Officials not sure of ties

ANTHRAX, from Page 1

Orihuela said early today when asked of reports that Gloria Irish rented apartments in Delray Beach, Fla., to Hamza Alghamdi and Marwan al-Shehhi this summer. Her husband is Sun editor Michael Irish.

"Right now we consider it a coincidence," said Orihuela, spokeswoman for the FBI's Miami regional office, "because we don't have any tie between the anthrax and the terrorists."

News of the exposures has caused jitters around the world, with a number of false or pending cases reported over the weekend. Among them:

• In Hawaii, hazardous-materials teams were called to the Honolulu and Lihue airports following the discovery of white powder at both locations. Tests were being conducted on the powder.

• In Uniontown, Pa., a 49-year-old woman was given Cipro, an antibiotic for anthrax, and was tested for exposure after receiving an envelope containing a powdery substance.

• In Boston, preliminary tests on a Boston Globe editor were negative for anthrax exposure. The editor asked for the tests after recalling he had recently handled and thrown out a threatening letter similar to the one that provoked fears at The New York Times last week. He said it contained no powder.

In New York, Giuliani said the officer and two technicians were exposed while working on the anthrax case in-

owner of the cafe, came out to help.

of the cold," Sherman said. "I was so

impressed at the way the young boy

accomplished this. He was very con-

STEER, from Page 1

help arrived.

Brokaw. O'Connor is expected to recover.

place, but what may have happened here, it's possible they may not have fit their masks properly around their people who may have been exposed noses and mouths," said Sandra proved negative for the bacteria. Mullin, a health department spokeswoman. She said rules are being changed to require technicians testing suspicious substances to wear protective hoods as well as masks.

opened a letter containing a brown ber. granular substance, which was mailed to Brokaw from Trenton, N.J. It was postmarked Sept. 18, one week after terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Federal officials in New Jersey interviewed postal workers and watched surveillance videotapes Sunday as part of their efforts to trace the letter. Postal Service officials believed it could have been mailed from one of 46 post offices, FBI Special Agent Sandra Carroll said.

like looking for a needle in a haystack," Carroll said Sunday.

thrown away the letter, but remembered it Friday while being interviewed, New York postal inspector Peter Nash said Sunday. Investigators had initially focused www.bt.cdc.gov/

volving Erin O'Connor, 38, an assis- on a second letter - postmarked St. tant to NBC News anchor Tom Petersburg, Fla. - as the likely source of the anthrax.

In Nevada, where a letter sent to a "There's a very strict lab protocol in Microsoft office in Reno contained pornographic pictures contaminated with anthrax, officials said tests of four

Results for two others were pending, with results of those nasal swab tests likely known today, said Washoe County health officer Barbara Hunt.

The six people tested included five O'Connor was exposed when she Microsoft workers and a family mem-

> "We're obviously relieved to hear that four of the employees who were tested, their tests came back negative," Microsoft spokesman Matt Pilla said. "It sounds like the other two may come back negative as well. That's obviously great news.'

State officials have sent the pornographic pictures to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta for further testing.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said he would "It's very complex and a very com- ask Congress for more than \$1.5 billion prehensive investigation that's a lot to take steps to counter bioterrorism threats. Some of the money would be used to purchase enough antibiotics to At first, O'Connor thought she had treat 12 million people for 60 days, six times the current supply.

> On the Net: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://



Skyline at day's end

else involved — that little guy did so Friday and is doing well. **Extemists threaten**

by telephone.

to kill Kansas hostages

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) the bodies of Martin and Gracia," — A Muslim extremist rebel leader threatened Monday to behead an American couple before the president's scheduled visit to the United 1,000 fighters, has kidnapped dozens States next month if the army does not halt its offensive on the group.

Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu ransom. The group, which has be-Sayyaf rebels in the southern Philip- headed several hostages, has suspected pines, claimed he will kill missionar- links to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi

well under the circumstances." Christopher's parents, Rob and Beth to help," he said on Saturday. Craft, said they thought there had to be In the meantime, Wes Sherman, some sort of divine intervention.

Parents proud of son's actions

"There were more ways for this "I just wanted to get the kids in out thing to have gone wrong than right," Rob said, "and we were very proud of him."

As for the driver, he was released cerned about the driver and everybody from Citizens Medical Center later on

Sabaya told Radio Mindanao Network

The Abu Sayyaf, thought to number

of foreigners and Filipinos in recent

years and raised millions of dollars in

"I was just so glad Chris was there

Christopher's mother said that she was glad Christopher had an interest in cars and knew how a standard transmission worked.

Beth said she believed it isn't a bad idea for parents to at least show their children the mechanics of how vehicles operate.

"Nobody wants to see something like this ever happen, but I think it's good to show kids how cars work," she said.

"Stoney is our children's godfather and a good friend," Beth said. "He was watching the children while we were out of town.'

Christopher said he just wanted to help and how glad he was that everyone — and particularly Uncle Stoney – was OK.

The clouds glowed in the west back lighting the water tower as the sun set on Goodland Sunday evening. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

ies Martin and Gracia Burnham, of exile accused of plotting the Sept. 11 Wichita, before President Gloria terrorist attacks in the United States. Macapagal Arroyo's planned Nov. 20 trip to meet with U.S. President George Americans and at least 10 Filipinos. W. Bush.

President Arroyo goes to the U.S. with tary offensive be halted.

The Abu Sayyaf still holds the two The military strongly rejected

"It would be very embarrassing if Sabaya's demand that an ongoing mili-

Insurance hits small districts hard

LAWRENCE (AP) — Education ciation of School Boards. officials say that rising health insurdistricts out of business, speeding up their consolidation.

"We are very concerned, literally, executive director of the Kansas Asso-

Without more money from the Kanance costs could put some small school sas Legislature or a subsidized statewide school employee health insurance program, districts that have struggled through years of dwindling

about the survival of many small dis- enrollment and modest state funding tricts," said Mark Tallman, assistant increases could be overwhelmed by the costs



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