

STEAMY

Another hazy, hot and humid day with possible late afternoon thunderstorms.

Forecast, B6

The Providence Journal

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Power failure disrupts Eleanor Slater Hospital, agencies

Power and phone service were being restored yesterday at the Pastore Campus in Cranston, after two electrical fires Sunday night.

BY ALEX KUFFNER and FELICE J. FREYER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

CRANSTON — Two underground electrical fires Sunday night temporarily knocked out power to the Eleanor Slater Hospital and six state departments at the Pastore Campus, disrupting telephone and Internet service and cutting off air conditioning yesterday, one of the hottest days so far this year.

Although backup generators quickly kicked in, phone lines were still down late yesterday in many of the government buildings, and the central air conditioning in two hospital buildings that house patients was not restored until last night.

No one was hurt by the fires or the resulting power interruption. The backup generators kept essential services

running, including the ventilators of the 19 patients in the state hospital who cannot breathe on their own.

However, six state departments with offices at the complex suffered disruption. The departments are: Children, Youth and Families; Corrections; Elderly Affairs; Human Services; Labor and Training; and Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals.

In addition, phone service to the main Department of Motor Vehicles office in Pawtucket was not working all

day. The DMV's operator control office is located on the Pastore Campus. The DMV's computer service and phone service in its branch offices, however, were not affected.

Most of the problems from the power failure at the Pastore Campus were addressed quickly, without causing serious complications. For example, the Adult Correctional Institutions lost outside phone lines, but a Department of Corrections spokesman said internal communication was unaffected.

Also, the offices of the Department of Labor and Training went without phone and Internet service until late yesterday afternoon. Despite the interruption, approximately 8,000 people still received their unemployment insurance, which they would regularly get through a direct-deposit system. Because the phone lines weren't working, information was transferred to a secure

SEE POWER, B2

TROOPER BRENDAN DOYLE



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

State Trooper Brendan Doyle leaves Rhode Island Hospital yesterday afternoon, accompanied by his mother, Maureen Adams, and brother Brian, 14. Doyle is recovering from severe head injuries, which police say occurred when he was punched by a Smithfield man.

Staging a dramatic comeback

The 25-year-old leaves Rhode Island Hospital for a Boston rehab facility, more than three weeks after he was critically injured.

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Trooper Brendan Doyle was wheeled out of Rhode Island Hospital yesterday, under the warm summer sun that he hadn't felt in three weeks and two days, and gave the thumbs up to the applause of family, friends and hospital staff.

He'd nearly died from severe head injuries after being punched to the pavement, police say, by an alleged reckless driver last month. But his steady recovery since then has surprised his doctors and overjoyed his family and friends, who call him "miracle boy." He was now on his way to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston.

His mother, Maureen Adams, spoke for him as she tearfully thanked everyone for their support, from the firefighters and doctors who saved his life, to the state police who visited around the clock, and well-wishers who sent hundreds of cards that papered his room in the

neuro-intensive-care unit.

But one question could be answered only by Doyle.

Will you come back and be a Rhode Island state trooper?

"Yes," he said hoarsely, giving the thumbs up again and touching off cheers and laughter.

The 25-year-old trooper, nicknamed "Buzz" by his family for the way he used to buzz around the house as a toddler, had followed in the path of two uncles when he joined the state police in 2005. A marathon runner like

SEE TROOPER, B3

Bush blocks testimony from aides on firings

The president's use of executive privilege to shield aides and documents regarding the federal prosecutors could send the constitutional battle with Congress to the courts.

BY DAVID JOHNSTON and NEIL A. LEWIS
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Bush invoked a broad interpretation of executive privilege yesterday in his confrontation with Congress over the dismissal of federal prosecutors, refusing to comply with subpoenas for documents and blocking testimony from former White House aides.

Mr. Bush's counsel, Fred F. Fielding, in a combative letter to the Democratic chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, said the White House and the two legislative panels had reached an impasse. The letter, which also said the White House would refuse to turn over materials explaining Mr. Bush's legal claims, appeared to place the executive and legislative branches on a collision course.

Fielding wrote that Mr. Bush would not turn over any records related to the dismissals and that he had instructed Sara M. Taylor, the former White House political director, and Harriet E. Miers, the former White House counsel, to refuse to testify in hearings this week.

With Democratic lawmakers comparing Mr. Bush's stance to President Nixon's refusal to turn over evidence during Watergate, congressional

SEE BUSH, A2

Senate presses for change in policy on Iraq

Despite recent Republican defections, President Bush remains opposed to proposals to withdraw, including one expected from Sen. Jack Reed.

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The Senate reopened the emotional debate on the war in Iraq yesterday in an atmosphere of suspense about whether the rising tide of bipartisan discontent has grown strong enough to force a strategic change of course on President Bush.

Key Senate Republicans, including some long-time supporters of the war, have indicated in recent days that they may support legislation to shift the United States to a more modest mission in Iraq — even before U.S. commanders report in September on the effectiveness of the surge strategy that Mr. Bush ordered early this year. It's not clear, however, that any measure mandating troop withdrawals can win enough votes to become law over the president's veto.

"The tide is turning" against the war, Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, told reporters as debate

SEE IRAQ, A6

R.I. municipal-run pensions are at risk, auditor warns

Many of the plans covering police, fire and other city and town workers are underfunded, and some are in danger of running out of money, says state Auditor General Ernest A. Almonte.

BY PAUL EDWARD PARKER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Pension plans for municipal employees that are run by some cities and towns are in risky — even perilous — condition, and the state's auditor general recommends doing away with them, in a report released yesterday.

Of 37 pension plans run by municipalities, 21 are at risk because they do not have enough money to begin with, because the city or town is not putting enough in each year, or both, according to the report by Auditor

General Ernest A. Almonte.

"Locally administered plans can be problematic and their continued existence should be strongly reconsidered," Almonte's report says.

The 37 plans are run by 25 cities and towns. Several of those communities have more than one plan, such as Coventry, which has separate plans for police employees, school employees and municipal employees. Additionally, all teachers are part of the state retirement system,

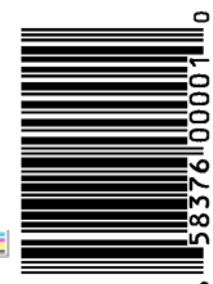
SEE PENSION, A2

Feeling the heat from wildfires



AP / JAKE BACON

While temperatures in the East soar, firefighters in the parched West yesterday battle fast-moving wildfires, including this one near Mormon Lake, Ariz., that has spread over 1,500 acres.



INSIDE TODAY

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SOMETHING ABOUT HARRY

With the release of the final Harry Potter book scheduled for July 21, fans of the series are intensely debating the ultimate fate of the young wizard. **F1**

TERROR SUSPECTS CONVICTED

Four of six men accused in a failed attempt to blow up portions of London's public transit system in 2005 are convicted of conspiracy to commit murder. **A4**

GRADING THE SOX AT MIDTERM

Journal sports writer Steven Krasner evaluates the team's performance at the All-Star break. **C1**

HANGING ON BY A THREAD



Many of the 900 employees of Quaker Fabric Corp. in Fall River gather to learn what type of assistance will be available to them when the company, as expected, is forced to shut down. **E1**