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STARS AND STRIPES



Steph Witt/Collegian

Onlookers watch as a skydiver lands with a 7,800 sq. ft. American flag during the 4thFest celebration on Sunday.

Celebration honors America

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A skydiver trailing a massive 7,800 sq. ft. American flag behind him parachuted to the ground Sunday afternoon — kicking off an afternoon of Independence Day festivities at the Central PA 4thFest.

"It was so impressive," 4thFest Executive Director Bernie Keisling said. "I was blown away by that even though I knew it was coming."

The flag surprised other spectators and set the stage for the rest of the evening, but the real star of 4thFest was the fireworks show, which blasted off promptly at 9:15 p.m.

"The fireworks show came off

exquisitely," Keisling said. "Any time you set off 15,000 shells and you only get 10 or 12 that don't go off, that's a miracle."

The show included a tribute to State College Mayor Bill Welch, who died in September 2009, set to his favorite song: "Soul Man," by the Blues Brothers.

"Bill would've loved it," said Nadine Kofman, Welch's widow. "They were spectacular."

Kofman said she knew a song would be dedicated to her husband, who she said looked forward to 4thFest each year.

"It was a wonderful display, and I was very glad that they dedicated a song to Bill," Kofman said.

Keisling said he was glad 4thFest could honor Welch, who was a committed fireworks fan.

"It was a loss to us in the 4thFest family," he said. "We miss the mayor deeply."

Other memorable moments from the fireworks extravaganza included fireworks in the shape of giant numbers lit up to the tune of "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley and His Comets. Later on, a symphony of shells shaped like the American flag sparked to life, and characters from the hit Disney Channel show "Phineas and Ferb" burst into shape during a song from the TV series.

"The kids stood up when they saw the characters and they were screaming and clapping," Keisling said.

Tens of thousands of people flocked to Medlar Field at See 4THFEST, Page 2.



Steph Witt/Collegian

Fireworks explode in the night sky to mark the end of 4thFest.



Matt Bush/Associated Press

Beach-goers beat the heat by taking a dip in a lake at Paul B. Johnson State Park in Mississippi.

Temperatures hit 100 degrees

By Deepti Hajela
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — The heat wasn't going to keep Jerry Willis from his vacation.

The 28-year-old made his way through Times Square on Monday, combating the hot weather with a wet white washcloth over his head and a water bottle in hand.

"It's hot, but I know how to stay cool," said Freels, visiting from Minneapolis.

A string of hot days were expected this week, with temperatures en route to 100-plus degrees in some places. Temperatures reached into at least the 90s Monday from Maine to Texas, into the Southwest and Death Valley.

In the East, warm air is "sitting over the top of us, and it's not really going to budge much for the next day or two," said Brian Karty, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Camp Springs, Md. He said after that, a system coming in off the Atlantic Ocean would bring in cooler temperatures.

Monday was a day off for many to mark Sunday's Independence Day holiday. The extended weekend aided utilities by lowering demand for power, said Lissette Santana, a spokeswoman for PPL Electric Utilities in Allentown, Pa.

For others, though, there was no getting away from the heat.

Richard Willis, 52, was one of a few dozen homeless men in Franklin Square, a small park in downtown Washington. He spent his day drinking water and staying in the shade.

"That's all you can do, really," said Willis, who See WEATHER, Page 2.

Center sees progress

The Penn State Catholic Campus Ministry is expected to begin construction on a new center in the fall.

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For years, Catholic residents of State College have individually purchased houses for sale on East Park Avenue to ensure that Penn State students and members of the surrounding community could hold services and gatherings.

Now, three of those houses will be taken down in preparation for the Catholic Student Faith Center.

Penn State's Catholic Student Faith Center will be the end result of plans 12 years in the making, said Father Matthew Laffey, director of the Penn State Catholic Campus Ministry. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall, he said.

So far, the Campus Catholic Ministry has raised \$4.2 million out of its \$6.5 mil-

Come, all ye faithful

The Catholic Campus Ministry will expand its facilities with a new center on Park Avenue.



Source: Father Matthew Laffey
Heather Schmelzlen/Collegian

lion goal from both private donors and other organizations. Joe and Sue Paterno, named the honorary co-chairs of the Student Faith Center, have donated See CENTER, Page 2.

Volunteers play crucial role in Arts Fest

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For thousands of visitors, merely perusing the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts is intriguing on its own. For others, actively volunteering with the event is what creates memories that won't be forgotten.

Rick Bryant, Arts Fest's executive director, said hundreds of volunteers help set up, run and clean up after "Happy Valley's annual miracle."

Most volunteers are local State College residents who contribute in many ways — from constructing the artists' tents and booths to selling Arts Fest buttons and merchandise, Bryant said.

Festival director of development Diane Bloom said Penn State student volunteers usually favor two positions: trash crew and artist ambassador.

Members of the trash crew are responsible for the cleanup after each day of Arts Fest, making sure the



streets and trash bins of downtown State College are kept tidy.

"It doesn't sound like a lot of fun, but people seem to be really attracted to this job," Bloom said.

The members of the trash crew, divided into groups of six to eight people by shift, come to consider their job as a team-building exercise, Bryant said, especially as they all sport the same trash crew shirt throughout the five-day festival to show their unity.

Artist ambassadors are responsible for manning artist stalls and stands when the featured artists need to take a break at any point during the day and

If you volunteer

Details: Students looking to volunteer at Arts Fest should e-mail office@arts-festival.com or visit arts-festival.com.

must be prepared to take visitors' questions about Arts Fest and the State College area.

"The volunteers are given on-the-job training," Bryant said. "As long as you have a comfortable pair of shoes, a relatively strong back and a smile, you should be fine."

Some students volunteer to meet new people while some locals participate to take on a task different from their typical 9-to-5 jobs for a few days, Bryant said. Most people volunteer to enjoy the festival in a different way and contribute to the community, he said.

To e-mail reporter: arm5373@psu.edu

Café will close doors

Webster's Bookstore Café, 128 S. Allen St., will shut down after losing its lease.

By Paul Osolnick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After 11 years of business, Webster's Bookstore Café will likely close the doors on its 128 S. Allen St. location due to a termination of its lease.

The downtown bookstore, which has been a popular hangout for students and book lovers alike, will close near the end of July, owner Elaine Meder-Wilgus said.

Meder-Wilgus said the reason for the lease's termination is "personal" but that the action was "within [the landlord's] rights," and "it's not violating any lease or anything."

Though it's an outcome that seems unavoidable, Meder-Wilgus said she does not want to see the store go anywhere.

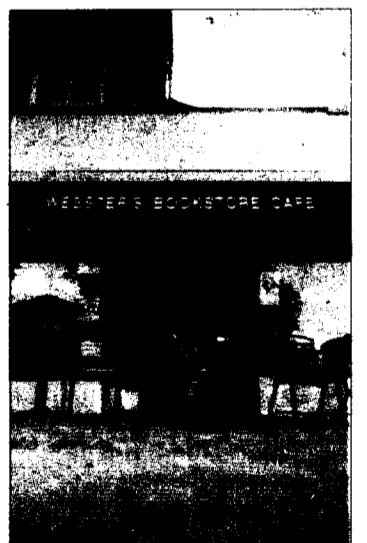
"Maybe I should look at this as an opportunity," Meder-Wilgus said. "Right now, it's hard to see it as anything other than an incredible loss. It's a death to me."

Meder-Wilgus said she hopes to re-open the bookstore at another location. The store's closing will not affect her 434 W. Aaron Drive location or the Webster's catering service.

"We'll rally and figure out some other location to work out of," Meder-Wilgus said. "I couldn't speculate at this point."

According to public records, the property is owned by Catherine Kresge. Kresge did not return calls for comment by press time and did not answer when a Daily Collegian reporter knocked on her door Monday night.

Meder-Wilgus said the ideal See WEBSTER'S, Page 2.



Steph Witt/Collegian

After 11 years, Webster's will be closing its location at 128 S. Allen St.