

ROLLING THUNDER
Chance of showers and thunderstorms late this afternoon and this evening.
Forecast, **E12**

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THE MAKING OF AMERICANS



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / ANDREW DICKERMAN

Berlinessa Vargas, 5, and her mother, Gabriela Amparo, who is in the process of becoming an American citizen, outside their home in Providence. Amparo says she wants to become an American citizen so she and her daughter will have a better future.

Incentives to citizenship

A drive will be conducted Saturday in Providence and Central Falls to help legal immigrants become American citizens.

BY TOM MOONEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
PROVIDENCE — Juan Garcia arrived in the United States in 1978. Originally from Guatemala, he says he's had permanent legal status here for 22 years. Not until now, however, has the 54-year-old community service worker chosen to become a citizen.

Spurred by the polarizing immigration reform debate and steep hikes in the naturalization fees come Aug. 1, Garcia plans



Juan Garcia, at a news conference at Providence City Hall to urge immigrants to apply for citizenship, says he's ready to become a citizen.

to register for citizenship on Saturday and fulfill a growing sense of civic obligation.

"For legal residents" such as himself, "it's a question of making sure our voices are heard," he said yesterday through a translator.

The International Institute of Rhode Island estimates that about 150,000 people in the Ocean State are foreign born, says its executive director, William Shuey. About 50,000 are already U.S. citizens. Of the remaining 100,000, at least 70,000 are here legally and eligible for citizenship, he says.

Yesterday, Shuey, Garcia and two other legal immi-

SEE **CITIZENS, B3**

Report says U.S. fails to lessen threat from al-Qaida

A new intelligence report blames the terror group's resurgence since 9/11 mainly on the failure to stop it inside Pakistan.

BY MARK MAZZETTI
and **DAVID E. SANGER**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Bush's top counterterrorism advisers acknowledged yesterday that the strategy for fighting Osama bin Laden's leadership of al-Qaida in Pakistan had failed, as the White House released a grim new intelligence assessment that has forced the administration to consider more aggressive measures inside Pakistan.

The intelligence report, the most formal assessment since the Sept. 11 attacks about the terrorist threat facing the United States, concludes that the United States

is losing ground on a number of fronts in the fight against al-Qaida, and describes the terrorist organization as having significantly strengthened over the past two years.

The document says counterterrorism efforts have constrained the ability of al-Qaida to launch attacks inside the United States. But it warns that the country is "in a heightened threat environment" largely because bin Laden and his senior deputies have moved to reestablish their leadership of the far-flung network and refocus its energies on striking the United States.

In identifying the main reasons for al-Qaida's resurgence, intelligence officials and White House aides pointed the finger squarely at a hands-off approach toward the tribal areas by Pakistan's pres-

SEE **TERROR, A4**

State reports earnings up for health insurers

The health insurance commissioner says the figures show insurers now need to concentrate on aiding a troubled health-care community.

BY FELICE J. FREYER
JOURNAL MEDICAL WRITER

The health insurers in Rhode Island are making money, and lots of it, according to a state report released yesterday.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island saw its earnings increase 61 percent between 2005 and last year, while United-Healthcare of New England has been shoveling more money into reserves than is necessary, and more than is typical for New En-

gland insurers, according to the report.

Insurers must have significant reserves to cushion against financial collapse in bad times. But Health Insurance Commissioner Christopher F. Koller said yesterday's report, focusing on 2006 data, shows that the commercial insurers face no danger of insolvency, and now need to set their sights on aiding a troubled health-care community.

"Right now the plans have more than met their responsibilities around solvency," Koller said. "Our concern has to shift toward how they're going to meet their other requirements."

Those requirements, en-

SEE **INSURERS, B6**

Judge: 20-year-old still in court's care

Though the General Assembly lowered the age that children in state custody remain under Family Court jurisdiction, the chief judge says the law isn't retroactive.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — In a test case, Family Court Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah Jr. yesterday rejected a state agency's attempt to end Family Court involvement with a 20-year-old resident of a state group home.

The decision means that, at least for now, Family Court will continue to oversee the cases of about 600 18-to-21-year-olds who entered state custody as dependent, neglected or abused children.

And it means the state Depart-

A Senate committee calls a hearing to learn if "excessive caseloads" at DCYF have endangered children. **B1**

ment of Children, Youth and Families will still have Family Court oversight as it tries to provide services for those young adults with half the money it had last year.

The DCYF is considering an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

SEE **DCYF, A7**

Crews search for teen in Barrington River

A 17-year-old fell from a kneeboard that was being pulled by a motorboat yesterday.

BY FAYE B. ZUCKERMAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

BARRINGTON — A 17-year-old boy, identified by witnesses as a Barrington High School student, was missing in the Barrington River last night after he fell from a kneeboard that was

being pulled by a motorboat.

The town's fire and police departments were assisted by area law enforcers and fire crews, Coast Guard, state police, and residents in their boats joined in the search. A Coast Guard helicopter equipped with infrared technology was also called in to join in the search.

Barrington Fire Chief Gerald Bessette said he intended to continue the search until mid-

night and it would resume in the morning.

Bessette said that the boy's three friends who were on the boat when the incident occurred started searching the waters immediately when they realized he was missing. The friends said that he was not wearing a life jacket.

"They called 9-1-1 right away," Bessette said. "They searched the waters for about 90 minutes and then we called

them in and took them to police headquarters."

The boy fell in the water at about 7:30 p.m., and the search became more difficult with the approaching darkness. "We just didn't have enough light," Bessette said.

The fire chief added that he believed the boy fell into the water behind Town Hall, just south of the Barrington land-

SEE **SEARCH, A4**

Cots, coffee and an all-night debate on the war in Iraq

The senators will ultimately vote on Sen. Jack Reed's amendment requiring the pullout of U.S. forces.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Democrats rolled out cots and ordered coffee and pizzas as they settled in for a marathon Senate debate on Iraq last night and early this morning that featured numerous speeches but little chance of getting any closer to resolving the

stalemate over how to end the war.

Republicans were determined to block legislation, proposed by Sens. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Rhode Island's Jack Reed, forcing a withdrawal of

SEE **DEBATE, A4**



NYT / STEPHEN CROWLEY

Cots are put in place outside the Senate chamber yesterday in advance of last night's debate.



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A1 MAIN 7/18

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STOCKS KEEP CLIMBING

The Dow Jones industrial average sets a new record while falling just short of closing at the 14,000 mark, buoyed by evidence that the economy continues to grow. **F1**

PRESSURE ON PAPITTO

For the first time, a Roger Williams University professor publicly demands that Ralph R. Papitto's name be dropped from the law school over the use of a racial slur by the former chairman of the Board of Trustees. **B1**



A ROYAL DRUBBING AT FENWAY

Kansas City rings up 13 hits, including 9 off starter Tim Wakefield, who gave up 6 runs in 6 1/3 innings, while the Red Sox bats are largely silent in the 9-3 loss. **C1**