



SPORTS

RAMS SCALE HILLTOPPERS

Richland boys scrape past Westmont Hilltop 3-2 in double overtime. B1

NATION

O.J. MAKES BAIL

Legal experts and TV commentators weigh in on the case. A6



BUSINESS UPSTARTS & INNOVATORS

Richard Somiari: Scientist and entrepreneur. A12



SIMPLY THE BEST

Special section tallies this year's readers' favorites.



WEATHER

Clear to partly cloudy after early fog. High 79; low 56. C10

LOTTERY

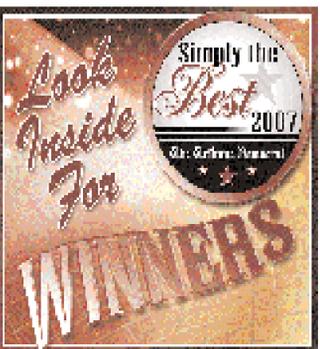
Wednesday's Powerball 20-25-26-45-46
Powerball: 15 Power Play: 3
More Lottery numbers: C10

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GOOD MORNING,
JOHN OKLAMCHAK!
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Rock Run action-plan meetings wrap

BY JULIE BENAMATI
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HASTINGS - Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission on Wednesday held its last public meeting on giving visitors to the Rock Run Recreation Area more reasons to stay and spend their tourist dollars.

Pashek and Associates of Pittsburgh will gather all the information and present it as a 20-year action plan to develop the 17 localities that surround Rock Run. Potential needs that have been identified include infrastructure, transportation and directions, land use, public safety, environment, public relations and inter-governmental cooperation.

Extended hours, safety top concerns

"We know Rock Run is going to attract more visitors, up to 15,000 to 25,000 a year," said Paul Gilbert, a community planner at Pashek Associates.

"Prince Gallitzin State Park already attracts about 1 million visitors per year. We want to plan for the future."

About 30 people attended the meeting at the Cambrian Hills Golf Club.

Meetings already had been in held in Northern Cambria, Patton and Coalport.

Some attendees suggested that Rock Run be open on Mondays and surrounding towns stay open for business past 5 p.m.

Others were concerned about public safety - suggesting a state police substation be moved closer to Rock Run.

The 20-year plan is expected to serve as a blueprint to meet the needs of visitors, strengthen business opportunities and improve quality of life within the region.

"This area surrounding Rock Run has great rural character and a lot of natural assets," said Stephanie Powers, a planner at Southern Alleghenies.

The final plan is scheduled to be announced soon.

REGIONAL TOURISM | NATIONAL MAGAZINES CARRY ADS

Selling the city



Olivia Bragdon of the Cambria County visitors bureau talks about tourism-promotion ads in national magazines while riding the Inclined Plane on Wednesday alongside Jean Griffith of Seattle and Peggy Ann Smith of Fishertown.

Local campaign woos visitors

BY KATHY MELLOTT
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An advertisement with a local angle is showing up in the September issues of three national magazines targeted at women.

A brass door knocker engraved with "Johnstown Pa." and "Knock Knock, What's Here" are letting the world know the city and Cambria County have much to offer anyone looking for an off-the-beaten-path getaway.

"We're trying to get our branding going so they recognize it," said Olivia Bragdon, communications coordinator for the Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"It does take a good chunk of our budget - but it's well worth the cost," she said Tuesday.

The door knocker is the cover of the bureau's 2007 visitors guide. Tens of thousands of copies were distributed to visitors centers and through the mail.

The ad is running this month in Better Homes and Gardens, Ladies' Home Journal and CountryHome magazines, all publications of the Meredith Publishing Group.

"It does take a good chunk of our budget - but it's well worth the cost."

OLIVIA BRAGDON, CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The zoned market for the ads is Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Ohio. Bragdon said the combined target circulation of the three magazines is nearly 4 million.

Bragdon was unable to say how much the county bureau is paying for the high-profile exposure.

A new ad set to run in the magazines' October issues features a colorful autumn in Cambria with the promise, "Everyone Leaves Happy," Bragdon said.

The ads are funded by the local bureau.

The campaign is something the state Department of Community and Economic Development encourages and often participates

in, said department spokesman Michael Chapaloney.

"We appreciate the marketing efforts of our local agencies," he said.

The 3-by-6-inch ad is one of six taking up the top half of pages in Better Homes and Gardens. It shares space with bureaus inviting people to Gettysburg, Lehigh Valley, Centre County, Columbia County, Laurel Highlands, Philadelphia and the Erie area.

The ads include Internet addresses to draw people to Web sites with more information.

It's all about getting the word out, letting the world know about Cambria and the Alleghenies, said Debbie Prosser of the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission, which uses magazines to promote the six-county region including Cambria and Somerset.

"We tend to stick to outdoor recreational magazine markets with a focus on D.C. and Baltimore," Prosser said.

Key to successful promotion, Prosser said, is making sure the regional organization and the county bureaus avoid duplication.

Laurel woes persist

Cambria nursing home put back on provisional license

BY SANDRA K. REABUCK
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EBENSBURG - Laurel Crest was put back on a provisional license Wednesday and fined \$9,000 in civil penalties for ongoing shortcomings in the wake of a patient's death after a mechanical-lift accident.

"This appears to be an ongoing problem, which we had expected would be corrected after previous inspections," said Larissa Bedrick, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Health.

"However," she added, "it is clear that the facility has not corrected this problem, which is grounds for the provisional license."

The latest action does not include a ban on admissions or a freeze on Medicare or Medicaid reimbursements, President Commissioner P.J. Stevens said.

Laurel Crest, Cambria County's 370-bed nursing home, has had a rocky year trying to correct deficiencies found by state inspectors, including those dealing with the lifts.

Please see **LICENSE**, A2

Still in the hot seat

What: Laurel Crest, Cambria County's nursing home.

Wednesday: The home was bumped back to a provisional license. Laurel Crest had just regained a full operating license in July after correcting prior deficiencies.

Next: The six-month provisional license is good until Feb. 17. But state inspectors are expected before Oct. 16 and reimbursements could be affected if Laurel Crest can't get its act together.

Conemaugh Township police 'in disarray'

BY PATRICK BUCHNOWSKI
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DAVIDSVILLE - The Conemaugh Township Police Department is in disorder, police dogs have yet to be certified and some residents are calling for change.

Township supervisors at their meeting Wednesday refused to discuss police personnel matters but conceded the department under Chief Howard Jackson is under review.

"Our police force is in disarray right

Officials respond to residents' criticism

now," Supervisor Calvin Gindlesperger told the crowd of more than 60 residents who packed the municipal building.

"I have spent hours and hours trying to take care of this," he said. "I'm working on police matters, and that's all I'm going to say."

Dissatisfaction with Jackson has been quietly brewing for weeks. Among

other concerns, residents want to know why the township's two new canines haven't been certified - and hence can't hit the streets.

Supervisors apparently tried to force Jackson to resign at the end of August, but he refused, multiple sources told The Tribune-Democrat. When he refused, the sources said, the supervisors held a 90-minute executive session

Sept. 4, but failed to reach consensus and took no action against Jackson.

Several residents indicated they wanted a change at the top.

"When Pete Barclay was chief, we had something to be proud of," Jerome resident John Mastillo said.

Davidsville resident Joseph Stevens asked why Louis "Pete" Barclay was made a patrolman when he returned home after serving with his son in the National Guard on a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.



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