

Center reveals expansion plans

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Sketch plans for the proposed expansion of Mount Nittany Medical Center's emergency department were presented for feedback at the College Township Planning Commission meeting Tuesday night.

Karla Coudriet, project manager for Gannett Fleming, the construction company in charge of the expansion, presented the sketch plans to the planning commission for their feedback. The basics of the project include a

40,500 square-foot addition to the emergency department, renovation of 17,000 square feet of the existing emergency department, new canopies and patient drop-off areas, and expanded parking lots, Coudriet said.

The plan proposes 220 spaces, with 24 of them reserved for handicapped spaces, and have a total of 314 spaces available when everything is completed, she said.

The emergency department saw a record number of 50,000 patients last year, Nichole Monica, director of communications at Mount Nittany Medical



Courtesy of Mount Nittany Medical Center

The expanded emergency department proposes a 40,500 square-foot addition.

Center, said last week. The hospital is anticipating that number will continue to grow.

The construction also calls for renovation of the entrance to the emergency department, allowing for better access. See **HOSPITAL**, Page 2.

THON FUNDRAISING

Alumni group restricts access

THON denied contact database

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students will no longer be able to access contact information for alumni via the Alumni Association to solicit donations for the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon — but THON officials say they're not worried about the effects of the decision.

The decision was made because there is currently an "overabundance" of solicitation for THON, Alumni Association Executive Director Roger Williams said.

"If there's too much of this, it looks confusing and some of the solicitation efforts don't look legitimate," he said.

The Penn State Division of Development and Alumni Relations — which houses the Alumni Association — decided to freeze student organizations' access to their contact database, Williams said.

Some of the officials who made the decision said they want to make THONvelopes the primary source of solicitation.

They're working with THON officials to make the best decision moving forward, they said.

THONvelopes are letters students can send to friends and family explaining what THON is and asking them to consider giving a gift, THON Public Relations Overall Chairwoman Jony Rommel said. THONvelopes will first be collected during the first week of December, she said.

This puts THON in a new position, Rommel (senior-philosophy) said.

But she doesn't think it will have a large effect on donations.

Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Rodney Kirsch met with THON leaders, including THON Overall Chairwoman Kirsten Kelly on Monday, Williams said.

At the meeting, THON officials were asked to look more closely at the decision's implications, Williams said.

Kelly said THON was looking into a way to remove some of the burden of solicitation from the university prior to the recent decision.

"We are collecting more info from THON organizations to see how they handle alumni solicitation so we can let the university know how we anticipate this to affect THON," Kelly (senior-marketing) said.

Rommel said THON is taking its conversations with university administrators seriously.

THON will also look into how the decision will affect student groups that solicit donations for THON, she said.

Rommel said greek organizations will be the most affected by the decision.

They have the most ties to their THON alumni, she said.

Kelly said she contacted the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council presidents to inform them of the changes in how the organization solicits donations.

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Christine Reckner/Collegian

The Joe Krown Trio perform their jazzy riffs during New Orleans Lights on Tuesday night in the Eisenhower Auditorium.

Artists feed Southern flavor

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It may not have been Mardi Gras in Eisenhower Auditorium, but it was the next best thing.

The Center for the Performing Arts hosted New Orleans Nights in Eisenhower Auditorium Tuesday night. The show was sponsored by Jazz Spectrum on The Lion 90.7 FM and Glenn and Nancy Gamble.

The event featured Allen Toussaint, Nicholas Payton and The Joe Krown

Trio playing jazz akin to the New Orleans style.

CPA Director George Trudeau said the organization was glad to bring such renowned artists to campus.

"I love it," he said. "These musicians are the spirit of New Orleans and they're playing music that emanates from the great city."

The southern jazz musicians incorporated extensive improvisation into their songs — a talent that attendee Melany Cruz (sophomore-agribusiness management) said was impressive.

"It's amazing," she said. "It takes a real musician to improvise in composition like that."

Allen Toussaint, who is known for working with artists like Paul McCartney and The Rolling Stones, headlined New Orleans Nights with a piano and vocal performance.

Trudeau said it was an honor to host a musician of Toussaint's caliber.

"He's a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, and he's worked with so many great artists," Trudeau said. "He's really an See **CONCERT**, Page 2.



Courtesy of Bobby Walter

Big Sister Taylor Springer spends time with her Little Sister, Sirenity.

Students give back

By Anna Orso
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Bobby Walter said one of the most exciting feelings in the world is to have a child smile and genuinely want to be with you.

Walter (freshman-marketing and French) is a student volunteer for the Centre County Big Brothers Big Sisters program and said he knows he can make a difference in a child's life.

"The kids really enjoy seeing you and it's so exciting when you walk into the building and they run up to you and give you a hug and you can tell that they want to talk to you," Walter said.

Walter mentors T.J., a third-grade student at Park Forest Elementary School, for an hour a week.

"I think it's important for college students to get involved in

See **BIG BROTHER**, Page 2.

Folk artist to fire up Inferno

By Erika Spicer
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Folk-rocker Eric Himan may be touring all over the country, but he's finding time to return to his roots.

The Penn State alumnus will perform at 10 tonight at the Inferno Brick Oven and Bar, 340 E. College Ave. The concert is a 21-and-over event, and cover charge will be determined.

Trading his guitar for a piano, Himan, Class of 2001, will perform songs from his new CD, "Out with the Old." The CD includes a mix of songs from his other albums, but features him on a piano instead of a guitar, Himan said.

"The guitar was my security blanket," Himan said. "Playing my songs with the piano is a totally different feel and fun, definitely something I've never done."

He has traveled all over the country, performing and opening at events for stars, like Cyndi Lauper.

Himan said he will play a variety of songs at the concert, ranging from Katy Perry and Journey



Courtesy of evocativesounds.com

Alumnus Eric Himan will perform songs from his new album.

Covers of songs from old CDs and "Out with the Old."

Inferno Marketing and Advertising Director J.P. Mills said he predicts a successful concert.

If you go

What: Eric Himan
When: 10 tonight
Where: Inferno Brick Oven and Bar, 340 E. College Ave.
Details: Cover charge is TBA

"He has a great personality, and you can judge from his touring schedule in the past that he knows how to put on a show," Mills said. "I imagine he'll probably end up playing for about three hours."

Himan credits much of his success to Penn State. Though he was a psychology major, music was his hobby and comfort, he said.

He said he played many of his early gigs at East Halls and Pollock Commons.

"Penn State was a great opportunity for me to realize who I was as a musical performer," Himan said. "There were so many places to play and so many people that supported me."

See **HIMAN**, Page 2.