



SOX-RAYS SERIES HAS R.I. FLAVOR
Native sons Rocco Baldelli, left, and Dan Wheeler will try to help Tampa Bay top Boston. **projoSports, C1**



EARLY EXIT
Early showers will be replaced by partly sunny skies this afternoon; clear tonight.
Forecast, B6

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State, town can't agree on who argues tribal land case

At issue is who can make the best case before the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 3.

BY KATIE MULVANEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

It's the Narragansett Indians 3, Rhode Island 0, and the state will get its final at bat before the U.S. Supreme Court early next

month in a high-stakes legal case that could place 31 acres in federal trust for the tribe.

And who's best equipped to deliver a grand slam for the state and ensure the land remains in Rhode Island's control is at the heart of a nasty dispute?

Governor Carcieri backs a high-profile Washington, D.C., lawyer. The Town of Charles-

town, where the land sits, supports its Indian affairs lawyer. And yesterday the chief justice of the state's highest court weighed in

On Nov. 3, the state and the town will challenge the U.S. Department of Interior's right to place the land in trust for the Narragansett tribe before the Supreme Court. Though the state and town have been



OLSON



LARISA

joined in opposition throughout the 10-year life of the case, they

have battled recently about which lawyer would be best for the job.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday denied requests that more than one lawyer be allowed to argue for the state, leaving it to the attorney general, Charlestown and the governor to decide.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank J. Williams threw

his support behind Charlestown's assistant solicitor on Indian affairs Joseph S. Larisa Jr. yesterday.

"He's one of our best appellate lawyers," Williams said. "Joe Larisa would be a superb advocate for not only the town's position, but the state's position."

SEE **CASE, A4**

JUDGING HISTORY



During a rare appearance in Providence, the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals takes up a case involving a work of art, Nazi Germany and a German baroness.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Lawyers yesterday debated whether a German baroness who lives in Providence will be allowed to hold onto a painting that a judge says was unlawfully taken from a Jewish art dealer in Nazi Germany 71 years ago.

The baroness, Maria-Louise Bissonnette, 84, looked on as lawyers argued during a rare visit by judges from the Boston-based 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. As part of the centennial

SEE **PAINTING, A10**



Maria-Louise Bissonnette, above, a German baroness who owns a painting acquired at auction in Nazi Germany, argues that she is the rightful owner of *Girl from the Sabiner Mountains*. At left, Bissonnette's late stepfather, Dr. Karl Wilharm, and his wife, Lili, stand near the oil on canvas painting in 1930s Germany.

ABOVE, THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / JOHN FREIDAH; LEFT, AP

As economy slides, so do energy prices

Perhaps the only good news from the economic downturn is that prices for heating oil and gasoline have retreated sharply.

BY TIMOTHY C. BARMANN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Amid those gloomy charts showing the financial turmoil on Wall Street and around the world, there is one downward sloping graph that may provide some solace: declining energy prices.

The flip side of slowing economic growth is less demand for oil, natural gas and gasoline. And less demand usually means falling prices.

The frighteningly high prices of gasoline and heating oil have dropped significantly from their peaks this summer. Since July 14, the average price of gasoline has fallen 78 cents a gallon, or 19 percent, to \$3.329 a gallon — the lowest price since April.

The price even dipped below \$3 a gallon yesterday — for cash only — at a station in Westerly, according to Gasbuddy.com.

Heating oil has declined \$1.10 a gallon, or 23.2 percent, to \$3.649 a gallon — the lowest price since March.

"I think we're on a good slope," said Brud Waterman, operations manager for White Fuel Co., a heating oil dealer. "Hopefully, it will continue."

But even with the declines, prices are still well above where they were a year ago. Heating oil

SEE **PRICES, A8**

Economic snapshot

Wall Street brushed off the Federal Reserve's latest attempt to stem the financial crisis yesterday, with stocks taking wild swings before ultimately plunging once again.

Even though six other central banks joined the Fed's effort to jump-start the lending by reducing a key interest rate, it wasn't enough to prevent investors from enduring their sixth straight day of losses.

Many were caught between cheering the rate cut and fearing that it is already too late to avoid a global recession. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 2 percent, or 189.01 points, to 9,258.10. **Details, F1**

The Treasury Department is considering taking ownership stakes in many U.S. banks to try to restore confidence in the financial system. **Details, A9**

In a sign of the international nature of the current crisis, stock markets around the world also plunged yesterday. In the United Kingdom, the FTSE 100 index of leading UK stocks closed down 5.2 percent; France's CAC-40 lost 6.3 percent; Germany's DAX was down 5.9 percent for the day.

American consumers are already sharply cutting back. A financial information service reports that retail sales last month were up only 1 percent, well below the 1.9 percent average pace from January through August. The number prompts greater concern among stores as to how they will fare during the holiday season. **Details, F1**

Viewers appear to believe contest a laughing matter

Programs such as *Saturday Night Live*, which satirize the candidates, have seen their ratings soar.

BY BILL CARTER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The presidential race is proving that in television a rousing election lifts all political programs — especially the funny ones.

CAMPAIGN 2008

For late-night comedy shows specializing in topical satire, the rabid attention that millions of viewers are giving to the

presidential (and vice presidential) contest is providing a jolt of ratings and creative energy.

"It does feel very intense," said Lorne Michaels, the executive producer of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*. Thanks to widely talked-about impersonations of the candidates, especially Tina Fey's dead-on portrayal of Gov. Sarah Palin, *SNL* has

SEE **COMEDY, A6**

Hunting down the ultimate survivors — rats

Mike Carello, a rat expert with Griggs & Browne, checks out a shed with a rat infestation in Cranston.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
MARY MURPHY

projo.com

Video: To watch Mike Carello combat the rat problem in this Cranston neighborhood, go to projo.com



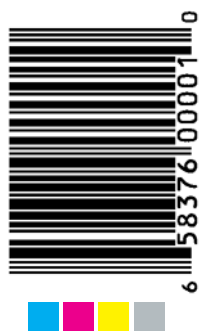
The pests have so far outwitted humans' best efforts to drive them from a Cranston neighborhood.

BY G. WAYNE MILLER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The hunt, as old as man, brings Mike Carello to a Cranston neighborhood that rats find much to their liking. The animal's three essential requirements are available here in abundant supply. This is a fine place for them to multiply, and they do, despite their worst enemy, who comes armed with weapons not found in nature.

"This problem has been ongoing for seven or eight years that I know of," Carello says, "where

SEE **RATS, A11**



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SAVE THE WHALES

The U.S. Supreme Court appears divided over whether environmental laws may be used to limit the Navy's use of sonar during training exercises in order to protect whales. **A2**

JOBS CALLING

Opinion Factor, a national polling and market-research firm, is bringing 350 jobs to Rhode Island with its new call center in Warwick. **F1**

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Gina Russo, of Cranston, who lay in Boston's Shriners Hospital for 11 weeks after the 2003 Station fire with burns over more than 40 percent of her body, returns to thank fraternal group for "saving my life." **B1**



FALLING FOR AUTUMN

The long Columbus Day weekend provides the perfect opportunity for numerous festivals throughout the area. A guide to the top events in **Lifebeat/Weekend, E1**