

State workers paralyze Argentina

ap news capsules

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — In one of the largest strikes in years, state workers paralyzed much of Argentina in an outpouring of disgust over a government austerity plan calling for salary cuts and pension reductions.

The strike by three of the country's largest labor unions was the seventh since President Fernando De la Rúa took office 19 months ago, and was a rare show of unity by Argentina's powerful labor movement.

In major cities and throughout the countryside, workers brought much of the country to a standstill, shutting down public transport and offices and leaving trash to pile up on streets.

"This was the people's response to a plan that falls most on retirees, on families with fixed incomes — and we will not stand for it!" said Hugo Moyano, the leader of the 2-million-strong General Workers Confederation, who urged De la Rúa to reconsider his austerity plan.

Union leaders called the protest over government plans to slash spending by 13 percent in a move to balance the budget by year's end.

There were no reports of injuries or arrests during the 24-hour strike.

NATIONAL

PHILADELPHIA — Wearing handcuffs and a bulletproof vest, convicted murderer Ira Einhorn returned to U.S. soil today for the first time since he fled 20 years ago to escape murder charges stemming from the bludgeoning death of his girlfriend.

Einhorn, 61, arrived at Philadelphia International Airport at around 4 a.m. under armed guard, hours after he was taken into custody at his home in rural France and put on a flight in Paris. He was returned to the United States after a European court refused to halt his long-fought extradition.

As he came off the plane, a spectator yelled "Justice for Holly Maddux," the woman whose mummified body was found stuffed in a trunk in the couple's apartment 18 months after Einhorn said she went to the store and never returned.

The extradition ended two decades of fighting for Einhorn, a former anti-war activist, one-time mayoral candidate and self-described "planetary en-

zyme" who was convicted in absentia in 1993 in the death of Maddux 24 years ago.

A year after Einhorn was caught in France in 1997, Pennsylvania passed a law providing for a retrial to satisfy a French requirement that foreign nationals not be extradited based on trials in absentia. Einhorn continued to vigorously fight his return.

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Astronauts at the international space station got a breather from high-tech electrical and plumbing duties early today as they prepared to use a new \$164 million portal for the first time.

Space shuttle Atlantis astronauts Michael Gernhardt and James Reilly II were scheduled to start a 4 1/2-hour spacewalk from the new air lock early Saturday.

"I think we're in pretty good shape," flight director Paul Hill told the station's three-member crew and the five astronauts aboard Atlantis.

The astronauts have spent several days fixing minor air and water leaks in lines leading to the air lock, which the astronauts installed on Sunday.

Two new leaks could release a small amount of air from the air lock during Saturday's spacewalk, but Hill said that shouldn't prevent the astronauts from using it. If the leaks become a problem, the astronauts could still re-enter the space station through Atlantis.

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. — Health officials reported the first cases of the West Nile virus in New York City this year after they found two birds with the potentially fatal disease.

The state Department of Health confirmed Thursday that the virus was found in a live sparrow and a mosquito pool in Queens, and in a dead blue jay in Staten Island.

In Long Island, dead crows were found with the virus between June 29 and July 9, said Clare Bradley, the county's commissioner of health services.

"Residents should not be alarmed by these findings but should stay informed and take steps to decrease their risk of being bitten by mosquitoes,"

Bradley said.

The West Nile virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes and can cause a range of symptoms. In the most serious but rare cases, infection can result in swelling of the brain.

The disease has been blamed for the deaths of nine people in New York and New Jersey in the last two years.

BALTIMORE — Emergency crews used hoses fed through manholes to pump hydrochloric acid from a leaking tanker car early today as the city continued to cope with a train derailment that left the city paralyzed.

Thick smoke from a fire in the tunnel where the train derailed spread through downtown neighborhoods and several city blocks were closed above the tunnel.

The extreme heat prevented firefighters from removing more than six of the 60 train cars trapped after the train derailed and caught fire Wednesday.

The fire also damaged fiber optic cables, slowing Internet service across the country, and forced the Baltimore Orioles to postpone games at nearby Camden Yards.

The train was carrying wood, paper and hazardous materials, including hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid, which can burn the lungs if inhaled. Officials said air quality tests Wednesday and Thursday registered mostly steam and hydrocarbons, likely from burning wood.

Robert Gould, a spokesman for CSX Transportation Inc., which owns the train and tunnel, said efforts to get the fire under control and remove rail cars seemed to be working.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — White House-backed legislation to expand the role of religious charities in federal social service programs is headed for the Senate, where supporters want a swift vote, but majority Democrats show no sign of haste.

"The ball is now on our court. I think we can build on the momentum," GOP Sen. Rick Santorum said Thursday moments after the 223-198 House vote on a key part of President Bush's agenda.

Puppy smorgasbord



On Thursday about 1:40 p.m. a dump truck ran into the side of a semi-truck and trailer at the intersection of K-27 and exit 17 off I-70. The collision ripped a hole in the side of the trailer, which was carrying dog food, spilling the food onto K-27. No other details were available Friday.

Photo by Reaghan Smith/The Goodland Daily News

Hospital board to hear ambulance proposal

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Locating an air ambulance service in Goodland will be a major item on the meeting agenda for the Goodland Regional Medical Center board, which will meet at 6:30 p.m., Monday.

There are two active proposals with one from Eagle Med of Wichita, and Air Evac of West Plains, Mo. The board heard from Air Evac in June, and Monday will hear a formal proposal from Eagle Med. The board had an informal presentation from Eagle Med at Sugar Hills Country Club in May with the Sherman County Commissioners.

Both proposals are for an air ambulance plane to be located in either Goodland or Colby, but the Air Evac proposal was to bring in staff to man

the airplane while Eagle Med has said they would hire staff from the hospital to help man the plane. Eagle Med has said they would bring staff to operate the plane to give the hospital time to recruit or train the necessary people.

Both companies have been in contact and made presentations to Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

The two have asked for space at the airport, and a place for their crew.

A summary of the study of the operations of the doctor clinic operating as Rural Health Ventures will be presented by representatives of the consulting firm of Via Chritsi of Wichita.

The board had agreed to have the consultants examine the operations of the doctor clinic, the east portion of the

Goodland hospital, and to give recommendations to improve the service and bring it to a more profitable position.

Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, will update the board on the status of the new mammography machine. When the older mammography machine was determined to be out of compliance the board authorized purchase of a new machine in May.

While the machine has arrived, the new machine has not been put into use due to some technical concerns between the supplier and the inspectors.

Jolly will also update the board on the recent survey of the hospital laboratory and physician recruitment.

The board will review the June financial report and set the date for their August meeting.

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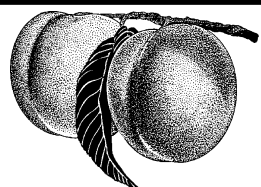
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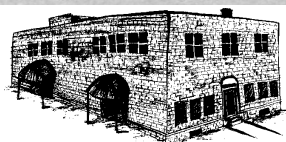
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