

LOCAL NEWS

FAIRVIEW

Tornado sightings were reported in Fairview Township after thunderstorms passed through Erie County on Thursday night, according to the Erie Times-News. There were no reports of injury or damage, and the National Weather Service could not confirm a tornado touchdown. The Erie Times-News also talked with a 911 emergency dispatcher, who said a Tornado sighting near Route 99 and Crate Road, just north of Edinboro in Washington Township, was reported.

The Fairview tornado sighting was reported just after 7 p.m. Many lightning strikes and heavy rain were present throughout Thursday night. Lightning postponed the North East-Fairview High School football game, which has been rescheduled for Saturday at 7 p.m.

ERIE

Erie-native Jill Behm, a contestant on *Survivor: Nicaragua*, survived the first elimination on the show Wednesday night. Behm, a physician in Millcreek Township, is a member of the Espada tribe of players older than 40. Rival group La Flor defeated Espada in the immunity challenge, meaning Espada had to eliminate a competitor. A goat rancher from Montana was voted off. Behm did not appear to be in any danger of elimination during the first episode, though she was only shown in a limited capacity. Others on her team include former Miami Hurricanes and Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson.

If Behm wins *Survivor: Nicaragua*, she will win \$1 million. To watch Behm in her quest, tune into CBS on Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

FACT OF THE WEEK

Did You Know?

Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.

www.randomfacts.com

World News



1. France, Germany disagree over Roma

German Chancellor Angela Merkel publicly declared that she does not plan to follow France's plan of deportation of Roma, according to the BBC.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy had told reporters that Merkel had expressed support and solidarity for the country's deportation program; however, Merkel's statement denying this has led to some tension between the two leaders.

2. Muhammad cartoonist in hiding, on FBI tip

The creator of the Facebook group "Everyone Draw Muhammad" day has moved from her home and changed her name, heeding FBI advice that she was in danger, according to the *Seattle Weekly Times*.

The *Seattle Weekly* wrote in a column on Wednesday that Molly Norris, who works for the newspaper, will be going into a type of "witness protection," and "going ghost" for an indefinite period of time.

3. Afghanistan prepares for vote

Over 2500 candidates will run for 249 seats in the Afghan Parliament's lower house Sunday. However, skeptics point to the large amount of invalid votes thrown out from last election, and claim that in less populated areas, the same problem will occur.

More than 650 candidates are running for only 33 seats in Kabul. It is the more remote areas of the country, though, that have observers worried.

Many suspect that vote buying will spread due to lack of financial campaign legislation.

4. French nationals kidnapped in Niger

Five French workers and two Africans working for French construction company Vinci have been kidnapped in Niger, according to a statement by the company Thursday.

The French government has requested that the Niger government track down the captors.

The statement by Vinci went on to say that the men were working on an earthmoving operation by two uranium mines.

US Census Bureau reports 1 in 7 in poverty

EVAN KOSER
senior layout editor

The US government has reported that the poverty rate has risen to its highest level in 15 years. One in seven Americans now reportedly live in poverty. This marks the highest rate seen since the 1960s. The information was released last Thursday by the US Census Bureau and was a product of the 2010 census taken last spring. According to the study, the poverty rate went from the 2008 statistic of 13.2 percent to 14.3 percent, roughly 43.6 million people, in 2009.

The report on the economic well-being of US citizens during 2009, which was President Barack Obama's first year, followed a recession that left millions of people jobless. The poverty line is defined by the US government as a family of four living on less than \$22k a year. This figure shows that the rate of poverty this last year was the highest since



Increased use of food banks has become common across the country as poverty has risen.

its been in 1994, but is lower than the first year poverty estimates were taken in 1959 reports the Census Bureau.

President Obama said that 2009 would be a tough year for families but that things could have been worse.

"Because of the Recovery Act and many other programs providing tax relief and income support to a majority of working families - and espe-

cially those most in need - millions of Americans were kept out of poverty last year," said Obama.

Part of the strain that many of these families faced were the short-lived unemployment benefits. Many workers still found themselves jobless even after their benefits ceased. However, workers are now eligible for extensions that were earlier this month passed by

Congress.

In conjunction with a rising poverty level, the number of Americans without health insurance also rose to 16.7 percent from 15.4 percent. After the debacle over the extension of unemployment benefits, voters will decide in November whether they will commit to the Democrats or if they will look to Republicans for new leadership.

Campus Connection

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

Gannon University

Gannon partners with Jordinian school

BRENNA PETERS
managing / news editor,
Gannon Knight

Gannon University is preparing for a partnership with the currently under construction University of Madaba, in Jordan.

University of Madaba President Dr. Victor Billeh visited Gannon on Sept. 7 to talk to students and faculty about creating a relationship between the two schools.

The University of Madaba is located four miles outside of Madaba, Jordan. Billeh said the school should be ready for classes by October 2011.

Billeh said that Pope John Paul II talked with the church about setting up the school with King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan. Actual construction on the school began when Pope Benedict XVI visited Jordan in May 2009 and laid the foundation stone.

The University of Madaba will be the first Catholic college in Jordan, as well as the first nonprofit institution.

The classes at the university will be taught only in English, making the university the first school of higher



Dr. Victor Billeh, President of the University of Madaba in Jordan, visited Gannon on Sept. 7 to foster a relationship at Gannon.

education to have all English classes in Jordan.

The university plans to have seven departments: business and finance; science; engineering; information technology; language and communications; art and design; and health sciences.

The university will be small in size, but the campus is planned to accommodate 6,000 to 7,000 students.

According to Billeh, the university will be the only in-

stitution in the Middle East to be run on renewable energy. A geothermal system, which uses heat from the ground, will be used to power the school.

There is one more way in which the University of Madaba will stand apart from other Middle Eastern universities. Billeh said he wants to promote diversity among students - he doesn't want the school to be made up of just Jordanians.

Mercyhurst University

Mercyhurst releases online book list

KELLY LUOMA
managing / news editor,
Mercyhurst Merciad

College students now have a greater opportunity to save money by comparing prices online before purchasing their textbooks at Mercyhurst College.

As part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, all colleges are required to post a list of the books required for every class. This law took effect on July 1.

The information on the list includes the title of the book, the author, edition, ISBN, new price and used price.

The new law was created as a way to help students with cost, according to General Manager of the Mercyhurst College Bookstore Dan Cullen.

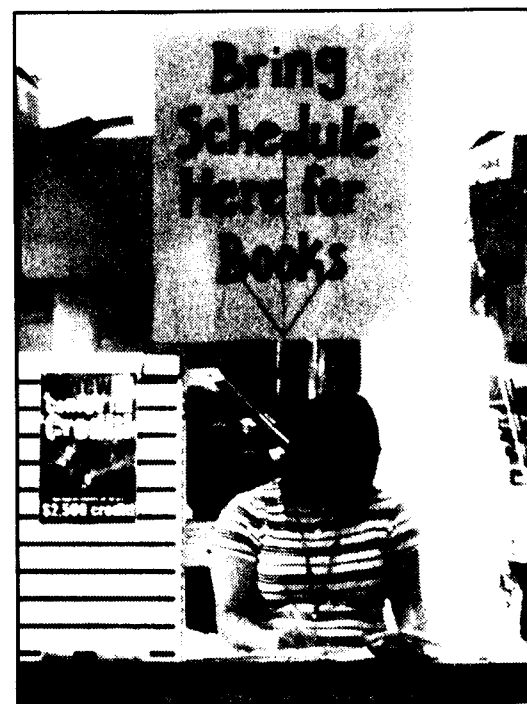
"Book prices were getting out of control," Cullen said. "What we try to do, the teachers try to do and congress was trying to do is make things cheaper for the students."

Junior Amanda Kocent was not aware that there was a book list online that could help save her money.

"I usually buy my books from the bookstore," she said.

However now that she knows the book list is available, she said she plans to compare book prices online before deciding where to purchase her textbooks.

Cullen said he thinks adding a checkout button online will steer students to buy their books from Mercyhurst College if they can't find them somewhere else. An online checkout button will allow students to add the



Tyler Stauffer / The Merciad
Students hear the new speaker system as they walk to class.

books they want to purchase from the bookstore to an online shopping cart, and then they will be able to pick up the books they ordered at the bookstore.

"We are trying to keep the prices down as best we can," Cullen said. "We're all about helping out the students."

JOINING THE BEACON

The Behrend Beacon offers far more opportunities than just giving clips to prospective journalists. We employ over 40 students from various majors and backgrounds.

If you are a physics major and want to cover physics, let us know, and you can cover news in which you're interested on our Science page. It doesn't stop there - we have students from every major on campus covering news that's important to them on our award-winning School Pages.

If you are interested in advertising or sales, we employ student advertising account executives to handle advertising accounts with local advertisers.

We also employ website technicians in our web department and marketing specialists in our marketing department. Both have the ability to separate you from others in your field when you search for a job.

Positions are limited. Not all positions are paid. The best way to get involved is to take the first step, even if it's terrifying, and try something new. No experience is necessary. To inquire about open positions, contact the editor at editor@psu.edu.

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