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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005

Worthy of Western Pennsylvania 50¢
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Billing issues lead to cuts

Payments to state constables are being slashed after alleged overbilling is found.

BY DAVID HUNT
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Westmoreland County's controller is slashing payments to state constables after an investigation showed alleged overbilling could cost taxpayers up to \$50,000 a year.

In the past six weeks, Controller Carmen Pedicone said, he has determined that:

- A \$1,408.55 bill from three constables included \$677 in duplicated fees to serve warrants for parking tickets.

- Subsequent requests totalling \$8,630 were trimmed by \$2,494 because of alleged double billing.

- The alleged overbilling was projected to drain between \$30,000 to \$50,000 out of annual costs for constables' services that cost taxpayers about \$300,000.

Pedicone said a committee is

SEE CONSTABLES • A4

Somebody squealed



KEITH HODAN/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Paul McCarthy, of Pittsburgh's South Side, polishes a giant inflatable pig Friday that is on display in the city's Mellon Park to protest the state's legislative pay raise. **Story, A5**

Cheney's top aide indicted

Libby charged with perjury, obstruction of justice

He resigns in wake of the CIA leak case.

BY G. ROBERT HILLMAN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS



Libby

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, Lewis Libby, was charged Friday with obstruction of justice and with lying to a grand jury and federal agents in the two-year CIA leak investigation that has shaken the White House.

President Bush's longtime political adviser, Karl Rove — the deputy White House chief of staff who also has been increasingly in investigators' sights — was not charged, although special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald

■ **Close ties:** Donora native assigned to Libby case. **B1**

■ **Gray skies:** Dark clouds loom above Karl Rove. **A4**

SEE LIBBY • A4

Soldiers shared love of country

A Hollidaysburg native is killed in Iraq; a Somerset County man is among the injured.

BY MICHAEL HASCH
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Daniel R. Lightner Jr., a state trooper from Blair County, and Pittsburgh firefighter Bruce Morrow shared a love of country and a passion for helping others.

Lightner, 28, a native of Hollidaysburg, was killed, and Morrow, 37, of Beechview, was seriously wounded when their armored vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in Iraq, Gov. Ed Rendell said Friday.

A third soldier in the vehicle, Spc. Timothy Collins, of Central City, Somerset County, suffered minor injuries in Thursday's explosion during combat operations in Ramadi Province, an insurgent stronghold 70 miles west of Baghdad, said Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

War on terror

■ **In the race:** Sunni coalition submits list of candidates for December's election. **A3**

■ **On the defensive:** Oil-for-food corruption report brings denials worldwide. **A3**

Staff Sgt. Lightner, Sgt. Morrow and Collins are members of the 28th Division Military Police Company in Johnstown, Cambria County. Collins is expected to rejoin his unit in Iraq, Cleaver said.

Morrow, a firefighter from Engine 26 in Brookline, suffered a broken vertebrae and other injuries in the blast, said his wife, Nicolette Wardzinski. He was being flown last night to a military hospital in Germany for treatment.

"There's no sign of paralysis. That's the good thing," Wardzinski said.

SEE IRAQ • A5

U.N. probe, Iraq war unsettle Syrians



OUAI BESHARA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Syrians rally in Damascus in support of President Bashar Assad's regime, which has been implicated in the murder of Lebanese ex-premier Rafiq Hariri.

Sentiment: 'You are in a car, the driver is crazy, the road is downhill and we've no brakes.'

BY ANTHONY SHADID
THE WASHINGTON POST

DAMASCUS, Syria — Waving Syrian flags, thousands of people poured into the capital's Seven Lakes Square this week in an orchestrated show of anger over a U.N. inquiry that implicated the country's leadership in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

There was indignation: "Stay away from Syria," one banner declared. There was a hint of festivity, too — the cheer that comes with schools, universities and

government offices taking the day off to bolster the crowds.

"I came to denounce the investigation," explained Hisham Hassan, 17, holding a portrait of President Bashar Assad.

He paused, frowning his brow. "Why else?" he asked, turning to his friend, Hisham Shaqairi.

"National unity," his friend said.

"Right, national unity," Hassan answered, nodding.

But amid the chants and smiles, one poster hinted at the deep unease that courses through Damascus these days, as its government faces its greatest crisis since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. "Syria will never be Iraq," it read.

SEE SYRIA • A5

'Superbug' infecting area's patients

1,000 in Canada have died from a resistant strain of the bacteria.

BY LUIS FABREGAS
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Hospital patients in Pittsburgh are being treated for a dangerous new strain of intestinal bacteria that killed 1,000 Canadians last year.

Some health officials call the infection — caused by the common bacteria *Clostridium difficile*, or C. diff — a "superbug" because it resists typically prescribed antibiotics.

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center officials confirmed Friday the new strain was the source of increased rates in C. diff cases dating at least four years. But tests to type the strain — which has a gene mutation — were developed only a few months ago.

"We saw an increase in cases in 2000 and 2001, and we had no idea what was going on," said Dr. Carlene Muto, UPMC's infection control chief.

Authorities have confirmed the new strain in 15 states.

"It is concerning," said Dr. Cliff McDonald, a medical epidemiologist at the U.S. Centers

SEE BACTERIA • A5

MORNING BRIEFING

Weather

52-37



Mostly sunny and a bit warmer today; clear and chilly tonight. **A14**

Nation/World

■ U.N. helicopters ferrying supplies to South Asia's earthquake survivors will be grounded within a week unless aid agencies receive more funding. **A3**

■ The creaky flu vaccine-making system poses a big problem if a new, deadly strain emerges once the annual and inflexible production process begins. **A3**

■ Fifty-one members of the New Orleans Police Department are fired for abandoning their posts before or after Hurricane Katrina. **A4**

Opinion

■ Bill Steigerwald talks with Ed Meese about a new Constitution primer. **Q&A, A13**

Local

■ A personal care home struggled for 60 hours without electricity because it wasn't on Allegheny Power's priority list. **B1**

■ Penn-Trafford negotiations stall, and parents are scrambling to find child care. **B1**

■ The chairman of Hempfield's municipal authority is fined \$500 for an ethics violation. **B1**

Business

■ The Dow jumps 172 points, its biggest gain since April, as economic news soothes the market. **B3**

■ Web banks get a security upgrade as Internet fraud artists become more adept at stealing passwords. **B3**

Living

■ Faced with soaring energy costs, more homeowners are getting fired up over fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. **A9**

Fall back

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed tonight. The nation returns to

Standard Time at 2 a.m. Sunday.



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