

Weather: Today: High 82, Tonight: Low 63, Tomorrow: High 86. Extended forecast at campusweatherservice.com

Man sentenced for explosion

WILKES-BARRE — A northeastern Pennsylvania man was sentenced to eight to 16 years in prison for sparking an explosion that damaged 59 properties and injured two young girls.

Baby giraffe born at zoo

PHILADELPHIA — It's a girl! And she's 6 feet tall! The Philadelphia Zoo is welcoming a newborn giraffe — the first to be born at the zoo in 13 years.

Truck crashes into deer, found dead

CRABTREE — Police believe a western Pennsylvania bicyclist who struck a deer with his bike killed himself in the crash.

Burglary attempted with hammer, chisel

WYOMING — Police have arrested a man they say tried to use a hammer and chisel to break through the wall of a home to commit a burglary.

Boy hospitalized after joyride

WYOMING — Police say a 12-year-old southwestern Pennsylvania boy is hospitalized after crashing his family's utility vehicle while joyriding.

Police identify two men killed Tuesday

PENNSYLVANIA — Authorities in western Pennsylvania have identified two men shot and killed early Tuesday in the Pittsburgh suburb of Penn Hills.

Judiciary panel OKs Kagan

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — Pushing toward an election-year Supreme Court confirmation vote, a polarized Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday approved Elena Kagan to be the fourth female justice.



Nominee Elena Kagan answers questions during a hearing in June.

Just one Republican joined Democrats to approve Kagan's nomination and send it to the full Senate, where she's expected to win confirmation within weeks.

At the White House, Obama hailed the vote as a "bipartisan affirmation of her strong performance" in confirmation hearings, and said Kagan would be "a fair and impartial" justice who understands the impact of Supreme Court decisions on everyday people's lives.

He called on the Senate to confirm her before Congress takes a monthlong summer break starting August 7 — a deadline Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he looks forward to meeting.

Strategists on both sides expect a few more Republicans to back Kagan in the full Senate, where Democrats have more than enough votes to confirm her.

Several Republicans believed to be potential supporters of Kagan's said in brief interviews Tuesday that they had yet to decide whether to back her.

They include Sens. Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire and Olympia Snowe of Maine.

But Kagan is likely to win fewer GOP supporters than Obama's first high court pick, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, in part because of the heightened political pressures facing senators little more than 100 days out from midterm election contests.

Most Republicans are against Kagan, arguing that she would put

her political views ahead of the law.

They point to what they call her liberal agenda and on such issues as abortion and gun rights, and have chastised her for the decision as dean of Harvard Law School to bar military recruiters from the campus career services office because of the policy against openly gay soldiers.

"She has deeply held liberal, progressive views," said Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel. As a justice, he said, Kagan "will not be the objective, impartial arbiter and settler of disputes, but someone who would use the opportunity to redefine words to advance an agenda that's not in the court's role to advance."

Democrats praised Kagan, the 50-year-old who has served as the Obama administration's solicitor general, calling her a highly qualified glass ceiling-shattering nominee who could bring consensus to an ideologically divided court.

"It becomes more and more apparent that we need a return to the center and a justice who will urge moderation and who will push for consensus."

Elena Kagan's record gives me confidence that she could be just such a voice," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Her swearing-in would also mark the first time that three women have served together on the nine-member Supreme Court of its overall history.

The debate over her nomination has unfolded against a highly partisan backdrop, at a time when

Republicans are focused on making sharp distinctions between themselves and Obama, whose approval ratings are sagging.

"It's a tough political environment out there," noted Graham.

Republicans have been quicker to announce their opposition to Kagan than they were last year to Sotomayor.

Graham is the only Republican so far to say he'll vote "yes."

Democrats attributed the difference to political considerations by the GOP.

"Sadly, it appears election-year politics may deprive her of the vote total that her nomination deserves," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Politically active conservative groups are pressuring GOP senators to oppose Kagan's nomination.

The National Rifle Association is urging a "no" vote or a filibuster to block Kagan outright, saying she's hostile to the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms, and has warned that it will downgrade supporters in candidate ratings that are circulated to millions of gun-owning voters.

The Susan B. Anthony List, an anti-abortion rights group, wrote to senators Monday urging opposition based on Kagan's actions as a Clinton administration official to resist a broad ban on a procedure opponents call partial-birth abortion.

The group pointed to Kagan's intervention with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in the mid-1990s to prevent the professional group from issuing a flat statement saying the controversial procedure was never medically necessary.

B.o.B

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said the timing of the concert is particularly good.

"The reason I like it is because it's at the beginning of the year," Duggan (junior-public relations) said. "It's good to have such a big concert at the beginning of the school because everyone gets back, and I think with everyone returning from summer they haven't seen each other, so I think it's a good way to get back with your group of friends."

Bernie Punt, director of sales and marketing for the BJC, said the concert was scheduled because both of the artists are "hot, big [artists]."

"They were both available, and we teamed them together. I think this is going to be the first time they've been on the same billing," he said. "This is kind of two artists that are emerging this summer. I know there's a lot of popularity not only with college students but high school students as well. It should go pretty well."

Because of UPAC funding, students can purchase discounted \$20 tickets at noon on July 28 with a

valid student ID at the BJC, Eisenhower Auditorium and Downtown Theatre.

Tickets for the general public go on sale at noon on July 30 for \$35.

They can be purchased at the BJC, Eisenhower Auditorium, Downtown Theatre and Penn State Altoona Campus, online at bjc.psu.edu or by calling (814) 865-5555.

Punt also said the BJC plans to "re-launch" ticket sales again in the HUB once school begins for students.

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Makeover

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"I think with Kate in charge, she's our fearless leader, she's terrific," Marshall said. "She's going to organize everybody, so everything gets done in a very timely way, so I'm very excited for it."

Kissell said she became involved with the show after the owner of Custom Home Furnishing Academy, Margie Nance, recommended her to producer Ann Cummings.

Nance said Cummings often asks for suggestions for people in different locations, and when Cummings asked for someone in Pennsylvania, Nance immediately thought of Kissell.

"Kate's been to our school several

times," Nance said. "She's trained very hard and taken so many different courses, and she loves her craft and what she does, and I've seen her work, and she's done excellent work, so I have no doubt that she'll do a good job."

Kissell, who owns local interior design business Picadilly Interiors, said she has assembled a team of about 20 fabricators and four to five installers.

Though she said she won't know what the project entails until "the day the interior designers knock on the door and talk to the family," she is looking forward to getting started and seeing how she matches up to the challenge of designing.

"I am so excited," Kissell said. "It's probably one of the most exciting things I've done professionally in

my business at Picadilly Interiors. I'm most excited to find out about this house and the circumstances that the family is in to receive this gift. Everyone I've talked to is just so willing and excited to do this for this family."

Though Kissell said she does not think she will obtain a lot of "TV coverage" because she will be "one of a couple hundred in a red shirt," viewers will be able to see the items she and her team make.

Overall, Nance said she thinks Kissell will meet the challenge.

"Kate is just a great person," she said. "I know that the producers will enjoy working with her, and volunteering to do this is something she's really looking forward to doing."

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Camping

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last weekend that drew about 1,000 people.

There are 80 campsites in the state park, Block said.

Each campsite has a picnic table and a fire ring and most of them can accommodate either a tent or a trailer.

The area has a sanitary dump station and washhouses with flush toilets, showers and coin-operated laundry machines.

Most sites have electrical hookups, Block said.

Block said the camping season begins in March and ends in late December.

Campers can make their reservations online or call 888-PA-PARKS, Block said.

Raystown Lake Region is another

area students can camp and enjoy wildlife only minutes from State College.

The Raystown Lake Region is located in neighboring Huntingdon County, about 30 miles from State College.

The region was recently named one of the "Coolest Small Towns in America" for 2009 by Budget Travel Magazine, according to the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau website.

"A lot of people come here for boating purposes," Raystown Lake Region Ranger Allen Gwinn said.

Gwinn said the lake region offers campsites that are open from April 1 until Nov. 1.

People don't have to make a reservation to camp in the region but they are available upon request, Gwinn said.

Gwinn and Block both said people need to respect nature and the other

people who are visiting the campsites.

"We sometimes tend to forget that we are not the only ones that are out there having a great time — try to be more considered and safe in our recreation activities," Gwinn said.

Mullins said he has been camping in the State College area for ten years and there are several pieces of equipment he won't leave his house without, including his backpack, a good sleeping bag, a tent, hiking shoes and a first aid kit.

Mullins said student adventurers are encouraged to read guidebooks before going on their trip for advice and to be somewhat prepared.

"That will give you detailed information — people that write these books are usually the people that lay the trail and maintain the campsites," Mullins said.

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