

Altoona Mirror

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MONDAY

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Deal reached to end US-Iran war

Trump orders stop to US naval blockade

The Associated Press

The United States and Iran have reached an agreement to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz, offering relief to the global economy more than three months since fighting began.

Full details of the deal were not immediately available. The sign-

ing will be Friday in Switzerland. U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed a deal had been reached and said he had authorized an end to the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports in the Strait of Hormuz.

“Congratulations to all!” he wrote on social media, without providing details. He added, “Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!”

The U.S. previously said it would ease its blockade of Irani-

an ports as the strait reopens, and would agree to relax sanctions to allow Iran to sell more of its oil and strengthen its battered economy.

Iranian state TV showed a banner asserting: “US was forced to sign an agreement to end the war.” But Iran’s government had yet to comment.

Iranian state media reported key mediator Pakistan’s announcement of the deal, after a day in which Israel, sidelined

from the negotiations, attacked Beirut’s southern suburbs while pursuing the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and posed a threat to the discussions nearing an end.

“Both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon,” Pakistan said, adding that mediators this week will facilitate meetings to “lay the foundation for the technical talks.”

Deal under criticism even in final hours

The deal likely returns to a status that existed before the war, but with thousands of people dead and Iran wielding a new source of negotiating pressure with its ability to influence transits of the strait. The waterway is crucial to significant shipments of oil, natural gas and related products like fertilizer.

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Mirror photo by Colette Costlow

Dance artist and educator KT Huckabee dances at the Penn State Altoona studio Wednesday morning, reflecting on her time as chair/coordinator of the integrative arts major and dance minor.

Forward motion

Penn State Altoona instructor who pioneered dance studies minor retires after 28 years

BY COLETTE COSTLOW
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Dance is more than an activity, according to longtime dance artist and educator at Penn State Altoona, KT Huckabee. “I truly believe that if you’re breathing, you’re dancing,” she said. “You are never still. Your heart is beating. You’re breathing.”

Bringing the dance studies minor to the university in 1998, Huckabee applied this philosophy across all classes for 28 years as chair of the Integrative Arts major and coordinator of the dance studies minor, teaching students that dance can be a form of self-expression rather than a stage presence.

As she anticipates her retirement at the end of this month, she hopes for the dance minor’s flourishing while celebrating her life’s work, continuing as artistic director of Allied Motion Dance Co. and eventually becoming a professor emeritus.

“So being able to keep dance in my life, I’m honored, grateful, and I’m not done,” she said.

It was a nun who first inspired Huckabee to begin dancing while attending Our Lady of Victory Catholic School during the 1970s in State College.

Sister Natalie was formerly a Broadway dancer, so she annually held a

spring solo and incorporated class participation.

Coming from a family of 11 children, Huckabee said she didn’t have enough money to regularly enroll in dance classes. However, she auditioned against students with previous dance experience and secured the solo part.

She remembered wearing a purple costume on the stage while performing the soft ballet or lyrical performance to Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

“That was it,” she said. “I never looked back.”

Following her first solo performance, she enrolled in a tap class taught by an acquaintance of Sister Natalie’s before taking classes at the Central Pennsylvania Dance Workshop.

While attending State College High School, she also enrolled in dance classes taught at University Park and secured a few college credits before moving to Point Park University in the fall of 1980.

As a dance major in the early 1980s, she said Point Park University’s program promoted a negative attitude toward body image, making Huckabee feel that she couldn’t be considered a dancer without looking a certain way.

This attitude caused her to rethink her career path for a short time before ultimately overcoming that mindset and

MONDAY Spotlight

PERSONALITY PROFILE

- Q&A
- OVERCOMING ADVERSITY
- SLICE OF LIFE
- ON THE JOB
- COMMUNITY TREASURE

Suggestions for Monday Spotlight subjects can be sent to Mirror Managing Editor Holly Claycomb at 814-946-7451 or hclaycomb@altoonamirror.com

enrolling in Eastern Carolina University instead.

“Why am I going to give them the power to tell me what dance is? And if I fit or don’t fit,” she asked rhetorically.

At Eastern Carolina, she met instructor Patti Weeks, who helped her rediscover her love of dance when taking modern dance classes.

“She is the one I will attribute to helping me find again the joy that I found when I first started dancing, that expression,” she said.

She forged a path as a modern dancer, which is an artist who explores all types of dance with an emphasis on taking classes that speak to someone’s unique style.

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Gallitzin: Change tunnel for Big Boy

Community leaders hope to alter planned route to go through Allegheny Tunnel

BY WILLIAM KIBLER
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Those who track local news might think it petty for the leaders of a community where the Big Boy locomotive will pass through in July to get steamed over which track through town it will use.

But for people in Gallitzin, it’s a big deal.

According to a post from Union Pacific, the railroad that owns the world’s largest steam locomotive, the Big Boy will come through town on July 11 on Norfolk Southern Track 1, which passes through the New Portage Tunnel, where its emergence will not be publicly visible — not on either Track 2 or Track 3, which go through the Allegheny Tunnel, where its emergence would be clear to throngs of spectators and where it would present the opportunity for an iconic picture.

“Our entire council and members of the community are hoping we can get folks to consider changing the route, so we can get that historic photo,” wrote Borough Council member Joe Skura in an email. “(B)ring the train through our (Allegheny) tunnel while folks gather at Tunnels Inn and our Tunnels Museum — and show off the pride of our community as the train’s passing through brings many.”

If the Big Boy goes through the Allegheny Tunnel, people could watch from a bridge and a nearby park, according to Skura and others.

But if it goes through the New Portage Tunnel, whose western end is about four-tenths of a mile to the southeast of the western mouth of the Allegheny Tunnel, its emergence won’t be visible from public land, according to Bob Elder, who owns the Tunnel Inn. It won’t be visible, for example, from the Main Street Bridge over the tracks near Fabbri Park, because after it comes out of the tunnel, the tracks continue over an upgrade, until they clear a rise — a rise that blocks a view of the tunnel mouth, Elder said.

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