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30 cents off campus

## Weather upsets Valley

By Casey McDermott  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The rain boots trudging through campus sidewalks this week were definitely warranted, according to weather experts, as State College saw more rain in one day than it typically sees in an entire month.

Starting at 7 a.m. Tuesday, 3.02 inches of rain fell over a 24-hour period, said Bill Syrett, university lecturer and manager of the Joel N. Myers Weather Center at Penn State.

On average, State College only

sees 2.7 inches of rainfall in December.

"What just happened was incredibly unusual," Myers said. "It pretty much shattered any record there was in State College."

Other locations in the area saw even more precipitation, Myers said, with the Scotia Atmospheric Chemistry site pulling in almost 4.5 inches of rain.

As the rain lingered into Wednesday, the National Weather Service issued a flood warning for State College, set to expire at 11:09

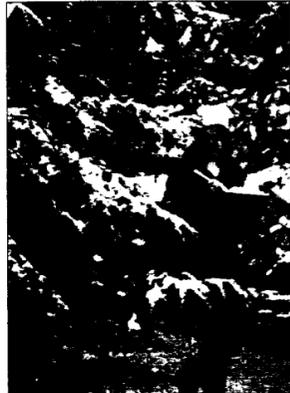
a.m. today, according to AccuWeather.com.

But before the showers tapered off, the downpour wrought some temporary havoc on campus.

"We've been flooded with problems," Office of Physical Plant Spokesman Paul Ruskin said.

Nearly five dozen leaking roofs were reported because of the sudden downpour, Ruskin said, and flooding on Fox Hollow Road forced a temporary closure along that route.

By Wednesday afternoon, OPP See WEATHER, Page 2.



The first snowfall arrived Wednesday in State College.

## STATE PATTY'S DAY

# Event date is set 'Holiday' to occur Feb. 26

By Casey McDermott  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

She created the Facebook event as a joke — but within 24 hours, Kayla Ardell Balamuta said she was shocked to find thousands of people already planning to attend "State Patty's Day 2011."

Slated for Feb. 26, it went from 13 attendees to almost 600 overnight Tuesday, Balamuta (senior-journalism) said.

Between 4:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, the tally jumped from 1,223 to 3,000, and the event exploded to more than 6,000 prospective participants by press time.

"It's kind of crazy," Balamuta said. "I didn't expect it to blow up that quickly."

Balamuta said she recently contacted State Patty's Day founder Joe Veltre, Class of 2010, for an article she was writing for a class project on the growing tradition, and he told her he wasn't interested in celebrating the holiday.

So she said she decided to take the reigns.

"Basically, it's my 'super-senior' year and I've participated in the past State Patty's Days," Balamuta said. "So I wanted to continue the tradition for those that are younger than me."

Veltre could not be reached for comment by press time.

As of Wednesday night, the event's Facebook wall was inundated with comments from others who, like Balamuta, are eager to turn State College green again this February.

But as the event has grown in popularity, the celebration has come with a price: Last year's State Patty's Day weekend logged 365 total calls to State College police, 160 arrests and 24 alcohol overdoses. Of the 241 citations issued in connection with the holiday, only 91 were issued to current Penn State students. See STATE PATTY'S, Page 2.



From left, Mayor Elizabeth Goreham, women's volleyball coach Russ Rose and Rabbi Nosson Meretsky sing at a menorah lighting ceremony. Wednesday marked the first of eight nights of Hanukkah, the Jewish celebration of lights.

## Hanukkah celebrations begin

By Caitlin Smith  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

A nine-foot menorah stands outside the State College Municipal Building, a bright reminder of the start of the eight-day Jewish celebration of lights.

Local residents and students began Hanukkah celebrations Wednesday evening at the 10th Annual Penn State and State College Community-wide Menorah Lighting Ceremony.

Chabad of Penn State, one of the university's Jewish student groups, hosted the event and provided refreshments, free menorahs and crafts.

Penn State women's volleyball coach and Jewish Sports Hall of Fame member Russ Rose lit the menorah outside the municipal building, 243 S. Allen St.

Mayor Elizabeth Goreham welcomed the crowd and said how much she appreciated the diversity of State College. She also said

the gathering of residents for something familiar to some and foreign to others during the holiday season was an important learning experience.

"In State College, diversity is our strength," Goreham said. "This ceremony embodies all that we appreciate here."

Rabbi Nosson Meretsky, the director of Chabad Penn State, brought the crowd together with blessings and songs. Attendees joined in the familiar words of

praise as Rabbi Meretsky led the ceremony.

"This time of year, when all kinds of decorations are around town, it is important for Jewish students to see that their holiday is out in the open as well," he said. "It is a holiday that is supposed to be out in the open. It brings light to the darkness."

The holiday commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. According See HANUKKAH, Page 2.

## Officials clarify rezoning issues

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Borough officials said fraternity members may have walked away from Tuesday night's Interfraternity Council meeting with the wrong facts about a rezoning proposal — but the miscommunication between the council's student representative is all a part of the growing pains of the new position.

At Tuesday's Interfraternity Council meeting, borough council student representative Ben Pugh

said a proposed council amendment would require an on-site manager at each fraternity residence, alarming some in attendance.

But State College Borough Manager Tom Fountaine said there are no plans to consider such a requirement in the future.

The on-site manager position would only apply

to fraternities recolonizing under the temporary use provision, he said.

After hearing the misinformation given to the council Tuesday night, Fountaine said he sent an e-mail to Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Roy Baker. Fountaine said he is not sure if borough officials spoke with Pugh, who will be confirmed as the first student representative on the council at Monday's meeting.

"It's a new position, so to some extent there will probably be

some growing pains," Fountaine said.

Pugh (sophomore-actuarial science) said he went to the meeting intending to introduce himself. The reaction following his mention of the proposed amendment was much stronger than he expected, he said.

He said he told IFC members what he remembered from a previous borough council work session. But he said he now plans to contact fraternity leaders to clear up any confusion about the proposal. See ZONING, Page 2.



Pugh



Bar-goers wait outside the Phyrst at last year's State Patty's Day.

## School of Theatre shows 'It's a Wonderful Life'

By Hannah Rishel  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER



Students perform a scene in "It's a Wonderful Life" on Wednesday.

Sometimes happiness isn't over the rainbow; sometimes it's right under your nose.

The School of Theatre performed its opening night showing of "It's a Wonderful Life...FTK," a stage adaptation of the Christmas movie, on Wednesday night at the Pavillion Theatre. Additional performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Friday, with an additional showing at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Admission is \$5 at the door and all proceeds go directly to the Interfraternity/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. The School of Theatre puts on a play benefiting THON

every year, but this is the first year they have performed a holiday show.

"It's a Wonderful Life" tells the story of George Bailey, who has devoted his life to helping others, including saving his younger brother from drowning at a young age.

He also sacrificed going on a round-the-world trip and attending college to work at his father's loan company. Bailey is the one thing preventing greedy Mr. Potter — the play's antagonist — from taking over the entire town.

But one Christmas Eve, it all gets to be too much and Bailey is ready to end it all, until an angel named Clarence comes to earth to stop him. Bailey wishes he had

never been born and Clarence makes it come true to show him how wonderful his life really is.

"Every man's life touches so many other lives," Clarence tells Bailey.

Before the show, a THON video was shown to remind the audience how much their donations help the organization. To add to the THON spirit, the show also featured a THON child as one of the Bailey's children.

Celienna Bady attended the play to support one of her friends, despite not knowing what the story was about.

"I really took the message to heart," Bady (sophomore-international relations) said.

Sisters Ingrid and Laura

Krecko said they watch the film every Christmas with their family.

"I liked that they put their own personality into the characters," Ingrid Krecko (junior-psychology) said.

Laura Krecko (freshman-biology) said one of her favorite characters in the play was Mr. Potter. In the movie the character is rather gruff, but in this adaptation, he added a comedic element to the story.

While they are both fans of the movie, the sisters said that message of the story still came through in this adaptation.

"I tear up every time," Laura Krecko said.

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