

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton pays back school district

ALLENTOWN — An eastern Pennsylvania school district says Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign has paid a bill stemming from an April 2008 appearance at a Bethlehem school.

Officials say the \$15,082 check from the Hillary for President organization was presented to the Bethlehem Area School District on Tuesday while Bill Clinton was campaigning in the area.

Board members, especially Republican Irene Follweiler, have publicly chided the former presidential candidate for not paying the bill. Follweiler last month asked business manager Stacy Guber to seek out someone in the Democratic party to seek payment during Bill Clinton's visit to the Lehigh Valley.

Guber said in an e-mail to board members Tuesday that Bethlehem business administrator Dennis Reichard helped put officials in touch with Hillary Clinton's campaign treasurer, who had been "unaware there was an outstanding balance."

Pa. corrections secretary to retire

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Corrections Secretary Jeffrey Beard will retire next week after nearly four decades working for the department, his office said Tuesday.

Press secretary Sue McNaughton said Beard does not have immediate plans for his life after leaving the agency he has run since 2001. His last day will be Aug. 20.

Gov. Ed Rendell's office said a successor has not been named.

Beard began working for the prison system as a counselor at the Rockview State Prison and moved up the ranks there to eventually become superintendent. He later headed up Camp Hill State Prison after two major riots there did widespread damage to the facility.

Pennsylvania Prison Society executive director Bill DiMascio credited him for efforts to improve visitation and to reduce the number of nonviolent offenders inside prison walls, but gave him mixed marks overall.

The Pennsylvania prison system currently has more than 51,000 inmates and a budget of \$1.8 billion.

Two men charged with murder

ALLENTOWN — Authorities in eastern Pennsylvania have charged two men with robbing and killing a woman outside a nightclub almost three years ago.

Lehigh County prosecutors say 30-year-old Christian Bueno of Brooklyn, N.Y. and 27-year-old Dennis Velez of Allentown are charged with homicide, robbery and conspiracy in the September 2007 shooting death of 45-year-old Debra Robberson of Hereford.

Robberson's body was found inside her minivan in the parking lot of the Diamondz Night Club and Restaurant in Bethlehem. District Attorney James Martin said Tuesday that the murder was a crime of opportunity and there is no evidence that the victim, who was gay, was targeted because of her sexuality.

Velez is in Lehigh County Prison on unrelated charges and Bueno is in state prison in New York on assault charges; it was unclear whether they have attorneys.

Police: Man believed to have taken son

WILKINSBURG — Wilkesburg police say a man in a custody dispute over his 5-month-old son has disappeared with the boy.

Authorities say 39-year-old Radford Pope never returned the infant to his mother after a scheduled visitation with the boy earlier this month. Police believe Pope may be traveling to California with his son.

An Allegheny County judge has issued a warrant for Pope and the infant has been listed as missing.

Police say Pope is also known as Arthur Lee Pope and drives a silver Chrysler minivan. Anyone with information on his whereabouts is encouraged to call police.

Firefighter gets probation after joyride

PITTSBURGH — A Pittsburgh firefighter will spend six months on probation and pay a \$1,000 fine for taking a drunken joyride in a casino security truck.

Fifty-one-year-old William White was sentenced after pleading guilty Tuesday to drunken driving and a reduced charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

He was originally charged with stealing the truck during the December incident at the Rivers Casino.

Police say a security guard saw White urinating in a parking lot, before White said he was a firefighter and needed help getting home. That's when he jumped in the truck and drove away. Police stopped him for driving the wrong way on a nearby street.

White's attorney says he has served an unpaid suspension and is back on the job.

He must also undergo an alcohol evaluation and attending safe driving school.

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Collegian Inc. James Building, 123 S. Burrows St., University Park, PA 16801-3882

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Clinton campaigns for Sestak

Former president rallies in Scranton for Democratic hopefuls.

By Marc Levy ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SCRANTON, Pa. — Former President Bill Clinton characterized Pennsylvania's close and competitive U.S. Senate race on Tuesday as a choice between disastrous Reagan-Bush economic policies and the ability of Democrats to fix the damage they inflicted.

Clinton, perhaps the most valuable Democratic Party name in Pennsylvania, drew several hundred people to a rally for Rep. Joe Sestak, who was a military adviser to the former president.

With a tough political climate looming for Democrats in this fall's elections, Clinton told the audience to spread the message that it makes no sense to defeat Sestak because

President Barack Obama and Democrats who control Congress haven't pulled the nation out of the worst economic crisis since the Depression.

"You ought to say to people, 'Sestak's the best candidate, and give this deal two more years,'" Clinton told the crowd. "We were in a deep hole, a year and a half wasn't enough to dig us out of it."

Sestak, a second-term congressman from a Philadelphia suburb, missed the event at the Scranton High School gymnasium because he was in Washington for an emergency session vote on a bill extending recession-related aid to states and public schools.

Without mentioning Sestak's opponent, former Republican Congressman Pat Toomey, Clinton suggested that the alternative to Sestak is a candidate who adheres to trickle-down economic theories that benefit the wealthy but dig deeper deficits.

"If you vote for these people that

are running against guys like Joe Sestak, they'll go up there and take the oath of office, they'll have one hand on the Bible and they got a shovel in the other hand," Clinton said. "They want to start digging again. ... Don't elect the shovel brigade, keep electing the builders."

The Toomey campaign responded with a statement faulting Democrats' handling of the economy.

"When President Clinton teamed up with Republican majorities in Congress, we had a balanced budget," the Toomey statement said. "When President Obama teamed up with Nancy Pelosi and Joe Sestak, we got the largest deficits in American history."

Sestak has provided a reliable vote for Obama's priorities, supporting the new federal health care law, an overhaul of banking and financial sector regulations and the nearly \$800 billion stimulus, as well as the bailouts that began under President George W. Bush in 2008.

Crash

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a teaching position at Penn State in 1992, Susman said.

Susman eased O'Keefe as friendly and easygoing during his tenure at Penn State.

"I can't remember a terse word that we exchanged in the four years we worked together," Susman said.

O'Keefe taught a graduate class with Susman called "Corporate Innovation Strategies," before O'Keefe left Penn State for a teaching position at Syracuse University

in New York, Susman said.

In his time at Penn State, O'Keefe was popular among his students, Susman said.

"He was admirable and he was engaging with students," Susman said. "They always liked him."

O'Keefe, his son and two others survived the crash, but Stevens and four others did not.

Stevens served longer than any other Republican Senator but lost re-election in 2008 after he was convicted on seven counts of corruption charges.

He was one of two survivors in a 1978 plane crash at Anchorage

International Airport that killed his wife, Ann.

Later in his career, Stevens became known for securing millions of dollars for a project that became known as the "Bridge to Nowhere." The bridge became a symbol of wasteful government spending.

At least three of the crash victims were airlifted to Anchorage, Alaska National Guard spokeswoman Kalei Brooks Rupp said.

To e-mail reporter: bwm5147@psu.edu

Associated Press writer Becky Bohrer contributed to this report.

Corbett

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unfunded mandates and keeping youth in Pennsylvania.

"I was happy to hear that he wanted to keep our young people in Pennsylvania," Keefer said. "I know we've had an exodus of our educated students."

And Corbett said he saw many other heads in the room nodding in

agreement while he was speaking.

But not everyone was completely sold on the candidate's pitch.

Tioga County Commissioner Sue Vogler said she saw both Onorato and Corbett speak at the conference, and Onorato seemed to be "more in with the people" at the event, participating in the candidate question-and-answer session.

Still, she said she would have liked to see both of them in a format that allowed for more comparison

between the two candidates, such as that of a debate-style of format typical during election year.

"Both focus on bringing business and jobs here, and on keeping young people in Pennsylvania — so in that respect they were pretty similar," Vogler said. "I was glad to get the opportunity to hear them, but I think a debate might have been more informative."

To e-mail reporter: cmm5773@psu.edu

Pipe

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The questions asked Tuesday night covered a broad spectrum of topics. Everything from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, education, healthcare, economic recovery and even Pipe's plans to debate and interact with incumbent candidate Congressman Glenn Thompson, R-5th District, were discussed.

Through the entire town hall meeting, Pipe addressed the questions but also interacted with the audience in attendance to see what information they had about each topic.

Richard Shreve, a Bellefonte area resident, attended Tuesday's town hall meeting in an effort to learn more about Pipe.

Representing the 5th Congressional District in a way that

is currently not happening was one of the major concerns going into the town hall meeting, Shreve said.

Other residents asked pipe about his stance on issues of foreign policy and amending the Civil Rights movement to include sexual orientation, but one of the main issues continually discussed at the town hall meeting was the Marcellus Shale industry.

Numerous residents voiced concern over the proposed oil and natural gas drilling in the district.

The Marcellus Shale industry is a gold rush scenario, Pipe said. Supporting the safe extraction of natural gas and oil from Marcellus Shale is one of the key aspects of the issue, Pipe he said.

Pipe said that he supports strong regulation at the drill sites in order to prevent other disasters such as the Clearfield County blowout.

Broader national issues were also

discussed at the town hall meeting such as the age of other congressmen in relation to Pipe, who only recently graduated from Penn State in 2009.

Encouraging the members in attendance to get involved and recruit others is a major part of the campaign, Pipe said.

"I want you to be a part of the political process," Pipe said.

Tuesday night's town hall meeting in State College was the tenth such meeting for Pipe in his campaign for the 5th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

But even after ten town hall meetings, the experience is always difficult to gauge and is almost always different, Pipe said.

"There was a great range of things we talked about," Pipe said. "I hope I kept people engaged."

To e-mail reporter: zjg5012@psu.edu

Council

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and criticism I was looking for so I can go back to UPUA and say, 'OK, we know what we need, now let's get working on it,'" Ragland said. "I am excited to see the next step."

Ragland said his goal at Monday's meeting was to meet with council and introduce the idea of a non-voting student member on the council. The next step, he said, is to talk with student leaders at other Big Ten

universities — like Iowa, Michigan State and Indiana — that have non-voting members in the local government to show the borough council that the proposal has worked for other schools.

Council member Peter Morris supported the idea of a student holding a non-voting position on council.

"This is just a way to have representation," Morris said. "I really have trouble understanding where the opposition comes from."

Morris said the council may talk to the town officials near the other

universities to discuss how the addition of a student has helped the council and to see if adding such a member will help.

Morris said if the council sees how a non-voting student has worked in other places it may soften the council's position to the proposal.

"My suspicion is that it has worked out fine in those towns," Morris said. "And therefore could work here."

To e-mail reporter: pro5004@psu.edu

Plan

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"Any entity should be doing long-range planning," Corman said. "If it's not costly and still effective, more power to them."

The aspects of the plan that require money are funded by private donations, Moutz said.

Each strategy has a specific implementation plan with a name attached to label responsibility, for that part, Moutz said.

"We have accountability and we have actionable items and a

timetable for when things need to be started," she said.

One goal of the plan is to reduce costs of Penn State's health care benefits. Penn State is currently self-insured, she said.

Penn State currently spends more than \$180 million on health care benefits annually, Moutz said. "We've cut the fat out of the budget, were into the bone," she said.

Another goal of the plan is to reshape the scheduling format to maximize the use of facilities, according to a Penn State Live press release.

This strategic plan will not create

financial pressure on students, Moutz said. The plan will mostly work with what the university already has rather than spend money on more, she said.

The new Knowledge Commons in the Pattee Library, funded by private donations, will provide new technological resources to students, Moutz said.

Despite other immediate issues the university faces, including a housing shortage and conflict over the West Campus Steam Plant, Moutz said the strategic plan is just as important as any other issue for the university to address.

Relay

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income development specialist for the American Cancer Society in State College, said the money raised by the Restek team helps fund cancer research and cancer patient programs like Road to Recovery.

"We are extremely thankful for everything the Restek team has done for us," Kauffman said. "We are really grateful to have the caliber of volunteers that we have. We

couldn't do what we do without teams like Restak."

Kauffman said the Restek team has raised more than \$15,000 — through various events — this year alone. The American Cancer Society at State College relies on the help of volunteers to meet many of their needs, Kauffman said.

While the main fundraising comes from the motorcycle ride, the event also provides fun and entertainment for people who won't be riding.

Bands such as the classic rock and roll band Seven2Ten will per-

form at the event from noon to 3 p.m.

A raffle will be held with prizes ranging from a flat-screen television from Best Buy to Penn State Football tickets.

The day will also include a meal of pork sandwiches from Clem's BBQ. Meal tickets are \$10 each.

T-shirts will be sold at \$10 each at the event to help raise further money as is done each year.

Registration for the event is \$25 for riders and \$15 for passengers.

To e-mail reporter: pro5004@psu.edu