Wednesday, July 21, 2010

LOCAL & NATION

Sentenced for explosion

LKES-BARRE — A northeastern Pennsylvania man en sentenced to eight to 16 years in prison for sparking plosion that damaged 59 properties and injured two age girls

May 43 year-old David Lamoreaux admitted causing ummer's fiery blast that left him with severe burns

ring months of treatment. Tuesday, Luzerne County Judge Tina Polachek Gartley

need Lamoreaux on two counts of arson and one count using a catastrophe. secutors say Lamoreaux wanted to kill himself and

to lure his estranged wife into the home.

ensuing blast knocked down two passing teens, one of a suffered a broken leg. The explosion also damaged 55

es, three businesses and a school.

by giraffe born at zoo

ULADELPHIA --- It's a girl! And she's 6 feet tall! The Philadelphia Zoo is welcoming a newborn giraffe --- the

to be born at the zoo in 13 years.

e unnamed female born Saturday is the offspring of 9--old Stella and 4-year-old Gus.

to officials made the birth announcement Tuesday.

bey say the giraffe was delivered after a 15-month gestaand that both mother and calf are doing well.

dicials aron't sure when Stella and her calf will make their oc debut

hey say the first few weeks of a calf's life are the most crit-

an crashes into deer, found dead

RABTREE - Police believe a western Pennsylvania revelist who struck a deer with his bike killed himself r die crasb.

tate police say 47 year-old William Amos, of Export, likely sta self-inflicted gunshot wound on Friday.

nos' body was discovered under his bike near a dead deer e readway in Crabtree, about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh. a stigators initially suspected Amos died from injuries red in the crash, but they discovered a handgun and a for accord to the back of his head after lifting the bike off his

Be police Tpr. Stephen Limani says investigators are still Bing the results of gunpowder residue tests.

relary attempted with hammer, chisel

 $x \in CASTER$ — Police have arrested a man they say tried as a harmer and chisel to break through the wall of a plagency to commit a burglary.

auboraties say they arrested 35-year-old Sitha Hen after he to chisel through the rear wall of the Labor Ready temp net in Macheim Township.

Here say an officer saw Hen chiseling into the wall before the an first deaving behind a basketball-sized hole in the

more captured a short time later. server hig held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

y hospitalized after joyride

Police say a 12-year-old southwestern $VE(1, \Lambda)$ expense how is hospitalized after crashed his family's within vehicle while joyriding.

allee to Washington County haven't released the name or division of the boy, who is being treated at UPMC's ing on s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

elles say the boy took the vehicle from his home in mendence Township early Tuesday then drove several setted a crashing into a utility pole on Route 50.

about 20 miles west of Pittsburgh.

one courif the boy will be charged in the incident.

Extended forecast at Weather: High 82 Tonight: Tomorrow: campusweatherservice.com Low 63 High 86 Courtesy of Campus Weather Service

Judiciary panel OKs Kagan

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

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

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.

"Elena Kagan will be confirmed," predicted Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the Judiciary chairman. "She will go on the U.S. Supreme Court.'

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., broke with his party to cast the sole GOP "yes" vote on President Obama's nominee to succeed Justice John Paul Stevens, who retired in June.

The vote was 13-6.

"What's in Elena Kagan's heart is that of a good person who adopts a philosophy I disagree with,' Graham said. "She will serve this nation honorably, and it would not have been someone I would have chosen, but the person who did choose, President Obama, I think chose wisely."

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.

Kagan, arguing that she would put san backdrop, at a time when medically necessary.



Nominee Elena Kagan answers questions during a hearing in June.

her political views ahead of the law. 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 50year-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 millions of gun-owning voters. 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.

If confirmed, Kagan would be the fourth woman to serve on the court.

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.

Republicans are focused on making They point to what they call her 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

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 The debate over her nomination issuing a flat statement saying the Most Republicans are against has unfolded against a highly parti- controversial procedure was never

nice identify two men killed Tuesday

NN HILLS - Authorities in western Pennsylvania have unfield two men shot and killed early Tuesday in the shareh suburb of Penn Hills.

Hegheny County Medical Examiner's office says the ions were 34-year-old Shawn Houser of Erie and 27-yearextrem Houser of Penn Hills

and say Jaison Houser was shot to death in the sport-utilensure he was driving from a bar at about 2:30 a.m.

 $\partial \log \sin h$ is half brother ran from the car but collapsed and died.

escienters say it's unclear whether the shooting was ed our cont violence in nearby eastern Pittsburgh neighheads

thusburgh police stepped up patrols in the city's East End abborhoods, where two 17-year-olds were shot and killed they allegedly tried to rob an armed man inside a vehith Monday.

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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."

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

Bernie Punt, director of sales and valid student ID at the BJC, Auditorium and Eisenhower Downtown Theatre.

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

They can be purchased at the Eisenhower Auditorium, BJC. 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 my business at Picadilly Interiors. 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 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.¹ 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.

sites have electrical Most 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.

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 America" for 2009 by Budget Travel Magazine, according 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 Raystown Lake Region is another 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 one of the "Coolest Small Towns in 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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