

# Teenage boy charged in Rochester officer shooting

BY BEN DOBBIN  
 Associated Press Writer

ROCHESTER | A 14-year-old boy shot and critically wounded a rookie police officer walking back to his patrol car after investigating complaints of drug activity in a Rochester neighborhood over the weekend, authorities said Tuesday.

The boy, Tyquan Rivera, turned himself in Tuesday morning and was charged with attempted murder and assault in the shooting of Officer Anthony DiPonzio, 23, who was hit once in the back of the head. He remains in guarded condition after undergoing lifesaving brain surgery.

Rivera, who turns 15 next week, was arrested after showing up at police headquarters with a lawyer to answer questions about the

attack in the city's northeast section on Saturday afternoon. He will be arraigned Wednesday, prosecutor Sandra Doorley said.

Calls to the boy's lawyer, George Conaty, were not immediately returned.

DiPonzio has showed some signs of recovery, but his prognosis remains unclear. "He's doing very well, he's coming along very nicely," said his mother, Joanne.

Police said DiPonzio and two fellow officers had questioned a group of people on the street. As they turned to walk away from the group, shots were fired.

Mayor Robert Duffy, a former police chief, declined to elaborate on the circumstances of the attack except to say the shot came from a house "quite a distance away."

"There was no excuse of an

instantaneous response to a confrontation. They did not interrupt a crime," he said.

At a news conference, the mayor suggested the shooting had the elements of a sniper attack, but he declined to elaborate.

While "not a lot of things shock me, I've never seen anything like this in my career," he said. "This is something that our soldiers face in the streets of Baghdad, having somebody snipe at them when they're walking down the street, but not in our streets."

"We need to know more about this young man, his family, how he grew up. How do we get to where we are today? We just don't know that answer. ... There can be no reasons for somebody to do such a cowardly, dastardly act as what we saw."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Sen. Tom Daschle, President Barack Obama's choice to head the Health and Human Services, speaks to the media after a closed session meeting with the Senate Finance Committee Monday on Capitol Hill, in Washington.

# Obama: I screwed up

BY JENNIFER LOVEN  
 AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON | Barack Obama on Tuesday abruptly abandoned his nomination fight for Tom Daschle and a second major appointee who failed to pay all their taxes, fearing a lingering ethics dispute would undercut his claims to moral high ground and cripple his presidency in just its second week. "I screwed up," Obama declared. "It's important for this administration to send a message that there aren't two sets of rules - you know, one for prominent people and one for ordinary folks who have to pay their taxes," Obama said near the end of a day of jarring developments, little more than 24 hours after he had said he was "absolutely" committed to Daschle's confirmation.

"I'm frustrated with myself, with our team. ... I'm here on television saying I screwed up," Obama said on NBC's "Nightly News with Brian Williams." He repeated virtually the same words in interviews with other TV anchors.

Hours earlier, the White House had announced that Daschle had asked to be removed from consideration as health and human services secretary and that Nancy Killefer had made the same request concerning what was to be her groundbreaking appointment as a chief performance officer to make the entire government run better.

Daschle said in a brief letter to Obama that he refused to "be a distraction" from the new president's drive for health care reform. Obama said neither he nor Daschle excused the former Senate Democratic leader's tax errors but that he accepted his friend's decision "with sadness and regret."

Unsettling personal tax problems had been piling up for the new administration. Last week, the Senate confirmed Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary, but only after days of controversy over the fact that the man who would oversee the Internal Revenue Service had only belatedly paid \$34,000 in income taxes.

Bill Richardson bowed out,

though his difficulties didn't involve personal taxes. The New Mexico governor, who was Obama's first choice for commerce secretary, withdrew amid a grand jury investigation into a state contract awarded to his political donors.

Questions about Daschle's failure to fully pay his taxes from 2005 through 2007 had been increasing since they came to light last Friday. Daschle overlooked taxes on income for consulting work and personal use of a car and driver, and also deducted more in charitable contributions than he should have. To resolve it, he paid \$128,203 in back taxes and \$11,964 in interest last month.

Daschle, chosen to lead the administration's push for sweeping health care reform, also was facing questions about potential conflicts of interest related to speaking fees he accepted from health care interests and about the advice he provided to health insurers and hospitals through his work at a law firm.

# Jury still deliberating in case of poisoned husbands

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRACUSE | A central New York jury will resume deliberations Wednesday in the case of a woman accused of killing her husband with antifreeze and trying to kill her daughter in a scheme to cover up the murder.

The Onondaga County Court jury of 10 women and two men deliberated about 6 1/2 hours Tuesday without deciding the case of 41-year-old Stacey Castor.

Castor of Clay faces a maximum of 25 years to life if convicted of second-degree murder in the August 2005 death of her husband David.

She also is accused of trying

to kill her 20-year-old daughter, Ashley Wallace, with an overdose of drugs and vodka in September 2007 and make it look like a suicide. Prosecutors said Castor concocted a suicide scenario in which her daughter claimed responsibility for David Castor's death, and the fatal poisoning of Castor's first husband, Michael Wallace, in 2000.

Castor hasn't been charged with his death.

Jurors returned to the courtroom twice during the day.

Jurors wanted to hear the testimony of two phone company officials who testified about only one phone call being made to the Castor home on Aug. 22, 2005, the

day David Castor was found dead in his bedroom. Castor claimed she had constantly been calling home before she called 911 to have police come to the house to see if her husband was okay.

The jury also played back a 911 call Stacey Castor made the day David was found dead at home.

The jurors also had read back to them testimony of Ashley Wallace and sister Bree about their comings and goings from the house that August weekend before their stepfather died.

Attorneys gave their closing arguments Monday in a Syracuse court and the jury spent about 90 minutes deliberating before ending for the day.

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

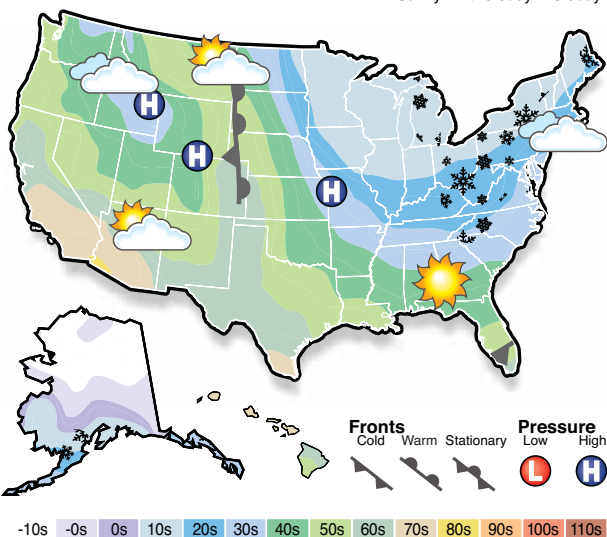
WETM 18 Storm Team  
 Meteorologist Nick Bannin  
 Meteorologist Joe Pasquarelli  
 Meteorologist Vanessa Richards



Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
P. sunny with chance of sct. flurries	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	M. cloudy with wintry mix	M. cloudy with wintry mix	P. cloudy with wintry evening	P. sunny with chance of rain, snow
High   21	High   20	High   36	High   43	High   42	High   40	High   39
Low   9	Low   -3	Low   10	Low   19	Low   30	Low   20	Low   18

### National forecast

Forecast highs for Wednesday, Feb. 4



### NEW YORK

Today will be mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers and highs near 15.

Tonight will be mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow and lows around 5 above.

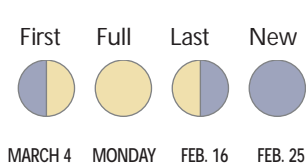
Thursday will be partly sunny with scattered flurries in the morning and highs 15 to 20.

Thursday night will be partly cloudy with lows near 10.

### WEATHER HISTORY

In 1990, a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain led to a string of deadly car accidents in eastern New York state. The slick roads were blamed for three deaths and 14 injuries.

### MOON PHASES



### SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	7:18
Sunset today	5:27
Sunrise Thursday	7:17
Sunset Thursday	5:28

# Blagojevich makes his case on Letterman show

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK | Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (bluh-GOY'-uh-vich) tells David Letterman he keeps thinking he'll wake up and people will realize "this is just one big misunderstanding."

The impeached governor showed up Tuesday for a taping of CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman." He laughed with the audience when Letterman mentioned watching him on several tel-

evision talk shows.

Letterman joked that the more Blagojevich talked and repeated his claims of innocence, the more the host said to himself, "Oh, this guy is guilty."

The Illinois Senate convicted Blagojevich last week of abuse of power, automatically ousting him.

Blagojevich also faces federal charges including allegations he tried to profit from selling President Barack Obama's U.S. Senate seat.

## DISTRICT

Continued from 1A

Doing so creates the instant boost to the national economy the stimulus package is designed to provide, he said.

"They are not going to do projects that are two or three years away," Massa said.

Also projected to be funded by the stimulus package is:

- I-390, Cohocton | \$20 million.
- Corning Community College fieldhouse | \$10.3 million.
- Sewer treatment plant, town of Wayne | \$2.2 million.
- State Route 415, over Wolf Run Road, Campbell | \$2.5 million.
- Corning's Gaffer District | \$424,000.
- Mark Twain State Park/Soaring Eagles Golf Course roadway | \$675,000.
- Enterprise Elmira | \$450,000.

Also, area schools would

## RATES

Continued from 1A

recent sale of carbon credits to Google are expected to amount to \$2.5 million by the time the existing contract expires in 2012. The partnership with the Steuben Rural Electric Association will garner an estimated \$35 million by the end of the current 25-year contract.

## COMMERCE

Continued from 1A

facelift in early 2008.

The second Restore New York grant aided the rehabilitation of 91-99 E. Market St. by contractor Chip Klugo, who purchased the building in 2008.

A \$750,000 grant was coupled with \$1.15 million in private funding to pay for an ongoing makeover of street-level retail space and construction of apartments on the upper floors. The project is expected to be completed in early 2010.

## ERWIN

Continued from 1A

The layoffs will take effect Monday, Walker said.

The diesel plant makes parts for the slumping auto industry, and sales have dropped, company officials have said.

Corning Inc. announced last week that it plans to lay off 640 employees - both union and non-union - in the Corning area as part of a 13 percent reduction in its global work force due to falling profits in several branches of the company.

The company plans to notify all affected employees by mid-February.