

OVERCAST

Cloudy today with highs near 40; light rain or showers tonight.
Forecast, F8

The Providence Journal

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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2007

50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier

Nation to overhaul its policy on energy

President Bush today will sign a wide-ranging measure that will require vehicles get better mileage and eventually eliminate the incandescent light bulb.

BY JOHN M. BRODER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Legislation that will slowly but significantly change the cars Americans drive, the fuel they burn, the way they light their homes and the price they pay for food cleared the House yesterday by a large margin. President Bush said he would sign it today.

The bill, which passed on a bipartisan vote of 314 to 100, sets higher fuel-economy standards for cars and light trucks for the first time in 22 years and requires the annual production of 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2022, a fivefold increase from current ethanol production levels.

The measure, the Energy Independence and Security Act, also establishes new efficiency requirements for household appliances and government buildings, and aims to phase out the incandes-

SEE ENERGY, A12

Imposed deal seen in case of smoke-shop raid

At the Supreme Court's behest, the attorney general's office and the Narragansett Indians charged in the case have been meeting with a mediator, so far without success.

BY KATIE MULVANEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The attorney general's office is bracing for a plea deal to be imposed tomorrow in the criminal cases stemming from the state police raid on a Narragansett Indian smoke shop — over its objections.

Seven Narragansett Indians, including Chief Sachem Matthew Thomas, are set to go to trial Jan. 7 in Providence County Superior Court on misdemeanor charges that include assault, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Despite exhaustive plea negotiations, prosecutors and lawyers for the

SEE RAID, A10

Casualty of the storm



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency director Robert Warren gives a tour of the EMA headquarters in Cranston in May. He served 28 months in the \$74,700-a-year job before being abruptly fired yesterday by the governor.

Emergency Management Agency chief dismissed

Questions remain as to why officials failed to activate the state's Emergency Operations Center to deal with last week's major snowstorm.

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Governor Carcieri fired the executive director of the state Emergency Management Agency yesterday, after heated public criticism of the state's response to the snowstorm that crippled the state and left commuters and schoolchildren stranded for hours.

Robert J. Warren's firing from the \$74,700-a-year job was immediate, according to a terse news release. The governor's spokesman declined comment. Neither Maj. Gen. Robert T. Bray, to whom Warren reported, nor Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts, who chairs the Emergency Management

Advisory Council, responded to calls seeking comment. As adjutant general, Bray is taking over as EMA executive director until a replacement is named.

At yesterday's advisory council meeting, the first that Roberts had convened in months, the lieutenant governor promised changes, including better communication during emergencies. "It was very clear the public wanted to know what was going on, and there wasn't a public voice making that clear," she said.

She offered five issues for Bray to focus on for a meeting on Jan. 22: setting up a statewide system to coordinate closures of all schools and daycares, informing em-

EMA

Created: 1982 as R.I. Defense Preparedness Agency. Renamed in 1983.

Budget: \$11.25 million (\$10.3 federal/\$950,000 state)

Staff: 34

Director: Maj. Gen. Robert T. Bray (acting)

Mission: "to protect life and property in the event of a disaster or crises situation."

ployers in Providence and elsewhere about recommended closing times, reviewing the traffic flow plans for rush hour in Providence during an emergency, improving communication between the municipalities and

SEE FIRING, A10

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Extra: For your taxes, what do you expect your community to provide in the winter? To respond, and to read the state Emergency Management Agency's State Emergency Operations Plan, go to projo.com

Irons sues ethics panel to halt its prosecution

The former state Senate president argues that legislators have immunity from prosecution by the Ethics Commission.

BY BRUCE LANDIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Former state Senate President William Irons has sued the state Ethics Commission in an attempt to prevent it from prosecuting him on two charges that he violated the state's ethics laws while in office.



IRONS

Irons, who is accused of using his office for personal gain, raises the same legal arguments that the present Senate president, Joseph Montalbano, raised earlier this year, arguments

that some involved in the dispute said could cripple some ethics enforcement if they carried the day. The earlier case was cut short in September when Montalbano agreed to pay a \$12,000 fine, the third-highest penalty the Ethics Commission has imposed.

Irons argues that because he was a legislator at the time, he en-

SEE IRONS, A10

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Extra: For more on Operation Dollar Bill, the wide-ranging corruption case involving at least seven politicians and seven corporations, go to projo.com

Mother sentenced in daughter's killing

Kimberly A. Mawson, 37, convicted in the death of her 19-month-old daughter, Jade, receives 60 years.

BY TALIA BUFORD
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

WARWICK — Standing yesterday at the end of a five-year saga surrounding the murder of her only daughter, the emotion drained from Kimberly A. Mawson's face.

It was here, in Kent County Superior Court, where she'd fought to maintain her innocence — and lost. A jury convicted Mawson of second-degree murder in October for killing her 19-month old daughter, Jade, in 2002. The court allowed her to remain free on bail after her conviction until sentencing.

She'd sobbed quietly to herself before the sentencing and listened, mouth agape, as Judge Edwin J. Gale showed no indication of his earlier leniency.

"I am sentencing a cold-hearted murderer," Gale said, "a dangerous person who refuses to come to grips with the fact that she killed the baby to whom she initially gave life."

Now, there was nothing left for her to do but stand and listen.

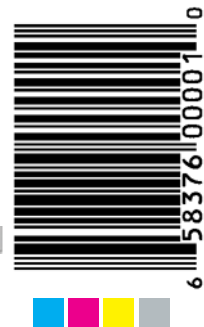
Mawson was sentenced to 60 years at the Adult Corrections Institution — the first 35 years to serve, with 25

SEE SENTENCE, B6



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

Kimberly A. Mawson, with defense attorney Kevin Bristow, listens to the prosecution yesterday in Kent County Superior Court.



INSIDE TODAY

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7 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	E10	Local News	D1
Bridge	E10	Lotteries	C4
Business	F1	Obituaries	D4
Classified	F5	People	E6
Cornics	E11	projoCars	G1
Crossword	E10	Rhode Island	B1
Editorial	B4	Sports	C1
Food	E1	Television	E9
Legal ads	A13	What's Happening	E10
Lifebeat	E6		



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NEW FOOTBALL COACH FOR URI



Returning to the scene of his All-American career, Darren Rizzi, an associate head coach at Rutgers, takes over as head coach of the University of Rhode Island football program. **C1**

FED ACTS TO PROTECT BORROWERS

The Federal Reserve moves to protect home buyers from dubious lending practices, its most sweeping response to a mortgage meltdown that has forced record numbers of people from their homes. **A2**

LIQUOR STORES' LICENSES SUSPENDED

Ten Rhode Island liquor stores will have their licenses suspended for 10 days beginning New Year's Eve as part of the long-running legal fight over the state's prohibition against liquor store chains and franchises. **F1**