

State briefs

By The Associated Press

Body found in Ohio River

ROCHESTER — The body of a man who fell from a hovercraft more than two months ago was pulled from the Ohio River 180 miles from where he vanished.

The body of Chris Campisano, 41, of Tidoute in Warren County, was found Monday near an industrial facility in Rochester, Beaver County. He was last seen operating a one-person hovercraft on Oct. 21 on the Allegheny River near Tidoute, 90 miles north of Pittsburgh. The Allegheny winds south from the New York border and joins the Monongahela River at Pittsburgh to form the Ohio.

Campisano's hovercraft was found upright and undamaged, its motor still running. Authorities believe Campisano fell overboard and drowned. Foul play is not suspected. Campisano could not swim and was not wearing a life jacket, said William Martin of the State Fish and Boat Commission.

Divers from a Warren County rescue squad looked for Campisano for three days immediately after he vanished and periodically afterwards when weather permitted.

"Now the family has some closure," Martin said.

Police search for pet store thief

NEW CASTLE — Police were looking Monday for two snakes, nine birds, a family of hedgehogs, an alligator and the robber who stole them from a Lawrence County pet store.

The animals were taken sometime over the weekend from the Animal Jungle in New Castle, police said. Owner Michelle Phipps said the animals are not dangerous because they are accustomed to human handling, but she feared they could be harmed by an inexperienced caretaker.

"None of them will survive this weather," she said. The thief probably was somebody familiar with the store and its animals, Phipps believes.

"They didn't take money out of the cash register," she said. "They took only the animals they knew were tame."

Three baby hedgehogs, born just last week, and their mother were among the stolen animals. Phipps said the mother might reject her babies if they have been touched by a human.

Phipps said the animals, worth about \$2,000, were not insured.

Man pleads guilty in fraud scheme

PITTSBURGH — A Colorado man faces up to five years in prison for his role in an \$18 million Medicare scam involving the marketing of surgical dressings and skin cleaners to nursing homes.

Hugh McElwain, 31, of Longmont, Colo., pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit Medicare fraud, U.S. Attorney Linda Kelly announced.

Last fall, Dr. Vladimir Sklarov and Omega Reimbursement Concepts Inc., formerly based in Pittsburgh, admitted their roles in the scheme.

McElwain, whose sentencing date was not immediately set, was an Omega employee, Kelly said Friday.

Omega marketed its products to nursing home residents as if the items were covered by Medicare, but they were not covered. Omega created 53 fake companies to trick the government into thinking it was paying small, unrelated firms instead of one large one.

Medicare paid Omega nearly \$1 million for the skin cleaners, marketed under the brand name Orchid Fresh, and \$17 million for the surgical dressings.

\$10 million donated to renovation

PHILADELPHIA — Publishing magnate Walter H. Annenberg has given \$10 million toward the renovation of Independence Park, matching pledges by the city, the state and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Some \$5.8 million of the \$10 million will go to the renovation of the effort to make the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall more attractive to the 20 million tourists who visit the area each year.

Another \$4.2 million will pay for an educational facility about the Liberty Bell next to the landmark's new city-funded pavilion.

The project also is funded by the Philadelphia Parking Authority, the Connelly Foundation, the Knights Foundation and the National Park Service — but it is short \$3.8 million for landscaping and support buildings.

The Annenbergs have given millions of dollars to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and public television. Their \$10 million gift to create the Annenberg School of Communications is the largest donation the University of Pennsylvania has ever received.

LTV must propose pollution solutions

By CLAUDIA COATES
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — LTV Corp. must propose solutions to pollution problems at its coke works in Pittsburgh but is not obligated to make major renovations, an arbitrator in a company-union dispute has ruled.

The decision keeps LTV's 750-employee plant operating a little longer, perhaps long enough for a buyer to surface.

In her ruling Monday, arbitrator Elizabeth Neumeier ordered LTV Corp. to negotiate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the coke works open.

She also ruled, however, that LTV Corp. need not bankroll a complete overhaul. The company has said bringing the plant into environmental compliance would cost \$400 million.

"We are going to continue to produce coke as long as we meet the conditions of the ruling," LTV spokesman Mark Tomasz said.

The company also will talk to potential buyers.

In March, the EPA cited LTV for pollution from the coke plant in Pittsburgh's Hazelwood section. In June, the company announced it would close the plant rather than spend hundreds of millions of dollars



An arbitration board ruled with the United Steelworkers of America union that LTV violated an agreement with its decision to shut down this plant.

on rebuilding. The United Steelworkers of America union complained on several grounds and filed a grievance with the LTV-USA Board of Arbitration. The decision by Neumeier, chairman of the board, is binding.

In her 52-page ruling, Neumeier wrote that LTV Corp. breached the Coke Purification Agreement, an accord signed with the USW in 1986, by failing to talk to the EPA about a possible compromise on the pollution problem.

She also dismissed the union's other grievances.

USWA officials said they hope the negotiations will delay the closing enough to give potential investors time to consider buying the plant.

"LTV wants to get out of here, at least three or four people are talking about owning the plant," said John DeLino, sub-district director of USWA District 10.

Mayor Tom Murphy has suggested that political energy would be better spent trying to attract replacement jobs than trying to persuade an unwilling company to continue operating.

About 600 plant workers will be eligible for retirement benefits, and the rest will be considered for vacancies at LTV's other plants.

Built in 1917, the coke works underwent major overhauls in the 1970s. Last month, Bethlehem Steel Corp. announced it will close its money-losing coke ovens in March, cutting 500 jobs in Bethlehem, which is about 60 miles north of Philadelphia.

Because coke ovens emit some of the worst air pollutants — including hydrogen sulfide, a common ingredient of acid rain — some steelmakers have developed processes that eliminate the need to convert coal into coke.

Pittsburgh-based group wins MAGLEV license

Agreement makes magnetic train technology possible

By GEOFF BECKER
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — A Pittsburgh-based business group's agreement to license German technology brings western Pennsylvania closer to manufacturing guideways for trains that ride on a magnetic field.

The agreement announced Monday will allow MAGLEV Inc. to convert the German technology into a form that can be used by U.S. manufacturers. For example, it

metastably available steels could be developed to meet the tolerances required in magnetic-levitation guideways.

"We'll adapt it to meet American codes and standards and for the climate of the eastern United

States," MAGLEV spokesman Jay Weinberg said.

Weinberg said the agreement was announced in Bremen, Germany, by U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, who visited a factory in Lathen, Germany, and rode the 280-mph Transrapid train.

"This agreement promises to bring state-of-the-art steel fabrication technology — and the jobs that go with it — to an area of Pennsylvania known for its historic leadership in steel and transportation," Specter said in a statement.

Weinberg said the licensing deal spurs MAGLEV's expense of reinventing the sophisticated guideways developed over 25 years by Transrapid International at a cost of about \$2 billion.

"It is the only existing certified

for-commercial-use magnetic levitation system in the world. This is a major breakthrough, believe me," Weinberg said of the licensing agreement.

MAGLEV and Transrapid will share in any new patents that arise from the licensing deal, Weinberg said.

Transrapid is building a 180-mile route in Germany for a maglev train that will travel 310 mph between Hamburg and Berlin, Weinberg said.

Trains using maglev technology reach high speeds by riding above rails on a magnetic field that is considered environmentally friendly, energy-efficient and easy to maintain.

Even with the licensing agreement, MAGLEV is still several years and many dollars short of its goal to establish a factory in western Pennsylvania to build a maglev system.

The factory would cost \$70 million to \$80 million and take three to five

years to build, Weinberg said. Development under U.S. standards of the German technology would require about \$6 million, he said.

Weinberg said his group is working with Specter and U.S. Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa., to include money for maglev when the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, or ISTEA, is reauthorized by Congress.

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Three killed in collision involving fleeing motorist

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Three people were killed and two were injured when a pickup truck fleeing from police made a U-turn on Interstate 95 and smashed into an oncoming car.

"I knew he was going to kill somebody," said Steven Richardson, who was driving north on the interstate Monday night when he saw the truck going in the same direction in the southbound lanes.

The truck slammed head-on into one car, then veered off and banged into another one. The three dead included a teen-age boy and girl in the pickup.

The busy interstate was littered with mangled steel and shattered glass. Rescue crews had to pry the dead and injured out of their vehicles.

Traffic was backed up for miles in both directions as police and firefighters worked frantically to try to save the mangled victims.

Investigators said the pickup was trying to escape from officers southbound on I-95 after the occupants

were spotted trying to steal something out of a police car in northeast Philadelphia about 9:20 p.m.

Officers chased the truck onto the interstate as other 25 years by roadblock north of the Bridge Street exit.

As the truck approached the roadblock the driver spun it into a U-turn, bouncing off one of the police cars in the roadblock. It roared northbound against the four lanes of oncoming traffic.

As excited officers radioed reports of the maneuvers, a police commander ordered the chase terminated.

Richardson said he saw the truck, going about 65 mph, veer from the right lane of the highway to the left, apparently dodging traffic.

South of Cottman Avenue, the truck careened across lanes and crashed head-on into a car, critically injuring the driver, a 25-year-old man, and killing his passenger, a woman who was described as in her 20s. She was pronounced dead at the scene, authorities said.

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