

## LOCAL NEWS

### ERIE

On Tuesday, George Wands, a senior aide with the Greater Erie Community Action Committee, agreed to help the anti-graffiti task force in Erie in getting grant money.

Wands, who has experience in grant writing, agreed to help the task force after seeing graffiti along a stretch of West 16th Street.

"When I saw that I said, 'I have to get involved'," he said.

Wands got his first experience in grant writing while working as the general manager of the Erie Youth Symphony Orchestra. So far, the task force's efforts have been funded through donations from individuals and businesses.

The leader of the task force, Erie 3rd Ward District Judge Tom Carney, said, "It's a huge boost. I always said this is a war on graffiti, and we have to take every effort to be as effective as we can."

### ERIE

25-year-old Vincent Davis has requested that his case be heard by a judge in a non-jury trial.

Davis, who has pleaded guilty twice in the murder of his infant daughter and his family dog, first expressed interest in a trial by jury back in Feb. 2009. Davis was first set to go to trial with Judge William Cunningham presiding, along with a jury.

Instead, Cunningham recused himself from the case due to the fact that he was exposed to too much information in court after presiding over Davis's two prior guilty-plea hearings.

Davis remains in the Erie County Prison with no bond set.

### MILLCREEK

A car crash on West 12th street in Millcreek township sent three people to the hospital on Tuesday.

It was reported that Jessica Anderson of Fairview Township with a 39-year old female passenger turned left at the intersection of West 12th Street and McConnell Avenue, colliding with Andrew Foyle of Girard Township at 11:15 a.m.

Anderson and Foyle were both taken to Hamot Medical Center for minor injuries, while the woman in Anderson's car had to be pulled from the wreckage of the vehicle before being taken to Hamot Medical Center for serious but non-life-threatening injuries.



## World News

### 1. South Korea stops search for sailors

SEOUL, South Korea -- The South Korean military halted the search for missing sailors due to high winds on Wednesday.

Since last Friday, searchers have been looking for 46 missing sailors since the Cheonan, a naval ship, sunk in the Yellow Sea after an unexplained explosion on Friday.

The South Korean military stated that an explosion in the

rear of the ship tore a hole through the hull and caused the ship to sink. So far, 58 of the crew of 104 sailors have been rescued.

President Lee Myung-bak said that an investigation into the cause of the sinking was underway

### 2. Serbian parliament apologizes for massacre

BELGRADE, Serbia -- On Wednesday, the Serbian

parliament issued an official condemnation of the 1995 massacre of thousands of Muslim men and boys.

The massacre left over 7,000 Bosnian men and boys dead in Srebrenica after Bosnian Serb troops overran a United Nations "safe" area.

The condemnation also expressed the concern of the capture of Ratko Mladic, a former Serb-Army commander who was involved in the massacre

### trial in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Five U.S. college students began their trial on Wednesday in Pakistan after being accused of several terrorist-related acts including criminal conspiracy to commit terrorism.

Sargodha Police Chief Usman Anwar testified that he has strong evidence against the five, including over 20 witnesses.

The "D.C. 5" as the men are called were arrested back in December after they had been missing for a month from their homes in Virginia.

### 3. Americans on

## ECONOMY

# Health care bill aids college students

ERIC PEIRCE  
asst. news editor

The major health care reform bill that was passed into law not only helps middle-aged adults and seniors, but also young college students.

The bill, which also included a student aid reform, is one of the most beneficial legislative victories for young people that has been enacted in the recent years.

Young adults, from the ages of 19-29, represent almost a third of the uninsured population. And two-thirds of those uninsured young adults reported in 2007 justified that they did not get the medical care they needed because they could not afford the high costs.

Most of the health care problems that are related to young adults can be traced back to the low-incomes of more than half of young adults, according to research conducted for the Commonwealth Fund.

But with the passage of this health care bill, nine million more young adults will be able to stay on their parents' plans since the cut-off age for family benefits was extended to the age of 26.

Other young adults will be able to afford insurance after benefiting from tax credits, and be no longer denied because of a pre-existing condition.

Along with the health insurance, young



CERRITOS COLLEGE

The health care bill helps college students with both student loans and health insurance.

adults will also benefit academically from the bill.

The bill ended the spending of a subsidy program that put money into banks and institutions for servicing government student loans.

This will lead to over \$36 billion being in-

vested into the Pell Grant Program, which provides money for low-income students to attend college, over a period of 10 years. The bill also allows the government to give out loans directly to students, instead of sending loans to banks that came with high interest costs.

## NATIONAL POLITICS

# President Barack Obama proposes new oil drilling for U.S. waters

ERIC PEIRCE  
asst. news editor

President Obama revealed plans on Wednesday to open large areas of the U.S. coastal water in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico for oil and natural gas drilling on Wednesday. Along with opening up U.S. coastal waters to drilling, the plan would also lift the ban on drilling off the Virginia coastline.

If a congressional moratorium on oil and gas operations is also lifted, according to the proposal, around two-thirds of oil and gas resources in the eastern Gulf of Mexico would be opened to drilling. The drilling would be nearly 125 miles off the coast of Florida.

The secretaries of interior, energy and the Navy, as well as the chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, joined the president as he gave his proposal and remarks regarding the proposal to an audience at the Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility in Maryland.

"This is not a decision that I've made lightly," said Obama as he addressed the crowd. "But the bottom line is this. Given our energy needs, in order to sustain economic growth and produce jobs and keep our businesses competitive, we're going to need to harness traditional sources of fuel even as we ramp up production of new sources of renewable, homegrown energy."

Some Republicans, though, believe the president's proposal is not enough.

"It's long past time for this administration to stop delaying American energy production off all our shores," said House Minority Leader John

Boehner.

Boehner said that it seemed strange to still restrict drilling in the Pacific Coast and Alaska while gasoline prices are rising and Americans need more jobs. But while some politicians argue for more drilling than listed in the proposal, some believe that this plan should be reconsidered, and even scrapped.

One advocate for the environment, Senator Frank Lautenberg, says that the proposal is sending the wrong message to oil and gas drilling companies.

"Giving Big Oil more access to our nation's waters is really a 'Kill, Baby, Kill' policy," Lautenberg said. "It threatens to kill jobs, marine life and kill coastal economies that generate billions of dollars. Offshore drilling isn't the solution to our energy problems, and I will fight this policy and continue to push for 21st century clean-energy solutions."

One Democrat, Senator Mark Warner, believes that offshore drilling will actually help the environment, saying that, "Moving forward on the mid-Atlantic offshore proposal will provide an opportunity to determine the scope of our region's offshore energy resources, the economic viability of accessing those resources, and the potential impacts on our environmental and national security priorities."

Other politicians stressed the economic benefits of the proposal.

"Virginians will benefit from the thousands of jobs that will be created and the economic activity and development that will accompany this vital industry's arrival in the state," said Virginia governor Bob McDonnell, who backed the pro-



The Texas Walker's

Offshore oil rigs may start dotting the landscape of the Gulf Coast.

posal with enthusiasm. Obama tried to make the proposal appear as a way to balance the country's growing energy needs and environmental concerns. He also stressed that this is only a

small solution to a growing problem, since the U.S. is only in possession of two percent of the world's oil supply but accounts for over 20 percent of global oil consumption.

## BEACON ONLINE

The Beacon website, 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

"Television is a medium because anything well done is rare."

- Fred Allen

## FACT OF THE WEEK

Pretzels were invented by an Italian monk who used them to bribe children to memorize scripture.

www.mentalfloss.com

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