

LOCAL NEWS

ERIE

The Tall Ships Erie festival began on Thursday, opening with the Parade of Sail. U.S. Brig Niagara has passed through the channel and into Presque Isle Bay.

Presque Isle ranger Dan Powell estimated that 5,000 people crowded around the North Pier for the view of the tall ships in the channel to Presque Isle Bay. Powell said onlookers began setting up lawn chairs as early as noon. An additional 5,000 people assembled near the Perry Monument to watch the parade.

Locals can take walking tours of the ships, which are gathered north of Presque Isle State Park

ERIE

During the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 5 Gamblers bet \$49.8 million on slot machines at Presque Isle Downs & Casino. The amount they won back was \$45.1 million. These figures are from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board reported.

Gamblers' losses amounted to nearly \$4 million, after subtracting \$728,533 in promotional free plays. Of this gross revenue, \$2.2 million went to the state and \$1.8 million was casino profit.

From Aug. 31-Sept. 6 2009, gamblers wagered \$44.9 million. The amount won back by them was \$41 million. The one-week record for slots wagers was \$57 million, set during the week of July 5-11.

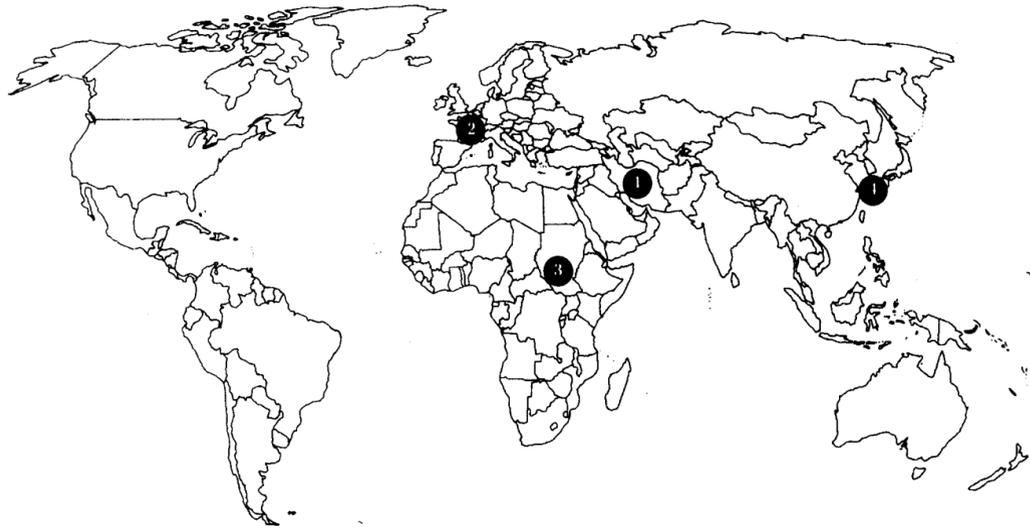
MEADVILLE

A Crawford County girl, has become the current top vote-getter in a recent online contest sponsored by Discovery Girls Magazine.

Calista Pierce, 10, of Guys Mills, is one of the 30 finalists in the magazine's Role Model Contest. The top 10 finalists, will be featured in the magazine.

In 2006, Calista organized her own charity, Calista Cares, to benefit Special Olympics of Crawford County. She has since raised \$8,177 for her charity. She's raised an additional \$1,334 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western Pennsylvania and Southern West Virginia.

World News



1. Iran to release detained hiker

Iran has announced that it plans to release one of three detained American hikers on Saturday.

Sarah Shourd, 31, was arrested along with two other American hikers last July when they crossed the border from Iraq's Kurdistan region into Iran.

The hikers say that the border crossing was unintentional, while Iran's government has accused them of espionage, entering the country illegally, and having links to U.S. intelligence.

Shourd is a teacher and a writer who grew up in Los Angeles, California, but moved to Damascus after graduating from college to live with Shane Bauer, another one of the captured hikers.

2. EU condemns France deportation

One of the legislative bodies of the European Union (EU) issued a resolution demanding strong action against France's controversial deportation policy of Roma (Gypsies).

The resolution, passed by a vote of 337 for and 736 against, "expressed its deep concern at the measures taken by the French authorities and other member states' authorities targeting Roma and Travellers and providing for their expulsion."

The deportation policy is championed by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, whose government claimed that illegal Roma camps were "sources of illegal trafficking, of profoundly shocking living standards, of exploitation of children for begging, or prostitution, and crime."

3. South Sudan independence "inevitable"

A referendum for independence for Southern Sudan is "inevitable," said U.S. Secretary State Hilary Clinton, and what could be a "ticking time bomb."

The vote, scheduled for January, was part of a 2005 conflict-ending agreement between the two war-torn halves of the central African country.

However, succession for southern Sudan could create more problems. Oil revenues would be unevenly distributed, and much of the area is extremely underdeveloped.

Barack Obama is set to attend a special UN meeting on the future of Sudan on Sept. 24.

4. China-Japan relations strain

Relations between China and Japan have strained following the seizure of a Chinese fishing boat on Tuesday.

The Chinese boat struck two Japanese patrol boats Tuesday in waters claimed by both countries. The Japanese suspect that the incident was deliberate, while the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi called Japan's handling of the incident "absurd, illegal, and invalid."

The Japanese Coast Guard, however, said that the boat's captain had been repeatedly directed to leave the area.

At the crux of the issue is a set of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea which Japan, China, and Taiwan each claim.

BEACON ONLINE

The Beacon website, the-behrendbeacon.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.

FACT OF THE WEEK

Did You Know?

Iceland consumes more Coca-Cola per capita than any other nation.

www.funny2.com

CONTACT US

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Pastor "suspends" Quran burning

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

Florida Pastor Terry Jones has "suspended" an event in which he planned to burn large amounts of the Quran, he told reporters Thursday.

Jones, the pastor of the Dove World Outreach Center, said that the suspension came upon a promise that the proposed Islamic mosque and community center in New York would be moved away from Ground Zero.

However, the organizers behind the center say that they have never spoken to anyone that has met with Pastor Jones.

Jones then claimed that the Imam with whom he had spoken had "clearly, clearly lied to us."

"We cancelled the event based on his word," Jones said Thursday. "He is now

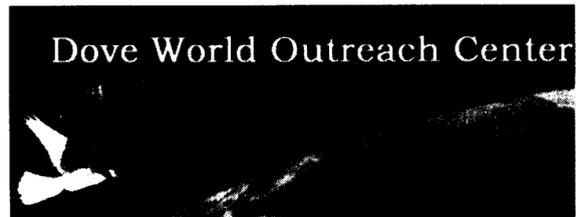
going around saying that he did not say that. It is absolutely not true. I have several witnesses that were there in the room. He repeated it there that the Imam in New York said they would

move the mosque." adding "...as of right now, we have just placed a temporary hold on our planned event."

Imam Muhammad Musri, who spoke with Pastor Jones, said that his words

"So as of right now, we have just placed a temporary hold on our planned event."

Terry Jones
Pastor, Dove World Outreach Center



had been "stretched." He claimed that he had only agreed to contact the leaders of the Islamic center with Jones on Saturday.

He said he had assured the pastor that he "personally believed the mosque should not be there." He offered his own influence in the battle to move it, he said, but never promised to move the building.

The Quran event is planned for the 9th anniversary of the attacks on September 11. Pastor Jones has labeled the day "International Burn a Quran Day."

The event has caused an international uproar, eliciting responses from foreign leaders, such as President Barack Obama, and religious figures across the world.

The event remains suspended, though there is a chance that it will be reinstated by Saturday.

Campus Connection

A brief look at what's up on the campuses of Erie's other colleges

Mercyhurst College

College renovates old apartments

JENNIFER MCCURDY
staff writer, Mercyhurst Merciad

After many student complaints, Mercyhurst College's Highland Square Apartments have a new look this fall.

Summer renovations to the apartment buildings located at the top of Briggs and Lewis Avenues included replacement of carpets, repairs to kitchens, replacement of all windows with energy-efficient glass, and new paint on building interiors.

For the first time ever, the college used colored paint for upperclassmen housing. Several apartments feature one wall painted with a bright color, which "adds interest," according to Assistant Vice President of Student Life Laura Zirkle.

The repairs also contribute to the green initiatives of Mercyhurst College. Last year, students complained of snow coming in through cracks in the windows. The new energy-efficient windows will reduce heating while keeping precipitation outdoors.

Last year, numerous Highland Square residents complained about dismal housing conditions within the first few



New windows with energy-efficient glass decorate the renovated apartment buildings.

weeks of classes. This year, by contrast, no students have filed complaints.

The living conditions of the four buildings, constructed shortly after World War II, always fell short of other student housing options. Students and college officials have been concerned about the Highland Square Apartments for several years.

"The Merciad's been a big help," Zirkle said. The newspa-

per closely followed the situation last year when students protested worsening conditions and the college considered razing the apartments altogether.

"We hope that students will feel they've been heard," Tobin said.

The college plans to continue renovations next year, but no specific plans have been released.

Gannon University

P.A. system cost angers students

ABBY BADACH
editor-in-chief, Gannon Knight

One year, four surveys and nearly \$12,000 later, Gannon University's Student Government Association has both installed and turned on a new, expensive speaker system at Gannon - but not without resistance from students.

The project began in summer 2009 with an estimated cost of \$5,000, said Tom Panighetti, SGA president and a senior political science major - but the price tag went up when student government members suggested that the system be upgraded from a music-playing system to a multipurpose one.

"We've already spent the money," Panighetti said, "So we're just trying to make the best use of it for the future - that it's not intrusive into students' lives and to make sure it is a calming area of campus."

When SGA held the vote to increase funding for the speaker project last spring, Panighetti said eight students attended the Students' Voice



Students hear the new speaker system as they walk to class.

press their opinions - one student in favor and seven opposed.

"That's more people than we've had [at Students' Voice] almost the whole year," he said.

SGA passed the motion to increase funding for the project with a majority vote.

The current system, purchased from local company JB Pro Sound, includes microphones, outdoor inputs for the

microphones and an audio mixer so the system can be used for outdoor events, such as theater performances. Panighetti noted that the speaker system was used to project music from the Aug. 27 concert and barbecue sponsored by SGA and the Activities Programming Board and student response was positive.