

LOCAL NEWS

MEADVILLE

Cameron S. Minniefield was arrested Tuesday along the Bayfront Connector while trying to board a bus to Cleveland after robbing a bank earlier that afternoon.

Minniefield is quoted as saying that he was "sick of being poor." The FBI says he has admitted to entering the bank wearing a blue scarf over his nose and mouth. He did not carry a gun.

ERIE

The local District Attorney wants a reinstatement of Teri Rhodes' nine to 18-year sentence for the involuntary manslaughter of her infant daughter.

Rhodes gave birth in 2007 as an 18-year-old student in an apartment. The case was appealed, and overturned again. It will be up to Rhodes' lawyer, Philip Friedman, to file a response.

The Supreme Court will then decide whether or not to review the case.

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

www.weather.com

monday

25
snow showers

tuesday

30
29
snow showers

wednesday

31
30
snow showers

thursday

29
26
few snow showers

World News



1. North Korea Detains American

An American is currently being detained in North Korea after illegally crossing the border from China, according to North Korea's K.C.N.A state-run news agency. North Korea's dispute with Washington about its nuclear weapons program continues.

2. Hamas Denies targeting civilians

Intentionally in rocket attacks

GAZA -- Hamas has responded to a war-crime accusation made by the U.N. that said the Islamic group deemed firing rockets on Israeli citizens



acceptable during last year's offensive.

Hamas leader Salah al-Baradweel denied the allegations, saying "resistance fighters were warned against hitting civilians," though Human Rights Watch said that during the conflict, Hamas leaders instructed it.

3. Nine Killed in Gas Explosion in Belgium

BELGIUM -- Early Wednesday morning, a gas leak

caused an explosion in the middle of the Belgian city of Liège, injuring 21 and killing nine. A girl was pulled alive from the rubble later in the afternoon. Firefighters suspended the search for fear that neighboring buildings would collapse.



US POLITICS

Obama delivers first State of the Union

MIKE O. WEHRER
news editor

President Barack Obama delivered his first State of the Union address to Congress on Jan. 27. The speech comes at a difficult political time for the president and his agenda.

While the president's party still maintains a strong majority in the House of Representatives, they were dealt a strong blow by the election of a Republican to the Senate seat left vacant by the death of longtime Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy.

With the "supermajority" of 60 votes in the Senate gone, President Obama's first major political goal of health care reform is seen by many to be in doubt, and he addressed those concerns in his speech.

"I took on health care because of the stories I've heard, from Americans with pre-existing conditions whose lives depend on getting coverage," he said. "Patients who've been denied coverage, families, even those with insurance, who are just one illness away from financial ruin."

He also poked fun at the



Barack Obama delivers his first State of The Union Address in front of a joint session of Congress and an international audience.

poor reception the messy political process involved with passing such complex legislation.

"I didn't choose to tackle this issue to get some legislative victory under my belt," he said. "And by now, it should be fairly obvious that I didn't take on health care because it was good politics."

Obama made the economy, and jobs in particular, the primary focus of his speech.

"One in 10 Americans still can't find work. Many businesses have shuttered," he said. "Home values have declined. Small towns and

rural communities have been hit especially hard. And for those who'd already known poverty, life has become that much harder."

"This recession has also compounded the burdens that America's families have been dealing with for decades," Obama said. "The burden of working harder and longer for less, of being unable to save enough to retire or help kids with college."

The president briefly spoke about college students and their struggle to repay loans.

"To make college more affordable," he said, "this bill

will finally end the unwarranted taxpayer subsidies that go to banks for student loans. Instead, let's take that money and give families a \$10,000 tax credit for four years of college and increase Pell Grants."

During the speech, the president was interrupted many times for applause and some laughter when he made jokes about politics and other topics.

The president also addressed the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As we take the fight to Al-Qaeda, we are responsibly leaving Iraq to its people. As a candidate," he said, "I promised that I would end this war, and that is what I am doing as president."

"We will have all of our combat troops out of Iraq by the end of this August."

"We will support the Iraqi government," he continued. "We will support the Iraqi government as they hold elections, and we will continue to partner with the Iraqi people to promote regional peace and prosperity."

But make no mistake: This war is ending, and all of our troops are coming home."

US NEWS

Author J.D. Salinger dies at the age of 91



Salinger, pictured here in 1951, died at the age of 91.

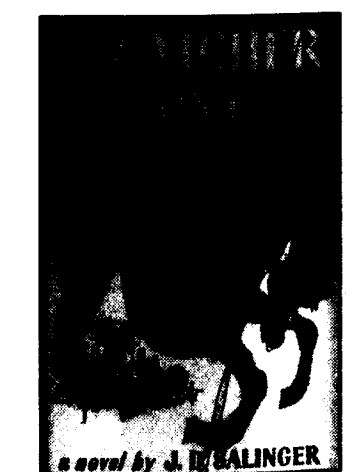
Jerome David Salinger, author of the classic novel "The Catcher in the Rye" and numerous short stories, died at his home in New Hampshire of natural causes.

The 91-year-old broke his hip in May, but appeared to be in good health before suffering a rapid decline in January.

Salinger was notoriously reclusive and "in keeping with his life long, uncompromising desire to protect and defend his privacy there will be no service" read a family statement released by his literary agent Phyllis Westbrook.

"The family asks that people's respect for him, his work, and his privacy be extended to them, individually and collectively, during this time," the statement said.

"He will be missed by the few he was close to every bit



"The Catcher in the Rye," Salinger's best-known work.

as much as by the readers who loved reading him," the statement read.

Frequently surrounded by controversy, Salinger served in the U.S. Army in WWII. Salinger took part in the Invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

Republicans Respond to State of the Union

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell gave the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address immediately after the president concluded.

After introducing himself, McDonnell commended the president for making jobs and job creation the focal point of his speech.

"All Americans should have the opportunity to find and keep meaningful work, and the dignity that comes with it," McDonnell said. "One in 10 American workers is unemployed. That is unacceptable. Here in Virginia we have faced our highest unemployment rate in more than 25 years, and bringing new jobs and more opportunities to our citizens is the top priority of my administration."

He spoke out against increased government taxes, regulation, and litigation, which he said would "kill jobs and hurt the middle class."

McDonnell also outlined

the Republican plan for health care.

McDonnell also spoke out against cap and trade, treatment of suspected terrorists, and government takeovers of banks and car companies.



photo by politicalactivitylog.com via Flickr
Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell campaigning during his run for the governorship of Virginia.

BEACON ONLINE

The new Beacon website, www.thebehrendbeacon.com, is your online source for campus news.

Constantly updated with new and breaking news stories, the website will feature immediate coverage of events as well as an archive of past articles in the Beacon.

We also offer a Twitter account, @behrendbeacon, which will be used to let students know of breaking news happening at the college: notification of important events about to begin, police reports at the campus, or developments not yet released to students by the college.

The site also offers an RSS feed, links to Erie resources, and Behrend students' blogs.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win."

-Sun Tzu
www.quoteorama.com

FACT OF THE WEEK

The sailfish (the fastest fish, 68 mph) is speedier in the water than the cheetah (the fastest land animal, 62 mph) is on land.

www.mentalfloss.com

STAT OF THE WEEK

An estimated 15% to 20% of people who receive gift cards never redeem them.

www.mentalfloss.com

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