

Hershey draws visitors

By Dan Miller
THE (HARRISBURG) PATRIOT NEWS

HERSHEY — At Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, thousands of eyes are on Hersheypark.

The stadium packs in sellout crowds of about 44,000 for each Phillies game. That's a lot of eyes when the Hersheypark logo crawls across the jumbo screen during replays.

That's one way that Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co. is getting out the message about Hersheypark this summer, said Kim Schaller, the company's executive vice president and chief marketing officer.

The effort is paying off. Hersheypark. The Hotel Hershey and other Hershey attractions are drawing more visitors this summer than in 2009, Schaller said.

The numbers are on par with 2008 but below 2007 levels, when the economy was better and Hershey capitalized on the new Boardwalk water attractions at Hersheypark and the 100th anniversary of the park.

More families visited Hershey attractions in 2009 than ever before. But corporate and other group business was off, and that makes up at least half of Hershey's total.

"Last year was one of the toughest years I've ever experienced," said Schaller, who has 25 seasons at Hershey. "With everything new that we had, it should have been a cakewalk. But with the economy, there was a lot of negativity. People were so unsure,

Companies weren't (traveling) or having major company picnics.

"This time last year, we were dealing with cancellations from groups, and we are still booking group business right now," Schaller said.

In 2009, The Hotel Hershey unveiled a \$70 million face-lift that added 10 luxury cottages. The cottages are selling out in peak season, despite nightly room rates \$100 higher than rates for other rooms at the hotel, Schaller said. Not counting an 11 percent room tax, the starting nightly room rate in the cottages is \$514 for the summer and \$404 after Labor Day.

Justin and Kathrine DiMare of Akron, Ohio, booked a two-night stay in a cottage for the nselfs and their three children. They added a third night because "the kids are having fun," Justin DiMare said.

The DiMares first vacationed in Hershey in 2008 after hearing

about the destination from friends. Last summer, the couple didn't go anywhere, and the DiMares have been saving for this vacation.

Justin DiMare paid full price with no special deals or incentives. He's a certified public accountant with no job worries and good income.

Jan Freitag, the vice president for global development at Smith Travel Research, which tracks hotel trends, said STR projects an 8 percent increase in luxury hotel demand for 2010.

That's compared with weak numbers for 2009. But high-end leisure and corporate travelers are coming back.

"The high-net-worth individual who maybe wasn't so sure where his stock portfolio went in 2009 now realizes that, yes, it's a bumpy ride but we're still doing fine. We can afford to spend time in a nice environment," Freitag said.



Courtesy of tutorgig.com

Hersheypark has drawn several thousand visitors this summer.



Courtesy of WDUKnews.com

Dan Onorato defended unemployed Pennsylvanians on Monday.

Onorato fights for unemployed

By Peter Jackson
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARRISBURG — Democratic candidate for governor Dan Onorato on Monday defended unemployment compensation as a vital, temporary lifeline for out-of-work Pennsylvanians, but was lukewarm about his party's efforts to extend federal jobless benefits.

Onorato hedged when asked about stalled legislation in Congress to extend emergency federal payments to people whose 26 weeks of state-paid benefits have run out. The House has approved the \$33 billion proposal, but Republicans in the Senate have repeatedly blocked a similar measure on grounds that it would increase the national debt.

"I wouldn't be opposed to it, but that's not my issue right now. My issue is to get jobs back to Pennsylvania," Onorato said when pressed for clarification on

his position at a news conference.

Onorato, Allegheny County's elected executive, touted his plan for attracting new jobs and took another swipe at Republican foe Tom Corbett for "insulting the hardworking men and women of Pennsylvania" by suggesting last week that some would rather collect unemployment checks than return to work.

"The problem with jobs in Pennsylvania is not with the workers," he said. "It's that the jobs are gone. We've got to bring jobs back."

Corbett supports federal unemployment benefits, but prefers a GOP plan that would be financed with cuts in other spending, including the federal stimulus program, campaign spokesman Kevin Harley said Monday.

"The jobs are there. But if we keep extending unemployment, people are just going to sit there," Harley said.

Bishop asks forgiveness for former leader's abuse

By Associated Press Writers

ERIE — Worshippers gathering for Sunday services at Episcopal churches in the Erie diocese received a stunning announcement: Their former bishop had sexually abused young girls.

The news came in a letter written by the diocese's current bishop, the Rev. Sean Rowe, and was read at all 34 Episcopal churches in the 13-county Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The abuse involved the Rev. Donald Davis, who served as the bishop there from 1974 until

1991. Davis died in 2007 in Florida at the age of 78.

"Sexual abuse in any form is abhorrent in any community, and as your bishop, I feel particular pain that one of my predecessors betrayed the trust and innocence of children," Rowe wrote in the letter. "On behalf of the church, I offer an abject apology to Bishop Davis' victims, their families, and everyone whose trust in the church has been violated, and I ask for your forgiveness."

Rowe said he first learned of the abuse in March, after one of the

victims called him. He determined her story was credible and learned of three other girls who said Davis abused them. The abuse happened in the late 1970s and early 1980s, some at the diocesan summer camp and other's over time, when the girls were about 10 years old, he said.

Rowe said the girls, now grown, wished to remain anonymous.

He said part of his motivation for going public was to reach out to identify more victims, if they exist; Rowe said no other victims had come forward as of Monday.

Otherwise, it was just about honesty, he said.

"Churches and church communities ... tell the truth and it's the right thing to do," Rowe said Monday.

He said his predecessor, the Rev. Robert Rowley, knew about the allegations as early as 1993 and helped arrange counseling for the girls. Rowley died earlier this year.

In 1994, Davis was asked to resign from the House of Bishops, removed from performing priestly duties and sent to a psychiatrist, Rowe said. The abuse allegations

were never made public until now.

Rowe said that if such an allegation were made today, the diocese immediately would contact police and begin canon law processes.

"The church must be a place where people can come with the deepest wounds and vulnerabilities and be safe. Our churches must be places where children are nurtured and respected and cared for and never harmed or abused in any way," Rowe wrote. "I regret deeply that this has not always been the case in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania."

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Sell it Fast! Collegian Classifieds



By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to 3 people, July 13, 2010.
This year, your emotional and financial security are prime issues. You also have an unmeasured talent that could be a tremendous asset if capitalized on. Your creativity and imagination will be necessary. Sometimes you feel unacknowledged by work-related responsibilities. You might decide to branch out from your own.

ARIES (March 21-April 19):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ When working with an associate, find or create a light bulb goes off for both of you. To create a mutually beneficial change. Your vision of being a leader and a boss' exists because you're looking for feedback tonight. Let your fan do it.

Taurus (April 20-May 21):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ If you cannot control your mind and prevent your thoughts from floating to other matters, perhaps you need a day off. Handle personal matters then. Your focus is primary. Detaching now could help you gain another perspective tonight. Head home.

GEMINI (May 22-June 20):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ You have many questions, and you cannot get them answered quickly enough to suit you. A family member is far more responsive when indulged. Graciously take a little, and the nature of a conversation could change. Tonight, Discussions flourish. Be open.

CANCER (June 21-July 22):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Involving your spending could be a bit difficult. You want to make a good impression or please another person. Pull back, so you could realize the truth of your situation. Tonight, Use your imagination, and stick to your budget.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Use the Moon in your sign, a host of ideas, projects or social events. Others cannot help but respond to you. Knowing this fact, what would you really like to do? Follow through on what's important. Don't sell yourself short tonight. As you like.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Working behind the scenes would be an unusually powerful decision. Others find you quite alluring right now, and you don't need to say much. A child or a new love affair could knock your socks off. Tonight, Fun and games. Let the child in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Your inner dialogue might be totally unrelated to what is going on around you. Your actions also won't connect. Under the circumstances, you could be more accident-prone. Tonight, if you can, tonight now, follow your thoughts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Take a strong stand. Others need to understand where you are coming from. A friend could be very endearing and supportive. Clearly, you can trust this person. Listen to your instincts tonight. Blaming the candle at both ends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ No matter what is said or what happens, maintain your perspective. You could be taken back by a boss's or another respected person's gesture. Be aware of the changes that could occur if you accept this gesture. Tonight, Listen to music. Allow your imagination to lead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Sometimes what isn't said could be more important than what is. In your case, you might sense what a loved one feels. Plan a trip together soon, if possible. Keep conversations on an individual level tonight. An offer heads your way that is too good to refuse.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Let others come through for you. Sometimes you do way too much for everyone's well-being. Understand where someone is coming from. Let this person express his or her thoughts and feelings, even if it's a tad overwhelming. Tonight, Sit through the possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Maintain an even pace, despite someone's attempt to distract you. Note his or her need to have your attention. Could there be more than friendship here? At a later point, you might want to find out. Tonight, Take some much-needed personal time.

BORN TODAY
Patrique Jack Kemp (1935), actor Patrick Stewart (1940), actor Harrison Ford (1942).

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