

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police: Man's phone stolen

A man living at 705 Edgewood Circle reported Sunday that his phone had been stolen and several hundred dollars of phone calls had been made on the phone, the State College Police Department said.

Downtown bar cited for loud music

The Mezzanine, 420 E. College Ave., has been cited by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement (PBLCE) for playing music that could be heard from outside the establishment on May 19, according to a PBLCE press release.

Police seize 2,000 marijuana plants

FRIEDENS — State police have seized more than 2,000 marijuana plants found growing in a wooded area of southwestern Pennsylvania.

State police in Somerset say a private landowner tipped them off to the plants, which were found in the middle of an 1,800-acre tract that can only be accessed by all-terrain vehicles. Police say they also found two campsites nearby, but they aren't saying who owns the land or the campsites and they've not charged anybody in connection with the plants.

Police announced the find Monday, but say they were alerted to the plants a week ago. Some of the plants were in the ground, while others were being grown in small plastic cups. Police say they seized 2,376 of the plants.

The tract is in Stonycreek Township, about 60 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

Geese causing sanitation issues

ALBION — Officials at a state prison in northwestern Pennsylvania prison say they're having a harder time keeping geese out of the facility than they are keeping prisoners inside.

Officials at the State Correctional Institution at Albion say an abundance of geese droppings are creating a sanitary problem inside the prison and in the parking lot outside.

The inmates have been cleaning up the mess, but it's so big the U.S. Department of Agriculture is being asked to help.

Harris Glass, a USDA official, says a crew is being sent to the prison about 20 miles southwest of Erie to use "nonlethal" techniques to scare the geese away. That will include pyrotechnics, propane cannons and trained dogs. That's expected to take about three months.

Erie beaches to temporarily close

ERIE — Swimmers will have to be more choosy this week when visiting Presque Isle State Park in Erie.

That's because three beaches will be closed through Thursday so crews can replenish sand on them.

Beaches 9 and 10 and a third at the Sunset Point area are affected by the work.

The beaches are being closed primarily because there will be a lot of truck traffic in the area to bring the sand to those beaches.

All the park's beaches will remain open on weekends while the sand replenishment work continues.

Ambulance crashes into creek

COWANSHANNOCK — Police in western Pennsylvania are investigating a crash involving an ambulance that ended up in a creek.

Armstrong County emergency dispatchers say the ambulance crashed around 5 a.m. Monday in Cowanshannock, about 50 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. The ambulance was transported a patient at the time.

Another ambulance took the patient to a hospital but the driver was unhurt. State police are investigating.

THEFT

Theft: A Macbook laptop was reported stolen at 6:07 a.m. Saturday from an apartment at 425 Waupelani Drive, the State College Police Department said.

Correction: An article "Café seeking new location" on page 1 of Thursday's Daily Collegian unclearly stated the State College Downtown Improvement District's involvement with assisting Webster's Bookstore Café in its attempt to relocate. The organization will assist Webster's in securing funding from outside sources to re-open in a new location.

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Weather: Today: High 84, Tonight: Low 58, Tomorrow: High 88

DeWeese charges headed to trial

By Mark Scoloro ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARRISBURG — Political corruption charges against a senior Democrat in the state House were sent to county court for trial Monday after a district judge heard his employees describe working on campaigns on state time.

The preliminary hearing for state Rep. Bill DeWeese, D-Greene, a former House speaker and majority leader, was the latest courtroom episode in the attorney general's office's 3 1/2-year investigation into the alleged diversion of taxpayer resources for electioneering.

Some of the most critical evidence in the five-hour hearing took the form of DeWeese's December testimony to an investigative grand jury.

In it, DeWeese acknowledged having campaign fundraising specialists on his staff and expressed regret over a successful campaign to remove Ralph Nader from the 2004 presidential ballot in Pennsylvania.

It was an effort that enlisted legislative employees during work hours.

"Looking back, it was wrong — they shouldn't have done it, but it was part of the political culture on Capitol Hill," DeWeese told the jury, according to the transcript read by

deputy attorney general Michael A. Sprow.

DeWeese also told the grand jury that some state Senate employees had their official Capitol phone numbers listed in Campaigns & Elections magazine.

His attorney asked Linglestown District Judge William Wenner to order prosecutors to produce the entire 203-page transcript of DeWeese's testimony, so he could put it into proper context.

Defense attorney Bill Costopoulos said that transcript, along with "profiler" notes from DeWeese's previous meetings with the attorney general's office, would show that DeWeese has maintained the campaign work performed by his staff was done using compensatory time, and not on taxpayers' dime.

"I always asked for vacation days, for personal days and to make sure people were using comp hours, so that's why I feel solid in my circumstance," DeWeese told reporters after the hearing.

He said he can produce numerous witnesses to back up his recollection.

Prosecutors argued that grand jury rules prevented them from releasing the transcript overnight, but they offered to have an agent wait with Costopoulos and Wenner while they read it. The judge refused

Costopoulos' request, the prosecution rested and the felony charges against DeWeese of theft, conspiracy and conflict of interest were forwarded to Dauphin County court for trial.

Earlier Monday, one of DeWeese's former fundraising aides testified that DeWeese reassured him about performing campaign-related work on state time.

Kevin Sidella said that in 2002 he and DeWeese were alone in a vehicle, driving from the state Capitol to DeWeese's apartment, when Sidella asked him about the propriety of the research he was performing.

DeWeese's response, Sidella told the judge: "Our saving grace is everybody does it."

Sidella, who currently works as a political consultant, said there were times when more than 40 percent of his time on the Legislature's payroll was spent doing campaign work.

Sidella described a campaign meeting in DeWeese's Waynesburg home during which DeWeese became angry at a legislative aide for failing to put up enough yard signs.

"Bill just yelled out that she should be fired," Sidella said. Another attendee said that would not be legal, Sidella said, but the message was clear to get the yard signs installed.

Demolition

From Page 1.

the university has decided to get rid of it," Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said.

But university officials said restoring the house would be too costly.

Because of vandalism to the prop-

erty in the days prior to its sale and general cosmetic disrepair, building renovations would have cost the university millions of dollars, Mountz said.

Sandy Deveney, a member of the Phi Delta Theta alumni board of directors, said he would rather see the house restored to its former grandeur.

But if that doesn't happen,

Deveney said he is hoping to have a plaque installed, commemorating the historical significance and memories behind the property.

The demolition of the house is planned to be completed by mid-August and the "green space" will be worked on throughout the fall semester, Mountz said.

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Arson

From Page 1.

Police said they have been waiting for test results of evidence collected by investigators in that arson — results that police said could help them determine exactly what accelerant was used to start the fire.

Police could not say how long it will be before the crime lab finishes its analysis.

In the meantime, the State College Police are continuing with their investigation in other ways.

State College resident David Wise, 18, said police contacted him sometime last week to conduct an interview about the arson that

destroyed an unmarked police vehicle.

Wise said he met with police in the State College Borough Municipal Building for a 15-minute interview with an officer.

Police asked Wise where he had been at the time of the July 18 arson, but Wise said he was at home with his parents, Wise said.

Wise did not know why police decided to interview him, he said.

Wise said he is leaving for Marine Corps boot camp in two weeks.

Police were also able to identify through a tip last week two other men of interest to their investigation that were seen on surveillance footage in a State College parking garage "at or around the time" that

the police vehicle was destroyed on July 18.

Police have interviewed the two men and said they have cooperated fully with the investigation.

Wise said he doesn't know either of the two men in the surveillance footage from the parking garage.

Police have also connected the Marine Corps recruiting office fire to a June 21 incident in which a homemade bomb was left on the trunk of a State College Police Department marked vehicle.

That homemade bomb was quickly extinguished by a State College police officer and caused only minor damage to the cruiser.

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Bus

From Page 1.

"We recognized over the years that we need to stay modern."

While other bus companies offer similar amenities, Weisman said Fullington offers superior customer service with live telephone operators, effective lost-and-found services, excellent on-time records and terminals.

Weisman said the combination of on-time schedules and indoor terminals offers travelers a superior alternative to curbside service offered by other companies by providing an escape from the extreme temperatures during the year.

"A lot of times, if you're curbside service, you will not have a terminal," Weisman said. "We have a terminal, we have employees at the terminal, we feel that having a terminal is the better way to go."

Dale Moser, president of Coach USA and MegaBus.com, said MegaBus provides about 70 departures and arrivals every week in State College.

Moser said MegaBus has become popular with students over the past few months with tickets starting at \$1 and amenities like free Wi-Fi and plug-in outlets for electronics.

"Even if you don't get \$1 seats, you get some other discount," Moser said. "It's hugely popular."

Moser said the company has

served more than six million passengers in its four years of business and is currently serving about one million passengers every four months.

He added that MegaBus.com has given away 9,000 free tickets on various trips through September over the past three weeks and will give away another 1,000 tickets as part of a company special to increase traveling.

"It was a promotion to get people out and traveling," Moser said. "What we wanted to do is to stimulate travel. It was sort of our way to give back and try to get people out and moving."

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South Halls

From Page 1.

Latta said there would also be some architecture changes to add some "character, class and warmth" to the buildings so they aren't as linear.

University spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said she was not aware of any further plans to expand on-campus housing.

Plans to convert Simmons Dining Hall into a living space are scheduled to go forward, Garvin said.

The project, which is expected to begin in the spring, is expected to

create about 70 dorm rooms, she said.

These projects come after another year of increased requests to live on-campus.

Room assignments were posted on eliving.psu.edu yesterday — and about 900 students were assigned to supplemental housing, Garvin said. The number of students in supplemental housing has increased as popularity and demand for on-campus housing has risen.

Until more housing options are available, the housing office will try to do all they can to make students comfortable, Garvin said.

As regular dorm space becomes

available, students in supplemental — who were notified of their housing placement last year — will be offered the opportunity to move. The housing service decides who to offer to leave supplemental by the date that students accepted the offer of admission.

This year, the amount of students assigned to supplemental housing is at a "standard" level, Garvin said.

With the expected loss of some students, Garvin said supplemental housing will "come to a really good number for everyone to be comfortable."

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Bouncer

From Page 1.

While escorting people from the bar can cause problems, Petraitis said the tougher job is keeping people out.

"The main problem is whenever we don't let people in because they're too drunk," Petraitis said. "I've seen a guy come up to me in the morning after a football weekend with puke all over his shirt."

Petraitis said that while kicking people out is sometimes difficult, kicking women out is usually more difficult than men.

Petraitis said he keeps his hands in his pockets and just asks the women to leave to avoid them from getting angry.

Blake Hopkins, a Phyrst bouncer, echoed the statement that women are more difficult to escort out of the bar.

"A technique that I use if a girl is

too drunk to be in the bar: I'll go up to her friends," Hopkins said. "Because most of the time, there'll be one sober friend and I'll talk to her and she'll deal with the situation and get her out of here so there is no problem."

Hopkins said he escorts someone out of the bar a couple of times a night during the school year, but during the summer it is more relaxed.

Hopkins said escorting people from the bar is the toughest part, because many are too drunk to understand.

"The worst part is dealing with drunk people who are out of control and don't understand what's going on," Hopkins (senior-telecommunications) said. "You're trying to tell them, but you can't really get through to them. You try to be calm."

Hopkins said one of his main responsibilities is to check the IDs of people entering the bar, but he also

walks around to make sure everyone is having a good time and not starting any trouble.

Hopkins said the Phyrst uses an ID scanner to ensure that people don't get in with fake IDs.

"People know in this town it's very hard to get into bars with fake IDs," Hopkins said. "We catch all of them, because we have that scanner. We've taken classes to study fake IDs too. So we know what's fake and what's not."

William Conway, a doorman at Gingerbread Man, said the bar catches several fake IDs at the beginning of the semester, but less after students realize they will get caught.

Conway (senior-psychology) said the bar also catches more fake IDs during large events including the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts when the bar caught five fake IDs in one night.

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