

# Apartment fire prompts investigation

The State College Police Department are looking into a fire that could possibly be arson.

By **Brendan McNally**  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

One resident of Parkway Plaza apartment building is still displaced four days after burning furniture outside the building caused damage to six apartments and forced officials to evacuate the building.

The State College Police Department said it is investigating

the incident as a possible arson. The fire began at about 12:38 a.m. Friday, Bair said.

Alpha Fire Company director Steve Bair said the source of the fire is unknown, so the case will remain open indefinitely for police to investigate.

The building, located at 1000 Plaza Dr., was evacuated because smoke filled the hallways on every floor, Bair said.

The fire started when upholstered furniture placed on the side of the building for removal was ignited, Bair said.

The burning furniture then scorched the side of the building, causing it to spread and damage

six apartments located on the first, second and third floors, Bair said.

The damage was worst on the first floor where fire and smoke damage made two apartments uninhabitable, forcing one resident to find new housing, Blair said.

That student was accommodated through the Penn State Office of Housing, Food Services and Residence Life, Bair said.

Two apartments on the second floor had minor smoke damage and damage to the windows and window treatments, Bair said.

The fire also damaged windows on two third floor apartments, Bair said.

The windows did not break on the third floor, Bair said, but they will probably have to be replaced.

Concrete balconies on the side of the building were also damaged, Bair said.

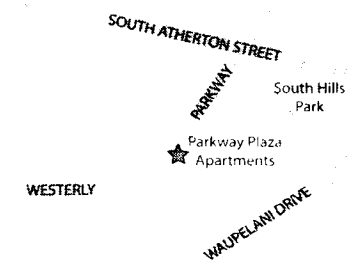
The file will remain open until the source of the fire is determined, Bair said.

Police or the Fire Marshal will be able to investigate any leads while the file remains open, Bair said.

Code inspectors and building engineers went to the site of the incident Friday to check for any structural damage, Bair said.

## Fire in the Plaza

Six apartments in Parkway Plaza were damaged from a fire police are investigating as arson.



Source: Alpha Fire Co., Heather Schmelzlen/Collegian

To e-mail reporter: [bwm5147@psu.edu](mailto:bwm5147@psu.edu)

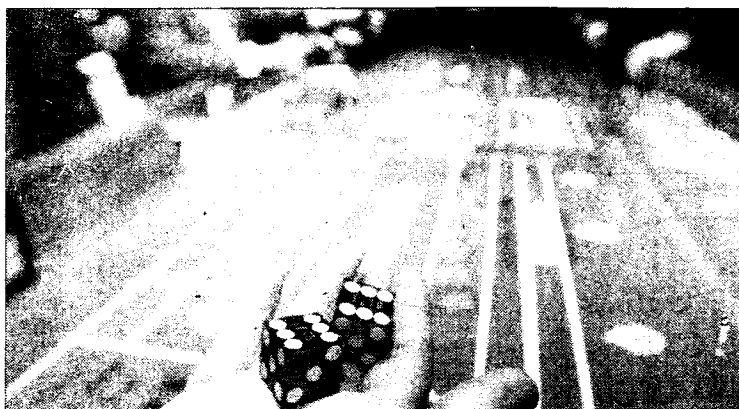
# New table games tested at Pennsylvania casinos

By **Jennifer C. Yates**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PITTSBURGH — The electronic poker tables with motion-activated "dealers" were largely empty Tuesday afternoon at the Rivers Casino.

No matter, the real thing was coming in a few hours at six pits around the sprawling casino floor.

The Rivers and two other western Pennsylvania casinos were conducting an eight-hour test of its new table games Tuesday, as required by state gaming regulators. The proceeds in Pittsburgh, The Meadows Racetrack & Casino in Washington County and Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Erie will go to various charities and — barring any glitches — will open to the public Thursday.



Keith Srakocic/Associated Press

Practice dice are thrown during a demonstration of the new table games.

"It's an absolute game changer for us," said Todd Moyer, the Rivers' general manager, who said having table games will bring a

new clientele to the casino that sits along the Ohio River.

Nearby, at an electronic roulette table, 52-year-old Bart Effinite

used the touch screen to make a bet.

The New Castle resident said he liked not having to reach over people to play the game like at a real table — but he's still looking forward to playing games with real dealers.

"Guys like cards, women like the slots," Effinite said matter-of-factly.

The casinos have been preparing for this day since 2009, when Gov. Ed Rendell and top legislators included the legalization of table games as part of a hand-shake deal to raise more revenue for the recession-battered state treasury.

Lawmakers passed the bill early on in January with a large amount of support.

Payment of licensing fees by the

state's nine operating casinos and an additional casino expected to open later this year brought in \$165 million in June.

Over the next 12 months, tens of millions of dollars are expected to flow to the state and some local governments from a 16 percent tax on the casino's take at the tables.

The Rivers and The Meadows plan to open table games at 6 a.m. Thursday.

Presque Isle plans to open its games at 10 a.m. that day.

Casinos in central and eastern Pennsylvania will follow in the next few months.

"It will give the customers a whole different world of choices," said Kevin Ryan, the director of table games at Presque Isle Downs. "It's very exciting."

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## Drinking Water Quality

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This report contains detailed water quality information designed to inform the public about our safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Penn State is committed to the wise stewardship of our water resources and our water supply meets all federal and state requirements.

Requests for print copies of the Consumer Confidence Report should be directed to:  
Paul Ruskon Company, Inc., Public Affairs Coordinator  
115 Physical Plant Building  
University Park, PA 16802

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