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## Off-campus housing sees decrease in tenants

### Clarion's updated residency requirement leaving its mark one year later

By **AMERIGO ALLEGRETTO**  
Newsroom.TheDerrick@gmail.com  
Staff Writer

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The requirement, which has first-time-in-college students and full-time transfer students who have less than 24 credit hours being required to live

on campus for their first two years, resulted in decreases in demand this semester for apartment complexes.

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Nelson said 20-30 percent of the apartments' tenants came in as soph-

omores, and that it suffered a 30 percent decrease in the amount of tenants.

"We're only at 50 percent right now, and this time last year we were at 80 percent," said Nelson.

Eagle Park also saw a decrease in the amount of tenants.

"The past eight years, we've sold out in the fall, and generally in the spring we're at 90-95 percent," said Eagle Park owner Jay Kumar. "This

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Kumar said that estimates to between 20-25 rooms. However, he is more optimistic about the university's decision.

"In the long run, you have to realize that for us to be successful, the university has to be successful," said Kumar.

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#### 'Pollinator hotel'



Insects are among the hardest working members of Mother Nature, toiling largely unnoticed in gardens — pollinating flowers, recycling dead material, eating each other.

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#### 'Twitch' gamers



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But today there's Twitch, the online network that attracts millions of visitors, most of whom watch live and recorded footage of other people playing video games.

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#### Today's Weather



Sunny with a high near 74.

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**Paul Andrew Porterfield,**  
Oil City

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## 'Chronic pain makes you feel alone'



By Jerry Sowden

Robert Paddock holds a photo of his wife, Karen Shettler Paddock, who committed suicide on Aug. 7, 2013, after suffering from a debilitating and rare medical condition, called Cerebrospinal Fluid Leaks, that led

her to have severe pain. Paddock has been maintaining his late wife's online journal, one that she had previously kept for more than 20 years as a way to discuss her illness.

## Woman's online journal of disorder paves way for new medical courses

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He also wants people to know her suicide wasn't meaningless. That she lives she on.

Robert describes Karen as his "best friend," and was devastated when she ultimately lost her battle with her daily, debilitating headaches and committed suicide on Aug. 7, 2013.

When Robert approached the newspaper, he wanted someone to write about his wife's suicide. An editor explained to him that newspapers don't usually report on suicide cases for fear of copycats. But Robert was humbly insistent.

"Her case is something different," Robert said.

And it was.

"My name is Karen Shettler Paddock. I am dead. I committed suicide on August 7, 2013, as I could no longer stand the excruciating headache caused by a Intracranial Hypotension, more commonly known as a Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Leaks. A condition that is

more common that many think (for example Actor George Clooney had a CSF Leak and considered suicide), yet is so unknown that some doctors argue the condition does not even exist," reads the opening page of Karen's online journal.

Robert has made it his personal mission to help others by maintaining Karen's online journal. Karen wrote for more than 20 years about her life with chronic, debilitating headaches and struggle to find a diagnosis. Her illness became so severe that she saw no other way to relieve her pain than to take her own life.

See **CSF**, Page 8

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The Tionesta council approved the measure during its July meeting. Borough manager Colleen Call said the

signs are on hand now and will go up as soon as the public works schedule allows.

Mayor Judy McDaid is a retired nurse and was happy to see the program making the rounds into Tionesta.

"This is great," she said.

It is not the first time the borough has participated in such a program.

"We were right up front of this in the 80s," McDaid said. Tobacco-free signs were placed in the recreation areas and schools.

What happened to those signs over the years is a mystery to her.

"Somehow our signs were stolen," McDaid said.

See **SIGNS**, Page 8



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Before the move can take place, the building needs to be renovated, mostly interior work.

As part of the bid process, the commissioners requested companies list the length of time it would take them to complete the project.

The bids ranged in price from \$77,536 to \$123,997. Two of the bidders did not list a timeline. Of the two that did, one company listed three weeks and the other slightly more than a month.

"We will review (the bids)... and see where we are at," said commissioner Robert Snyder at Wednesday's regular meeting of the panel.

He and fellow commissioners Basil Huffman and Norman Wimer were concerned about the bids, which they felt were high. The three agreed that more time was needed to decide on the next move for the project.

Miller was on hand for the bid open as well, and also voiced surprise at the cost.

"We will table awarding until next meeting," Wimer said.

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# CSF

Continued from Page 1

Yet out of this tragedy, some hope has arisen. Instructors at the Duke University of Medicine are using Karen's journal, found at [www.kpaddock.com](http://www.kpaddock.com), as a case-study to teach students how to recognize the symptoms of a Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Leak, the rare disease that Karen suffered from. Karen's journal has also inspired those suffering with chronic pain across the globe. Many people have already personally reached out to Robert to know that Karen's story has helped them — some were considering suicide and sought treatment after reading Karen's journal. Others were able to recognize their symptoms and get tested for a CSF Leak after hearing about her struggles. Karen's first-hand account of her illness gave an honest, heart-wrenching depiction of what it is like to live with debilitating pain day-to-day. One of the most baffling symptoms of her illness is that Karen's headaches would go away when she was lying down, only to return when she stood up for any length of time. "CSF is a very misunderstood condition because when you're lying down you feel better. When you wake up in the morning your brain is full of fluid and your muscles are

relaxed which plugs the leaks," Robert said. "You want to get up and get on with your life. But a few hours later, this debilitating headache comes back. Because of this, it's sometimes called an 'afternoon headache'," he added. Karen felt that many of her friends and family did not understand her condition, and it lead to her feeling extremely isolated from everyone but her husband and beloved dogs. "People that have not experienced severe unrelenting pain for months or years expect you to suck it up and continue your normal daily activities. Chronic pain makes you feel alone. Like no one understands how much pain you are in," wrote Karen Paddock in her online journal. Karen went from doctor to doctor seeking a diagnosis for her symptoms and for years heard that she was healthy and only seeking attention. "Many of those doctors told her that 'it was all in her head' or that she was making up her symptoms to get attention," Robert said. Yet her headaches continued. Karen saw more than 35 different doctors who were unable to give her a proper diagnosis or provide relief from the pain she experienced. "My depression is from the pain I feel, too. I think sometimes, that if we do not

fit the typical symptoms that doctors learned about in medical school, that they blame our problems on us. Like they think it is all our fault," Karen wrote. In her frustration, Karen began researching on her own. "She became a huge supporter of the Franklin Library. As far as book-based learning goes, she could have gotten a doctorate in her condition," Robert said. Eventually, Karen's contact with the outside world became extremely limited. In addition to Robert and her pets, Karen tried to interact online a few hours a day with others who suffered with chronic pain. When building Karen's website, Robert poured through emails and more than 9,437 Facebook private messages to compile a 20-year medical history of Karen's struggles with her CSF Leak. Eventually, a specialist in Pittsburgh was able to give Karen a proper diagnosis. But her body ultimately rejected the spinal patches that were supposed to provide her with relief. Only four doctors in the world specialize in treating CSF Leak, and Robert believes we don't know enough about the illness to properly treat it long-term. "Research into such leaks is only about 10 years old... We just don't know enough on how to treat CSF Leak without causing rebound pressure issues that cause the

exact same excruciating headaches," Robert said. In an effort to learn more, Robert is trying to set up a \$750,000 Fellowship program at Duke to train more doctors and fund better research equipment that will locate CSF Leaks sooner. Those who would like to donate can do so through [www.kpaddock.com](http://www.kpaddock.com). When asked how he dealt with Karen's death, Robert turns the conversation back to Karen's story. His ultimate goal is that her story be told in order to help others. On her last day, Karen wasn't just having a headache. Her symptoms included issues with her vision, nausea, dizziness and hearing. She spoke to her next-door neighbor earlier in the day, and he said that she appeared fine. Robert says that chronic pain sufferers often learn to mask their pain so well that they will continue smiling on the outside, even though they feel horrendous inside. Robert still misses Karen every day. She was the love of his life, and his constant companion. Without her, he says he feels an ache in his heart that will never go away. He is determined not to let others take the path that Karen chose to take. "I tell them not to do this, that if we don't raise awareness of their illness and pain no one will ever know when they need help," Robert said.

# Aide: Corbett informed of 'inappropriate' AG emails

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gov. Tom Corbett said Saturday he was told several months ago about "inappropriate" emails shared among staffers at the attorney general's office, which he once led. Campaign manager Mike Barley told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review the governor was informed about them by Geoff Moulton, a lawyer brought in to review how state prosecutors and police handled the Jerry Sandusky case. Corbett made the statement a few days after telling the paper's editors and reporters last week that he had no knowledge of the emails. Barley said Corbett "does not recall exactly how the emails were described by Moulton, other than it was made clear to him that they were inappropriate." He said the governor had no knowledge of them when serving as attorney general from 2005 through 2010, and that he has not seen them. "To clarify, the governor did not have any discussions with Mr. Moulton during the official interview regarding this matter," Barley said in a statement. "After that interview concluded, Mr. Moulton told the governor that emails were uncovered during the investigation that may have been inappropriate." A judge is deciding whether to release the emails, and The Associated Press has requested them from the court as well as from the attorney general's office. "If he would have known about any inappropriate emails sent, he would have put a stop to that type of activity immediately," Barley said. "He would never condone that type of behavior, and if these reports are true, he will be very disappointed."

# Clarion

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The requirement is part of a national trend. Other PASSHE schools, including California University, Mansfield University and Edinboro University also have the requirement. Shippensburg University and Indiana University are also exploring the idea. Some colleges, such as Allegheny College and Grove City College have four-year requirements. The rule is up to the individual universities and not PASSHE itself. "Two years ago the staff, administration and student affairs noticed that there was a trend beginning, requiring students to spend two years on campus," said Nowaczyk. "What nationally people were finding was that schools that were implementing two-year residency requirements were showing a higher graduation and retention rates." There are ways to get around the rule however. Students who are married, honorably discharged from the military, live with their parents or guardians less than 30 miles away from campus, over the age of 21, part-time students or single parents are exempt. Nowaczyk said out of all university sophomores on academic probation two years ago, a "disproportionate share" lived off campus. He also said while the rule was not intended for monetary purposes, there is value in retaining students.

Now they have that whole year of thinking, 'What are we going to do?'" she said. "I know a lot of people are struggling and a lot of people are thinking that this could be the end of a business they've had for years and years."

# Signs

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When the borough was approached about the Young Lungs program, she said it was a no-brainer for her and the borough council. "What are you telling your child when you're standing there smoking as they are out on the mound?" she questioned. Young Lungs at Play is a state initiative to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke. But it's not just the smoking that will not be permitted on the ball fields and playground. "Tobacco-free includes chewing," McDaid said. She said the borough has heard grumbling about people smoking at the field but never hurts to keep people aware of Young Lungs at Play. "This will be nice reminder that I hear no complaints (about the policy) whatsoever," she said.

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Forest

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The commissioners voted Wednesday to approve a three-year agreement with Delaware Valley Health Trust. The program was made available through the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and offers municipalities the chance to pool their buying power to get better service and rates. "This is really good news

for the county," Wimer said. By making the three-year agreement, county employees can be more assured about coverage versus the year-to-year changes in providers that had been happening. "Every time you do it (change providers), somebody was going to get burned," Huffman said. "So we are going to be consistent for three years." The commissioners were also happy to report that most local doctors have already

agreed to accept the insurance, which includes eye and dental care. Rates for the county will increase by 3 percent — a switch from last year's decrease of 12 percent. But it includes things the county has not had before, like wellness incentives, according to Huffman. Plus it will bring the county in line with the federal health care rules, he added. "It will finally provide stabilization in our health care program," Wimer said.

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**Robert P. Ditzenberger**, Franklin  
**Paul Andrew Porterfield**, Oil City  
**Kenneth A. Russell**, Franklin  
**Floyd B. (Mike) Sutton**, Franklin  
**Keith Bennett Wilson**, Fort Myers, Florida, formerly of Franklin  
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