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A Late Night for the Oscars?
Jimmy Fallon is in talks to host the Academy Awards.
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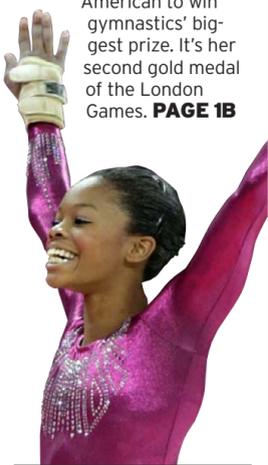
FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012 50¢



2012 LONDON OLYMPICS

GABBY'S GOLDEN

Known as "The Flying Squirrel," Gabby Douglas won the women's all-around title Thursday night, becoming the third straight American to win gymnastics' biggest prize. It's her second gold medal of the London Games. **PAGE 1B**



PHELPS WINS POOL DUEL WITH LOCHTE

Michael Phelps added to his medal collection with his first individual gold medal of the London Games, and handed Ryan Lochte a double disappointment on his rival's final night in the pool. **PAGE 1B**



PRIMETIME SCHEDULE

Swimming: gold medal finals in men's 100m butterfly, men's 50m freestyle, women's 200m backstroke, women's 800m freestyle.
Track and field: men's shot put gold medal final.
Women's Diving: springboard qualifying.
Women's volleyball: U.S. vs. Serbia.
Men's gymnastics: trampoline gold medal final.
8 p.m.-midnight, WBRE-28

LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS
Medal count
as of Aug. 2

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOT
China	18	11	5	34
United States	18	9	10	37
South Korea	7	2	5	14
France	6	4	6	16
Britain	5	6	4	15
Germany	4	8	5	17
Italy	4	5	2	11
North Korea	4	0	1	5
Russia	3	6	8	17
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3
South Africa	3	0	0	3
Japan	2	6	11	19
Netherlands	2	1	3	6
Hungary	2	1	2	5
Ukraine	2	0	4	6
Australia	1	7	3	11
Romania	1	3	2	6
Brazil	1	1	2	4
New Zealand	1	0	2	3

County hotline set up

WHERE TO CALL

Call the hotline at (570) 270-3301 or email: Controller.Hotline@luzernecounty.org.

People may anonymously report waste, fraud or abuse. Written submissions will be accepted.

By JENNIFER LEARN-ANDES
jandes@timesleader.com

Luzerne County government has a new hotline for residents to anonymously report suspected waste, fraud or abuse of county tax dollars
County Controller Walter Griffith



Griffith

Several other Pennsylvania counties already have similar hotlines, including one added in neighboring Lackawanna County last month.

created the hotline at (570) 270-3301, largely because the new county Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission won't accept anonymous complaints.

"It's important for people to have a vehicle to be able to tell their county officials if they see something that is wrong," Griffith said, noting tipsters are welcome to provide contact information.

Citizens with valid information may keep quiet if they must divulge their identities because they're afraid of retaliation, clashes with people involved or other repercussions.

See **HOTLINE**, Page 12A

ONE INJURED IN FIERY ROUTE 309 CRASH



AIMEE DILGER/THE TIMES LEADER

Firefighters work to put out a blaze that consumed a tractor-trailer after a two-vehicle crash Thursday afternoon on Route 309 in Wright Township. One man was injured in the crash involving the big rig and an SUV about 1/4-mile north of the Building Blocks Learning Center. For the story, see **Page 2A**.

Middle Road resident applauds signs of safety



AIMEE DILGER/THE TIMES LEADER

Parts of Middle Road have been marked with painted 25 mph signs in an effort to control speed on the narrow thoroughfare.

State applies 25 mph road marking and will install stop sign at a key intersection.

By ANDREW M. SEDER
aseder@timesleader.com

For 20 years, Donald Casterline has complained about speeding cars and trucks along South Main Street between Route 29 and the Nanticoke line, especially past his Lower Askam house.

Now the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is moving quickly to address his concerns. This week, in numerous spots

along the two-mile stretch, PennDOT painted big and bright "25 MPH" signs in white lettering onto the roadway and also fixed two collapsed storm drain grates that drivers swerved around, causing them to enter the opposing lane of traffic.

The agency also painted a crosswalk area across South Main Street near the school bus stop at Martin Street.

On Thursday, PennDOT announced it would install a stop sign at the intersection of Middle Road and Kosciuszko Street in

See **STOP**, Page 12A

Detroit now a deadly dumping ground

Acres of abandoned property have become the place to drop off bodies of the slain.

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT — From the street, the two decomposing bodies were nearly invisible, concealed in an overgrown lot alongside worn-out car tires and a moldy sofa. The teenagers had been shot, stripped to their under-

wear and left on a deserted block.

They were just the latest victims of foul play whose remains went undiscovered for days after being hidden deep inside Detroit's vast urban wilderness — a crumbling wasteland rarely visited by outsiders and infrequently patrolled by police.

Abandoned and neglected parts of the city are quickly becoming dumping grounds for the dead — at least a dozen bodies in 12 months' time. And authorities

acknowledge there's little they can do.

"You can shoot a person, dump a body and it may just go unsolved" because of the time it may take for the corpse to be found, officer John Garner said.

The bodies have been purposely hidden or discarded in alleys, fields, vacant houses, abandoned garages and even a canal. Seven of the victims are believed to have been slain outside De-

See **BODIES**, Page 12A



AP PHOTO

This trashed street is now typical of eastern Detroit. It is a landscape of abandoned lots, alleys and neglected parks.

Eagle Scout returns his medal

Former Edwardsville resident among those returning awards in protest of no-gays policy.

By MARK GUYDISH
mguydish@timesleader.com

In the last 102 years, the Boy Scouts of America have handed out 2,043,375 Eagle Scout medals.

In the last two weeks, the flow has reversed, with many Eagle Scouts — including former Edwardsville resident Matthew Kerns — returning the awards in protest of BSA's reaffirmation of its no-gays policy.



"I think that Boy Scouts always taught me to accept people for who they are and not discriminate, to be inclusive."

Matthew Kerns
Eagle Scout and former Edwardsville resident

Kerns credits the Boy Scouts with teaching him a variety of skills. But when the Scouts announced on July 17 that a special committee had reviewed the ban on gay members and determined it should stand, Kerns, now 27, found that decision at odds with those old lessons.

"I think that Boy Scouts always taught me to accept people for who they are and not discriminate, to be inclusive," Kerns said. "When they had an opportunity to live up to those ideals and didn't, it's really disappointing, and that was the impetus for returning my Eagle."

Other than the ban on gays, Kerns has nothing but praise for the Scouts. He joined so early in life he can't pinpoint it beyond

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