

METROPOLITAN AREA NEWS IN BRIEF

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Body

BAT FOUND AT PHILA. ZOO

WAS RABID, OFFICIALS SAY A wild bat found recently by a visitor to the Philadelphia Zoo was rabid, according to city health officials, who want to make sure no others had contact with the animal.

"We suspect that few, if any, zoo visitors may have had the kind of contact with the bat that would have exposed them to rabies," said Robert Levenson, director of the health department's Division of Disease Control. He said that if anyone was bitten or scratched by the bat, or had an open cut or sore and handled the bat, he or she should seek medical attention immediately. Left untreated, rabies is always fatal in humans, Levenson said.

The bat, which was alive when it was discovered Sunday, was placed in isolation and died that night. Zoo animals and their handlers are immunized against rabies and were never threatened, the health department said. Health department spokesman Jeff Moran said officials do not believe there is a colony of bats - or any more rabid bats - on zoo grounds. "They're going to conduct a thorough search, but we believe this was simply a stray, wild bat that landed on the ground," Moran said.

Three cases of rabies have been reported so far this year in Philadelphia - two in the Mt. Airy section and one in the Fox Chase section of Northeast Philadelphia, according to Loretta Brown, an infection control practitioner at the city health department.

All three cases were reported in raccoons, she said.

UNIVERSITY CITY TO BEGIN

'3D THURSDAYS' NEXT MONTH University City's "Third Thursdays" - an effort to lure people to that area's restaurants, clubs and stores - will begin next month with a street festival on 36th Street featuring performances on two stages and offerings from 18 local restaurants.

From 4 to 9 p.m., booths will line 36th between Walnut and Chestnut Streets, and Philadanco, singer Billy Mann and local bands 5nation and Three Doors Down will perform. Parking meters from 30th to 50th Streets and Spring Garden Street to Woodland Avenue will be free after 6 p.m. and some parking garages will be free after 5.

Third Thursdays will take place every month through next May.

TWO SHOT BY POLICE GET OUT

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OF HOSPITAL AND ARE ARRESTED Two men shot Tuesday night in Strawberry Mansion in an exchange of gunfire with police officers were released from the hospital yesterday and then arrested, police said.

The wounded men were Solomon Jones, 45, of the 2400 block of Corlies Street, and Sean Bell, 23, of the 2600 block of North 27th Street. Also arrested was Alexander Hill, 20, of the 3000 block of North Stillman Street. Bell and Hill were charged with aggravated assault, weapons offenses and conspiracy. Jones was jailed after officers learned there was a bench warrant for his arrest.

Police said the shooting, at 27th Street and Lehigh Avenue, occurred when two undercover narcotics officers saw the trio standing near a car parked at the intersection. Two of the three were engaging in a "slap fight," police said.

The officers identified themselves, but one of the men, later identified as Bell, pulled out a handgun and pointed it at the officers, identified only as Sgt. Bard and Officer Burton.

The officers fired a total of seven shots. Hill, who was not injured, fired at the officers, ran off, but was captured minutes later, police said. Bell and Jones received minor bullet wounds and were arrested at the scene.

POLICE IDENTIFY MAN

SHOT, RUN OVER IN S. PHILA. Police have identified a man killed Monday night after being shot and then run over in South Philadelphia as Christian Harrell, 28, of the 1700 block of South 20th Street.

Police are still looking for the person who shot Harrell in the back near 20th and Mountain Streets about 8:30 p.m. and for the person driving a black car who ran him over.

Investigators yesterday were trying to determine whether the two incidents were related.

LOCAL BANDS TO PERFORM

AT SWARTHMORE BENEFIT Eleven local bands will perform at the Swarthmore Community Center at Route 320 and Harvard Avenue on Saturday to benefit a foundation for children suffering from mitochondrial disorder, a muscular disease.

Two stages will be set up in the center, one downstairs for bands playing electric instruments, and one upstairs for acoustic performances, said organizer Leo Niederriter.

The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and the show will run until midnight. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For ticket information, call Niederriter at 610-328-0220.

Notes

Metropolitan Area News in Brief

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