Dear Friends of Hospitality:

As I write this, our first measurable snowfall of the season is upon us and winter is officially here. Penn State’s winter sports offer world class collegiate competition and an unparalleled value in indoor entertainment. Add that to the myriad outdoor activities central Pennsylvania offers and you’ve got the perfect recipe for a truly enjoyable season! Or, if sitting by a warm fire with a great glass of wine and someone else doing the cooking and cleaning, we’ve got that too. Either way, it’s a great time to enjoy Happy Valley.

In this issue, we’re focusing on an organization that means a great deal to many of us at Penn State — Special Olympics Pennsylvania Summer Games, hosted each year by Penn State on campus and around the region. Eight Special Olympians are also employed by Hospitality Services, and we’ve talked to them about their involvement and successes in this special event. In addition, every year, many of our staff serve as Special Olympic volunteers and we’re very proud of all of them!

Also look for the usual Wine Corner, a delicious holiday recipe from Chef Stout, and of course, the calendar and other news of note.

Take the time to visit Happy Valley this winter. Our reservations staff can build you a great getaway package, particularly for Valentines Day or for the Lady Lions Basketball Pink Zone Event on the weekend of February 26, 2011. This is a breast cancer survivor celebration, and we’ll all be helping to honor those who have beat the odds. So enjoy the winter and come to State College. You’ll be glad you did!

Jim Purdum
General Manager

SPECIAL OLYMPIANS ADD THE SPARK

Since he was nine years old, Ron Kresge has been participating in the Special Olympics. He began in track and field, and although his choice of sports has changed to a slightly less strenuous one (softball now), his eagerness to be a part of the games has never wavered. Now, at age 50, Ron is still participating every year. In fact, he wouldn’t miss it and has the medals to prove just how good an athlete he has been.

"I know a lot of people, and that’s the best part of the Games. I like the people and all the

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With all the buzz about craft beer these days it would be easy to overlook the latest players in the craft beverage industry: new craft distilleries. All over the United States small batch craft distilling is seeing a resurgence that has been relatively dormant since Prohibition outside of Kentucky. Pennsylvania is no exception and we have a couple of great examples on both ends of the state. Bluecoat American Dry Gin was birthed from the Philadelphia Distilling Company in 2006. It is batch distilled in a copper pot still and made with only certified organic ingredients including their own proprietary blend of American citrus and, of course, juniper berries. Boyd & Blair Potato Vodka is made by Pennsylvania Pure Distilleries just outside of Pittsburgh, exclusively from potatoes grown in PA. The owners take pride in hand-bottling and numbering the labels every week. Just like craft brewing or small production winemaking, the advantage of small batch, hand-crafted liquor comes from the artistic skill and care that the master distiller imparts to each batch. Both Bluecoat and Boyd & Blair select only the purest parts of their distillate for bottling. We offer Bluecoat Gin and Boyd & Blair Vodka here in Legends Pub at The Penn Stater, featuring both in signature drinks on our martini menu. But if you are trying them for the first time we recommend letting them stand on their own over a couple of cubes of ice - these smooth spirits don't need any help to make us PA proud! We are always eager to highlight Pennsylvania products in our articles and on our menus...please send us your suggestions for other great items made in the Keystone state to kss115@psu.edu.

On Sunday, February 27, the Lady Lions will take on Northwestern in the Bryce Jordan Center in the fifth annual WBCA Pink Zone Event to benefit breast cancer research. This year, the Lady Lions and local business woman and breast cancer survivor Mimi Barash Coppersmith are teaming up to raise funds.

Pink Zone events raise money and awareness about the fight against breast cancer. Cancer survivors are invited to the game and fans are encouraged to wear pink. Lady Lions wear pink-trimmed uniforms that night. Last year, the Lady Lions raised more than $80,000 for breast cancer causes. This year’s rung raising efforts will benefit the Mount Nittany Medical Center, the Hershey Cancer Institute, the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition, the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, and the J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital.

In addition, the Lady Lions will present their Basketball Champion Award, given at each of these games to recognize individuals or groups who help champion the cause in finding a cure for breast cancer. Last year’s award was presented to the Centre County Breast Cancer Coalition.
friends I've made over the years,” Ron says.

Valerie Good, Ron’s supervisor, laughed and added: “That’s an under-estimate. He knows everyone! In fact, that’s one of the best things he brings to his job here at the front door of the Inn. He interacts with a lot of people every day and he never forgets a face. He offers a happy greeting and takes care of people very well. His job is to polish our apples and keep his ‘territory’ cleaned up (that’s from the street to the parking garage to the front door). Ron’s a huge asset to us.”

Cajee Bechdel and Margaret Vance, also long-time employees of Hospitality Services, are also medal winners. Cajee participates in bowling, tennis, and volleyball, and sports no fewer than five medals in those sports. Margaret is a tennis player, but also enjoys swimming, bowling and volleyball. She, too, has many medals and trophies decorating her walls at home. Cajee notes: “I compete because it makes me feel good, and during the year, we do Bowl-A-Thons and other things to raise money for Special Olympics.” Margaret adds that participating in the sporting events is great for her health. “The games give me something really positive and exciting to look forward to, and the practices keep me in shape.”

Both Cajee and Margaret work on the housekeeping staff and Jacki Weyer, their supervisor, notes their attitudes and work ethic. “These two women have been here for more than ten years, and they inspire all of us here every day with their dedication to their jobs and their commitment to their sports.”

Brenda Higgins is a fixture in the Penn Stater, where she fills salt and pepper shakers and keeps napkins folded neatly and filled with silverware. Rahul Shrivastav, her supervisor, says that she keeps everyone organized. “As a 12-year veteran worker,” he says, “she is a great asset on our team. It’s important for Brenda to have independence and be relied upon to do her job. I never have to worry about whether her work is done—it always is and it’s always right.” Brenda’s sports include bowling, bocci, and swimming. Her highest bowling score is 179, and she also has many medals to prove her worthiness as a competitor. Brenda says: “Participating in Special Olympics means a lot socially. I get to meet new people and I love seeing others who come every year. I also volunteer, and keep score at the Bowl-A-Thon.”

Noah Moyer and Jennifer Kunkle, are kitchen stewards at the Nittany Lion Inn, and Chef Tom notes that they are part of the most important team in the restaurant. Tom notes: “There’s a lot of correlation between the Special Olympics and the job in the dining room. They have to be quick in their sports and here too. If we don’t have clean dishes, we can’t serve our customers. The kitchen stewards are the backbone of the kitchen, and Noah and Jennifer are valued members of that team. I can’t imagine the kitchen without them.”

Both Noah and Jennifer have a huge respect for Chef Tom. “Tom’s a great guy,” says Noah. “He helps me with any issues I might have and he’s...”

Ron and Valerie: “Keep those apples coming!”

Chef Tom with Noah and Jennifer: “I can’t imagine the kitchen without them.”

Cajee, Jacki and Margaret: “They inspire everyone every day!”

on top of things.” Both Jennifer and Noah have participated in Special Olympics for years, and each has more than a decade of service at the Inn.

Jim Purdum, General Manager, notes: “The driver behind Hospitality Services’ success is our fantastic people. As good as they are at work, I’m always impressed by the number of interesting and truly meaningful activities, interests and hobbies our team members are involved with outside of work and it’s no different for our employees who excel in Special Olympic competition. They contribute significantly to our mission of ‘Building Relationships That Last’; they do high quality, important work and they’re active in the community doing things they really enjoy and are very good at. It’s all part of the package that brings the best people to our organization and it makes this environment so easy to enjoy regardless of the challenges that serving hundreds of thousands of guests and visitors per year can bring.”

Hospitality Services was recently recognized by Special Olympics Pennsylvania for its commitment to hiring these very special athletes.
Please note that this is just a sampling of the sporting events, exhibitions, and activities in the Centre Region. For a complete listing or information, see calendars on the web pages www.gopsusports.com or www.happyvalley.com.

Check pennstatehotels.com for great packages!

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WE GET LETTERS...

"Now that we have begun to relax after the wedding weekend, we wanted to tell you how beautiful the weekend was. You and your staff at the Penn Stater made the events our son's wedding very pleasant and memorable. We cannot say enough about how easy it was to work with everyone and how you made sure that all of our ideas and wishes happened. We have received several thank you notes from out of town friends who were very impressed and will definitely come back and visit. Thank you so much for your attentiveness to details at the rehearsal dinner and the reception. We will definitely recommend the Penn Stater to anyone who needs a place to stay or an event location."

"As you can no doubt guess, came home exhausted and ready to put my feet up and relax. But after a good night's sleep, I wanted to quickly deal with two things...First of all, again my profound thanks to you and your staff for the incredible work you do. We have had nothing but glowing comments about the conference in general and specifically the facility with many members urging a return. As I mentioned to you, I have done this event so many times and worked with people who were not nearly as flexible, cooperative, and understanding as you and the staff at the Penn Stater. When things were outrageously stressful, I turned to you and, calmly and pleasantly, you helped us out - the key words being "calmly" and "pleasantly". It was a pleasure."

"I enjoyed my stay there very much...you have wonderful staff and amazing food! I was pleased to see the healthy food choices."

Nittany Lion Inn earns the AAA 4-Diamond Award!
Amish Baked Oatmeal

- 1 qt & 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 oz heavy cream
- 20 oz whole milk
- 6 ea whole eggs
- 4 oz melted whole butter
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup dried cherries
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 1/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup diced dried apricots

The night before:
In a large bowl, mix together oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, baking powder, and salt. Beat in milk, eggs, melted butter, and vanilla extract. Stir in dried fruits and nuts. Pour in a buttered baking dish and refrigerate until ready to bake.

Rum Sabayon

- 6 ea egg yolks
- 6 oz sugar
- 2 oz marsala
- 4 oz dark rum
- 12 oz whipped cream
- 3 oz sugar

Separate the yolks from the whites. Whisk together the yolks, sugar, Marsala and Rum. Whisk mixture over a double boiler until thick. Let cool. Whisk heavy cream with sugar until it forms a soft peak. Fold whipped cream into the cooled egg mixture.

Rum Sabayon goes well with Fresh Fruit, Bread Pudding, Pound Cake and Amish Style Baked Oatmeal.
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**WIN!**<br>A HAPPY WEEKEND IN HAPPY VALLEY!

All you have to do is fill out the form below, clip it, and send it in. We'll put all the names in a hat and in January, February, and March we'll choose one lucky person to enjoy a free weekend here in the Centre Region (certain weekend restrictions may apply).

If you would like to receive periodic announcements from us about dining and event specials, please fill in your e-mail address below. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential and will not be used for any other purpose nor will it be given to anyone else for any reason.

Comments about our newsletter/your wine suggestions:

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**Comments about our newsletter/your wine suggestions:**

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**Phone/E-mail**

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**WINNERS**

Debra O’Hara, Blue Bell, PA
Maggie Talbot, Doylestown, PA
Christel Ertel, Camp Hill, PA

Clip this coupon and mail to:
Ms. Fran E. Levin
Sales and Marketing
Penn State Hospitality Services
200 West Park Avenue
State College, PA 16803