

TRIPLE H
Hazy, hot and humid today,
with highs inland near 90;
humid tonight.
Forecast, B8

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Jammed roads, parking lots mean no day at the beach

As temperatures soar, so do the crowds, leading officials to deny access to the state's beaches.

BY BRANDIE M. JEFFERSON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NARRAGANSETT — Clear skies, brilliant sunshine and 90-degree weather — the perfect beach day. But not for those who got a late start. Throngs of sun seekers driving to and from Rhode Island's most coveted coastal spots yesterday caused traffic jams on major roads and even on side streets,

leading to an unprecedented move by the Department of Environmental Management by mid-afternoon: closing all state beaches to more corners. "It's for safety reasons," the DEM's Lt. Dean Lees said, "If there were an emergency, we couldn't get EMS down there."

For awhile, would-be beach goers, stuck in traffic, thought they had more to worry about than gridlock.

At first, the Department of Transportation message flashed on the Amber Alert signs over major highways read

simply: ALL RHODE ISLAND STATE BEACHES CLOSED.

This prompted the phones to start ringing at the DEM, with callers asking if the closure was due to pollution.

"I can see how some people might have thought that," Lees said.

Within a half-hour, the DEM had its message updated to say lack of parking was the problem.

The DEM yesterday was unable to provide precise attendance figures at the state beaches. But with temperatures today again expected to hit 90 degrees —

yesterday's official high at T.F. Green Airport — it likely that many again will be seeking relief from the heat.

The Narragansett police yesterday first alerted the DEM to the congestion problem, asking for temporary relief for their backed-up roads. Just before 2 p.m., when the decision to close the beaches was made, the beaches at Galilee were full, traffic was at a stop along parts of Sand Hill Cove Road, and the police directed traffic past full lots.

At first, DEM officials decided to let more cars enter the lots only after 50

cars left, helping to stagger traffic on the roads coming to and from the beach.

But after calling other towns along the coast — North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Westerly — the DEM found they were all having the same problems, Lees said. The decision was made to close them all for the rest of the day.

At 6 in the evening, staff at East Matunuck beach in South Kingstown would typically be on their way home. Not yesterday.

SEE **BEACHES, A7**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

A group of prospective Superior Court jurors view an instructional video. There is a growing consensus in the legal profession that jurors should be allowed to take notes during trials, to ensure better understanding, a co-author of a national study says.

Judging Rhode Island juries

A nationwide study finds that while the state leads in some areas, it lags in others, such as allowing jurors to take notes.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Trial courts in Rhode Island rank last in the nation in permitting jurors to take notes, and first in the nation in questioning prospective jurors outside the hearing of other jurors, according to a survey of judges and lawyers that's part of a new National Center for State Courts report.

The growing consensus in the legal profession is that jurors should be allowed to take notes because people understand things better if

they're actively involved in the learning process, according to one of the report's authors, retired District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Gregory E. Mize.

"How many of us, in college or high school, go through class without taking notes?" Mize said. "Trial by jury should be an educational experience and not simply an adversarial event."

The survey of all 50 states and the District of Columbia ranked Rhode Island last, with 19.4 percent of the judges and lawyers who re-

sponded saying jurors were permitted to take notes during their last trial in state and federal courts here. Wyoming ranked first, at 95.7 percent.

By another measure, Rhode Island ranked first, with 66.1 percent of respondents saying prospective jurors were questioned individually at sidebar or in the judge's chambers during jury selection. North Carolina ranked last, at 2.4 percent.

"That indicates, in my estimation, that judges in Rhode Island are taking time to focus in a one-on-one dynamic with jurors and determining whether they can be fair

and impartial," Mize said. That's important, he said, because when other jurors and members of the public are listening, prospective jurors might be reluctant to talk about being a crime victim or sharing other personal information that might prevent them from serving on the jury, he said.

The National Center for State Courts issued "The State-of-the-States Survey of Jury Improvement Efforts: A Compendium Report" in April. Many jury-trial techniques are left to "the sound discretion" of trial judges, so until the survey was

SEE **JURORS, A12**

Intended raid on al-Qaida canceled

The 2005 mission was halted by then-defense chief Donald Rumsfeld, in part over fears that it might destabilize the Pakistani government.

BY MARK MAZZETTI
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — A secret military operation in early 2005 to capture senior members of al-Qaida in Pakistan's tribal areas was aborted at the last minute after top Bush administration officials decided it was too risky and could jeopardize relations with Pakistan, according to intelligence and military officials.

The target was a meeting of al-Qaida's leaders that intelligence officials thought included Ayman al-Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's top deputy and the man believed to run the terrorist group's operations.

But the mission was called off after Donald H. Rumsfeld, then the defense secretary, rejected the eleventh-hour appeal of Porter J. Goss, then the director of central intelligence, officials said. Members of a Navy SEALs unit in parachute gear had already boarded C-130 cargo planes in Afghanistan when the mission was canceled, said a former senior intelligence official involved in the planning.

Rumsfeld decided that the operation, which had ballooned from a small number of military personnel and CIA operatives to several hundred, was cumbersome and put too many American lives at risk, the current and former officials said. He was also concerned that it

SEE **RAID, A8**

2 teens die, 2 hurt in crash in Glocester

The police say speed was "definitely a factor" in the accident on Snake Hill Road early yesterday.

BY RICHARD C. DUJARDIN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

GLOCESTER — Two Glocester teenagers were killed and two others seriously injured when their SUV, eastbound on Snake Hill Road, failed to negotiate a curve, slammed into trees and burst into flames at about 4 a.m. yesterday.

Police Chief Jamie A. Hainsworth declined yesterday to identify any of the four. But relatives, friends and classmates identified the dead as Dylan Wood, 18, who was to enter his second year at the Community College of Rhode Island this fall, and Lucas Warner, 17, who was to enter his senior year at Ponaganset Regional High School, and the injured as Ponaganset students Jason Cormier, 16, and Joanna Schiavone, 15.

Cormier was admitted to Rhode Island Hospital with burns, fractures to both legs and

SEE **CRASH, A4**

Campaign '08: Voters say too much too soon

They feel overwhelmed by the profusion of TV ads and stump speeches so early in the political season.

BY ADAM NAGOURNEY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NARBERTH, Pa. — Kathy Hubbard likes politics, is delighted with the field of Democratic presidential candidates and considers the 2008 presidential race the most exciting — and important — in years.

But she raised an arm in frustration as she cringed at the barrage of images and information that the contest throws at her

SEE **CAMPAIGN, A9**

HORSESHOE'S LUCK IS STARTING TO TURN



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / STEVE SZYDLOWSKI

For South Kingstown naturalist Prentice K. Stout, shown on Point Judith Pond, the survival of the horseshoe crab is a matter of deep concern.

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — Prentice K. Stout never forgot the first time he saw prehistoric-looking horseshoe crabs. It was about 70 years ago. He

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was a small boy, birding with his father near Sandy Hook, N.J., when thousands of crabs crawled ashore to lay their eggs.

"That just blew my socks off," says Stout, sitting on the gunwale of his boat in Point Judith Pond. He was amazed by their ancient appearance, and their sheer numbers.

Horseshoe crabs, to many people,

SEE **CRABS, A7**



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DEATH TOLL CLIMBS IN IRAQ

The number of people killed in a truck bombing in Amerli, a remote village in northern Iraq, rises to around 150, making it one of the deadliest single bombings since the 2003 U.S. invasion. **A8**

THAT'S THE TICKET

The Dunkin' Donuts Center announces plans to participate in a program intended to help ticket holders sell unwanted seats while guaranteeing buyers the authenticity of the tickets they purchase. **A10**

NO TIME TO HELP

Providence residents lag behind the rest of the nation, as well as other New England cities, when it comes to the number of hours they're willing to spend volunteering to help community organizations. **C1**



FEDERER THE FIFTH

Roger Federer beats Rafael Nadal to become the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1980 to win five straight Wimbledon tennis titles. **B1**