



PLUGGED (FOR NOW)



BP's new, 75-ton, tighter cap has so far successfully plugged the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Now the wait begins to see whether it holds.

STORY, A5

CMYK



MAY THE BEST CAR WIN!

Morrow

2010 CHEVY COBALT LS SEDAN

Buy For **\$8,708**

or **\$135/mo.**

MSRP \$17,810
 MORROW DISCOUNT -402
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CMYK



Ellwood City Ledger

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010

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FRIDAY AT A GLANCE



TO THE WIRE

Ellwood City trumps Riverside in Colt League semifinals. SEE SPORTS, PAGE B1

WEATHER



Strong thunderstorms

89/63

PAGE A2

BY THE NUMBERS

THURSDAY'S LOTTERY RESULTS

Pennsylvania

Day Daily: 614 Day Big 4: 2672
 Night Daily: 698 Night Big 4: 8385
 Day Quinto: 06923 Night Quinto: 15644
 Treasure Hunt: 1, 8, 10, 19, 27
 Match 6: 12, 20, 21, 26, 40, 45
 Cash 5: 1, 3, 6, 12, 18
 No one had the Cash 5 numbers; today's jackpot will be \$225,000.

Ohio

Day Pick 3: 151
 Day Pick 4: 5148
 Night Pick 3: 765
 Night Pick 4: 5351
 Rolling Cash 5: 7, 12, 24, 25, 39
 Day Ten-Oh!: 3, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25, 26, 29, 31, 36, 45, 49, 54, 66, 71, 75, 79
 Night Ten-Oh!: 1, 2, 14, 22, 24, 28, 34, 41, 42, 43, 48, 50, 52, 53, 67, 72, 73, 76, 77, 78
 Classic Lotto jackpot: \$4.6 million.

West Virginia

Daily 3: 227
 Daily 4: 7521
 Cash 25: 1, 11, 12, 15, 20, 21

Powerball

Saturday's jackpot will be an estimated \$27 million.

Mega Millions

Today's jackpot will be an estimated \$64 million.

DEATH RECORD

Edyth M. Kaufman, 89
Formerly of Fombell Turner Funeral Home of Ellwood City

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Drug charges for man injured in shooting

Eric Poole
Ledger Staff

ELLWOOD CITY — An Ellwood City man who was severely injured in May in a shooting faced a judge Thursday on drug charges stemming from that incident.

Court personnel in the office of District Judge Jerry Cartwright said Alexander Scott Hohbach, 22, of 324 Hazel Ave., appeared to have recovered from his injuries

when he was shot five times on May 28 in what Ellwood City police called a drug deal gone bad.

Hohbach had two bullet wounds to the lower abdomen and three to his legs. He was transported initially to Ellwood City Hospital, then by medical helicopter to UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh.

John Rickel, 18, of 806 Chestnut St. Rear, New Castle, was arrested

at the home of a relative in New Beaver hours after the shooting took place at the home of John David Bailey, 20, of 610 Wampum Ave., Ellwood City, who also was charged Thursday.

In documents filed with Cartwright's office, Ellwood City police said Rickel and Andrew Montgomery, 19, of West Clayton St., New Castle, went to Bailey's home with the intent to buy marijuana from Hohbach and Bailey.

In an interview performed at UPMC, Hohbach told police that Rickel displayed a gun in an attempt to rob him and he (Hohbach) was shot during a struggle. Rickel said he was defending himself and Hohbach had been the aggressor during the fight.

In a search of Bailey's residence, police said they found 18 individually wrapped sandwich bags of marijuana, each weighing

about 2 grams, and another bag containing about 16 grams of marijuana.

Officers also found a cigar-style wrapped marijuana cigarette, a digital scale, rolling papers and other paraphernalia, along with \$1,092 in Hohbach's wallet.

Police also searched Hohbach's vehicle and said they found a sandwich bag containing approximately 1 gram of cocaine, two

See **DRUGS**, Page A2

Man gets 18 years for rape of agent

He awaits trial in 2007 case of same nature

Eric Poole
Ledger Staff

MERCER — A West Pittsburg man was sentenced this week to at least 18 years in prison after pleading guilty to raping a real estate agent who was showing him a house more than a year ago.

Michael Ray Tackett, 39, of 1459 14th St., Taylor Township (West Pittsburg), pleaded guilty to rape, indecent deviate sexual intercourse, aggressive indecent assault, robbery and kidnapping. Several other charges were dropped as part of the plea agreement.

Prosecutors in the case said Tackett lured a Lawrence County-based real estate agent to a home in a remote section of Jefferson Township and toward the end of a showing, raped her and threatened her family.

He had been free on bond until May 19, when he was arrested at his home after a six-hour standoff with state police. After his arrest that day, Tackett was taken to the Crawford County Jail, where he was wanted on a rape three years ago.

The details in that case were similar to the allegations in the crime to which Tackett pleaded guilty Monday.

See **SENTENCE**, Page A5

Carpenter's Project cleanup



The Ledger/MARK E. CREPP

Colby Beighey, 17, left, and Cameron Gordon, 15, sweep and rake up debris in a parklet at Seventh Street and Lawrence Avenue in Ellwood City on Thursday morning. The two are among the volunteers for the Carpenter's Project, which performs a variety of tasks include painting and home repairs for those in need. This is Beighey's first year and Gordon's third year as volunteers.

CAMPAIGN 2010

Altmire's resting on \$1.5 million

GOP challenger Rothfus needs \$1.2M to catch up

J.D. Prose
Calkins Media

If the 4th Congressional District race comes down to money this fall, as most campaigns usually do, Democratic U.S. Rep. Jason Altmire will have a sizable advantage over Republican challenger Keith Rothfus.

That is, if "sizable" even begins to describe the \$1.2 million difference in available cash both candidates claimed as of June 30 in campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

"This is pretty typical for a challenger," a nonplused Rothfus said Thursday, "particularly a challenger that had to go through a primary."

Rothfus, an Edgeworth resident, reported having \$201,700 in cash, while Altmire, D-4, McCandless Township, reported \$1.46 million.

Altmire did not have a primary challenger to worry about, unlike Rothfus, who ran against former U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan in the Republican primary. Rothfus won easily, with nearly 70 percent of the vote.

Rothfus said he raised \$260,000 from May 19, the day after the primary, to June 30. Overall, Rothfus reported raising about \$284,400 during the April 29 to June 30 reporting period.

But that figure includes a \$25,000 loan from Rothfus to his own campaign, which brings the total he has lent the campaign to

See **CAMPAIGN**, Page A2

Try your hand at growing Ellwood City's next Top Tomato

Mark E. Crepp
Ledger Staff

ELLWOOD CITY — A "Top Tomato" contest is something that Dom A. Viccari, Ellwood City borough manager, hopes keeps growing.

Viccari, who is also involved with the Ellwood City Farmers' Market, came up with the idea for the contest and was even a speaker on the market's opening day, May 22, with a program titled "Tomato Growing Tips."

He came up with the contest to help spur some interest in the farmers' market and after reading about many communities nationwide and into Canada that sponsor tomato festivals.

Viccari, who has 36 containers representing 18 varieties of tomatoes planted behind his home in Ellwood City, said the contest is "all in fun," especially with prize categories such as ugliest, prettiest and oddest-shaped.

Viccari has some of the prizes



The Ledger/MARK E. CREPP

TWO LARGE TOMATOES, grown by Dom A. Viccari, borough manager, hang on a plant behind his home in Ellwood City. His interest in growing tomatoes helped him begin a "Top Tomato" contest to generate interest in the Ellwood City's Farmers' Market.

lined up already and hopes that other local merchants will pitch in with prizes. Already in place is a compost bin provided by the Lawrence County Recycling Department as well as a set of gar-

dening tools, fertilizer and gift certificates.

The contest, which will continue through the growing season, will award a top prize for the "top tomato" (by weight). Local tomato growers are to bring their entries to the Ellwood City Farmers' Market, which is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays in the municipal parking lot on Beaver Avenue. An exact closing date for the contest has not been set, but Viccari said it will probably end in late August or early September. He hopes this will become an annual contest.

Categories for entries are also being added and may include smallest and the largest yellow tomato or plum tomato.

"The contest is a fantastic idea," said Terri Stramba, a coordinator for the farmers' market and also a weekly participant as owner of Stramba Alpaca Farm

See **TOMATO**, Page A5



The Ledger/MARK E. CREPP

BOROUGH MANAGER DOM A. VICCARI, left, and Anthony "Lefty" DeCarbo, borough council president, look over Viccari's 36 containers representing 18 varieties of tomatoes at his home on Tuesday. Viccari recently started a "Top Tomato" contest in conjunction with the Ellwood City Farmer's Market. He and DeCarbo also have a lighthearted tomato-growing competition of their own.