

Budget: Higher-ed cash held back

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markers was that it would have enough revenue to balance this year and enough revenue to balance next year, and I am dead in earnest about that."

Legislators met for more than an hour in Rendell's offices but emerged with little to report.

"It was good that we had a meeting, (but) there was no real breakthrough or resolution, and

we're certainly going to need at least another meeting and probably several to reach resolution," said Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, of Chester, R-9th Dist.

Many seemed ready to agree to a license fee of \$15 million from each slot-machine casino wanting to operate table games. The state's miniature "resort" casinos would have to pay \$7.5 million.

However, legislators disagree on other aspects of table games, including the state's tax rate on winnings and the question of whether to set aside a portion of the tax revenue for the counties and municipalities that host the casinos.

House Democrats also want to remove limitations on the resort casinos that prevent them from rivaling Pennsylvania's nine larger casinos, a provision op-

posed by Senate Republicans.

One resort casino is licensed, but it is not yet operating while the state Supreme Court considers a legal challenge by the owners of Philadelphia Park Casino. Two applications for a second resort casino license are pending with state regulators.

Rendell said the tax rate must be at least 16 percent to yield, along with the license fees, at least \$200 million. But

he cautioned against setting a rate so high it might "kill the golden goose." He also warned that legislators must prevent the casinos from removing existing slot machines and endangering a key revenue source for public schools.

Rendell said that until a table-games bill is passed, he will hold up \$730 million in discretionary funding for universities and other institutions.

Penn State is suffering the biggest budget hole, waiting on about \$334 million from the state, or 9 percent of its budget.

Temple is supposed to receive about \$173 million; Pitt about \$168 million; and Lincoln about \$14 million.

Another \$34.5 million is set aside for the University of Pennsylvania. Much of that money is for the university's School of Veterinary Medicine.



FILE PHOTO ROB ENGELHARDT/Erie Times-News

Charlie Rutkowski, center, of Industrial Sales & Manufacturing Inc., takes measurements for a human-sized radio frequency device with John Kanzius, right, in September 2006. Jim Rutkowski Sr. is at left. Kanzius, who died in February, treated himself with the device.

Kanzius: Man treated self

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During an August 2008 interview, Kanzius told Leslie Stahl that he used the device nine times, and that his blood work had improved all summer long.

"I decided it was time to turn the switch on and try it," Kanzius said.

"Turn the switch on and try what?" Stahl asked.

"Try treating myself," he answered. "I got in the machine, adjusted it, and turned it on for a minute the first time and didn't feel anything strange."

Stahl then asked if he ever worried that his feelings of good health were "too good to be true."

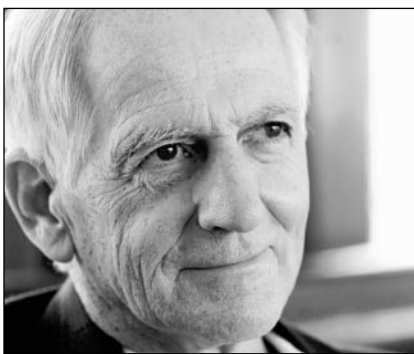
"Sure, you wonder when the bubble's going to break," he replied. "The disease is relentless. It just keeps pushing and pushing and pushing."

Kanzius' device works by sending radio waves into the body, which heat nanoparticles — microscopic pieces of gold or carbon — hot enough to kill the cancer cells in which they are placed, but not affecting healthy cells. Specific antibodies deliver the nanoparticles to certain cancer cells.

Kanzius did not use the nanoparticles or the antibodies when treating himself.

He told Stahl that he did not tell the lead investigator, Steven Curley, M.D., of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, about his personal experiment because he thought Curley wouldn't approve and would try to discourage it.

Curley could not be reached for comment Monday. But in the "60 Minutes" segment, he told Stahl that he was worried the self-treatment could harm the project. He said he doesn't



FILE PHOTO/Erie Times-News

John Kanzius said in a "60 Minutes" segment that "I decided it was time to turn the switch on and try it."

WHERE TO WATCH

Miss the "60 Minutes" segment on Sunday night? You can watch it online at www.60minutes.com or at www.kanziuscancerresearch.com.

think the experiment helped Kanzius or contributed to his death.

"I don't think it killed him. I don't think it shortened his life in any way. What killed John, unfortunately, was his leukemia, and the effects of toxic treatment," Curley said, referring to chemotherapy.

Kanzius' wife, Marianne Kanzius, shares Curley's beliefs. She said she was concerned that people would think the self-experiment caused her husband's death.

She said she didn't know, at first, that her late husband was treating himself, but that when he told her, she fully supported him.

"I was concerned, but I also knew he knew radio waves better than anyone,

and I trusted his judgment, trusted what he was working on," Marianne Kanzius said.

Asked why he would take the risk, she said, "You had to have been with him. You had to know how much chemotherapy he endured and how his health was. He was a constant optimist."

Mark Neidig, executive director of the John Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, said he found out Kanzius had tried out his device when a producer from the show called him, before it aired.

"I did what everybody did — go 'Wow,'" Neidig said. "And then you take a step back and say, 'I'd do the same thing.' We are all trying to accomplish the same thing, and that is to find this cure, this treatment, that works. The last thing we want to do is pass any judgment."

Neidig said he doesn't think Kanzius' self-experiment will harm the project's efforts or research in any way. Lab tests have shown that the device, when used with the nanoparticles and the antibodies, is "100 percent effective" in killing pancreatic and liver cancers, he said.

Keeping the device in the national spotlight can only help the cause, he said.

"This only moves our efforts forward," he said. "We are pumped up, we're passionate, and we're going to see this to fruition. We share John's dream."

Human trials are still two to four years away, but research and efforts to build a human-sized device are moving forward.

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Steven Curley, M.D., on "60 Minutes" about John Kanzius using his radio device: "I don't think it shortened his life in any way."



Marianne Kanzius, John Kanzius' widow, on her husband using his device: "I was concerned, but I also knew he knew radio waves better than anyone, and I trusted his judgment, trusted what he was working on."

Debate: Kerner, Grossman trade ideas at forum

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that addressed a host of county-wide issues, including public safety, county finances, the proposed tires-to-energy plant, county gambling revenue — and the community college.

Both Grossman and Kerner have said they expect the community college to be one of the race's hottest issues.

Grossman, a 63-year-old restaurateur from Fairview Township, told the audience that he supports launching the new school, but that he does not want to raise taxes to fund it. He said a more-affordable educational option, like a community college, will help many Erie County residents currently struggling with poverty and unemployment.

"We need a community college," Grossman said.

Kerner, 41, is a Greene Township businessman. He opposes developing a local community college with public funds.

Kerner also said local supporters of the college plan have failed to make a strong case that a community college is needed in northwestern Pennsylvania, which has a number of four-year colleges and for-profit trade schools.

Kerner said local supporters of the college plan will not even consider allowing an existing school to set up a satellite campus in Erie County because they want control of the school. But that option should be explored, Kerner said.

"Then (taxpayers) won't have to spend a dime," Kerner said.

Each candidate also explained to the audience why he wants to be county executive.

In a two-minute opening statement, Kerner said he wants to bring a businessman's perspective to county government, especially when it comes to controlling county spending.

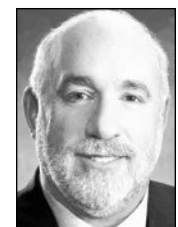
Kerner added that his community and other outlying areas of the county are "frequently the stepchildren" and left out when it comes to county funding and services. Kerner said he wants to change that.

Grossman said he is running to bring a greater sense of integrity and ethics to county government.

He said that too often, elected officials are concerned with their own interests — not the public's.

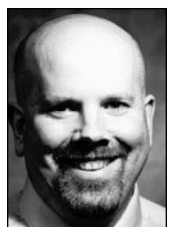
WHEN TO WATCH: CANDIDATES SET DEBATES

Democrat Barry Grossman and Republican Mike Kerner are scheduled to participate in two televised debates in the race for Erie County executive. The first is set to air live on WJET-TV on Oct. 27. The second, also live, is scheduled to air on WICU-TV on Oct. 28. Both will begin at 7 p.m.



BARRY GROSSMAN

Age: 63
Home: Fairview Township
Career: Restaurateur
What he said Monday: He backed a community college but said he does not want to raise taxes to fund it.



MIKE KERNER

Age: 41
Home: Greene Township
Career: Businessman
What he said Monday: He said he opposes developing a community college with public funds.

"I don't want our government held hostage by the bad guys," Grossman said.

The candidate's responses on other issues included:

■Grossman said the county should have a budget director who closely monitors spending, and revenues year-round. "Then we can make adjustments along the way," Grossman said.

■Kerner said his economic development strategy would focus on helping existing Erie County businesses grow. Kerner said as county executive, he would launch venture capital funds and new loan programs to help local businesses.

■Grossman said he would create projects to beautify and improve the Erie region, such as new signage laws and parks programs. Grossman said that too often in government, "we fall in love with concrete projects, and turn our backs on quality-of-life issues," Grossman said.

■Kerner said he sympathizes with those upset about proposed cutbacks at Erie County's libraries. But he told the audience it would likely take deeper cuts to library staff and services to make that happen because state funding for county libraries has been slashed.

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Mary Smolinsky, 86, of Fairview Township, will bowl this winter in the Special Olympics. Officials with the state's Special Olympics believe Smolinsky is the oldest Special Olympian in Pennsylvania. Smolinsky, mentally disabled since birth, has been bowling about 10 years. "I'm pretty good," she says.



JACK HANRAHAN/Erie Times-News

Bowler: Olympian still active at 86

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medals long before she ever set foot on a bowling alley.

Mentally disabled since birth and left to live in a state hospital in central Pennsylvania from the end of World War II through the mid-1970s, Smolinsky returned here, placed by distant relatives in a L'Arche Erie group home.

Over the years, she has impressed her caregivers with a penchant for adventure. On a group vacation to St. Louis, she was one of only a few residents to ride to the top of the 630-foot-tall Gateway Arch. She showed a similar fearless streak in Niagara Falls aboard the Maid of the Mist, smiling and clapping as large waves loudly crashed into the boat.

"Mary is one of the most courageous people I've ever met," said Connie Rhinewald, the group-home leader on Sumner Drive

in Millcreek Township who has known Smolinsky for the past 24 years. "She just loves trying new things."

Smolinsky's range of interests is vast, be it growing cucumbers in the house garden, painting with watercolors or bowling in the Special Olympics.

"I'm pretty good," Smolinsky said about her bowling, which began 10 years ago when she accompanied a few other group residents to a Special Olympics competition at Rolling Meadow Lanes.

She was a natural — aiming a wooden ramp, which volunteers placed behind the foul line, toward the pins, then rolling her 12-pound, bronze-colored ball down the ramp, letting gravity do its thing.

Smolinsky bowls a pair of 10-frame games in Special Olympics training sessions and competitions, averaging a score

from the high 90s to about 110 each game.

"I like to get a strike," Smolinsky said before flashing a beaming smile. "It's hard, but I can do it."

Bowling is the most popular athletic competition for the Special Olympics of Erie County, as about 175 of its 300 participants take part in the season, culminating with a local tournament on Dec. 5 and a state tournament held each spring in Pittsburgh.

"The confidence that Mary and others participating in Special Olympics gain through sports gives them confidence when they're out in the world," said Mary Zubetz, manager of the Special Olympics of Erie County.

Zubetz said state Special Olympics officials believe Smolinsky is the oldest current participant in Pennsylvania. There are no official records kept nationally of

participants' ages. Three million participants, in more than 180 countries, compete in Special Olympics events worldwide.

Smolinsky's science of aiming a bowling ramp has gradually lessened over the past few years, with volunteers helping her more than they used to.

But the thrill of pushing her ball with both hands down the lane, hoping to get a pin-rattling strike, remains strong.

"Mary is an amazing example of what people with disabilities can do," said Jason Lavery, director of development at L'Arche Erie. "Her stamina and integrity, she has a lot to show everyone. Especially the people who believe that because you have a disability you're capacity to teach and give is either limited or doesn't exist."

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