

Health care clinic open

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Opened last Thursday, the walk-in clinic Nittany Urgent Care has seen more than 10 patients, and physician Dr. Paul Kattupalli anticipates activity to increase.

The 2615 E. College Ave. facility features six examination rooms, an x-ray room, a conference room and a laboratory used for basic blood-glucose tests, urinalyses and pregnancy tests.

A small storage room serves as a makeshift pharmacy, with two wood closets housing prescription medication offered to patients on-site. The waiting room just inside is slowly being filled with toys, books and magazines.

Nittany Urgent Care, catering to patients of all ages, is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the workweek, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The clinic's staff — currently comprised of two physicians, a nurse and an x-ray technician —

are trained and equipped to treat cases from infectious diseases to gastrointestinal maladies, bone fractures and psychiatric disorders.

Not only will patients find the clinic's hours and wide range of services convenient, but they will appreciate some financial aspects of Nittany Medical Care, as well, Lori Facer, the clinic's nurse, said.

"We accept medical assistance here," Facer said, "and that's something that most other doctors in this area have been turning down lately."

Students are particularly encouraged to take advantage of the clinic's promotional physical exam package, offered for \$25. Kattupalli said discounted vaccinations, sports injuries treatment and drug screening tests, as well as hearing and vision tests for driver's license examinations were also developed with Penn Staters in mind.

Locals and students alike may benefit from a few innovative programs specific to the Nittany Urgent Care clinic, including a

weight reduction program combining medication with nutritional planning, as well as individual counseling about the long-term effects of smoking and sexually transmitted infections.

Kattupalli, trained in psychiatry and family medicine, said counseling is offered to every patient, regardless of their case, to ensure they understand their conditions.

"We give specific, comprehensive education for all infections and diseases," Kattupalli said. "We don't just treat our patients and tell them to go home."

He said he often refers his patients to his personal website, drpaul.org, for access to more than 200 lectures he has given at universities in Florida and Pennsylvania about common ailments.

Nittany Medical Care also hopes to provide State College with further opportunities for both education and treatment by hosting free clinics downtown in the future, Kattupalli said.

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Collegian file photo

The Premiere Theater, 125 Premiere Dr., will undergo renovations.

Local theater to see renovations

By Karina Yücel
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Premiere Theatre 12, 125 Premiere Drive, could be completely made over by the 2010 Thanksgiving holiday season.

General Manager of Theatre Operations Steve Ross said renovations on the theater will hopefully start by the end of August or beginning of September, adding he is "hoping to be done for the holiday movie schedule, by Nov. 1."

The renovations include expanding the lobby by installing new tiles and carpet, moving the box office location and adding an all-new concession stand, Ross said. Changing the box office's location will alleviate some of the traffic that occurs when the theater is busy, he said.

"You're not going to have lines like you are used to seeing in movie theaters," Ross said.

State College Township Zoning Officer John Franek Jr. agrees with Ross.

"The biggest improvement is a bigger indoor waiting area for movie-goers," Franek Jr. said.

He added that the renovations to the inside lobby will "help with people waiting in line. People won't have to wait outside in the weather."

Alex Quercetti (senior-architectural engineering) said the Premiere 12 gets crowded often.

"It gets backed up," he said.

Quercetti and his friend Sarah Wujcik said they are regular moviegoers at the Premiere 12. When it's really busy, Quercetti said, people will walk right past the box office and go into the theater without paying.

The new concession stands will

be state of the art — with all new menus, food options and a beverage station where customers will be able to get their own drinks, Ross said.

Chefs will sell all different types of food including pizza, funnel cakes, fries, White Castle burgers and flat sandwiches, he added.

Scardy Maceus (senior-education) said the planned renovations sound interesting. White Castle does not have any franchises in or around State College, and Maceus said he likes the idea of State College adding the restaurant.

To keep up with the recent 3D trend in movies, the theatre will add another projector with 3D capability. In addition, up to 10 out of the 12 auditoriums will get all new leather rocking chairs to replace the old seating, Ross said.

"We don't want to lose the theater but we'll see how it goes," Ross said. He added the corporation had a similar project in a Tennessee location that went well, and they were able to keep the theater open throughout the renovation.

"I would want to check out what was different," Maceus said. Wujcik (senior-architectural engineering) said it is easier to get to Premiere 12 by bus than other theaters in the area, and if they renovate the lobby students might be able to sit inside while waiting for the bus to come back to campus.

Quercetti said he doesn't think the theater needs renovations, but that they can only make the establishment better.

"It's the best theatre in the area," he said.

OPP expects delays along Park Avenue

Construction to resurface Park Avenue will create traffic congestion for local motorists.

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College motorists should expect delays on Park Avenue with construction already underway to resurface the road.

The project also includes the construction of curb ramps along the roadway, with the construction area extending from Atherton Street to Orchard Road, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) press officer Marla Fannin said.

"Park Avenue is a major access road to the stadiums and the university," Office of Physical Plant (OPP) spokesman Paul Ruskin said. "It needs to be brought up to top condition."

Motorists should expect traffic delays between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. during construction. The road will also be restricted to one-way traffic during construction, and drivers should watch for roadway flaggers directing traffic, Fannin said.

Traffic on Park Avenue may

also be stopped entirely during the construction process depending on the situation, Fannin said. PennDOT crews will be working during the night in order to alleviate traffic congestion on the road during the day, she said.

"You get fewer impacts at nighttime compared to daytime," Fannin said.

But residents of the College Heights neighborhood and motorists trying to access campus after 5 p.m. will notice the disturbance, Ruskin said.

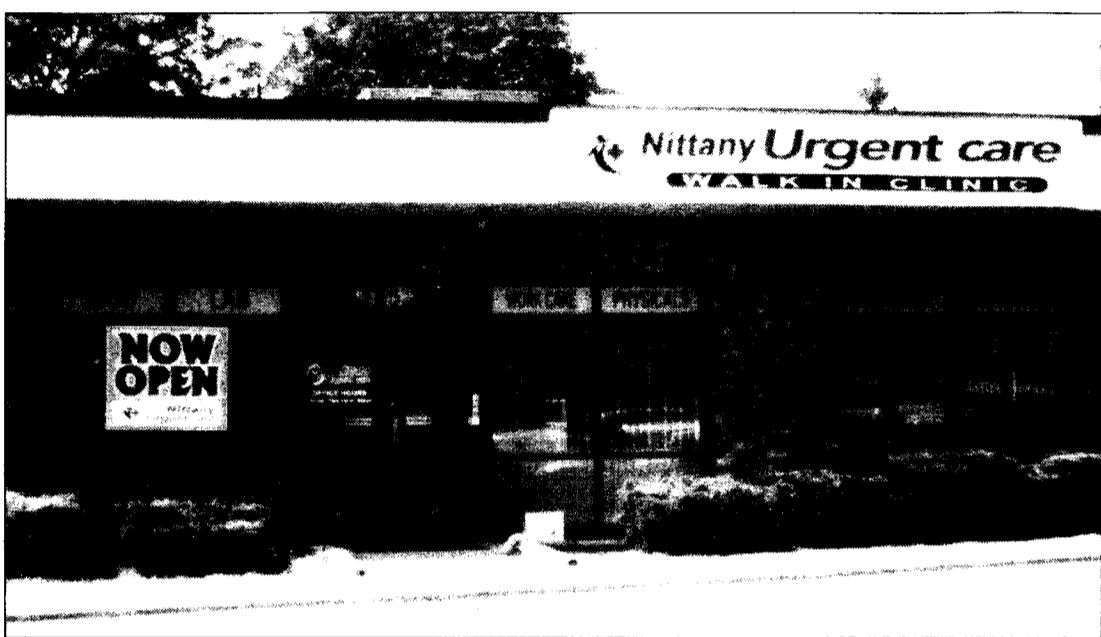
Noise from the construction on Park Avenue — in addition to safety lighting in place at the construction site — may cause a disruption during the night, Ruskin said.

About 20 different roads in Centre and Clinton Counties are being resurfaced as part of a \$3.7 million group project, Fannin said.

Construction on Park Avenue began July 21. The estimated completion time for the group project is mid-October, according to a PennDOT press release.

The contractor for the project, HRI, was unavailable for comment by press time Sunday.

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M. Antonio Silas

Nittany Urgent Care, 2615 E. College Ave., opened its doors to patients last Thursday.

Professor advances research

Leslie Parent discovered a new step in the replication of the AIDS virus.

By Micah Wintner
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

A team of Penn State College of Medicine researchers has discovered a new step in the replication process of a retrovirus — a development that has the potential to shed light on how HIV replicates itself.

Infectious diseases professor Leslie Parent led the research team in their new discovery.

Discovering a new step in the replication process is important because a drug cannot be developed to combat HIV until its path route through the cell is understood, Parent said.

The study was done on the retrovirus Rous sarcoma, which affects chickens, Parent said. The

retroviruses, like HIV, could use a pathway similar to Rous sarcoma to replicate themselves, she said.

This replication process begins with the production by messenger RNA of a protein called Gag. The research team discovered that once the virus starts to replicate itself, there is a step where Gag protein enters the nucleus of a cell and binds itself to the viral RNA there, Parent said.

The Gag protein then binds to an "export factor" which allows it to leave the nucleus, she said.

Despite this discovery, Parent says more research needs to be done on the subject.

"This is still a kind of basic science question that has potential to lead to something," Parent said.

Rous sarcoma and HIV do not behave in exactly the same way, so to say a cure can now be found for HIV would be an overstatement, Parent said.

The research team's study is based on a 2002 experiment where a drug was applied to a cell with the virus that allowed Gag protein to be seen

in the nucleus, Parent said.

Parent called this the "eureka moment" that prompted the research team to investigate how Gag enters the nucleus.

Eight years later, the mechanisms of the Gag protein's pathway to the nucleus are now understood, Parent said.

But the Penn State community is fortunate enough to see little of the HIV epidemic, said Suzanne Zeman, who oversees the HIV testing program for the Health Promotion and Wellness Department.

"There is not a high incident rate of HIV at all here," she said. "In general, the rate is extremely low."

Despite a low HIV incident rate, University Health Services provides students with free, confidential HIV testing by appointment, which is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Zeman said.

Testing is also provided downtown by The AIDS Project, 141 W. Beaver Ave., and Planned Parenthood, 137 S. Pugh St., Zeman said.

Boat pilot could face charges

By Maryclaire Dale
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA — A lawyer for the pilot of the tug pushing a barge that sank a duck boat in Philadelphia fears his client could face federal felony charges over the deadly crash.

"The reason he hasn't said anything up to this point is, you're always concerned about criminal charges," lawyer Frank DeSimone said.

"I have to err on the side of caution."

Two Hungarian students, ages 16 and 20, died in the July 7 crash, which plunged 35 passengers and two crew members aboard the stalled duck boat into the swift Delaware River.

"I feel terrible, and my client feels terrible, about the two people who died," DeSimone said Monday.

He said he hopes to have his

client speak with investigators someday about the deadly July 7 crash but has so far advised him to remain silent.

DeSimone is especially concerned about the relatively low threshold for involuntary manslaughter under the federal law.

The federal statute requires only simple negligence, compared with the extreme negligence required under state law for that charge, he said.

The tug pilot, a mate, has not been identified either by authorities or DeSimone. The mate was piloting the tug while the captain was on break, the Coast Guard has said.

In radio communications released Friday, the tug is heard telling the Coast Guard: "We are the ones that, I guess, capsized the duck boat."

We're on scene, but we do have a barge alongside so there's not

too, too much we can do."

The National Transportation and Safety Board is preparing a preliminary report based on interviews, post-crash tests of the vessels and other evidence. The report is not likely to be completed before Labor Day, and a final report could take another year, NTSB spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz said Monday.

On Monday, officials in New Jersey released a recording of a 911 call reporting the collision from that side of the Delaware River.

"A barge just ran over one of the duck boats on the Delaware River. There are people in the water," the caller told a police dispatcher.

The dispatcher put him on hold for more than 40 seconds. He then tried unsuccessfully to transfer the call to Philadelphia police, before giving the caller that number to call.

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