

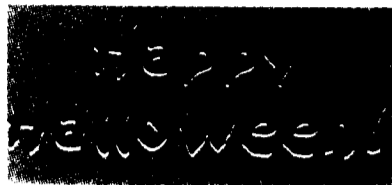
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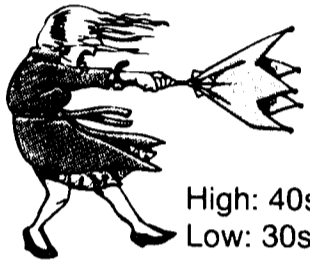
October 26, 2001

14 Pages



WEATHER

Friday's forecast:
Rain/snow showers
Windy



High: 40s°
Low: 30s°

Check page 2A for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

PAGE 6

Did you win the date with a Beaconian? Wanna find out who did? Check out the lucky guys and gals.

PAGE 2

We got to the top of "Sand Mountain" before you did. Is it worth climbing or should you should just read the map?

PAGE 10

Erie offers some haunting Halloween jaunts for fright enthusiasts. Find out where you should be getting your thrills this years.

PAGE 11

What Erie schools have the highest tuition? Just how many college students are in credit card debt? What does Paige's dad have to say about the Erie economy?

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OUT WITH THE OLD



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Bye bye, Station Road. Hello, Knowledge Park. The gang at the Child Care Center — from left to right, Aidan, Mirian, Xavier, Gabriel, Cody, Kyle, and Marilyn — wave goodbye to their old digs on Wednesday. The end of this week saw the closing of the old center, which is in the path of the new Eastside Access Highway and will be torn down shortly. The staff is packing up the center and moving into a new home, located in Knowledge Park. The center will reopen Monday.

Station Road Child Care Center closes its doors

by Liz Hayes
news editor

The Child Care Center on Station Road closed its doors forever this week, but will reopen Monday in Knowledge Park.

The Center officially closed its former location at 3 p.m. Wednesday. The existing building will be torn down to make way for the Eastside Access Highway, which will cut across Station Road right beside the center. Ken Miller, director of Student Affairs, said the Station Road building could be razed as soon as next week.

From Wednesday afternoon on, the Child Care Center staff and other volunteers from the Behrend community were busy packing up equipment and toys from the old center and moving them to the new one. Thursday afternoon, movers had just finished unloading the moving van, but the new center was far from ready for operation. Boxes were everywhere, cardboard lined the floors to prevent mud from getting tracked in, and equipment still needed

to be positioned.

According to Eunice Moore, director of the center, they will hold an open house for parents Saturday, and children will return to the center on Monday.

"The move went a lot smoother than we had thought it would," Moore said on Thursday. "But, obviously, we are not quite done yet."

Moore said the Student Activity Fee funded a lot of new equipment for the center as much of the old equipment had been purchased used from another facility when the Station Road center was established in 1993. Some of the old supplies will make the move to Knowledge Park, however, including some shelving, tables and chairs, and many toys.

Moore is satisfied with the new location. She says it will be convenient as it is closer to campus and was specifically designed for the center, whereas the previous building was purchased from Tupperware and then renovated. While the overall space is about the same, it is more customized to the center's

specifications. The rooms are larger and there will be a staff room and areas for Behrend students to make observations as part of their classes. Also, there will be more available outside space at the new location than there was at the former one.

Construction on the new center began July 1. The Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation built the \$1.1 million, 8,500 square-foot facility and is leasing it to Penn State. Moore said the College hopes to eventually buy the building.

Toward the end of the fall 2000 semester, the future of the Child Care Center was uncertain. Penn State was to receive \$936,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the purchase of the old site. However, a new site would cost more than that amount and Penn State still owed \$451,000 on the old center.

A great outcry met the announcement that childcare might be

CHILD CARE CENTER
continued on page 3

Erie County Executive candidates return to Behrend, debate issues

by Liz Hayes
news editor

The Erie County Executive race heated up another notch on Thursday as the two frontrunners took to the podium for a town meeting in the McGarvey Commons. Democratic incumbent Judy Lynch and Republican challenger Rick Schenker defended their positions to a sometimes hostile audience while Lisa Zompa of WSEE, Channel 35, moderated. The debate was sponsored by the Young Democrats and College Republicans.

"Our nation's at war and our community is facing a tough situation," Zompa began, referring to the recent terrorist threats and the economic instability in Erie. "County government has never been more important." The two candidates then proceeded to explain to the audience how they would help stabilize Erie County.

"Behrend is an integral part of the many good things happening in Erie," Lynch began. She pointed to Knowledge Park, the area's "premier industrial project." Lynch said her administration has funneled more

work on recreating the county's image by boosting tourism, improving the technological infrastructure, and attracting new, high-tech firms.

Schenker also referred to his connection with Behrend. He completed approximately 15 credits of undergraduate work at Behrend and served as the Vice President of the Student Government Association. His brother, Robert Schenker, was also Behrend's long-time Registrar, who retired earlier this semester.

"A lot of good people don't run for office," Schenker said, "because it can get nasty ... people may say lies about you." He said he was glad to participate in a debate at Behrend



PHOTOS BY ROB WYNNE

For the second time in a year, the candidates for Erie County Executive came to Behrend to debate the issues. Democrat Judy Lynch, above, and Republican Rick Schenker, left, explained their stances on religion, the economy, negative campaigns, and the airport, because it might influence younger people to become more involved in politics.

Stephen Webb, president of the Young Democrats, presented the first question, asking the candidates how they would reform the voting

DEBATE
continued on page 3



Erie Post Office anthrax scare affects Behrend

by Liz Hayes
news editor

Tuesday night, staff at the 38th Street U.S. Postal Service General Mail Facility found a suspicious powder in a mail-sorting machine. Anticipating the substance could be anthrax or another dangerous chemical, the Erie County Hazardous Materials Response Team sealed off the machine.

As a result, mail distribution was disrupted at Behrend on Wednesday and Thursday. According to Ed Blaguszewski, manager of University Relations at Behrend, mail was not picked up from the post office until Thursday afternoon.

Although HazMat officials have ruled out anthrax, they had not yet said what the substance was at press time. MailRoom Clerk Patrick Harris said they were told it would be at least 48 hours before they would be able to identify the substance.

Harris questioned whether Penn State was wise to collect and sort mail before ruling out whether the substance was harmful. "I think they jumped the gun a bit," he said.

Blaguszewski said the Post Office assured Behrend the mail was safe to be delivered and that the hazard

of contamination was minimal.

The MailRoom was also forwarded a copy of an FBI advisory with recommendations for safe handling of mail. It advised how to identify suspicious packages, which could include oily stains, excess tape or string use, and crystallization. It also gave protocol for threat assessment, Blaguszewski said.

Blaguszewski said the mail room employees were given the option of wearing latex gloves while handling the mail, but the College was not forcing them to.

Patty McMahon, coordinator of Health and Wellness Services, demonstrated earlier this month the proper way to remove the gloves to prevent further contamination should a harmful substance be found.

Harris went one step further and bought a respirator to wear in the MailRoom. He said while there have been no false alarms at Behrend, he is taking no chances and is disappointed the University is not supplying breathing apparatus for the Mail Room employees.

"I think they are more concerned with getting the mail than being safe," Harris said.

'Sand Mountain'



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE

"Sand Mountain," the Studio Theatre's fall production, opens this weekend. The cast consists mostly of Behrend students and faculty, including Stephen Merritt and Jeanine Noce. Productions run Oct. 26 and 27 and Nov. 1, 2, and 3 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the RUB Desk, \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public. Check out the second part of the profile on the cast members on page 9 and a review of the play on page 2.