

# Transfusions and transplants may spread virus

**WEST NILE, from Page 1**

tested positive for West Nile virus and 31 have died.

All the previous cases had been blamed on mosquito bites, but health officials now fear four people may have been infected with West Nile after receiving the kidneys, heart and liver of a woman who died in Georgia last month after a car accident, the CDC said Sunday.

Officials say the woman may have been infected already or may have gotten West Nile through blood transfusions in the emergency room.

The Atlanta-based CDC is trying to

trace donors who contributed the transfused blood, the blood products made from the donations, and any other patients who may have received blood or blood products from the donations.

The Food and Drug Administration issued an alert to blood banks two weeks ago to exercise extra caution when screening donors, Dr. Jesse Goodman of the FDA said.

"We have been very active and tried to anticipate the possibility of something like this," Goodman said.

Three of the four patients developed symptoms of encephalitis, the inflammation of the brain and central nervous system, which is the most serious con-

sequence of West Nile virus.

One of the four has died in Atlanta, said Dr. James Hughes, director of the CDC's National Center for Infectious Disease. Standard pathology tests from an autopsy confirmed the recipient had encephalitis. Tests are ongoing to see if the recipient was infected with West Nile, which causes encephalitis.

Another recipient, hospitalized in Jacksonville, Fla., showed symptoms of encephalitis Sunday, said Dr. John Agwunobi, the Florida Secretary of Health.

CDC officials say they're sure the man didn't contract the disease from a mosquito, said Mary Jo Trepka, epi-

miology director with the county health department.

Samples from the four transplant recipients were sent to the CDC's lab in Fort Collins, Colo., Hughes said. Test results are expected within the week.

There is no test yet that can quickly or accurately identify the presence of the West Nile virus. Patients are diagnosed based on their immune response to the virus.

However, researchers at the CDC are trying to find a way that will cut down the time from when infection occurs and when a response to the virus can be measured, the CDC said. It now

takes about 15 days.

Officials say they remain optimistic that there is a low chance West Nile can spread through blood because there have been no confirmed cases to date.

There are also no known cases of person-to-person transmission of other diseases in the same family as West Nile called the arboviral encephalitis: St. Louis encephalitis, La Crosse encephalitis and Eastern and Western equine encephalitis.

However, there have been cases of other mosquito-borne diseases being passed by blood transfusion or transplant. Last year, a CDC review of blood-donation problems turned up 93

patients who contracted malaria after blood transfusions.

Cases have also been reported in which dengue, another mosquito-borne disease, was transmitted to a health care worker by a needle-stick and between siblings after a bone-marrow transplant.

Sullivan said the blood supply is safer than it's ever been, and that her organization is "focused on allaying any fears or concerns about the safety of the blood supply for both donors and recipients."

Every unit of blood donated goes through up to 12 tests to ensure patient safety, Sullivan said.

# Israeli court rules in family expulsions

*By The Associated Press INTERNATIONAL*

JERUSALEM — In a landmark decision, Israel's Supreme Court ruled today that Israel can expel relatives of Palestinian terror suspects from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip, but only if it proves they pose a security threat.

A special nine-judge panel made the unanimous ruling in a case that pitted Israel's security concerns against human rights claims.

The Israeli military argued that expulsions create an effective deterrent and help prevent suicide bombings and other terror attacks. Human rights lawyers said the measure constitutes collective punishment and violates international law.

Palestinian officials said the Palestinian Authority may file a complaint with the U.N. Security Council and the International Criminal Court. "This is a sad and black day for human rights," said Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat.

## around the world

she can't take.

**NATIONAL**

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The trial of two adolescent brothers accused of bludgeoning their father to death with an aluminum baseball bat will be a mirror image of last week's trial of a family friend.

Three people have been charged in the slaying of Terry King: sons Alex and Derek King, now 13 and 14, and family friend Ricky Chavis. The boys now say Chavis did it; Chavis says the brothers killed their father.

Chavis was tried separately and the jury issued a verdict on his first-degree murder charges Friday. The verdict was sealed pending conclusion of the boys' trial, set to begin today.

The trials involve all sorts of bizarre scenarios. Alex and Derek were the star witnesses against Chavis last week, but if they testify this week, it will be as defendants. Chavis could help the prosecution this week.

SEATTLE — Labor Day layoffs at Consolidated Freightways were like "a slap in the face" for hundreds of employees who showed up for work on the holiday only to find the offices locked, a union spokesman said.

"That's like telling your wife you're getting divorced on Valentine's Day," said Carlos N. Ramos, a spokesman for Teamsters Local 776 in Harrisburg, Pa.

The company said it would stop operations immediately. In a recorded telephone message, Chief Executive John Brincko told workers at the trucking company not to show up today.

About 15,500 employees would be affected, the company said, with more than 80 percent receiving termination notices immediately.

The 73-year-old company said it would file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Operations of the company's CF AirFreight and Canadian Freightways Ltd. subsidiaries were not affected.

Consolidated Freightways billed itself at the nation's third-largest "less-than-truckload" carrier. It took partial shipments from multiple companies, loaded them together and trucked them throughout North America.

before the plane went down.

He said the pilot filed a flight plan for Charleston, W. Va. Officials said Charleston was a stopover, though they were unsure of the plane's final destination.

LADYSMITH, Wis. — A tornado ripped apart a northwestern Wisconsin town Monday, leveling a Baptist church and a gas station and injuring dozens of people, witnesses and officials said.

The tornado struck downtown Ladysmith at 4:30 p.m., the National Weather Service said. There was virtually nothing left of several downtown businesses shown on television footage.

Gov. Scott McCallum declared Ladysmith a disaster area and planned to visit the site today, spokesman Tim Roby said.

McCallum verbally gave the go-ahead for rescue workers to start working under the declaration Monday night and the state emergency management team was on its way to assess the damage, Roby said.

Ladysmith Police Chief Norm Rozak said the storm swept through two small neighborhoods and the business district in the center of the town, damaging as many as 60 homes and businesses.

He said everyone was accounted for, and it appeared most of the injuries were bruises and cuts.

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico — The U.S. Navy prepared for a fresh round of war exercises today on the outlying island of Vieques as activists toned down protests, saying the risks had become too high after Sept. 11.

The exercises, which include ship-to-shore and air-to-ground maneuvers, are the first since April and are expected to last for 23 days.

The military has used the prized bombing range on Vieques for more than six decades. Opposition to the exercises, however, flared when a civilian guard was killed by an errant Navy bomb in April 1999.

Since then, hundreds have tried to thwart the exercises by breaking onto the bombing range, often getting arrested, jailed and fined. But the Sept. 11 terror attacks muted the protests. Activist camps — which would have been bustling a year ago — were half empty on Monday.

"I'm personally not willing to risk it," said Elizabeth Roebing, a 55-year-old activist from Asheville, N.C. She blamed the poor activist turnout on tougher jail sentences since the Patriot Act was passed following the terror attacks.

Roebing was arrested in June 2001 during bombing exercises and was released two days later. She said getting arrested now could mean several months in jail or a hefty fine — chances

CHICAGO — United Airlines tapped an aviation newcomer to become its new chief financial officer in hopes his successful record in the oil industry will help lift the struggling carrier to financial recovery.

Glenn Tilton, named chairman, president and chief executive officer of United parent UAL Corp. on Monday, will have to move quickly. The world's second-largest carrier is in a crisis that its outgoing leadership warned could result in a bankruptcy filing this fall.

In his first remarks as CEO, Tilton avoided any reference to bankruptcy and instead voiced confidence he can help United become financially sound with a plan relying on its strengths — including an extensive worldwide route network and young fleet.

Tilton's hiring by UAL's board of directors in a Labor Day conference call ended a four-month search for a successor to interim CEO Jack Creighton, who turned 70 a day earlier.

Tilton, 54, vice chairman of ChevronTexaco Corp. and acting chairman of energy marketer Dynegey Inc., was selected by a unanimous vote that included those of the two union representatives. As part of the management overhaul, president Rono Dutta and chief operating officer Andy Studdert resigned.

SWANZEY, N.H. — Seven members of one family were killed when their small plane crashed in the woods and burst into flames shortly after taking off from a southwest New Hampshire airport.

Keene Mayor Michael Blastos said the victims included two grandparents, two parents and their children. They had been visiting relatives in nearby Newfane, Vt., and had been staying in Keene.

Authorities did not disclose the victims' names.

There were no survivors, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters. The victims' bodies were removed about seven hours after Monday's crash.

The twin-engine Beech Baron had just taken off from the Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Keene and was apparently attempting to return to the airport when it went down. Witnesses said there was a large fireball and the plane burned up, Peters said.

Peters said there was no distress call

WASHINGTON — Differences linger between President Bush and Senate Democrats on legislation creating a homeland security department as Congress returns from its summer recess to a host of difficult issues, including Iraq.

Even before members of the House and Senate were back to work on Capitol Hill, Bush jawboned them about the homeland security bill that he wants, but which is still pending in the Senate.

"Congress needs to get moving," the president told a Labor Day crowd near Pittsburgh, demanding action not only on the new Cabinet department, but also on legislation making it easier for businesses to get insurance against terrorist attack. Bush, who returned from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, over the holiday weekend after a month of combined leisure and business travel, invited a group of lawmakers to the

# Man arrested for throwing table at wife and daughter

A Goodland man was arrested for allegedly throwing a coffee table at his wife, mother-in-law and 1-year-old daughter Thursday morning.

Drew Noffsinger, 23, is to be charged with aggravated assault, domestic battery and endangerment to a child in municipal court. He had not yet made his first appearance this morning and his court records were not available to the public.

Christina Ann Noffsinger, 25, called the police at 7:42 a.m., records

show, and officers arrived at the house at 515 Broadway at 7:47. Officers left with Noffsinger in custody at 8:03 a.m. Besides his wife, the man is accused of throwing the table at Tamara Denise Fogg, 46, his mother-in-law, and his 1-year-old daughter, Montana Audrey Noffsinger.

This is the third time Noffsinger allegedly battered his wife in the last five years, police records show, making this a more serious charge.

# School board meets in session on personnel

Goodland School Board members talked behind closed doors for close to an hour and a half last Tuesday night about hiring new employees and how well Superintendent Marvin Selby is doing his job.

The first 20-minute closed session during the meeting was with Harvey Swager, high school principal, and Dick Liess, district athletic director, to talk about hiring. The board is allowed to discuss personnel matters in private.

Members came out to hire two coaches, a teacher aide and a cook.

Mary Kratky, a health and physical education teacher at Grant Junior High, was hired as the eighth grade girls volleyball coach; Terry Daise, a science teacher at Grant, was hired as assistant high school girls basketball coach; Wilda Kalbach as a 3.5-hour cook at West Elementary School; and Bonnie Holm as an aide at Grant.

The board gave Dennis Friedrichs, the high school technology teacher, permission to take a group of students to the Eco-Meet regional competition for the first time this year. Liess said the contest will be similar to the Science Olympiad, but will focus on ecology.

After the meeting, Friedrichs said

the regional meet will be held at Lake Wilson near Russell on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Members went back behind closed doors for another hour to evaluate Selby. The board started the session by talking with the superintendent, then sent him out for about 20 minutes before calling him back in.

The board took no action after coming into open session and adjourned the meeting a few minutes later.

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# City trash will affect landfill

**TRASH, from Page 1**

to be able to say "Go talk to someone else, we are not involved."

"If they look at the whole situation, they may reach the same conclusion we have," Rasure said, "but it is clear they don't want to do anything with trash."

A question was asked about turning everything over to the city, but everyone felt they would not be favorable.

Then Hawks asked about the possibility of the county taking over the city trash system so that it would all be under one entity.

"We are not crazy about taking over the whole system," Rasure said, "but it might be something to look at as an alternative."

"What about the large baler?" Hawks asked.

Rasure said they had been gathering information on a baler, but had stopped when the city began looking to sell its collection system.

Margaret Russell, landfill manager, said she was putting figures together

for City Commissioner Rick Billinger on what the city has delivered to the transfer station over the past few years. She said in doing the figures, it appears the total tonnage would be down a bit over the last year.

A consensus of the committee was to suggest the county look at taking over the city trash system if the current negotiations fail.

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**806 W. 8th.... New Lowered Price**  
Original list price \$97,000 NOW \$87,000. This ranch style home offers 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, nice kitchen, bath and laundry on the main floor. The basement is finished with family room, den with wet bar, 2 bedrooms and bath. There's an attached garage, central heat and air, fenced backyard. Contact Donna Moore for your tour.

**622 Arcade....New Lowered Price**  
Convenient one-level living. This brick ranch offers attached garage, family room, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, large living room and kitchen with appliances. Underground sprinklers, large corner lot, hot water heat, roof with transferable warranty, hardwood floors plus lots more. \$53,000

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