

22
pages of
grocery savings



Hikers' paradise: REI to open in '09

Retailer reveals its Tucson plan **BUSINESS**



Arizona Daily Star

75¢
One dollar outside
Southern Arizona

SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877 • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008 • REACHING 238,700 READERS WEEKDAYS

FINAL

Feb. death of Tucson man, 39, tied to staph

By **Stephanie Innes**
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

An aggressive pneumonia caused by a common organism is being blamed for killing a 39-year-old Tucson man who died after waiting eight hours in a local emergency room while his wife says she pleaded for help.

A U.S. Centers for Disease Control report says Robert Sweitzer died Feb. 10 at St. Mary's Hospital of "necrotizing pneumonia" caused by a common bacterium, staphylococcus aureus. Generally, staph is an organism that can be successfully treated with antibiotics.

"This is pretty uncommon, to see a young, healthy person die within a relatively short amount of time from a fairly common organism," Pima County Medical Examiner Dr. Bruce Parks said Tuesday.

Parks said it appears Sweitzer died of a particularly virulent form of staph called methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA.

MRSA, often called a "super-bug," is growing in prevalence across the country and does not respond to penicillins and cephalosporins, the class of drugs normally used to treat staph infections. However, it can be treated with specialized, "second-line" antibiotics.

"It seems logical that it's MRSA, but I can't say without a doubt," Parks said.

In the CDC analysis, tissue from Sweitzer's lungs tested negative for hantavirus, a potentially fatal respiratory disease, which Parks said was one possibility considered in the unusual death.

Parks' office, along with the Arizona Department of Health Services, had sent tissue samples to the CDC for further examina-

See **INFECTION, A4**

SN On StarNet: View symptoms of common illnesses and other stories about health-related issues at azstarnet.com/health

City faces \$10M hole in budget

By **Rob O'Dell**
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Less than two months into the new fiscal year, a Tucson budget report shows the city will have to fix a budget deficit of at least \$10 million before next June.

The sales-tax numbers for July are so bad they are running 1.5 percent behind a year ago, which was the first time in the last 30 years the city experi-

enced a decline from one year to the next in sales taxes.

The report, by Budget Director David Cormier, showed the city had to dip deep into its reserve funds to help avoid a deficit for the budget year that just ended June 30.

The city needed \$11.8 million from its reserves to balance its books, dropping its reserves by 28 percent to \$31.9 mil-

lion. That was despite a hiring freeze, a travel ban and a series of cancellations and deferrals of equipment purchases.

The city is facing a worse situation this year, said City Manager Mike Hein. In addition, Hein said the budget for 2009-10 will be bad as well, likely forcing structural changes to the way the city does business in order to balance that budget.

As last fiscal year ended, Hein said the "revenue shortfall got graver and graver," causing the first sales-taxes decline in 30 years.

When it first adopted last year's budget, the city expected to bring in \$213 million in sales taxes. In recognition of the economic downturn, the city

See **\$10 MILLION, A4**



ARIZONA DAILY STAR FILE PHOTO

County braces for W. Nile

Stagnant-water treatments intensify after first '08 case is identified

By **Erica Meltzer**
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Teams of inspectors have been busy treating stagnant pools for mosquitoes in the week since the county identified its first human case of West Nile virus this year.

"The complaints are rising, and we're seeing a lot of green pools," said Pima County Health Department

spokeswoman Patti Woodcock.

She said while mosquito complaints are not "off the charts," they are increasing. Earlier in the summer, frequent monsoon storms flushed out standing water before mosquito eggs could hatch.

The break in the rains earlier this month gave them ample time to develop and seek out their meals, she said.

The tiny mosquitoes known as "ankle biters" that have been driving area residents crazy the last week don't carry the virus, Woodcock said, they're "just very, very annoying."

Still, the county Health Department is bracing for what may be a bad year for the mosquito-borne disease because

See **MOSQUITOES, A4**

BY THE NUMBERS

1 West Nile virus case in Pima County	9 West Nile virus cases in Arizona
1 Pool in Pima County with mosquitoes positive for West Nile virus	3 Sentinel chickens in Pima County with West Nile virus
88 Pools in Arizona with mosquitoes positive for West Nile virus	19 Sentinel chickens in Arizona with West Nile virus

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services

2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, DAY TWO

Hillary asks supporters to shift gears to Obama

COX NEWS SERVICE

Democrats tried to bind the wounds of the longest presidential fight in their party's history Tuesday night, with the vanquished Hillary Clinton seeking to rally her still-disappointed legions behind the victorious Barack Obama.

While the convention keynote speaker, former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, echoed the economic populism and much-touted "post-partisan" message of Obama, it fell to Clinton to tackle job No. 1 for the Democrats

ELECTION 2008



before leaving Denver this week — uniting all factions behind the party's soon-to-be nominee.

Ironically, Clinton's appearance before the party's convention delegates came on the 88th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote in the United States.

And it was a bittersweet moment for her ardent supporters.



Ariz. Gov. Janet Napolitano

"For the change we need to lift working families across our nation, for the change we need to ensure the American dream is within reach of all of us, we must send Barack Obama to the White House."



Robert Casey Jr.

"Barack Obama and I have an honest disagreement on the issue of abortion. But the fact that I'm speaking here tonight is testament to Barack's ability to show respect for the views of people who may disagree with him."



Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton

"Whether you voted for me, or voted for Barack, the time is now to unite as a single party with a single purpose. And you haven't worked so hard over the last 18 months, or endured the last eight years, to suffer through more failed leadership."



Former Va. Gov. Mark Warner

"If an idea works, it really doesn't matter if it has an R or a D next to it. Because this election isn't about liberal versus conservative. It's not about left versus right. It's about the future versus the past."

MORE INSIDE:

PONDERING STRATEGY: Dems debate how hard to attack McCain. **Page A5**
APPEAL FOR UNITY: Hillary Clinton asks supporters to boost Obama. **Page A5**



On StarNet: Be sure to visit go.azstarnet.com/politicalblog to get the latest news and guest blogs from the floor of the Democratic National Convention.

WEATHER, C6

Moisture not wrung out just yet
High 91 / Low 72



7 50136 00001 5

ALEE NEWSPAPER
VOL. 167, NO. 240

COMING UP, DON'T MISS ...

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION: Can you dump your car for a bus or bike? **SUNDAY**

FROM COW PUNK TO POST-ROCK: Complete guide to the HoCo Festival. **THURSDAY**

LIGHTS ARE ON: Everything you need to know about high school football. **FRIDAY >>**

