

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Supers pass local services tax - and do it legally

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

Once again, supervisors passed the local services tax in a 3-2 vote Wednesday, which will levy a \$52 fee to those who work in the township.

Supervisors passed the tax back in August, but the legal advertisement was incorrect and the board began the controversial discussion again last month.

The board passed the tax in a 3-2 vote with supervisors Jim Reino Jr., Jeffrey Box and Shirley Moyer voting in favor and supervisors John Solinsky and Frank Natitus voting against the mea-

sure.

Residents employed within the township who meet a certain income guideline will be required to pay the tax, \$10 of which will be paid directly to the Dallas School District.

Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said the township would collect about \$40,000 from the tax, which will be used to continue funding local fire and ambulance services.

Reino said the tax became necessary because of 2012 budget shortfalls, despite supervisors' attempts to make many cuts to the fiscal plan. Property and earned income taxes are set to increase in 2012, as well.

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John Solinsky
Kingston Township supervisor

"We tried to spread the responsibility for the tax increase out to all parties, and we felt ... it was fair for people working in the town who may not be living here to also be putting into the budget," said Reino.

The township is proposing a

.07 increase to the earned income tax, which would provide, at most, an estimated \$130,000. Property taxes are proposed to increase by .0003388 mills, which would bring in an additional \$400,000.

Solinsky, who dropped out of

the supervisors' race this year due to ongoing discussions about the tax, said it is "tyranny" to tax those who do not live within the township. He quoted founding father Thomas Jefferson in a plea for the board to vote against the measure.

"(Thomas Jefferson) liked the constitution because it preserved the fundamental principle that the people are not to be taxed except by the representatives chosen by themselves," he said. "In other words, no taxation without representation."

Solinsky said he could not support a tax on "people who have no vote."

"I can't just stand by quiet and

say, 'Well, we need the money,'" he said. "That's not good enough. There's a right way and a wrong way to do things, and just because a legislator finds a creative way to steal people's money, it's not good enough."

Moyer voted against the tax last year, but had concerns about raising property and earned income tax rates higher than their current proposed rates to offset the income that would be provided by the local services tax.

The \$3,007,275 budget for 2012 is available for public inspection at the municipal building.

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PSU students are frustrated

Students at local campus express opinions regarding alleged sexual abuse.

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

Penn State students at the Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman Township weren't protesting Thursday in the wake of the university board of trustees' decision to fire legendary football coach Joe Paterno and university president Graham Spanier.

Instead, some felt the media attention after details of a child molestation scandal were released was blown out of proportion.

Late last week, former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was charged with a mix of 40 counts in a child sex abuse case over a 15-year period beginning in 1996.

Administrators at the Wilkes-Barre campus were unable to comment on the situation.

Senior Amy Parry, of Harding, said she feels "frustrated" with the entire situation, from the way the media has handled the story to the firing of Paterno late Wednesday evening.

"I'm sick over how the whole story was swayed, and I think that affected how the board of trustees made their decision," said the 24-year-old information technology student.

Parry, who attended school at the University Park campus during her collegiate career, said the student gathering that took place late Wednesday night at the main campus in State College and the scandal itself paints an unfair picture of what the entire Penn State organization looks like.

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"At University Park, there are between 42,000 and 44,000 students. There were 3,000 students in the street and only about 100 were doing any damage. At satellite and specialized campuses in the Commonwealth, there are about 95,000 of us - a small handful doesn't represent the school, nor does Jerry Sandusky."

Amy Parry
PSU/WB senior

44,000 students," she said. "There were 3,000 students in the street and only about 100 were doing any damage. At satellite and specialized campuses in the Commonwealth, there are about 95,000 of us - a small handful doesn't represent the school, nor does Jerry Sandusky."

Parry, an executive board member of the student government, said an open forum would be held on the Lehman Township campus Thursday afternoon to give students an opportunity to talk about the scandal.

Senior Amanda Semon, 21, of Freeland, said she received a text alert from ESPN News late Wednesday and decided to make the drive to State College in support of Paterno.

"I respect Joe Paterno not only as a football coach, but as a person in general," she said. "He probably makes more money than the governor, but he puts that back into the school and more. It's a shame."



Amy Parry, of Harding, a senior at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, talks about the recent controversies regarding alleged sexual abuse at the main campus.

Semon, who said she's only missed one Penn State football game in her life, said people are "jumping to conclusions" about the 84-year-old coach's involvement in the case, and she felt the decision to fire him was hasty, especially after he had announced Wednesday morning that he would retire at the end of the current football season.

Now Semon believes the university's image might be in trouble in years to come, all because of the actions of just a few people.

"The people involved were sitting at home while Paterno and Spanier lost their jobs," she said.

Semon feels the situation leaves "a black eye" on the school, and she thinks students entering the football program will have this on their minds in the years to come.

"Parents whose sons are recruited in the future will have this in the back of their minds," she said.

Sophomore Laura Mann, of Middletown, N.Y., said she



Amanda Semon, a senior at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, was among many students from the Back Mountain campus who traveled to the main campus in State College this week to offer support to the university which is embroiled in controversy regarding alleged sexual abuse.

hopes the situation won't tarnish the reputation of Penn State University.

"I hope this isn't what people remember about Joe Paterno," she said. "And the reputation of the school is more than what happens at University Park."

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Athletic fields are still unfinished

Superintendent will prepare list of available fields for coaches, parents, athletes.

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

An update from the district's architectural firm Monday revealed several athletic fields will not be complete until 2012.

Bob Nesbit, of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, said many fields are close to 100 percent completion, while others have not been prepared yet because of other site work on campus.

Those fields still needing work are the discus, javelin and shot put fields; a second field hockey field; a multipurpose field; and what administrators called a pit field, which will be raised using excess dirt on the property.

Nesbit said the project is 871 days into an 822-day project, and he added the site work contractor, Charles Corby & Sons, hopes to have the majority of work completed by Dec. 19.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said he will prepare a list for coaches, parents and athletes stating what sports will be played on what fields for next season.

He also said the fact that girls soccer, normally played during the spring season, has been changed by PIAA to a fall sport is causing a problem for field planning.

In other business ...

The board heard a presentation from language teacher Candice Fike and international businesswoman Angela Casey on expanding the elementary foreign language academy.

Casey, fluent in Mandarin

Chinese, explained China has become a major influence on the world, from the economy to culture. She presented the academy's plan to expand beyond elementary students to middle school, high school and adult students as well. The foreign language academy is a tuition-based after-school program students elect to attend. Students through fifth grade can take classes in French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese or sign language.

Jack Wega, director of federal funding, announced Wycallis Elementary School has been named a distinguished school by the state Department of Education's division of federal programs for proficiency in its Title I program for two consecutive years.

The school is one of 94 to earn this recognition out of more than 1,700 schools with Title I programs in the state.

Recently retired Wycallis Elementary Principal Kathleen McCarthy attended the meeting and was applauded by the board and audience for her dedication to the school.

Tux will visit library to read with families

Mike O'Brien, Tux and star players from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins will take part in a lively, family reading program at the Back Mountain Memorial Library at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Space is limited so families are asked to call the library at 675-182 to reserve seats.

The players will talk to the families about the importance of reading, about being a team player and about their careers as professional hockey players. Tux will then entertain the children with his antics as the players read to the children.

Participants should bring questions along with memorabilia to be signed.

Ben Wnuk, of Hunlock Creek, enjoys last year's family reading program at the Back Mountain Memorial Library with Tux, mascot for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey team.



'The Tempest' comes to MU

The Misericordia Players Theater is presenting "The Tempest," a tragicomedy representative of the end of Shakespeare's solo-play writing career, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-19 in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall on campus.

Tickets are available at the door for \$3 for senior citizens and students and \$5 for adults.

The Misericordia Players Theater is putting a modern twist on the play in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the first production of the play, which still maintains its relevance because it emphasizes how to live, make choices, and come to peace with the consequences of one's choices.

The following Misericordia University students have been casted in these roles: R.J. Barina, Dallas, Prospero; Marissa

Miller, Tunkhannock, Miranda; Dinamichelle Boyer, Allentown, Ariel; Jeff Kelly, Dallas, Caliban; Nate Schloder, Lake Winola, Ferdinand; Mary Scarpa, Tunkhannock, Antonia; Sam Corey, Union Dale, Sebastian; Danielle LaChall, Brookhaven, Gonzala; Matthew Cebrosky, Lehigh, Alonso; Hilary Hoover, Trucksville, Adriana/Iris; Leila Comerford, Moscow, Francesca/Juno; Melvin Jay Busi, Saylorsburg, Stephano; Nick Kestler, Mattituck, N.Y., Trinculo; Elizabeth Jackson, Hummelstown, Boatswain; Maria Weidemoyer, Perkiomenville, Mariner/Ceres; Taylor Robertson, Medford, N.J., Mariner; and Elizabeth Shovlin, Mountain Top, Mariner.

For more information about cultural events at Misericordia University, call 674-6400.