

BELOW AVERAGE
Mostly sunny with highs in the low 70s today; lows in the 50s tonight.
Forecast, B6

The Providence Journal

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TALL SHIPS 2007



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / FRIEDA SQUIRES

From left, the Tarangini, from India, Picton Castle, from New Zealand, and Prince William, from the United Kingdom, head south out of Narragansett Bay as the Parade of Sail concludes a weeklong celebration.

SAIL AND FAREWELL

Under light breezes, sunny skies and the scrutiny of large crowds, the vessels' departure is a breathtaking prospect.

BY RICHARD SALIT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT — Blue skies. Good winds. Big crowds. And, of course, Tall Ships. Lots of Tall Ships.

Yesterday was a picture-perfect day for the finale of Tall Ships Rhode Island 2007 — the traditional Parade of Sail.

Just ask John Schlowinski, who, well before the procession got under way, had staked out a grassy spot on Ocean Avenue, near Brenton Point, and set up his camera equipment. With other spectators lining the shore all around him, the avid photographer from Long Island, N.Y., stood behind his tripod, occasionally snapping pictures with a long zoom lens.

"It couldn't be a better day to shoot," said Schlowinski, 51, as he gazed out at the flotilla of gaff-rigged schooners and the three-masted barques circling outside the entrance to Narragansett Bay. "You have some clouds and a beautiful subject. You can't beat

SEE SHIPS, A6



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Crew members aboard the Dewaruci, the Tall Ship from Indonesia, get a last look at Rhode Island as their vessel departs Newport Harbor.

In their battle with growers, the woodchucks are winning

Lush fields of produce are salad on the table for a burgeoning woodchuck population.

BY TOM MOONEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — A few years ago, a sunny afternoon like this would find Rudi Hempe perched on the roof of his toolshed in Narragansett, a 5mm varmint rifle cradled in his lap and his eyes scanning his tended rows of beans and broccoli for summer marauders.

Today he is walking another battlefield — the 70 acres of the University of Rhode Island's East Farm — remembering those glory days of weeding his home garden of woodchucks, when desperate times demanded ... good aim.

"You could set your watch by them," he says down in the apple orchard, where several of the portly diggers have created homesteads reminiscent of artillery craters. "They came out around 3, 3:30 every afternoon."

It is 3:45 p.m. as he speaks. As if to make his point, one of the industrious rodents stands up on his hind legs about 60 yards away, stares at the intruders, then bolts for the tree line; a flash of chestnut brown streaking low across the green landscape. Hempe, 67, one of the head volunteer gardeners on the farm, turns away, as if in defeat.

CREATURE CHRONICLES
a summer series

Hempe and the other volunteers who work the farm, which grows truckloads of produce every year for local food banks, have tried fencing out the woodchucks. They've lobbed poisonous smoke bombs down the chucks' holes. They've spread predator urine to keep them at bay and trapped them live, though state law prohibits relocation of animals that can carry rabies.

One URI professor has apparently studied how long it takes to drown a woodchuck, and

SEE CREATURE, A7



Rudi Hempe, a University of Rhode Island master gardener who volunteers at the university's farm in South Kingstown, points out one of the many woodchuck holes dotting the property.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

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Your turn: To share your creature chronicles, go to www.projo.com

Al-Qaida linked to British attacks

Five suspects are under arrest as new details emerge on the attempted bombing in London and the incident in Scotland.

BY MARY JORDAN and CRAIG WHITLOCK
THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON — British police arrested a fifth person yesterday and raided homes in three cities in connection with attempted car bombings that officials say are connected to al-Qaida.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who took over from Tony Blair on Wednesday, said in a nationally televised interview that "we are dealing, in general terms, with people who are associated with al-Qaida."

On Friday, the police in London found two Mercedes sedans packed with propane gas, gasoline and nails and said the drivers intended to detonate them and kill as many people as possible. On Saturday in Glasgow, two men crashed a Jeep containing propane gas into the main terminal of the Glasgow Airport, setting it on fire. Those two men are in custody.

The driver, who witnesses said tried to

SEE BRITAIN, A4

Concerns over goods from China

Recent discoveries of tainted food products and recalls of toys have American companies keeping closer watch on what's imported under their brands' names.

BY NELSON D. SCHWARTZ
THE NEW YORK TIMES

General Mills, Kellogg, Toys "R" Us and other big American companies are increasing their scrutiny of thousands of everyday products they receive from Chinese suppliers, as widening recalls of items such as toys and toothpaste force them to focus on potential hazards that were overlooked in the past.

These corporations are stepping up their analysis of imported goods that they sell, making more unannounced visits to Chinese factories for inspections and, in one case, pulling merchandise from American

SEE CHINA, A4

Car sales: Never on Sunday in R.I. — until now

BY TIMOTHY C. BARMANN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Yesterday marked the first Sunday in 51 years that Rhode Island car dealers were legally open for business.

"I guess 'relieved' would be the most important word," said Jim Botvin, owner of Colonial Toyota, in Pawtucket. "We can compete now."

Botvin and several other auto dealers fought for more than two years to overturn a 1956 law that banned Sunday auto sales in the Ocean State. They argued that the decades-old law was passed in a different era, when Sundays were set aside for fam-

SEE SALES, A7

INSIDE TODAY

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WAITING TOO LONG

A nationwide study of U.S. hospice programs has concluded that Rhode Island ranks near the bottom when it comes to getting terminally ill patients into hospice in a timely manner. But, in a discovery that puzzled the researchers, the timing didn't always affect whether family members were satisfied with the quality of hospice care. **C1**

POWER OUTAGE AT FENWAY

The Red Sox manage nine hits but score only one run as they fall to the Rangers, 2-1 — Boston's second-straight one-run loss to Texas. **B1**

HAMLIN FIINISHES FIRST IN LOUDON

Denny Hamlin, last year's top rookie, chalks up his first NASCAR Nextel Cup victory of the season with a win at New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, N.H. **B1**

REMEMBERING DIANA



Waving their arms in the air with 70,000 fans at Wembley Stadium, Princes William and Harry celebrated the life of their mother, Princess Diana, on what would have been her 46th birthday at a concert they organized. **A2**