



Saturday-Sunday
April 26/27, 2008

SPORTS

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70°

It's A Wrap For Rapp

Both ballots in November

By **CHUCK HAYES**
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Kathy Rapp has wrapped up a new term as state representative.

Rapp easily won the Republican nomination in Tuesday's Primary Election and on Friday clinched the Democra-

tic nomination as well as a result of write-in votes.

Warren County's Election Board, comprised of commissioners Terry Hawk, John Eggleston and John Bortz, met on Friday morning to officially count votes cast in Tuesday's election. There were 1,062 clear

write-in votes for Rapp on the Democratic side in Warren County and dozens of variations on her name, most of which the board said it would accept.

The variations included "Katie Rapp," "Kathy Rap,"

See RAPP / A-8

First flip, then flop

By **CHUCK HAYES**

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Call it the Opportunist Party — the thousands of people in Pennsylvania who switched parties prior to Tuesday's presidential primary in Pennsylvania.

Presumably, most of them switched party affiliation so they could vote in the contested Democratic presidential primary.

See FLIP / A-2



Make A Difference Day Awards

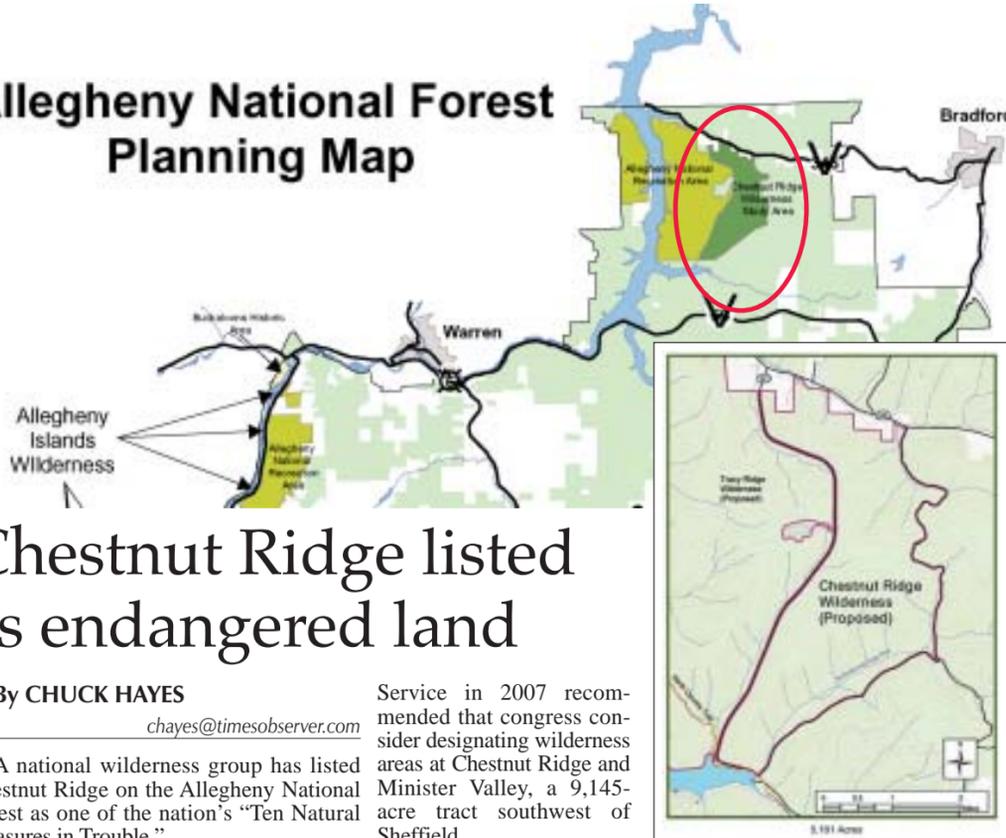
USA WEEKEND celebrates its 17th Make A Difference Day Awards. Honorees include a class of disabled children who reached out to soldiers in Iraq.

Nation



ANF Concerns

Allegheny National Forest Planning Map



Chestnut Ridge listed as endangered land

By **CHUCK HAYES**
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A national wilderness group has listed Chestnut Ridge on the Allegheny National Forest as one of the nation's "Ten Natural Treasures in Trouble."

The report lists oil and gas production as the major threat.

Chestnut Ridge is a 5,191-acre area surrounding the headwaters of Indian Run, in the northern section of the forest, east of Rt. 321 and north of Rt. 59.

The area was included in the "Treasures in Trouble" listing released this week by the Campaign for American Wilderness, which works with wilderness area advocates and state coalitions to protect wild places by adding them to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In its final Forest Plan, the U.S. Forest

Service in 2007 recommended that congress consider designating wilderness areas at Chestnut Ridge and Minister Valley, a 9,145-acre tract southwest of Sheffield.

In its report, the Campaign for American Wilderness said, "If this area is not protected soon, it is anticipated that dozens of new wells could be drilled over the next several years, utterly destroying the area's remote, roadless character."

Another threat to Chestnut Ridge, said the study, is frequent illegal use by off-road vehicles, "which mar the land, damage wildlife habitat, and break the quiet of the place."

See RIDGE / A-2

State warns USFS

DEP questions sewer permits

By **BRIAN FERRY**
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There has been some recent dispute between state and federal agencies over sewer systems in the Allegheny National Forest.

The systems are not failing or polluting anything, they simply don't have the proper paperwork.

Late last year, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed a Notice of Violation against the U.S. Forest Service for a lack of Water Quality Management permits for sewer systems at some Allegheny National Forest (ANF) recreation areas. A little more than a month later, the department sent another letter regarding another problem.

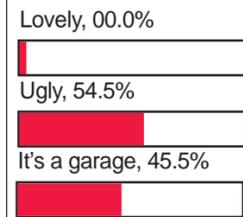
In an Oct. 26, 2007, letter, DEP said, "Failure to obtain the required permits... consti-

See SEWER / A-8

'...dozens of new wells could be drilled over the next several years, utterly destroying the area's remote, roadless character.'
Campaign for American Wilderness

WWW ONLINE POLL

Yesterday's question: What do you think of the exterior of the downtown parking garage?



Today's question: Do you agree with the decision to forward applications for state financial support for the hotel/conference center in Warren? Tell us why.

Vote and comment at: www.timesobserver.com
See Saturday's Forum page for comments

(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate)

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Digging in
Eli Korb, 6, watches as Drew Swanson, 6, shovels dirt at the Warren Arbor Day celebration on Laurel Street with the shovel he brought for the event. See page A3.

The check's in the mail

First tax rebates going out on Monday

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush says the economic-stimulus tax rebates will begin going out Monday and will help people cope with lofty energy and food prices, as well as giving the economy a jolt.

The rebates range from \$300 to \$1,200 and are the centerpiece of the government's \$168 billion stimulus package, enacted in February, to brace the teetering economy. Roughly 130 million households are expected to get them.

"This money is going to help Americans offset the high prices we're seeing at the gas pump, at the grocery store, and will also give our economy a boost to help us pull out of this economic slowdown," Bush said Friday in brief remarks at the White House.

Bush estimated that next week nearly 7.7 million Americans will receive their tax rebates by direct

deposit. The IRS will start mailing checks on May 9, the president said.

The IRS says all checks for those who filed tax returns on time are scheduled to be deposited or mailed by July 11.

The Bush administration is hoping that people will spend the money, helping to bolster the economy.

"It's obvious our economy is in a slowdown," Bush said. Earlier this week, the president denied the nation was in a recession, instead saying, "We are in a slowdown." But many economists believe the economy may already be in a recession.

A trio of crises — housing, credit and financial — has threatened to plunge the economy deep into recession.

The economy grew at an anemic 0.6 percent in the final three months

of last year and is believed to have gotten even weaker in the first three months of this year. The government will report on the first quarter's performance next week. A growing number of analysts believe the economy is shrinking now.

With the economy faltering, the nation's unemployment rate has climbed to 5.1 percent, the highest since September 2005, when it suffered from the devastating blows of the Gulf Coast hurricanes. Job losses in the first three months of this year neared the quarter-million mark.

The collapse of the once high-flying housing market has been the biggest weight on the economy.

With many people watching their single-biggest asset — their home — falling in value, they have been less inclined to spend, weakening the economy.

Chronicle

Obituaries



BETTY HUBERT

Elizabeth "Betty" Mulvey Hubert, 78, of Star Route Irvine, died at 1 p.m. Friday, April 25, 2008 in St. Vincent Health Center.

She was born in Titusville, PA, on May 1, 1929,

the daughter of Edmund and Violet Burke Mulvey.

Betty was employed as a cashier at Quality Markets in Youngsville for 32 years, retiring in 1994.

She enjoyed her family, especially her grandchildren, trips to Las Vegas with her sister Eva, crocheting, knitting and swimming in her pool.

Survivors include two sons, Robert (Carolyn) Hubert, Cambridge Springs, PA, and John (Billie Jean) Hubert, Ashville, NY; a daughter, Chris (David) Hunt, Guys Mills, PA; a stepdaughter Shirley (William) Warner, Youngsville; 11 grandchildren, Lisa (Dan) Schmidt and Rachael (Chris) Bereksazi, West Hickory, Nicole Hubert, Staten Island, NY, Matthew (Agnes) Hubert, Mascoutah, IL, Jennifer and Kyle Haight, Piittsfield, Nicole Hunt, Guys Mills,

Kali Hall, Vacaville, CA, Alex Davis, Ashville, NY, Lisa Bowser, Barberton, OH, and Wendy Frederick, Bradford, PA; two-great grandchildren; four sisters, Eva Blum, Grunderville Rd., Violet (Clarence) Sullivan, Youngsville, Joan (Norm) Eighmey, Pittsfield, and Nancy (Dan) Tomassoni, Warren; two brothers, Edmond (Jeannie) Mulvey, Minneapolis, MN and Mark Mulvey, Warren; two son-in-laws, Mike Lowe, Irvine, and Jim Gearhart, Trintity, AL. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fernand Hubert who died on May 17, 1979; a daughter Cathy Gearhart; a stepmother, Chloe Mulvey; and two sisters, Peggy Baker and Mary Walton.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10

a.m. Monday in St. Luke's Catholic Church. The Rev. John Neff, pastor, will be the celebrant.

Burial will be in Youngsville Cemetery.

Friends will be received on from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday, in the Hubert-Lewis Funeral Home, Inc., Youngsville. A Vigil Prayer service will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Warren County Humane Society, Elm St., Warren, Pa. 16365.

BRENDA MARTIN

Brenda Bonace Martin, 51, of Ben Avon, PA, formerly of Warren, died Friday morning, April 25, 2008, at the Forbes Hospice, Oakland, PA.

The Donald E. Lewis Funeral Home Inc., is in charge of arrangements. A complete obituary will be published when available.

Truck crashes into train station

CHICAGO (AP) — A tractor trailer rammed into a Chicago Transit Authority train station during the evening rush hour on Friday, killing two people and injuring more than a dozen others, authorities said.

Those killed, both women, were apparently walking near the Cermak-Chinatown Red Line station on the city's South Side, Fire Department spokeswoman Eve Rodriguez said. They were dead at the scene, she said.

Twenty-one people were transported to area hospitals, said fire department spokesman Larry Langford. Eleven were in critical condition, including four children, eight adults were in stable condition and two adults were in good condition.

"This is rush hour so it's bad," Langford said.

Workers were searching through wreckage Friday evening for more injured,

Langford said.

The truck's driver was extricated from the cab and taken to a hospital, Fire Commissioner Raymond Orozco said at a news conference.

Witnesses said the truck didn't appear to slow down before it plowed into the station.

The truck hit pedestrians, then "climbed the stairs" of the station's north stairwell around 5:20 p.m., Langford said.

"Right now this is just a tragic traffic accident," said Chicago Police Department Deputy Chief Joseph Patter-

son. Hazardous materials crews were on the scene because the semitrailer leaked fuel, Langford said.

Most of those injured were either in the bus shelter underneath the elevated train station or in the station's stairwell, Rodriguez said.

Tentative farm bill deal negotiated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional negotiators reached a tentative agreement Friday on a multibillion-dollar farm bill that includes a hefty increase for nutrition programs at a time of rising food prices.

An intense series of closed-door bargaining sessions over how to pay for the five-year, roughly \$280 billion bill ended Friday afternoon with senior Democrats expressing optimism that they would soon be sending the measure to President Bush.

"I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the eighth of May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat who heads the Agriculture Committee.

A key breakthrough came when senior lawmakers, after an hours-long huddle in an ornate room in the Capitol, agreed on a \$1.7 billion pack-

age of tax breaks to be included in the bill, and on how to finance the overall package.

The outline includes an \$861 million increase for nutrition programs, partially paid for by slashing crop subsidies by \$400 million and cutting a program to pay farmers for ruined crops by \$250 million.

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., said the shift was "urgently needed because of the run-up in food costs and food prices."

It also reflected the political and economic realities surrounding this year's tough farm bill talks. With crop prices high and the federal budget squeezed, there's less appetite in Washington for big farm programs, especially among congressional leaders who hail from urban areas. The sharp economic slump has many lawmakers focused more on job losses and home

foreclosures than farm policy.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., the Ways and Means Committee chairman, pushed hard for the nutrition boosts.

"A lot of painful reductions (had) to be made in order to shift resources to places that are being hard hit by this weakening economy," Conrad said.

With the increases, Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, the Agriculture Committee chairman, said two-thirds of farm bill resources would go to nutrition.

"We carried a heavy load for nutrition," Harkin said. "It's not just a farm bill. This is a farm and a food and an energy bill."

To close stubborn funding gaps, negotiators agreed to cut an ethanol tax credit that has previously been seen as untouchable because of its popularity in politically potent Iowa. They sliced \$1 billion in

support for blending fuel with the corn-based additive, bringing the per-gallon credit from 51 cents to 45 cents.

They boosted support for another form of the clean-burning fuel additive — cellulosic ethanol, which is made from plant matter — by \$400 million.

The measure increases funding for conservation programs, including a first-ever infusion of federal farm dollars — \$372 million — to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

"This is a very good day for Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts," Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., said.

The marathon round of negotiations was punctuated by several near-collapses and flare-ups between senior Democrats and Republicans struggling to reach a deal amid intense pressure from farm groups jealously guarding their subsidies.

On The Record

Persons with information that can assist police may call local police agencies directly or, if confidentiality is desired, may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-83-CRIME

Warren

Forgery. Warren city police reported that on Thursday, the manager of The Moose Club, 422 Pa. Ave., West, filed a report with the Warren Police Department in regards to one of the bartenders who took a possible counterfeit \$20 bill. An officer looked at the bill and could detect that the colors from the bill were bleeding, and also felt the paper and could tell it was not money paper, police said. According to police, when looking at the bill in the light, the officer could not find any safety devices on the paper. The Warren Police Department is asking businesses to check their paper money for any possible counterfeit bills and that anyone with information about

the counterfeit money to contact the department at 723-2700.

Animal noise. A non-traffic citation was filed yesterday, charging Timothy W. Conklin, 20, 119 Water St., after several complaints were filed on Wednesday, for a dog left alone in his apartment, barking continuously, disturbing the neighbors.

Columbus Twp.

Theft. Corry-based state police reported that between 3 p.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday, a unknown person removed 4 15" aluminum ford rims and tires from the lawn of a home belonging to Jeremy Tantassel, 37.

Watson Twp.

Theft. Warren-based state

police reported that a mailbox and a 4x4 post attached to the mailbox were stolen from the home of David Francis Young, 55, McLaughlin Ln., Tidioute. Police said that the mailbox is described as large and black with the victim's last name on it. Police are asking anyone with information regarding this crime to contact PSP-Warren or Crime Stoppers.

Jamestown, NY

Assault. Jamestown city police were called to a large fight in the parking lot near 716 Newland Ave., with reports of weapons being used. Police said they arrived to find a large scale group of people arguing and fighting in the lot and that

there were several people with visible injuries. Shawn Wilcox, Jamestown, had a large cut on the back of his head from being hit with a table leg by a juvenile and Josette Smith, Jamestown, had a large bump and cuts to her face from being hit with the same table leg, police said. Police also said that both were transported to WCA Hospital for treatment by Alstar. According to police, several witnesses stated that the groups were armed with pipes, tire irons and the table leg during the fight. Shawn Wilcox was charged with Assault 2nd and transported to City Jail, police said. Police also said that charges are pending and investigation of the juveniles is being held.

Lotteries

Pennsylvania Friday
Daily (day): 6-8-8
Daily (eve.): 7-0-0
Treasure hunt: 2-13-14-15-19
Big 4 (day): 4-2-8-4
Big 4 (eve.): 3-9-1-2
Cash 5: 01-06-12-23-38
Match 6: 21-22-30-34-45-49

New York Friday
Daily (day): 4-3-4
Daily (eve.): 9-8-5
WinFour (day): 4-1-0-0
WinFour (eve.): 0-7-5-0
Pick 10: 1-5-9-14-17-21-23-25-26-31-34-36-39-41-46-57-61-66-77-79

Flip-flop

From Page A1

Now it's time to see if the gains enjoyed primarily by Democrats were temporary or long-term.

Some people have already started to realign themselves with their former political party, Lisa Zuck, Warren County's Director of Elections, said on Friday.

"They're starting to come in" to the voter registration office, said Zuck.

In the period leading up to the presidential primary election, Democratic registration in Warren County increased by 781 voters while Republican registration fell by 384 votes.

While voters could fill out the forms to change party affiliation as early as

the day after the April 22 election, Zuck said the changes will not be processed for several weeks.

"We can't process the changes until the election results are certified by the state," said Zuck.

The state certification is scheduled to be completed by the Department of State on May 12.

But Zuck said, "People are still welcome to fill out the forms now."

Approximately 28,000 Warren County residents were eligible to vote in Tuesday's election and Zuck said the unofficial voter turn-out was 42.58 percent.

Hospital Report

Warren General Hospital

BORN

BOY: (April 23, 2008) Jodi Arnold and Darryl Kring

Kane Community Hospital

Friday, April 25, 2008

Admitted: Eugene Martin, Sheffield; William McClelland; Smethport

Discharged: Antonia Cartwright, Kane; Jamie Perry, Clarendon

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