

Borough council approves Pugh's nomination

By Anita Modi

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The first State College Borough Council meeting of the month featured the voices of several Penn State students interwoven with those of staff members.

Ben Pugh (sophomore-actuarial science), who was nominated to temporarily fill the position



Pugh

of a non-voting student representative to council, addressed the council at the meeting.

The position of a non-voting student liaison to the borough council was approved on October 18, 2010 as Resolution #1030.

Before unanimously approving his nomination and declaring his appointment to run from Jan. 1 to April 30, 2011, council members called on Pugh to introduce himself.

"I've lived in State College 19 years of my life," he said. "I've grown up in the State College school district. This is not only the

place I go to school, this is my home."

The meeting began with a presentation by three members of the Centre County Report, a weekly 30-minute newscast produced entirely by Penn State students and faculty.

Veronica Bautista, an anchor and reporter for Centre County Report, described her experience working 20-hour weeks at the program's HD studio at Innovation Park, developing story ideas, writing and editing.

"I've learned to perfect camera skills, write strong scripts and ask

important questions," Bautista (senior-journalism) said, emphasizing the program's importance to aspiring reporters, directors and producers.

She said over the course of the past semester alone, the staff has covered pertinent Centre County issues ranging from local stabbing incidents to the midterm elections using television broadcasts as well as Webcasts and Facebook and Twitter updates to reach its audiences.

Kara Warr (senior-journalism), producer of the Centre County Report, said the program hopes to

provide live feeds at 12 p.m. to Penn State audiences starting next semester. Currently, the program runs at 11 p.m.

In addition to hearing from Penn State students, the council took time to adopt a number of consent items, including the renaming of the plaza in front of the State College municipal building. The plaza will now be named the Mayor Welch Plaza, in memory of Mayor Bill Welch and in honor of his 16 years of service to the State College community.

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State College seen as leader in green, sustainable efforts

By Anita Modi

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College has been a leader in reducing greenhouse emissions in recent years — and now other municipalities in the Centre Region are being called to follow suit.

Three years ago, the borough of State College passed Resolution 944 — a list of action items designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the borough's sustainability and public transportation options.

The resolution was passed in response to a study on local sustainability efforts by Penn State researchers on behalf of the Centre Region Council of Governments.

Now, in response to a 2009 region-wide sustainability study for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, other COG municipalities are being asked to follow State College's lead.

Brent Yarnal, professor and associate head of the geography department at Penn State, and Howard Greenberg, senior research associate at the Center for Integrated Regional Assessment, edited the region-wide study, which will be presented to the DEP on Friday.

They also developed a climate action plan modeling Resolution 944 that includes action items for College Township, Ferguson Township, Halfmoon Township, Harris Township and Patton Township.

Yarnal said the climate action plan lists a total of 32 action items similar to those currently enforced by State College. Community members and stakeholders who participated in the Penn State study originally generated the actions, he said.

But not all municipality representatives are enthusiastic about adopting sustainability mandates.

Ferguson Township Councilman Bill Keough spoke before the COG General Forum when the results of the region-wide study were first discussed in October and said it was the individual's responsibility to go green — not the responsibility of municipalities themselves.

"We've too often as government officials gone to the legislative process. I'd want to get behind a massive education program rather than look at legislative solutions to the issue we have before us," he said.

The DEP cannot force the municipalities to enforce each item, so the individual townships and the borough will decide which goals they'd like to pursue in the coming months, Yarnal said.

Since adopting Resolution 944, the borough has imposed mandates on both local businesses and individual residents and set long-term goals to keep State College green, State College Borough Council Member Peter Morris said. Morris, also a member of the COG public services and environment committee, said the borough has prohibited diesel trucks from idling for longer than a certain period of time and purchased hybrid cars to use in place of traditional gasoline cars.

Yarnal said the borough has kept up with the spirit of going green and adopted a number of projects recently that weren't even included in the original resolution, including installing a green roof at the municipal building.

After the state department receives the update on the program's progress this Friday, the municipalities will be asked to look over the final version of the action items.

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Ways to go green

- Turn off water when brushing your teeth
- Use energy-saving lightbulbs
- Walk or bike to work

WAX ON WAX OFF



Katie Silvis Collegian

Ballard Holye, an employee of Neon Entertainment, of Ashville N.C., helps Sunita Ruparelia (junior-marketing) create a wax model of her hand during the Student Programming Association's relaxation week.

Greek officers inducted, honored

By Mike Hricik

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Commemorating past accomplishments and looking forward to the spring semester, more than 100 members and advisers of Penn State's greek community assembled for the induction ceremonies of greek council and executive board members.

The event, held at Days Inn State College, 240 S. Pugh St., recognized both outgoing and incoming officials on the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Panhellenic Council and Panhellenic Council.

Susan LeGalley, assistant director of fraternity and sorority life, delivered the welcoming address, commending incumbent greek officers for their hard work in 2010.

"They have done so much with our group community. They have challenged myself, staff and [Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Roy] Baker to be better professionals," LeGalley said.

Outgoing PHC President Sara Linkosky said her organization provided sororities with lasting changes including new risk management procedures.

"The greek community certainly deserves commended for their accomplishments this year," Linkosky (senior political science) said.

PHC President-elect Paige Rothaus (junior-advertising) said that she is excited for the journey ahead.

Outgoing IFC President Max Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) noted that during his tenure, his executive board introduced new

sexual assault and social event policies.

Incoming IFC President Dan Florencio (senior-philosophy) said he will maintain his commitment to a thriving greek community.

Current NPHC President Shadiyah Haines congratulated her newly elected executive board including Raul Mendez (senior-crime, law, and justice), president-elect.

"I charge you all to be strategic as you motivate, inspire and continue to lead this community," Haines (senior-industrial engineering) said.

MGC President Pankaj Khurana (senior-health policy and administration) said he feels his council is in good hands with incoming president Purav Patel (senior-industrial engineering).

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