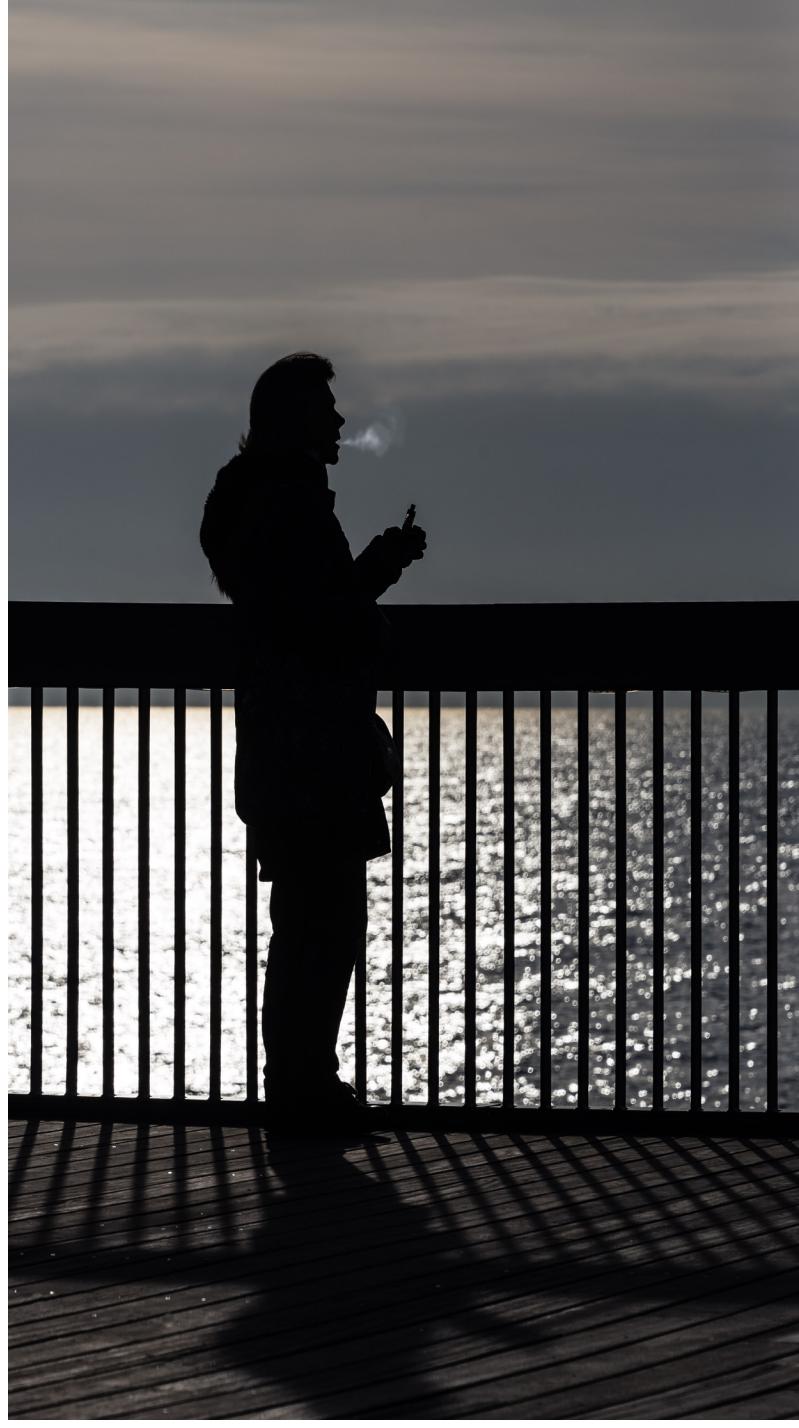
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# News

## Vaping - A Fun Pastime or a Dangerous Addiction?



PARKER DESTEFANO

*Centurion staff*

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (The FDA), one in 10 middle and high school students, or 2.5 million students nationwide have been reported using e-cigarettes.

The question is though, is vaping really that popular? And if it is so popular, why?

Jonah Ziv, 20, a Business Administration major from Bensalem said, "I've never vaped personally so I'm definitely biased, but I think it's something people shouldn't really do but if someone is fully aware of the consequences and decides they still want to, that's on them."

Now, this may be a popular opinion with some people, but the other side of the argument has a say as well. For those who do use vape devices, how did they start?

Kaylie Buechner, 21, from Bensalem said, "I started to do it a little sophomore year and now I'm 21 and I can't put it down or go anywhere without it and I hate it. It's hard to stop because ev-

eryone does it, more of my friends than not, vape."

She continued by mentioning how, even in the face of extreme negative consequences, many people are finding it near impossible to break the habit.

"Like, I see tiktoks of kids that don't stop till it puts them in the hospital, or they develop asthma from it. I even have a friend that had to have her tonsils removed because of vaping and she didn't stop. And that didn't even make me want to stop," expressed Buechner.

Therefore, her opinion on vaping is don't even bother to start, don't even try it just once. "Worst habit to pick up, maybe even worse than cigarettes," Buechner concluded.

Kaylie's story shows the true horrors of vaping. If it's so addictive and so terrible, then why is it so popular? What makes vaping so appealing to young people?

According to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, the appeal of vaping is simply because it's seen as "cool" in young people. It has fun flavors like fruit, candy, and desserts, and it's

seen as trendy or a status symbol.

It's also believed to be safer than smoking cigarettes.

Although according to the American Heart Association, e-cigarettes can deliver large amounts of nicotine into a person's body.

Sometimes even more than normal cigarettes. They also include harmful substances like diacetyl (a chemical linked to lung disease), cancer causing chemicals, and heavy metals like lead, tin, and nickel.

The CDC actually suggests that people not use e-cigarettes.

It seems that no matter what side you're on, whether you vape or not, the most popular opinion is that you shouldn't vape. The FDA and CDC both show how important it is to stay informed about what you're putting in your body and to know what effects the things you do may have.

Vaping isn't going away any time soon, but more research, testing, and regulation certainly can't hurt.

*Photo courtesy of Unsplash*

## Governor Tom Wolf Bans LGBTQ+ Conversion Therapy



PARKER DESTEFANO

*Centurion staff*

Back in August of 2022, Governor Tom Wolf signed a bill barring the practice of "Gay Conversion Therapy" in Pennsylvania.

Dating all the way back to 1899, conversion therapy has been a large issue for the LGBTQ+ community. One would think this amount of time would undoubtedly render something this barbaric obsolete, yet here we are.

"It should have never been a thing," said Abigayle, a 28-year-old photography student.

According to a study

done by the Williams Institute in 2020, seven percent of LGBTQ+ adults aged 18-59 in the US have gone through some kind of conversion therapy.

Of that seven percent, 81 percent received it from religious leaders, while 31 percent received it from healthcare providers.

To make matters worse, according to The Trevor Project's annual study, 45 percent of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide last year.

The Trevor Project is a national LGBTQ+ suicide prevention intervention

group. Their yearly study helps understand how damaging things like conversion therapy can be.

Carl Bargery, 20, a biology major at Bucks said, "Gay conversion therapy represents everything unnatural about our society, this banning was long overdue."

This banning also marks Pennsylvania as the 22nd state to implement policies against conversion therapy.

Hopefully, the rest of the country and outlying territories will join the movement in quick succession and bring this malpractice

to an end.

There have been plenty of studies done on the topic of LGBTQ+ children especially those in the foster system. Many children have been put in to foster care by their family's because they were part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Instead of disowning these children for who they are, we should be accepting, supporting, and maybe, loving them even more.

Although we have made significant progress in terms of universal acceptance, there will always be more that can be done.

*Photo courtesy of Unsplash*

Governor Tom Wolf's banning of conversion therapy in Pennsylvania for minors is definitely a good first step, and a step in the right direction.

Many people believe that this banning will do good things for younger generations.

Perhaps one day, they will be able to safely express themselves without fear of being ostracized and disgraced by their peers and loved ones.

# Sports

## Phillies Cinderella Run Ends Short of Story Book Ending



JAMES BONNEL

*Centurion staff*

After a most improbable playoff run following a mediocre regular season, the 2022 Philadelphia Phillies fell two games short of a World Series Championship

to the Houston Astros on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Riddled with injuries, functioning with an interim manager after firing Joe Girardi in June, and touting an 87 win regular season, the Phillies were able to squeak

into the postseason for the first time in a decade.

En route to the Fall Classic, the Phillies went undefeated at home in the postseason, took down the Cardinals in two games, the defending World Series Champion Atlanta Braves organization, and the no. 5 seed San Diego Padres in the NLCS. On the other side, the 106 regular season win Houston Astros blew through the Seattle Mariners and the New York Yankees without losing a single playoff game.

Any other city would have been absolutely devastated to find out they were facing the best team in baseball for the championship. But not Philadelphia.

Hoisting the NLCS MVP trophy after ousting the Padres, Bryce Harper declared, "We're gonna bring it home for Philly."

Due to Houston's success in the regular season, they were given home field advantage for Game 1 of the World Series. Just three innings into the contest, it seemed the advantage was working.

Down by 5, and with game one all but sealed, the Phillies went onto score six unanswered runs. Ending with

an extra inning home run from catcher J.T. Realmuto in the top of the tenth.

Philly took game one with a final score of 6-5.

The very next night, Philadelphia was again down by five runs, except this time in the fifth inning. Unfortunately, even late game heroics from the likes of Jean Segura, Alec Bohm, and Brandon Marsh were unable to propel the team above Houston. Game two's final score was 5-2 Houston.

After game 3 was postponed due to rain, the Philadelphia fans piled into Citizens Bank Park to watch their Phillies annihilate Houston by a score of 7-0 on Tuesday, November 2.

This is where the Phillies' Cinderella story came to an abrupt end. None of these two teams had yet been subjected to back-to-back losses in the entire postseason. The normally raucous Phillies fan base and the team, even nursing a 2-1 series lead, seemed to have lost their fire.

Houston decided game four was a great time to take advantage of a tired Philadelphia, winning by a score of 5-0.

"After seeing what the

crowd was like in game three, the atmosphere was clearly not the same in game four," said WIP's James Seltzer in relation to the atmosphere inside Citizens Bank Park.

This resilience would be tested yet again in game five, with the Astros inching to a 3-2 final, putting them up 3-2 in the series.

If anyone was questioning the Phillies fan base, they remained devoted as the series moved back to Houston for the last two potential games.

"You know what, I was nervous. But right now, I actually feel pretty good about this game," remarked longtime Phillies fan, Zach Sayre, in reference to game six.

As the game got started, Philadelphia was gifted hope on the wings of a Kyle Schwarber homerun for an early 1-0 lead. But after pulling pitching ace Zach Wheeler in favor of Jose Alvarado, Houston left fielder Yordan Alvarez sent the Phillies back to the airport with a three run homerun in the sixth inning.

When it was all over, the Astros took game six 4-1 and the series 4-2.

*Photo courtesy of James Bonnel*

## Bucks Soccer Champions Take Title

EVAN ANDERSON

*Centurion staff*

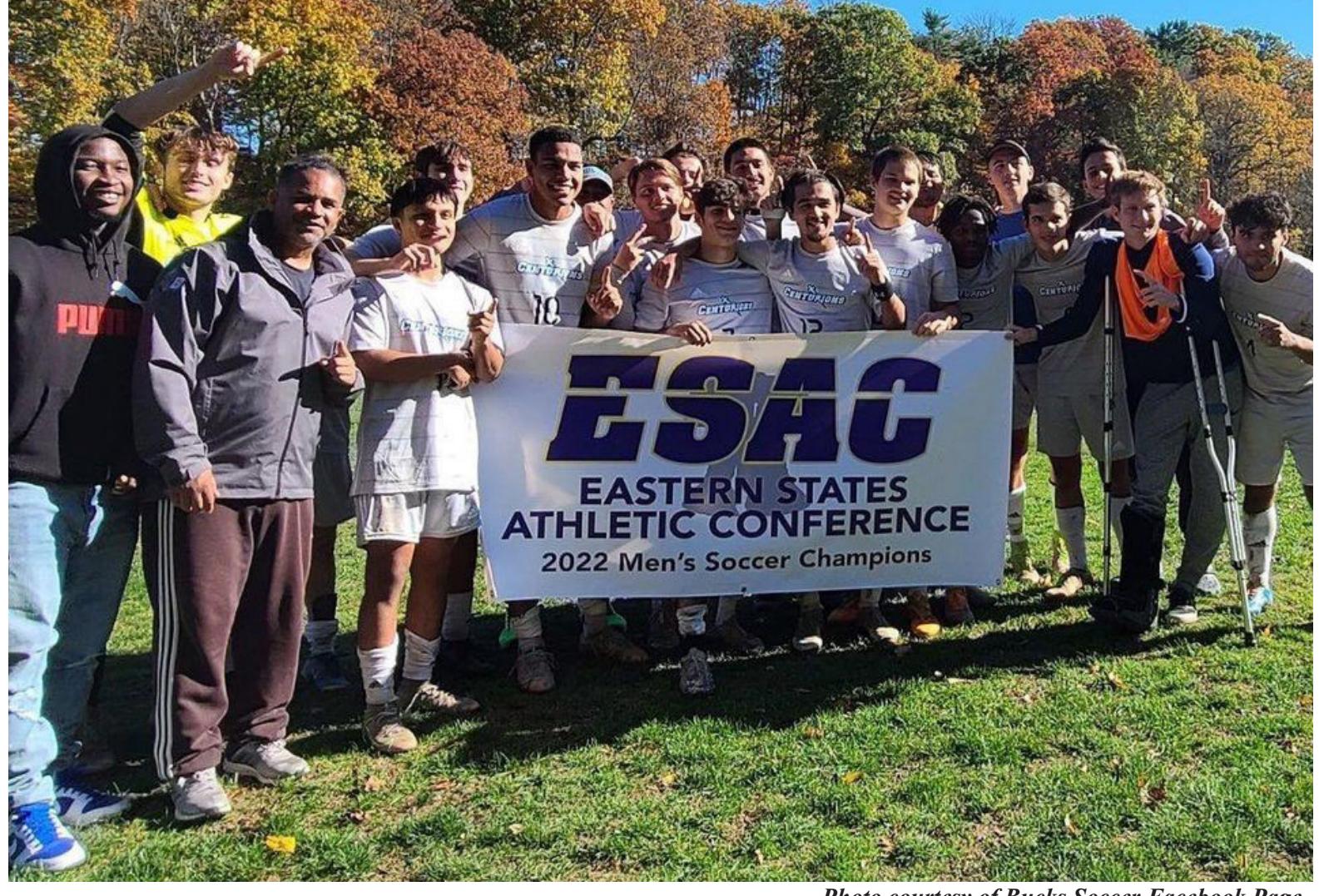
The Bucks County Community College Men's Soccer Team came away with a victory over the Manor Blue Jays in a match with double overtime to win the Eastern States Athletic Conference (ESAC) championship title 5-4.

Despite 2022 being their first year in the ESAC the Centurions, and following an early season of injuries and defeats, the team bounced back and progressed to become one of the strongest teams in the area. With their momentum, they realized they were a No. 1 contender in this new league and left everything out on the pitch this season.

Students, parents, fans and the community as a whole were already ecstatic about the Phillies in the World Series, Eagles 7-0, and Philadelphia Union in the MLS Cup, but the local Centurion Men's Soccer Team just put the cherry on top.

Centurion soccer fan Bryan Kaschak had been, "following the team through social media all season" and "couldn't be happier to see the team get what they earned".

When asked if he thought the season would end with such a big victory Kaschak said, "There is no way I would've seen this coming early on, but now, here we are."



*Photo courtesy of Bucks Soccer Facebook Page*

Fans that attended the match were in for a treat that sunny Saturday afternoon.

With most action coming early in the first half Manor scored 2 goals in the opening 25 minutes, but midfielder Mohammed Abdul made up for it with 2 unassisted goals to tie 2-2.

Manor got one in the back of the net close to the end of the first half to go into half-time on top.

Perhaps it was the half-team locker room team talk from coaches Justin Bur-

roughs, Jose Torres, or Kevin Fagan, but within the opening 9 minutes of the second half, freshman Ronaldo Montero scored an unassisted goal to tie the game 3-3.

The Bucks team continued fighting, and with under 10 minutes of normal time remaining, forward Jaden Haig, assisted by Nicholas Sieger, scored to put the Centurions on top 4-3. Shortly after the Blue Jays scored another to tie the game 4-4 and send it into overtime.

Throughout the first 10

minutes of overtime Manor threw away 3 shots on goal, sending it to the second overtime. To win it, 3 minutes into the second overtime, forward Patrick McHenry, assisted by Jaden Haig, sank the winning goal into the back of the net to give the Centurions their first ESAC title ever.

Soon after the emotional victory, the Centurions took to Facebook to announce their victory saying, "This JUST in...WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!! Our boys

did it!!!! As I write through tears of joy, my love and pride for our guys is phenomenally overwhelming!!!!"

Fans commented on follow-up posts, with Fernando Hernandez saying, "This is amazing!!!! Congratulations to the team!!! The wait is over!!!!"

This season was one for the books for the Centurions, without doubt. It's looking like this young dream team should all be back next season.