

MIETRO

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011

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EZ SU

48, 9 a.m. 50, noon 53, 5 p.m. 48, 9 p.m.

Obituaries Ann Loeb Bronfman, 78, descended from pillars of Wall Street banking, was a generous philanthropist. **B7**

POSTLOCAL.COM

Tell it to the mayor

Chat with D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray at 12:30 p.m. He'll answer questions on the city budget, a federal shutdown and more.

METRO

Possible service changes

Under a plan to close a gap in the system's operating budget, Metrorail riders could wait longer for trains but there'll be no Metrobus route changes. **B5**



MIKE DEBONIS

'Punch-counterpunch'

It'll likely be a green campaign between Senate candidates George Allen and Tim Kaine in Virginia, with money rolling in. But odds are it won't be very clean. **B2**

Doctor's suit faults care at 2 clinics

Catholic Charities disputing claims by fired employee

BY LENA H. SUN

Two medical clinics run by Catholic Charities provided standard care to poor immigrants in Maryland and the District, failing to promptly treat emergency cases, properly process and monitor critical lab tests, and reliably document serious errors, according to a lawsuit filed by a former clinic doctor.

The suit alleges that in one case a clinic in Silver Spring failed to adequately monitor a 32-year-old woman's blood-thinning medication three years ago and that the oversight might have contributed to her death from internal bleeding.

The whistleblower lawsuit, filed Thursday in D.C. Superior Court, identifies the plaintiff, Charles Briggs, as the sole staff doctor at the clinic from March 2008 until Oct. 1, 2010, when he was fired.

Briggs, 66, says in the suit that he was fired in retaliation for raising concerns about patient care with supervisors who did little to address them. He was told by Catholic Charities that he "interfered with the smooth running of the Clinic," the suit says. He wants his job back and \$2 million in damages.

A spokesman for Catholic Charities strongly disputed the allegations in the lawsuit.

The clinics are part of the Spanish Catholic Center, which provides medical and social services in Maryland and the District to poor Latinos with no health insurance, many of whom speak little English.

CLINICS CONTINUED ON B5



PETULA DVORAK

Shutdown would rain on many parades

Nobody messes with the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade.

And yet here we are, just a couple of days away from the only time the District comes even close to feeling a little like Mardi Gras (still waiting for y'all to throw those beads, blossom queens), and our scheming, duplicitous elected officials might kill it with a government shutdown.

But wait, that's not the only thing this allegedly bloated, overfunded, unwieldy and redundant federal government makes possible.

If 800,000 federal workers stay home Monday (and soldiers fight wars and diplomats continue to navigate international upheaval without getting a paycheck), the national parks, the parade, the museums and the zoo — and, therefore, a heck of a lot of kids on spring break school trips — also get skunked.

Do elected officials have any idea how many cars that eighth-grader from Nebraska had to wash to pay for his big trip to the nation's capital next week?

If he doesn't get to see Fonzie's

DVORAK CONTINUED ON B6

Tim Ruse took his grandfather's story and an old photo and went in search of the Japanese boy who helped the soldier survive as a prisoner during World War II.



Timeless acts of kindness

BY CAITLIN GIBSON

Sixty-nine years ago on Saturday, American and Filipino prisoners of war on the Bataan Peninsula started marching at gunpoint. By the time the survivors arrived at a prison camp in the Philippines in spring of 1942, they had watched thousands of their comrades die along the 60 or more miles. What they suffered endures as a symbol of wartime cruelty. ¶ A few months ago, the grandson of one of the survivors traveled from Northern Virginia to Japan with an old photograph in his hand. It was a grainy picture of a young Japanese boy. For Tim Ruse, a 27-year-old sleep disorders specialist from Centreville, and for the Japanese people who greeted him, the photo offered a way to pluck from a dark chapter of history one single act of compassion. It was a photo of the child who helped save his grandfather's life. ¶ Now they just had to find him.

SURVIVOR CONTINUED ON B10



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Tim Ruse — shown with son Holden Carl Ruse, 3 — has researched his late grandfather's time as a prisoner of war during World War II. At top, photos of the grandfather, Carl Ruse, as a prisoner in a forced-labor camp in Japan and of the Japanese boy he credited with helping him live through the experience.

Hearing called a 'witch hunt'

SULAIMON BROWN LEAVES

D.C. Council probes Gray team's hirings

BY NIKITA STEWART

Sulaimon Brown, the former mayoral candidate who says he was promised a city job to attack then-Mayor Adrian M. Fenty in last year's campaign, stormed out of the John A. Wilson Building on Thursday after he refused to testify at a D.C. Council hearing on the hiring practices of Mayor Vincent C. Gray's administration.

Brown, a 40-year-old unemployed auditor, called the hearing a "witch hunt" and said he would instead cooperate with the U.S. attorney's office and a congressional committee investigating his allegations.

Brown's brief appearance and public departure with a throng of reporters trailing him came after council members heard from several witnesses about how political hires, known as "excepted service" workers, landed their jobs and salaries. Several inconsistencies became apparent among the witnesses Thursday, as well as with the previous testimony of Judy Banks, former in-

terim director of the Department of Human Resources.

"It's a whole day of 'the dog ate my homework,'" council member David A. Catania (I-At Large) said during the testimony of Gerri Mason Hall, who was fired last month from her \$200,000-a-year job as the Democratic mayor's chief of staff.

Hall said her notes show that Lorraine Green, chairwoman of Gray's campaign and transition, told her to talk to the mayor about Brown and that that was a factor in meeting with him about a job. But she said she did not speak with the mayor about Brown and that no one directed her to hire him. She also testified that she was not aware of any deal Brown alleged he had with the campaign.

However, Hall acknowledged that she made mistakes, such as failing to look more closely at the past legal troubles of some job candidates and helping her son get a city job. "I regret those errors," she said.

Council member Mary M. Cheh (D-Ward 3), chairwoman of the Committee on Government Operations and the Environment, said Banks "seems to be playing a more pivotal role" in the administration's hiring than previously thought. She said she wanted to hear from Banks, Brown, Green and Gray cam-

TESTIMONY CONTINUED ON B6



SUSAN BIDDLE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Rochelle Webb, ex-interim director of the Employment Services Department, and her son Brandon, an ex-city worker, testified.

Va. assembly agrees on legislative maps

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN AND ANITA KUMAR

RICHMOND — The two chambers of the divided Virginia General Assembly approved new state legislative boundaries drawn up by political leaders in each body, probably establishing partisan districts that will be used for the next decade.

For Northern Virginia, the plans will mean a new senator and three new delegates, all in the region's growing outer suburbs, as the legislature redraws lines to accommodate population shifts revealed by the once-a-decade census.

It is a highly political process used by both parties to improve their electoral strength and protect incumbents.

The GOP-led House of Delegates approved a plan to redraw House districts late Wednesday. On Thursday, the Democratic-led Senate agreed to add plans for Senate districts to the measure. After a final vote likely to take place Monday, the legislative plan will head to Gov. Robert F. McDon-

nell (R) for his signature.

Also Monday, the General Assembly is to start debating about how to redraw the state's 11 congressional districts. The House publicized one proposal Thursday.

House Republicans managed to snag a largely bipartisan 86 to 8 vote in support of their proposal. The margin might have been influenced in part by a perception that the GOP's solid hold on the 100-member body, which includes 60 Republicans, is unlikely to budge in the next decade.

A handful of Democrats voted against the bill, including House Minority Leader Ward L. Armstrong (Henry) and others whose districts were collapsed in the plan.

In about two hours of debate, some Democrats asked Del. S. Chris Jones (Suffolk), the Republican architect, about the plan as they prepared for an almost inevitable lawsuit contending that Republicans could have drawn two additional majority-minority districts but chose not to.

"This bill is flawed," Armstrong

VIRGINIA CONTINUED ON B5

THE FEDERAL WORKER

The nitty-gritty

What a shutdown would mean for those furloughed — and those served by their agencies. **B4**

Anxious for answers

Over 200 attend Rep. James Moran's town hall to vent about and get details on a shutdown. **B4**