

LOCAL NEWS

ERIE

At least 16 workers from the North East manufacturing plant and one medic were hospitalized after a chemical spill on Thursday.

The spill occurred when one employee poured a mixture into a container drum, causing a chemical reaction.

A reactive substance may have already been in the container. The mixture, which consisted of nitric acid, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide and potassium silver cyanide, were used in a metal plating process.

Workers were taken to the Saint Vincent Health Center and the Hamot Medical Center from exposure to both the chemical mixture and the gas vapor caused by the spill.

MEADVILLE

Philip Pandolph was named Meadville Medical Center's new chief executive officer on Wednesday. Pandolph, who previously held the position of chief operating officer, replaces Anthony DeFail, who will remain the president of the hospital. Meadville Medical Center spokeswoman Elizabeth Atwell stated that the move was simply "a leadership change, and that it doesn't mean that anyone retired or resigned."

Pandolph, a registered nurse, started his career as a charge nurse at McKeesport Hospital in McKeesport.

ERIE

Erie citizens will be able to offer their viewpoints on area code changes for phones during a public hearing on April 20.

The Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission must make a decision on what course of action should be taken in response to the shrinking number of available area code 814 phone numbers, which is predicted to run out by Oct. 2012.

One solution is to split up the area codes into different geographic regions, which means that residents in 32 counties could be assigned new phone numbers. Four other plans are also being considered.

FAIRVIEW

A man was rescued from a large bin used to store shelled corn after he fell into the bin on Wednesday. Rescue crews responded to the call of entrapment at 12:10 p.m. and arrived at a farm in Gerard Township at 1:50 p.m. Rescue workers carried the man out strapped to a back board to an ambulance which took him to the Hamot Medical Center.

The man became entrapped when he tried to break up a clog in a machine that was used to transport the corn from the bin to a truck.

The man was later released from the Hamot Hospital at 4:00 p.m. later that day.

POLICE REPORT

- A report was received that an individual had vandalized the ground floor of the Stair Tower at 8:30 a.m. on March 30.

- The Behrend Police were notified that the COLLEGE DRIVE/JORDAN ROAD street sign post was down at 1:30 a.m. on April 1.

- A burglary was reported at Ohio Hall at 8:30 p.m. on April 4.

World News



1. Earthquake strikes Indonesia

SUMATRA, Indonesia -- A 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit the islands and coastal cities of Indonesia early on Wednesday. The earthquake triggered two tsunamis and injured six people.

The people were injured on the island of Simeulue, just off the coast of Banda Aceh, a city near the northern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra Island. The tsunamis were reported to have only been a foot high, resulting in no damage.

Residents in coastal towns fled to higher ground after they were warned of tsunamis by Indonesia's Meteorological and Geophysics Agency.

2. 115 miners rescued in China

BEIJING, China -- 115 miners were rescued after being trapped in a flooded coal mine in northern China on Monday.

The miners were part of a group of 261 workers who were working in the Wangjialing mine when it flooded on March 28. Rescuers managed to pull

108 miners immediately after the flood occurred.

During the week, rescuers reported seeing swaying lights and hearing tapping noises from trapped miners. Two hundred rescue workers are still working around-the-clock to drain water and pull out miners.

3. Demonstrators protest in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand -- Anti-government protesters demanded that officials reopen

their television station on Thursday.

Red Shirt protestors were at a standoff with government soldiers after the TV station was closed down after accusations of misinformation.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said the station was shut down "to restore peace and order and to stop the spreading of false information to the Thai public."

The emergency measures ban the publishing, broadcasting, or spreading of information considered a threat to national security.

NATIONAL MILITARY

U.S. starts to reduce nuclear weapons

ERIC PEIRCE
asst. news editor

After years of negotiations and debate, world powers, including the United States, have taken another step closer to a nuclear-free world.

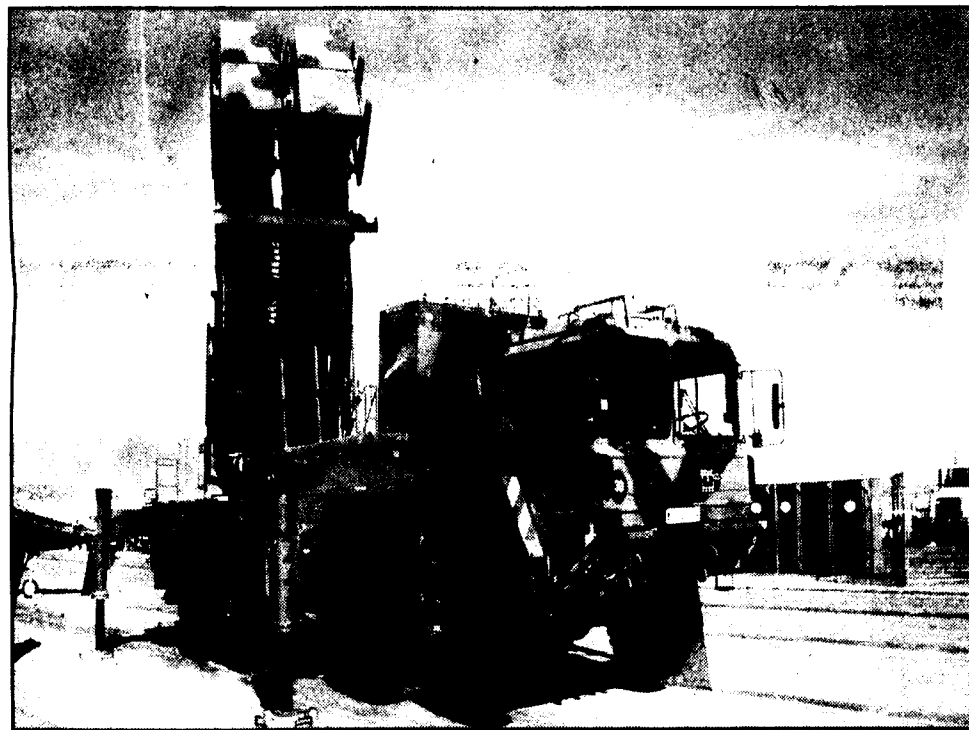
The United States will no longer create new-generation nuclear weapons and will take a stance not to use existing nuclear stockpile against countries that have agreed to help stop the manufacturing and distribution of nuclear weapons, according to a statement given by the Obama administration on Tuesday.

This comes in response to the government's shifting viewpoints on nuclear weapons during its Nuclear Posture Review, when the U.S. Department of Defense reviews its strategy in the use of nuclear weapons for national security.

It is believed that the new stance on nuclear weapons will be an incentive for other countries to follow the guidelines of the 1968 Nuclear Proliferation Treaty.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates stated the new stance will "provide a road map to help achieve Obama's long-term goal of a nuclear free world."

However, Gates also made it clear that any country that produces or uses chemical or biological weapons could be subjected to a massive conventional response by the U.S. "The purpose of the new strategy is to prevent nuclear terrorism and the spreading of nuclear weapons," according to a



Nuclear weapons and transporters will be reduced in numbers.

senior U.S. administration official.

This new stance comes along with President Obama signing a nuclear arms treaty with Russia that will result in a reduction of both country's nuclear stockpiles on Thursday. The reduction would cut each country's stockpile by a third, limiting each

country to 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads, it would also limit the number of strategic delivery vehicles.

One of Obama's top priorities during his presidency is to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons for all nations.

NATIONAL POLITICS

Uprisings in Kyrgyzstan result in new government

MARCUS YEAGLEY
head copy editor

Opposition leaders in Kyrgyzstan formed a new acting government Thursday after a day of anti-government protests left at least 40 people dead.

Thousands of protesters clashed with riot police over corruption and the rising cost of gas utility bills. The police fired tear gas, rubber bullets and flash grenades into the crowds.

Many men from poor villages who moved to the capital to live and work on construction sites became outraged over high energy costs.

Kurmanbek Bakiyev, the president, was forced out of the capital. He has been criticized for appointing key political positions to relatives. He has also been accused of preparing his son, Maksim, for a leadership position.

Bakiyev came to power after the Tulip Revolution in 2005, promising to tamp down corruption and fight poverty. Bakiyev agreed to reduce his presidential power in 2006 after mass protests. In July 2009, Bakiyev won a presidential election that was widely criticized by international monitors.

Bakiyev maintains that he is still in control of Kyrgyzstan.

"I declare that as president I have not abdicated and am not abdicated responsibility," Bakiyev said.

Roza Otunbayeva, a former foreign

minister, has been named the interim government leader.

"The security service and the interior ministry, all of them are already under

the management of new people," Otunbayeva said. "The interim government will remain in place for half a year, during which we will draft the constitution

and create conditions for free and fair elections."

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

"I'm sick of following my dreams. I'm just going to ask them where they're going' and hook up with them later."

- Mitch Hedberg

FACT OF THE WEEK

It would take nine miles of walking to burn off a Burger King Double Whopper with Cheese.

randomhistory.com

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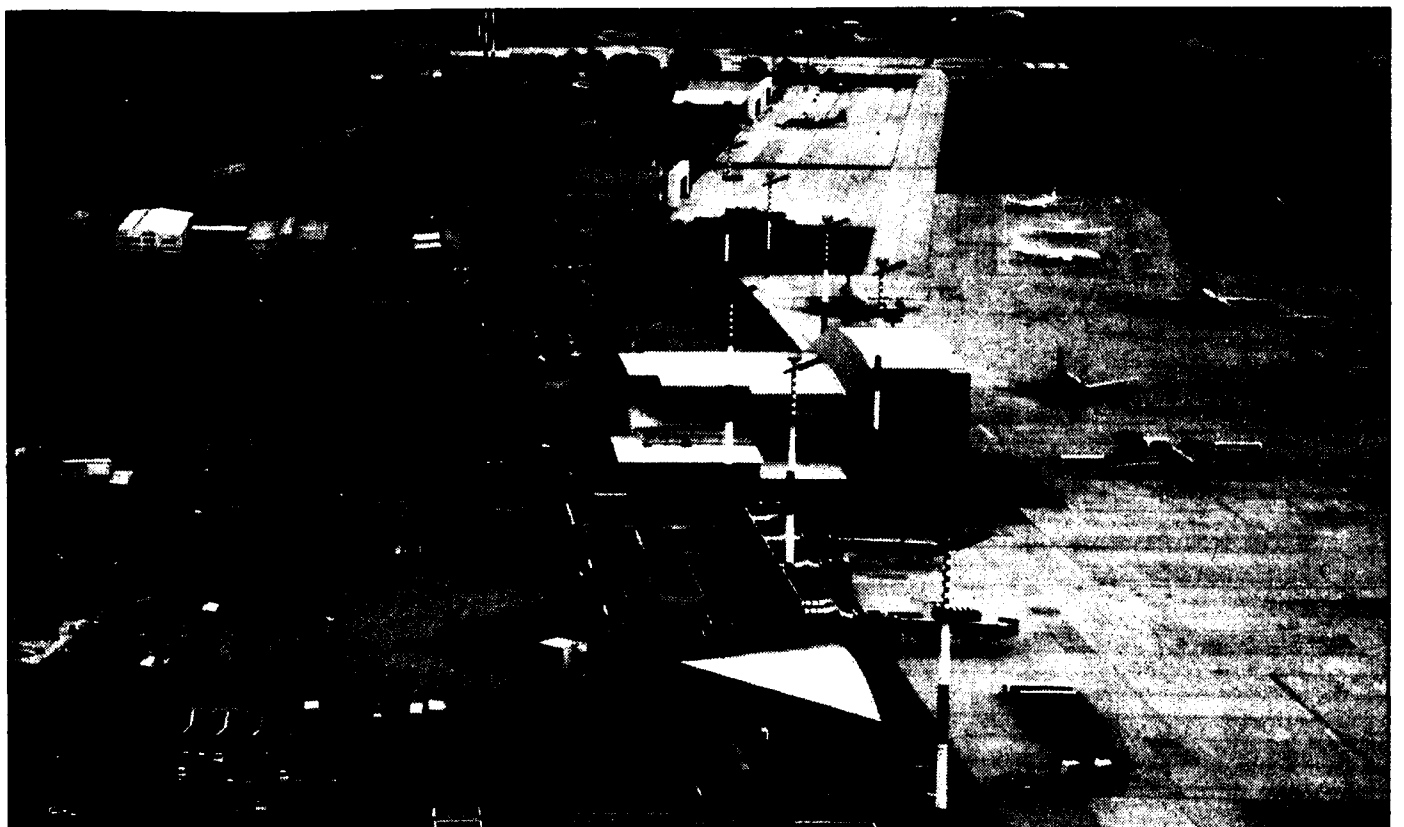
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Kyrgyzstan houses a U.S. military base that helps transport supplies to troops in Afghanistan.

military.gov's