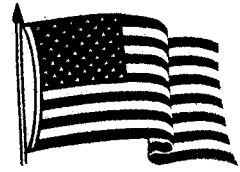


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Glassport to take part in health study

By PATRICK CLOONAN

Daily News Staff Writer

pcloonan@dailynewsemail.com

A long-range medical study by University of Pittsburgh researchers is about to come to Glassport.

Borough officials are seek-

ing to reassure residents that it's legitimate.

"The Glassport police have been notified of the names of the staff involved in the study," according to a statement by Pitt's Mon Yough Healthy Aging Team. It was issued through the office of Glassport Chief Howard Kifer.

"If you have any questions, please call the police department," MYHAT officials said. Glassport's non-emergency number is 412-672-4514.

The matter also was discussed by borough councilors at their meeting last week.

MYHAT is conducting a five-year study aimed at improving understanding of healthy aging, particularly of the mind, by identifying factors which cause some elderly to remain healthy while others develop health problems.

The study is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Pitt researchers are seeking out randomly-selected seniors in Clairton, McKeesport, West Mifflin, Glassport, Duquesne, Liberty, Dravosburg and White Oak.

Census figures indicate Allegheny County has the second oldest demographic in the U.S., after Dade County, Fla.,

while McKeesport and White Oak have the oldest demographics within Allegheny County.

MYHAT is based at offices in Parkside Building II, 3027 Jacks Run Road, White Oak. Interviews will be conducted both there and at homes of participating seniors.

The survey is voluntary, and seniors who agree to participate will be offered what Pitt officials called "a small monetary token of appreciation for their time."

Study coordinator Kathryn McMichael, R.N., said in a February interview that principal MYHAT investigator Dr. Mary Ganguli, a professor of geriatric psychiatry at Pitt, "has been studying Alzheimer's disease for many, many years."

McMichael said Ganguli has done long-range studies in the past, including one "in the Mon Valley for 15 years beginning in 1987." Ganguli's work determined many seniors will have a slower thought process without suffering dementia or other permanent problems.

MYHAT officials reiterated those seniors who do not want to participate can call a toll-free 800 number to be taken off the list.