

CAMPUS NEWS

Behrend hosts PJAS

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This past weekend, Region 10 of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science held their regional meet at Penn State Behrend. This was the third consecutive year at Behrend.

This past week saw over 550 students from grades 7 to grade 12 come to Behrend in order to achieve their goals.

"Student participants in the PJAS program are encouraged to follow the scientific method to select a project," says Region 10 Director Fay Nelson. "They then research the background, formulate a hypothesis, develop an experiment to prove or disprove the hypothesis, and to collect and analyze data from their experiment. The students then prepare a written report and give an oral presentation with audio visuals to their sponsor. Group projects are not permitted."

If the student is selected at the school level he or she then goes on to register his or her project for the regional meet. The students are divided into groups of ten based off of their category of science and then judged by a small group of judges. The judges award each project either first, second, or third award. If the student is to get the first

award, he or she then qualifies to go on to the state meet that is traditionally held at University Park.

"PJAS became affiliated with Behrend because of the available resources in science, math and technology," says Nelson. "Additionally, our state meet is held at University Park main campus each May."

Nelson also said Behrend is the preferred location of the meet due to the quality of judges the campus provides, which are not only local to the area, but are usually professors, graduate students, sponsors, or scientists from local industries.

"I believe the meet went very well," says Nelson. "The students and parents enjoyed themselves and are extremely pleased and very proud to be at PSU Behrend. We are already beginning the planning for the meet next year when PJAS returns."

Nelson also gives a special thanks to three local employees. She thanked Admission Counselors Mary-Ellen Madigan, Donna Fuller, and Office Manager Carol Peterson who helped to orchestrate the event every year and make sure that everything runs smoothly. This event wouldn't be possible without their hard work and dedication.

FOR RENT FALL 2009-SPRING 2010 3523 South Street 2 Units - 4 Students per Unit

1st Floor: Living Room, Kitchen, Dining Area, 3 Bedrooms, Full Bath w/Shower

2nd Floor: Living Room, Kitchen, Dining Area, 2 Bedrooms, Full Bath w/Shower

Both Units have Wall to Wall Carpeting and Appliances.

Laundry is onsite. Bus to Behrend, 2 Restaurants, Shops One Block North on Buffalo Rd (US RT. 20).

Landlord Pays - Water, Sewer, Garbage, Natural Gas, and Electric.

For More Information or to Make an Appointment for a Showing

Contact Joe at (814) 440-5219

FOR RENT

Monday



High: 29°F
Low: 16°F

Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow.

Tuesday



High: 34°F
Low: 23°F

Partly cloudy with a chance of snow.

Wednesday



High: 35°F
Low: 26°F

Partly cloudy with a chance of snow.

Thursday



High: 39°F
Low: 25°F

Chance of rain/snow.



Interesting weather fact:

The largest tornado path was 293 miles in 1917. The twister traveled from Missouri to Indiana and was on the ground for 7 hours and 20 minutes.

Weather forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto.

World and National News In Brief

By Matthew Schwabenbauer, mjs5387@psu.edu

Group of wealthy Americans sue Swiss bankers to remain unidentified in tax investigation

SWITZERLAND - On Tuesday, Swiss banking giant UBS was sued by almost twelve wealthy Americans hoping to keep their names from United States Justice Department investigators. The suit targets UBS and Finma, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority, of not adhering to Swiss bank secrecy laws. According to the suit, divulging the names of Swiss bank clients to U.S. authorities is against the law.

The suit was filed on behalf of American Swiss bank clients by Andreas Rued, a lawyer based in Zurich.

If the banks in question turned over the names of their clients, they could face fines, penalties and prison terms.

Last week, a UBS internal memo stated that the bank had reached an agreement with Washington to release the names of 250 Americans using Swiss banks to evade taxes. According to the Justice Department, as many as 52,000 wealthy Americans are suspected of tax evasion. Source: *The New York Times*

Pentagon lifts ban on photographs of coffins



WASHINGTON - The media will soon be allowed to display images of the flag-draped coffins of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Families of the deceased soldiers will still have the final decision on whether their loved one's coffin can be displayed.

Gates was ordered by Obama to review the Pentagon's former policy which completely restricted any media outlet from broadcasting images of deceased soldiers. During his discussions with the armed services and groups representing the families of deceased soldiers, Gates decided the old policy needed change.

Shortly after the start of the Iraq war, many critics blamed the censorship on the George W. Bush administration. In actuality, the ban was put in place after the U.S. invaded Panama in 1989.

Source: CNN

Professional soccer players, Fifa officials arrested in drug trafficking scheme



SPAIN - 11 people, including professional soccer players and officials of Fifa, the International Football Federation, were arrested for alleged involvement in smuggling cocaine. Two of the individuals arrested were Fifa recruiting agents while the other nine were current and former professional players.

Along with the arrests, Spanish authorities have seized 1,320 pounds of cocaine.

The suspects used their associations with professional soccer as a cover for the smuggling.

The confiscated drugs were found hidden among machine parts for wind farms that were to be shipped by boat from Argentina to Spain.

The suspects all belonged to first-division soccer clubs.

Source: BBC

Reporters fined for reporting on the murder of Lebanese singer



EGYPT - Five Egyptian journalists were recently fined for breaking a government-instated ban on the case of Suzanne Tamim, a Lebanese pop star. The main suspect in the case is a police officer turned bodyguard that prosecutors allege was paid to kill the star by property billionaire Hisham Telaat Moustafa, the victim's rumored boyfriend. Moustafa denies the allegations.

Moustafa, one of the richest businessmen in Cairo, was reportedly upset at the deceased singer because she denied his marriage request. The reporting ban was ordered by the judge of the trial.

Tamim's body was found in the summer 2008. The singer was found with her throat slit, in addition to multiple stab wounds.

Source: BBC

U.K. Ministers admit to transporting terror suspects to Afghanistan

U.K. - John Hutton, Secretary of Defense for the United Kingdom, has admitted that two men arrested in the United Kingdom in 2004 were transferred to Afghanistan to be placed in United States custody. Hutton claims the suspects are still being detained in Afghanistan.

The Defense Secretary said that U.S. officials assured him the men were being treated humanely.

Members of the British conservative party accuse U.K. ministers of being "complicit with serious abuse." British liberals were similarly alarmed, calling for the documents of the case to be published immediately.

Until now, the UK has denied sending terror suspects to countries where torture is legal, which British officials referred to as collusion in extraordinary rendition. Hutton "regretted" past denials.

The two men which were turned over to U.S. authorities were part of a group called "Lashkar e Tayyiba," which has been linked to Al Qaeda.

Source: BBC

Senate Judiciary Chairman to hold hearing on Bush administration torture investigation

WASHINGTON - Today, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) announced he will hold a hearing to establish a commission to investigate national security abuses by the Bush Administration. The hearing, scheduled next week, hopes to establish a nonpartisan commission for the investigation.

Leahy announced the hearing on the Senate floor this morning. He titled it: "Getting to the Truth Through a Nonpartisan Commission of Inquiry." The hearing will be held on March 4 at 10 a.m. It is currently planned to be broadcast live online.

The chairman claimed that during the last eight years "we abandoned our historic commitment to human rights by repeatedly stretching the law and the bounds of executive power to authorize torture and cruel treatment." He also pointed out Abu Ghraib specifically as a reason for the hearing.

Source: *The Raw Story*

All photos contributed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

LEB Weekly Movie
Cadillac Records
in Reed 117
at 10 p.m.

Jason LeVasseur - Band
in Bruno's
at 9 p.m.

District 10 swimming championships
in Junker Center
at 6:30 p.m.

Gamers Night
in Reed 112, 113, 114
at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

LEB Weekly Movie
Cadillac Records
in Reed 117
at 10 p.m.

Primal Static - Band
in Bruno's
at 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 2

Penn State Educational Partnership Program
in Reed 113
at 10 a.m.

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 6 p.m.

Intramural Arena Football
in Erie Hall
at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

CFW Women's History Luncheon
in Reed 236
at 12 p.m.

Career Development Spring 2009 Seminar
in Reed 3
at 4 p.m.

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 6 p.m.

College Republicans and Democrats debate
in Bruno's
at 6:30 p.m.

Speaker from T. Rowe Price
in REDC 180
at 6:30 p.m.

Multi Cultural Council Hungry Howey's Coupon Fundraiser
in Reed
at 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Biology Club Speakers
in Roche Hall
at 6 p.m.

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 6 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie
Seven Pounds
in Reed 117
at 9 p.m.