

**A BREATHER**  
Partly cloudy today with  
highs in the mid-30s;  
partly cloudy tonight.  
**Forecast, E10**

# The Providence Journal

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**TUESDAY**  
JANUARY 15, 2008

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## Raid trial delayed over new documents

Reacting to a defense motion, Judge Susan E. McGuirl grants the postponement, saying newly released documents contain "significant factual information."

**BY KATIE MULVANEY**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Arguing that the state police deliberately withheld information that could have assisted in their defense, six of the Narragansett Indians arrested during a 2003 raid on a tribal smoke shop are asking the court to dismiss the charges against them.

At issue are two undated witness statements by state police Maj. Steven G. O'Donnell, who was a captain at the time and one of those in command at the scene. The first eight-page statement was submitted to the court Jan. 4. A second 11-page

SEE **RAID, A7**

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Extra: For recent Journal stories on the smoke-shop raid case, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

Snow clings to a newly planted tree at Slater Park in Pawtucket, making it look like a large snowflake during yesterday's storm.

## New director selected to run Green

Rhode Island Airport Corporation officials say Kevin Dillon, who had previously worked in Orlando and Manchester, N.H., has accepted the job as airport director.

**BY BENJAMIN N. GEDAN**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation has hired Kevin Dillon, the former head of Manchester-Boston Regional Airport in New Hampshire, to lead T.F. Green Airport, officials confirmed last night.

The board voted to appoint Dillon during a closed-door meeting on Dec. 19, setting in motion a lengthy contract negotiation. Dillon, 51, accepted the position yesterday, agreeing to start in Rhode Island on Feb. 18. He will be paid \$220,000 a year, airport spokeswoman Patti Goldstein said.

At his current position, as one of three

SEE **AIRPORT, A7**

# This time they got it right

Communication and coordination were the watchwords for yesterday's storm — a far cry from the Dec. 13 snowfall that crippled the state.

**BY AMANDA MILKOVITS**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The first winter storm of the new year brought more slush than snow to most of Rhode Island, yet state and local officials tried to show that they'd learned from the failures of last month's snowstorm debacle.

The Dec. 13 storm dropped 8 inches of snow during the afternoon commute and stranded motorists and more than 100 Providence schoolchildren in hours of memorable gridlock.

With the storm predicted to arrive early yesterday morning, and snowfall totals ranging from 1 to 13 inches, state and city officials began making plans Sunday afternoon.

All schools in the state, except on Block Island, were canceled. Providence employers were asked to have their employees start work later yesterday morning and stagger their dismissals yesterday afternoon. The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce e-mailed businesses in the city with that request Sunday at the behest of the state Emergency Management Agency.

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Your turn: Do you think the schools needed to be closed yesterday? To respond, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)

SEE **STORM, A7**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

An old-fashioned snowball fight among friends on Sweet Street in Warwick included Abby Kuras, 11, center, chasing Ryan Miller, 9. Getting a snowball ready is Amber Corbeil, 13, rear, and Zachary Miller, 6, is front, left.

## Injured tree worker wins \$30,000 compensation claim

Edgar Velásquez, an illegal immigrant, worked for Billy G's Tree Care in Warwick.

**BY KAREN LEE ZINER**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Edgar Velásquez, an illegal Mexican immigrant who accidentally slashed his face open with a chainsaw in 2006, yesterday won a \$30,000 settlement in a groundbreaking case against the owner of a Warwick tree service company.

Velásquez was working for William J. Gorman Jr., owner of Billy G's Tree Care, who hired the

22-year-old and then turned his back after Velásquez sustained severe injury.



**VELÁSQUEZ** could pursue his rightful claim under state law. Last fall, one year after his deportation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted Velásquez a rare humanitarian visa that allowed him back into the

SEE **WORKER, A7**

## State loses, and historic warehouse falls

Neither a lawsuit nor protesters succeed in preventing a developer from demolishing the Providence Fruit & Produce Warehouse building.

**BY DANIEL BARBARISI**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — A judge ruled yesterday afternoon that Carpianto Properties had the authority to knock down the historic food and produce terminal on Harris Avenue, touching off a showdown at the site between the developer and local preservationists that ended with a backhoe ripping up the side of the old building.

The Johnston developer bought the warehouse from the state last year with the understanding that the old building would be reused in any future development, but last week the developer sought and received a demolition permit from the city to raze the 1929 building — which is on the National Register of Historic Places — on the grounds that it was unsafe.

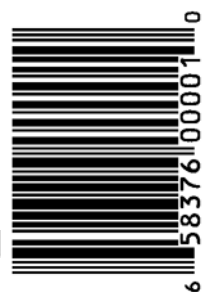
Shocked state officials went to court Thursday

SEE **RAZING, B3**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / ANDREW DICKERMAN

An excavator hired by Carpianto Properties goes to work tearing down the canopy at the former market in Providence, built in 1929 for \$1 million to distribute food and produce throughout Southeastern New England.



### INSIDE TODAY

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### END OF DISCUSSION



Based on Peyton Manning's performances last weekend, columnist Bill Reynolds says there's no longer any question that Tom Brady is the best quarterback in the NFL — period. **C1**

### COUPLE CHARGED WITH SERVING MINORS

After photos surface on the Internet showing youths apparently drinking, a Barrington couple is charged with illegally serving alcohol to minors during a New Year's Eve party at their home. **B1**

### BOMBING IN AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban claim responsibility for a suicide-bombing attack on a luxury hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, that kills six people, including one American. **A4**