

CHANGEABLE
Chance of early afternoon showers before sun returns late today; clear tonight.
Forecast, A10

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Charity seeks to shed R.I. chapter

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America challenges how the \$118,000 salary of Rhode Island chapter's CEO and president, Diana Hackney, was reported to the IRS.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America is trying to revoke the charter of its Rhode Island chapter, saying the local group failed to disclose



HACKNEY

the \$118,000 salary of its chief executive officer on Internal Revenue Service forms, as required by law.

Also, the Phoenix-based organization says the Rhode Island chapter divulged confidential information about local children with life-threatening medical conditions who had their wishes fulfilled.

The Cranston-based Make-A-Wish Foundation of Rhode Island is fighting the revocation in federal court, saying it followed advice from accountants and from the national organization when it filled out the IRS forms. Also, the local chapter says it disclosed information about the children with approval from their families and the national group had never before objected.

Lawyers for the Rhode Island chapter say it appears the national organization is consolidating chapters and using "weak" or "make-weight" arguments in trying to yank the charter of the local group, which has granted wishes to nearly 1,000 children over 17 years.

The national group says it is not pursuing a consolidation policy and is acting because of "significant violations of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's governing policies and performance standards — including intentionally failing to report required information about the compensation paid to its president and CEO."

SEE **WISH, A6**

SOX VS. ANGELS



PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Red Sox starter Josh Beckett watches one of his pitches sail into foul territory during the first inning of last night's game at Fenway Park. Beckett lasted five innings, giving up four runs, with four walks and six strikeouts in the game. For the results from last night's game, go to projoSports.com

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Extra: Complete reports on last night's Red Sox-Angels game and yesterday's Patriots-49ers game, with photos and video, at projoSports.com

Slowdown expected to worsen economy

Consumers, shaken by the turbulence on Wall Street and unsure about the effect of the recently approved bailout, are closing their wallets.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

Cowed by the financial crisis, American consumers are pulling back on their spending, all but guaranteeing that the economic situation will get worse before it gets better.

In response to the falling value of their homes and high gasoline prices, Americans have become more frugal all year. But in recent weeks, as the financial crisis reverberated from Wall Street to Washington, consumers appear to have cut back sharply. Even with the government beginning a giant bailout of the financial system, their confidence may have been too shaken to resume their free-spending ways any time soon.

When the final tally is in, consumer spending for the quarter just ended will almost certainly shrink, the first quarterly decline in nearly two decades. Many economists, who began the third quarter expecting modest growth, now believe the cutbacks are so severe that the overall economy did not expand ei-

SEE **ECONOMY, A4**

Afghan leader's kin seen linked to drug trade

The widely circulated report has put the United States in the position of supporting a government seen corrupt by its own people.

BY JAMES RISEN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — When Afghan security forces found an enormous cache of heroin hidden beneath concrete blocks in a tractor-trailer outside Kandahar in 2004, the local Afghan commander quickly impounded the truck and notified his boss.

Before long, the commander, Habibullah Jan, received a telephone call from Ahmed Wali Karzai, the brother of President Hamid Karzai, asking him to release the vehicle and the drugs, Jan later told American investigators, according to notes from a debriefing. He said he complied after getting a phone call from an aide to President Karzai directing him to release the truck.

Two years later, American and Afghan counter-narcotics forces stopped another truck, this time near Kabul, finding more than 110 pounds of hero-

SEE **DRUGS, A4**

True love: Opposites attract, fate is an accomplice

On the day before their recent wedding, a Smithfield couple share their reflections on the ripening of their relationship.

BY G. WAYNE MILLER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Just 24 hours remain until Suzy Alba marries Adam Stanley, the man who introduced her to ballroom dancing, which is how they fell in love. Last-minute wedding tasks await as this Friday afternoon advances, but there's time to share their story, and they do, sitting on a couch in their Smithfield home.

They met six years ago, when Suzy, now 25, and Adam, 28, were students at Rhode Island College. Even then, they shared a commitment to social responsibility, which helps define their lives today. A lea-

dership retreat brought the two strangers together. If you believe in fate, this is surely evidence.

"Oh, gosh," Suzy says.

"Adam had really tight jeans on and a Palm Pilot. Very nerdy! So not my type!"

Boy she's talkative, Adam thought. Suzy had dated before, and found that many single guys have a certain superficial obsession. "Adam was more of the quiet, shy, very smart type. I was just drawn to him for some reason." Tight jeans were likely integral to the appeal.

"I was really impressed by

projo.com

Video: It's the last day as singles for these almost newlyweds. Watch the video at projo.com



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / STEVE SZYDLOWSKI

On Sept. 26, Suzy Alba and Adam Stanley dance to music from a radio at the Quantum Association, where their wedding reception was held the next day.

SEE **COUPLE, A6**

Cut-it-yourself firewood auction proves a hot draw

About 50 people show up at the state George Washington Management Area, in Gloucester, to bid on clearing select trees.

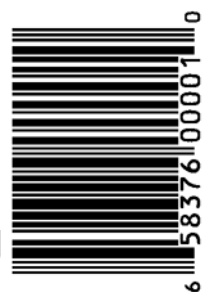
BY RICHARD SALIT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

GLOUCESTER — There were no valuable antiques or rare works of art to be won by wealthy collectors, nor office furnishings or restaurant equipment to be had for a song because of some failed business.

No, the heated bidding at yesterday's auction was for just that — heat.

With energy costs soaring, the state this week-end did something it hasn't done for six years — give everyday people a chance to heat their homes inexpensively by auctioning off the right to cut down select trees in two state parks.

SEE **FIREWOOD, A10**



INSIDE TODAY

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5 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	D4	Lifebeat	D1
Bridge	D4	Lotteries	B9
Business	A8	Obituaries	C3
Classified	E1	People	D1
Comics	D5	Rhode Island	C1
Crossword	D4	Sports	B1
Editorial	C4	Television	D6
Kidsbeat	D3	What's Happening	D4
Legal ads	E4		

THE COST OF BANKING

Consolidation in the banking industry is leaving the nation with a handful of superbanks, which may mean higher fees on everything from checking accounts to bounced checks and overdrafts, and lower interest-rate yields on deposit accounts for consumers. **A8**

SEARCH FOR EDUCATION CHIEF

The search for a new education commissioner will kick off on Oct. 16 with a series of six regional forums throughout the state to gather public comment on what Rhode Island needs in its next educational leader. **C1**

DEADLY RAID IN IRAQ

Eleven Iraqis, including women and children, are killed after U.S. forces come under attack by gunfire and a suicide bomber during a raid in the city of Mosul. **A2**



RETURN TO FORM

Running back Kevin Faulk scores two touchdowns as the Patriots get back on the winning track with a 30-21 victory over the San Francisco 49ers. **B1**