

STATE & LOCAL
NEWS BRIEFS

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NORTH

LEETSDALE

Worker hurt in accident

An employee of a Leetsdale industrial plant was critically injured yesterday after a bag containing 2 tons of powdered chemicals dropped on him, pinning him against the top of a storage hopper.

Ernie Cippola, 32, of Aliquippa, was taken to UPMC Presbyterian after a co-worker at the Neville Pulverized-Lime Co. plant discovered him trapped under the bag at 8:24 a.m. Co-workers told police they were unsure how long Cippola had been there because he had been working alone in the plant, which is in the Buncher Industrial Park off Route 65. Leetsdale Police Sgt. Victor Korol said Cippola had been working on top of a metal hopper that is used to store powdered chemicals. While atop the hopper, Cippola had been using a remote-controlled crane to move a bag containing more than 4,200 pounds of calcined alumina, Korol said.

At some point, investigators believe, Cippola sat or lay down on the hopper and then sat on the remote control. The bag then came straight down, pinning Cippola's chest and neck, Korol said.

Cippola has worked for about five years at the plant. Assistant plant manager Dave Haney refused to discuss the accident but said it would be investigated.

Police said inspectors from the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration had been notified.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Crash kills man

A Plum man was killed yesterday in a two-car accident in Armstrong County.

Clare Smith, 75, was apparently trying to turn right into oncoming traffic at the intersection of Route 422 and Bear Street when his vehicle was struck by another vehicle at 4:16 p.m. Smith was taken to Allegheny General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 5:48 p.m.

Cause of death was blunt force trauma to the chest, according to the Allegheny County coroner's office. No autopsy is scheduled.

EAST

NORTH HUNTINGDON

Ambulances all busy

A woman whose young son apparently rode his bicycle into a backyard swimming pool yesterday took the injured boy to the Rescue 8 ambulance station in North Huntingdon, but when she arrived, she learned all six ambulances from the station were out on calls.

It was a particularly busy morning for ambulance services in that part of Westmoreland County, officials said, and Rescue 8's first three back-up ambulances also were on calls, so an ambulance from Rescue 14 in Hempfield had to be dispatched to pick up the boy. Two Rescue 8 emergency medical technicians treated the boy in the meantime.

The boy was taken to Jeannette District Memorial Hospital, then transferred to Children's Hospital.

NORTH HUNTINGDON

Bank robber pleads guilty

A North Huntingdon man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to charges of robbing the Parkvale Savings and Loan on Malts Lane on April 9.

Peter Markovina, 20, pleaded guilty before U.S. Senior District Judge William L. Standish to counts of armed bank robbery and use of a firearm during a crime of violence.

Investigators learned that a man dressed like the robber was driving a gold Lincoln, and they traced the car to its owner, Markovina. FBI agents found the stolen money, a loaded .40-caliber handgun and items of the disguise in the car's trunk, Markovina confessed.

Markovina is being held without bail pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Dec. 18.

Because Markovina pointed his gun at tellers, he will receive a mandatory seven-year sentence for that charge that must be served consecutively to the sentence for the robbery itself.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Sinkholes close street

A series of sinkholes caused the closing of Ligonier Street Extension at the Timken Latrobe Steel plant in Derry Township last week.

Westmoreland County Public Works Director Claude Petroy and township Supervisor Brian Edmiston said representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Mines who inspected the three holes blamed them on mine subsidence.

Officials closed part of Ligonier Street, which is maintained by the county, and posted detours for cars over Raymond Avenue and for trucks on Route 30.

LOCAL NEWS

Pitt dedicates Latin American Reading Room at library

By Monica L. Haynes
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

When Eduardo Lozano arrived at the University of Pittsburgh in 1967 to help develop a Latin American collection in conjunction with the university's new Center for Latin American Studies, he was only supposed to stay for a year.

More than 30 years later, Lozano, librarian for Latin American Studies at Pitt, is still working on what has become the eighth largest collection of Latin American resource materials — literature, periodicals, dissertations, maps, recordings, videos and films — in the United States.

Yesterday, he and about 70 others dedicated the center's Latin American Reading

Room, which has been at least a decade in the making. The reading room, located on the first floor of Pitt's Hillman Library, houses only a fraction of the collection's 420,000 volumes, from every country in Central and South America.

People from all over the world come to Pitt to use the collection's material on Bolivia, said Lozano, a native of Argentina.

"We've been talking about a room ever since I came here eight years ago — I think even before I came here," said Rush Miller, director of Pitt's University Library Services. The [Center for Latin American Studies] wanted a more visible center in the library for Latin American students."

When the library moved a collection from the first floor into the Cup and Chaucer Cafe

on the lower level, space became available for the Latin American reading room.

With its sand-colored arches and columns and windows on three sides, the room, designed by Peruvian native Victor Beltran of L.D. Astorino & Associates Ltd. of Pittsburgh, is reminiscent of a Spanish courtyard.

Beltran said because the Spanish arches and columns are so much a part of Latin American architecture, he wanted to use them to create a space that would make Latin American students and professors feel at home.

"It's wonderful to have a space that's a tangible manifestation of our program," said Kathleen DeWalt, director of the Center for Latin American Studies.

She said such a room has been the dream of

each of her predecessors, including her husband, Billie DeWalt, who headed the center for eight years before becoming director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

"This is exactly the kind of thing we envisioned when we started out four or five years ago," said Billie DeWalt, who was instrumental in getting the project started.

Brazilian native Haydee Esteves Belda, who with husband Alain Belda, chairman and chief executive officer of Alcoa, is among the room's funders, said. "I think this is so important for the city and for the university and for Latin America to be represented in this fashion. Our culture is in very good hands here."

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