

NEWS

National and world news in brief

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Midwest cleans up after storms

CANNELBURG, Indiana: Towns throughout the Midwest start repairs after a week of violent storms.

It was a bad week for many residents of the central United States as tornado-producing storms swept across a large areas and deposited rain, hail and debris.

One tornado swept through two counties in Indiana, causing an incredible amount of destruction. Among the buildings destroyed by the impressive F3 tornado were two schools, 10 businesses and more than two dozen barns. The tornado also slaughtered an uncounted number of farm animals. F3 tornadoes are capable of producing winds of up to 206 miles per hour.

"It's a miracle that everybody got out of here," factory employee Abe Knepp said.

Marshall County in Tennessee had similar problems. Another F3 tornado destroyed numerous buildings as it cut a 17-mile long path across the state.

"We heard a weird sound coming through, kind of a whistle," said 37 year old Penny Leonard who was not at home and sought shelter in the basement of the Madisonville hospital. "I thank God I'm safe."

The National Weather Service has issued preliminary reports that the recent storms produced at least 35 tornadoes as a conservative estimate.

House narrowly votes down budget

WASHINGTON: Moderate Republicans joined unanimous Democrats in rejecting a new health, education and social programming budget that would have made cuts to education and college loan and assistance programs.

The bill, which also included cuts to healthcare, was defeated by a 224-209 vote in the House of Representatives.

"It betrays our nation's values and its future," said House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland. "It is neither compassionate, conservative, nor wise."

Republicans claim that the budget cuts are needed due to the national deficit, a statement Democrats contend is of the Republican's own doing through unchecked war spending and tax cuts.

This bill was one of 11 such budget bills that must pass through the House every year and one of the largest. Now that it has not been approved, the future of the budget will be decided in year-end alterations and a new bill.

France still in state of emergency

PARIS, France: The French Senate voted to extend a national state of emergency by three more months as riots and unrest continue to plague the country.

New laws passed give powers to local officials allowing for curfews and new law enforcement methods to help contain the spreading civil unrest.

"French people want us to re-establish the order of the republic," Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said. "We will answer their expectation, because we can't build a future in violence."

Sarkozy is now unveiling a series of plans, which, in direct opposition to French President Jacques Chirac, will set up new programs to find jobs and organizations for younger Frenchpeople who are currently struggling with the economic situation and must deal with issues of personal and national identity.

"I challenge the idea that we all start at the same starting line in life," Sarkozy told L'Express magazine in an interview. "Some people start further back because they have a handicap - color, culture or the district they come from. So we have to help them," he said.

Sarkozy has been gaining steady support in French politics as he has consistently proposed tough, quick, hands-on strategies to combat the riots and unrest that have been gripping the nation for almost a month. Sarkozy points to unusually high unemployment rates among minorities and issues of active discrimination in French and European culture as causes of modern unrest in the country.

Chirac has taken a different approach, asking for a voluntary cessation of violent unrest and calling on the more well-to-do to provide monetary and other support for their less fortunate countrymen.

The rioting in France has started to spread throughout Europe as Belgium, France's northern neighbor, has now found itself in a similar situation as cars are being burned and rioters are being rounded up and arrested. As a result, several nations bordering France have already begun preparations for scenarios where the unrest may spike in their countries.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

Fake IDs frequently confiscated

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There are a number of stresses and pressures involved with receiving a college education; pressures that can be so overwhelming, students may feel more of a need to release pent up tension by partying and drinking. However, unpleasant situations arise when underage students are involved and are questioned by authorities. Many students are aware of the drinking policies on and off campus, but some are not. With tremendous stresses come careless errors, and some students will do anything to escape the enormous pressures of college even if that means using fake identification in order to obtain alcohol. According to Sergeant Wolinsky of the State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, "Underage drinking is a general problem to every city, college, and bar or tavern."

According to Pennsylvania State Police officer, Mark Zelenski, the summary (or lowest) violation of underage drinking is up to \$300 in fines, 90 days in jail, and a 90-day suspension of their driver's license. When an underage person is caught with a fake ID, numerous penalties may occur. Section 6310.3 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code (Title 18) states that if a person of less than 21 years of age possesses an ID that falsely identifies their name, age, date of birth, or photograph that they will be given the penalties previously mentioned by Zelenski for the first offense. For a second offense, false ID users may pay up to \$500 in fines, spend up to one year in prison and may have a suspension of their license for up to one year. For subsequent offenses, penalties include up to \$500 in fines, up to one year in prison

and up to two years of license suspension. Even the misrepresentation of age to purchase alcohol is a crime that can result in \$300-\$2500 in fines and up to one year in prison.

Many bar and tavern owners in Erie say fake IDs are a common occurrence. Section 6310.1 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code (Title 18) applies to those who knowingly sell or supply alcoholic beverages (beverages exceeding .5% alcohol by volume) to minors. Sometimes it is hard to distinguish between a valid and invalid ID, especially during the busiest hours of operation. It may also be challenging to maintain a bar full of legal drinkers if the business serves food. For these reasons, some bars are not as helpful as others when questioned about the frequency of underage visitors.

Laws governing businesses with alcohol licenses are strict and may cause some bars and taverns to decline the publication of such statements about underage visitors whether they are declining underage students or not. However, some of these businesses have no problem offering information about the regulation of their bars.

According to Jim Zank, the owner of

Jimmy Z's Time Out Tavern, there is a more frequent use of fake ID's during the first couple weeks of the semester. Zank said that he has seen students attempting to use fake ID's from home, including their older siblings' ID's. Brian Russell, general manager of Fat Boy's Deli Pub, said that his bar confis-

cates about five counterfeit ID's per week. Marci Honard, one of the owners of Calamari's Squid Row, said that if anyone notices a student that tries to use a fake ID, the student will face a confiscation of the ID and, in some cases, will be kicked out of the business. In order for licensed alcohol providers to follow the demands of all of the liquor control regulations, many bars and taverns are incorporating creative methods of underage detection. Honard said that she hires college students to work in her business because they recognize other students with greater ease. Behrend sophomore Heidi Weismiller is a bartender at Calamari's. She said that she has personally seen fake IDs in which it is obvious that the possessor is not 21. Weismiller also said that she has seen many students between the ages of 19 and 20 who do not even try to use fakes. According to Weismiller, Calamari's checks for identification at the bar unless it is a Friday or Saturday night, when the bouncers check IDs at the door. Honard added that she hires bouncers that are in their late thirties or early forties in order to maintain strict and mature judgment when allowing customers into the bar at night. Bars and taverns may work in conjunction with liquor control officials as well. After confiscation, Russell reports bogus IDs to the Erie Police who then send the IDs to Harrisburg's Investigative Branch of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. From there, the Investigative Branch can find where the fake IDs are being created and supplied and later stop the production of phony identification.

Russell said that he has seen a fair number of "underagers" from Behrend, though his pub in particular does not have a big problem with this. He said, "This is not a big problem for [Fat Boy's] because [the employees] are tight with the policies... if a business doesn't follow policy, it can lose its license to sell." Weismiller said that while working, she doesn't see many underage students from Behrend but that she does serve many legal drinkers from Behrend. She also mentioned that from experience, there is more of a problem of underage drinkers at clubs than at bars. Wolinsky noted that there is a bigger problem of underage people buying six packs for consumption off campus and that he receives complaints of "underagers" in bars.

Though it is hard to detect a major



Rob Frank/THE BEHREND BEACON

A collection of fake IDs shows Jimmy Z's commitment to curb underage drinking

problem with underage drinkers in bars, taverns and with the police, some Behrend students offer interesting truths to the matter. One student agreed to be interviewed for this article under the condition of anonymity and will be referred to as "Poppy." Poppy owns a fake ID and claims that it is completely valid, in that one of her friends picked it up off the street and gave it to her because of her likeness to the photograph on the ID. Poppy estimated that she uses her ID about five times a week in order to supply bottles of alcohol to her friends. Poppy also said that she does use her ID to get into bars and clubs in her hometown but not in Erie. Another student from Behrend agreed to be interviewed anonymously and will be referred to as "Noah." Noah stated that he purchases alcohol by using a different method. Noah said that he makes friends with other students who either have fake IDs or are old enough to buy alcohol. Noah purchases alcohol in this manner about once a week in order to drink on the weekend, and spends about \$20-50 per purchase. He added that he sometimes supplies alcohol for his friends and that he has only purchased alcohol during college. In Noah's opinion, many other underage students on campus use this method of purchasing alcohol as well.

Whether Behrend has a major problem with underage drinkers or not is hard to distinguish. Local bars and taverns cannot tell what underage student is from what college, and the police are not willing to provide statistics of the number of underage offenses from Behrend or from any particular bar or tavern. In order to discover exactly how severe underage drinking is within Behrend, the students themselves are the ones that provide the answers. In any case, the stakes are high when a student chooses to partake in underage drinking. Though the anxiety levels soar in college, students need to think twice about committing this crime and consider other methods of stress management.

Classifieds

"If you want to work for world peace, go home and love your families."

— Mother Teresa (Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu), nun and founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity (1910-1997), Nobel Prize for Peace acceptance speech, 1979

Janet Neff Sample Center
for Manners & Civility



Cardboard City, Continued from Page 1

Besides the great success of the city, a Poker Tournament to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank was held. Also, many Residents Halls collected canned goods for donation throughout the week as well as organizations such as the Returning Adult Student Organization. RASO challenged all its members and the Corry Manufacturing Company to bring in one canned good or to donate one

dollar. They collected \$243 for the efforts, as well as nearly 287 pounds of food. RASO president interim, Lou Anne Glontz, said that the project was very successful, with 93 percent participation.

If you would like to further contribute, the Northwest Second Harvest Food Bank can be reached at 814-459-3663 or by emailing the executive director, Karen Segie at kseggi@eriefoodbank.org. Their location is 1703 Ash Street in Erie.