



Stick it to 'em
'Madden 2005'
brings the pain
GAMER'S CORNER A8



Healthy on both
ends of the leash
Dogs can be a hiker's 'best friend'
SCENE A5



Insonmriac:
The other 9 to 5
Attell slashes through Toyko
BOOB TUBE A8

SUNDAY THE Journal

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VA Edition



A federal officer holds his weapon at a checkpoint in front of a Manhattan federal building. The Federal Protective Service secures more than 9,500 federal buildings nationwide and will play a key role in safeguarding New York during the Republican National Convention. AP photo

NYC ready for the - ahem - Republicans

By LARRY McSHANE
Associated Press

NEW YORK - New York, New York, it's the Democrats' town.

Just as the Bronx is still up and the Battery's down - so goes an old musical number - the major political parties haven't changed their positions: The Democrats here are soaring while the Republicans are dwindling.

About 10,000 GOP voters have disappeared from the city since 1996. The Democrats, who outnumber Republicans by a 5-to-1 ratio, added about 200,000 people over the same stretch to reach 2.8 million voters.

The minority party - sound odd, huh? - holds just three of 51 City Council seats. The GOP malaise extends beyond the city's borders; in the last 32 years, the only GOP presidential candidate to carry the state of New York was Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Sure, the city's mayor is a Republican - but not really. He was a Democrat and joined the GOP just three years ago when faced with a contentious Democratic primary.

This summer, at Madison Square Garden, the Republicans will take Manhattan, albeit for just four days. It's the first national Republican convention in New York; the Democrats have held five, the last in 1992 when Bill Clinton went on to win the White House.

Clinton, after two terms in the White House, came back to the city and set up an office on 125th Street in Harlem - as hardcore a Democratic haven as anywhere in the city. When he arrived in 2001, though, he found something unthinkable for the previous quarter-century: a Republican in City Hall.

The Clinton convention convened with Democrat David Dinkins in charge, although that didn't last long. The one-term mayor was defeated the next year by Rudolph Giuliani, and the GOP has improbably controlled the majority ever since.

That doesn't mean the GOP delegates and their wallets won't be welcome. The city hopes the convention will generate \$265 million for the local economy.

The tens of thousands of visitors - mostly Republican politicos and media hordes - will find a city that has changed dramatically over the past decade. Republicans will visit a New York enjoying a burnished national image, with its crime rate plunging and its popularity climbing as high as its skyline.

The city's once-staggering homicide rate has dropped dramatically - from 1,900 a dozen years ago to just under 600 last year.

Please see CITY, Page A2



A federal officer pauses while shooting at a shooting range in the basement of a Manhattan federal building. AP photo

Dolphin death prompts aquarium review

Director: We'd like to change the way we do business

BALTIMORE (AP) - The National Aquarium announced it will make major changes in its dolphin breeding program - a month after a sick 4-month-old

dolphin died the day she was roughed up by two adult dolphins.

"I'm re-evaluating the whole dolphin breeding program," Dr. Joseph R. Geraci, aquarium senior director of biological programs, said Thursday. "We'd like to change the way we do business."

The aquarium is considering sending adult male dolphins to other

facilities, abandoning the importation of adult males for breeding and switching instead to artificial insemination for its next generation of calves.

Aquarium officials said that none of the options is final, but that all are likely candidates.

Artificial insemination, a relatively new breeding technique for dolphins, also will be "considered a priority," he said.

The proposals come after Bridgit, a 4-month-old calf, died July 28, a few hours after she was roughed up by two other dolphins while her mother was performing for an audience in a connecting tank.

Two dolphins knocked Bridgit about and pinned her underwater for a time. Bridgit was found floating soon after the incident and staff members were unable to revive her.

Please see DEATH, Page A3



Crime Solvers still has a BITE

By KELLY SMITH
Sunday staff writer

Arlington County detectives were stumped.

After six violent rapes in the Crystal City area earlier this year, police had a suspect, but no idea where to find him.

The pressure was mounting to take a serial rapist off the streets and calm the growing fears of the community. Detective John Ritter knew he just needed that one piece of vital information, that one big break.

Enter Crime Solvers.

With nowhere else to turn, Ritter put out a plea to the community on local television and just a day later, Leon Allen Brown was in police custody. His case goes to trial in October.

Ritter said the case would still be open if not for Crime Solvers.

"We would not have had the information without the Crime Solvers tip," he said. "The Crime Solvers tip was the linchpin; it was very, very vital."

Most people have heard of Crime

Solvers. The organization has been around for nearly 30 years, offering money for tips in an effort to solve seemingly unsolvable crimes.

Local police agencies say plenty. And without the help of the anonymous tipsters, a lot of criminals would still be out there.

"This really does make a difference in the amount of crimes that are solved," said Jeff Penn, president of the Montgomery County Crime Solvers board.

People with a tip can call the toll-free number and are connected with the local agency and county that corresponds with their information.

The caller is assigned a number, which is the key to getting the reward money - up to \$1,000 - since no names are taken. And anonymity, police said, is the key to program's success.

"It's very important that we emphasize to the public that if they wish to remain anonymous, they will remain anonymous," said Corporal Joe Merkel, a Prince George's County officer who coordinates that county's

Please see CALL, Page A3

Life at Sea: The rescue

A sharp-eyed scout spots something in the water

This is the final installment of a three-part serial narrative on an abandoned scuba diver off the California coast.

By CHELSEA J. CARTER
Associated Press

After zigzagging across the busy shipping lanes, the tall ship Argus was heading back toward its home port. Although the fog was beginning to lift, lookouts scanned the waters for hazards.

Zack Mayberry was enjoying the adventure. The tanned 15-year-old Sea Scout had been taking it in from beside the old ship's wheel, but he wanted to be more a part of it. He headed to Capt. Fred Bockmiller's quarters and asked to join in the watch.

Working on the ship's log at a wooden desk, Bockmiller sensed the kid's excitement.

Please see SEA, Page A2



Dan Carlock stands in front of the ocean where he thought his life would end. AP photo

Journal Q&A



Crowd favorite George Huff appears with his fellow "American Idol" finalists tonight at the MCI Center. Fox photo

Huff hoofs it across America

By BRIAN TRUITT
Sunday staff writer

George Huff has a message for you: Get ready, get ready, get ready.

According to the 22-year-old "American Idol" finalist and super-smooth R&B crooner, "the people" - as Huff refers to his fans - need to get ready for an upcoming album and an exciting night when "American Idol's Live!" hits town tonight at the MCI Center.

On his first tour and sharing a bus with his fellow finalists - including third-season winner Fantasia Barrino and runner-up Diana DeGarmo - Huff is performing one of the tunes he sang on the mega-popular TV show, "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," dueting with Jennifer Hudson on Prince's "Nothing Compares to U," and doing a medley that starts with the Marvin Gaye hit "What's Going On?" and then moves into - of all things - "The Darkness" "I Believe in a Thing Called Love."

It's "a slowed-down version, not as crazy" as the original, Huff promises. "It's a real melow type of song where I get to sing for the audience and let 'em know, 'Hey, there's another side to me, everybody, I can do ballads if I want to!'"

Armed with an innocent nature and an infectious grin that never disappeared - even when the three judges, including the cranky Simon Cowell, seemed to be overly nitpicky about his performances for his final few weeks on the show - the New Orleans native lasted on "American Idol" until only five were left and was the last male voted off, becoming a crowd favorite after doing his patented "bounce" dancing while singing classics like "Take Me to the Pilot," "Lean on Me" and "(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay."

And soon you'll be able to take George home with you. He's telling everyone his debut album's coming out in February. "That's a reasonable time. It could be out before then, but I'm gonna tell you February," Huff says with a laugh, although he won't reveal his label home yet. "And when I tell you it's gonna blow your brains out, it's gonna blow your brains out. There's gonna be some really good stuff on there that the kids - I always keep my brain on the kids. I have a lot of kid fans and they're just all over the place and they say, 'You're my favorite!' And because of that, I have to watch what I'm singing and give them something they can bounce to and that they'll remember in the long run later on in life."

JRNL: When Mardi Gras comes around every year, some residents leave New Orleans because of the nuttiness. Do you stick around?

GH: Actually, we stay inside, to be sure your truth. But my grandmother, she

Please see HUFF, Page A9

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'We don't want their name, we just want their information'

CALL, from Page A1

program with Cpl Diane Richardson. Call centers take no names and phones do not have a caller identification feature.

"We don't want their name, we just want their information," Baliles said. To collect the reward money, the callers must call back with their assigned number.

"It's a huge incentive," said Shelley Broderick, Fairfax County Crime Solvers coordinator. "It really opens the door — people being able to call in without fear of retribution."

Broderick has seen the tip line in action time and again.

Police had pictures of three men believed to be involved in a series of burglaries in the Centerville/Chantilly area, but were having no luck identifying the burglars.

"Here we were with pictures of the people, but with no idea who the heck they were," Broderick said.

Shortly after the pictures were broadcast on television, one person called and identified all three men. Fairfax County tipsters have helped police solve 1,700 murders, rapes, robberies and burglaries and recover more than \$3.2 million in stolen property since 1979.

In Prince George's County, Crime Solvers tips have helped solve more than 1,000 felony crimes in the past 10 years, including murders, rapes, assaults, burglaries and robberies, Merkel said.

"I've taken several tips myself that have closed out homicide cases," he said.

Several years ago, a tip helped solve a murder that had lingered in the cold case file for five years.

Merkel also pointed to a bank robbery in Bowie in April 2003. An off-

-duty officer in the area attempted to stop the robbers and fired his weapon at them, but the pair fled.

Police released a surveillance video to local television stations and within days a caller identified the robber.

The police use the tips as a jumping-off point.

"We can't make an arrest solely on tips, but it provides a lead for the officer to follow-up on," Merkel said.

Montgomery County has had a Crime Solvers program since 1978, Baliles said. By 2003, tipsters had helped close 1,841 cases and \$224,000 in reward money had been handed out.

Ask Baliles about successful Crime Solvers cases and he has a host of candidates.

On June 19, two men robbed an Exxon-Mobil gas station in Rockville, shooting the clerk six times. Soon after the surveillance video was released to the public, police received a call identifying two men, James Deangelo Davis, 18, and Quentin Ricardo Williams, 15. The pair was later charged with attempted first-degree murder.

In the days after Kennedy High School student Malik McCoy was beaten to death, police received a "tremendous amount" of calls. The calls helped confirm suspected participants in the crime and led to the arrest of eight men for the crime.

In many of the cases Baliles highlighted, callers not only identified the person responsible, but told police where to find that person.

"Some cases may have never been closed had it not been for the brave people calling and telling what they knew," Baliles said.

In Prince William County, it's a mixed bag.

"There are cases we've had where it helped," said Detective Dennis

Mangan. "But, we've had cases with a lot of calls, but we haven't turned up anything."

Mangan said the department solves about 150 cases a year on Crime Solvers tips, paying three or four tipsters a month.

He pointed to an October 2003 armed robbery of two pizza delivery men in the Lake Ridge area.

After a plea for information in the local media, a citizen called and provided detailed information about the robbers including their names, descriptions and their current addresses, Mangan said. The two men were later convicted of the robbery.

"Thanks to the accurate information the caller provided, police were able to take two very dangerous robbers off the streets of Prince William County," Mangan said.

Despite the huge success in other jurisdictions, Ritter, despite a few arrests, was floundering.

His jurisdiction, with a fairly low crime rate, was constantly competing with bigger jurisdictions and bigger crimes for airtime on local television stations.

And a fair number of crimes occurring in Arlington aren't committed by county residents, he said. His plea for information were fruitless.

"If a person doesn't live here, putting up posters is not going to help," Ritter said.

For Ritter, the turning point was a unified effort — bringing together representatives from each jurisdiction to form a regional Crime Solvers group.

The idea had been bandied about for years. A unified, regional Crime Solvers effort would help capitalize on

advertising dollars and allow each jurisdiction an opportunity to get their case in the hands of the media.

About a year and a half ago, Ritter took the initiative.

He called his colleagues across the metropolitan area and set up a meeting. Armed with statistics from other regional efforts, Ritter suggested the

National Capital Area Crime Solvers, an umbrella group that would encompass Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland, Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington counties in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The NCACS is charged with getting the word out. Crime Solvers is only as good as people's awareness of it, Broderick said.

This fall, Crime Solvers coordinators and board members plan to start an aggressive advertising campaign, spreading posters around the region bearing the hotline number.

The unified program has helped Ritter immeasurably.

"Since we unified, I've solved a robbery, a serial rape and a homicide," he said. "I feel like it's really helping me."

Other police agencies echo Ritter. Broderick said the regional effort has a "huge benefit" in Fairfax County.

She said in the western counties of Virginia, the media and the police work hand-in-hand to broadcast Crime Solvers cases on television.

In the metropolitan area though, the individual counties were each vying for time on the local stations.

"Since the National Capital Area Crime Solvers program ... each county takes a turn," Broderick said.

Penn sums up Crime Solvers in a sentence.

"We're out there to make the streets safer for everybody," he said.

responsible for a crime.

The board is comprised of civilians from all walks of life and range in age from the late 20s to the 70s. They cannot be connected with the police in any way.

The board also is charged with publicity and can often be seen at community events, passing out tip cards or putting up posters about the organization.

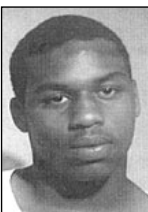
"We're out there for one reason and one reason only, to help get criminals off the streets," Penn said. "... Our ultimate goal is not to have a penny in the bank."



BROWN

File photo

men robbed an Exxon-Mobil gas station in Rockville, shooting the clerk six times.



DAVIS

File photo

Soon after the surveillance video was released to the public, police received a call identifying two men, James Deangelo Davis, 18, and Quentin Ricardo Williams, 15.

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An employee at Information Management Resources outside of Houston takes a crime tip on a recent afternoon. The company helps 57 jurisdictions across the country by taking Crime Solvers tips.

Texas company helps to solve crimes in Arlington

By KELLY SMITH Sunday staff writer

The phones ring 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

And each call could be the key to solving a crime.

At Information Management Resources

helping to solve crimes is the order of the day.

The company, founded nearly a decade ago by

Bernie Anderson, takes calls from Crime Solvers tipsters across the country.

When a call comes in, call takers interview the tipsters, asking for descriptions, addresses and work places for the person suspected of a crime.

The information is then faxed or emailed to the appropriate jurisdiction.

"We are not in the

business to determine if the information is good, bad or indifferent," Anderson said.

"We take whatever comes along."

IMR, based outside Houston, Texas, takes calls from 57 jurisdictions from California to New York, including Arlington County in Virginia.

Rather than reach an answering machine, calls to the tip line are forwarded to the company.

Officers from the jurisdictions IMR serves send specifics about the Crime Solvers cases and what information detectives still need, Anderson said.

The call center logs 500 to 700 calls each day. Many of the calls come at night.

"Crime doesn't wait until we get in the office the next business day," Anderson said.

Citizens lead charge in fighting crime

By KELLY SMITH Journal staff writer

Jeff Penn wants to rid the streets of crime.

Penn is a member of the Montgomery County Crime Solvers board — the money-raising and money-awarding arm of the program.

Although the police are the public face of Crime Solvers, it is a citizen-run organization.

"We're not officially connected to the police department in any way," Penn said. The Crime Solvers board raises money to pay the tipsters and decides

how key a tip was in solving a crime.

The 17-member board meets once a month when a police officer presents information on solved cases along with the tip that led to the arrest.

The board then votes on the amount of the award, which usually depends on the severity of the crime, the callousness or disregard shown by the criminal and whether it is a series of crimes committed by the same person.

The award money is then turned over to a third party for disbursement to the tipster.

Crime Solvers gives cash awards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person

responsible for a crime.

The board is comprised of civilians from all walks of life and range in age from the late 20s to the 70s. They cannot be connected with the police in any way.

The board also is charged with publicity and can often be seen at community events, passing out tip cards or putting up posters about the organization.

"We're out there for one reason and one reason only, to help get criminals off the streets," Penn said. "... Our ultimate goal is not to have a penny in the bank."

'Roughhousing' killed four-month-old calf in July incident

DEATH, from Page A1

Geraci said that a necropsy performed on Bridgit showed that she died of pneumonia, but that being bullied contributed to her death.

"There was roughhousing, and it is my determination that the roughhousing contributed to the weakness of the animal and made the animal's

condition worse," Geraci said.

Geraci said it's unclear which dolphins went after Bridgit; adult males are generally more aggressive, but it could have been the juveniles.

The National Aquarium has nine dolphins. They include three juveniles, three breeding females, and three males. One male is supposed to return to Disney's Living

Seas program in Florida, which lent him to the aquarium for breeding, but no date has been set.

"It's our responsibility to make sure this doesn't happen, and whatever mix of animals was involved in this, things have to be changed because it's just unacceptable," he said.

The death was the second in the aquarium's dolphin population this year. A 10-

day-old male died of bacterial meningitis April 27.

Baltimore's dolphin colony is a major attraction for the aquarium and the city. The aquarium draws more tourists to Baltimore than any attraction except professional baseball.

Aquarium officials say their dolphin shows — six daily during the summer — are one of the biggest draws.

Manhunt continues, might be in Virginia

A man considered armed and dangerous by police after hitting a sheriff's deputy with his car in Tennessee and fleeing police in at least four Southern states is thought to be headed back to Vermont, state police said.

Warrants for the arrest of Robert Somers, 23, have been issued in Vermont, Tennessee and Virginia.

Somers was last spotted Sunday in rural Sussex County, Va., where he was involved in a minor traffic accident, police said.

A woman who stopped to help allegedly was assaulted by Somers, who then stole her car at gunpoint. Two men who tried to help the woman were also assaulted, police said.

Somers is believed to be traveling with Barbara Burrington, 23, also of St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Somers is described as a white male, 5 feet 11 inches tall, 225 pounds, with brown, shoulder-length hair. He may be wearing a goatee. Burrington is described as a white female, 5 feet 5 inches tall, 210 pounds and wearing glasses.



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