

COOL DOWN
Partly sunny and not as windy today with highs in the 40s; cold tonight.
Forecast, A12

The Providence Journal

projo.com

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2008

75¢
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

Blocked from database



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

When Narragansett Tribal Police Lt. Antone Monroe stops a suspect in the woods, he can't use the state database to check the driver's license or registration. Instead, he has to call the state police on a cell phone and speak a password. The state police then calls him back.

Tribal police want same link as towns and cities

BY PAUL DAVIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CHARLESTOWN — When Lt. Antone Monroe stops someone in the deep woods, his heart beats a little faster. Unlike other police officers, he can't check a suspect's background by typing a name or license number into a computer.

The reason? Monroe, a big man in a dark blue uniform, is a member of the Narragansett Indian Tribal Police Department. He and three other policemen, plus two conservation officers, patrol the tribe's thickly wooded 1,800 acres off Route 2.

For years, the state has denied the tribe access to its criminal database,

called the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, or RILETS. Used by the state police, city and town departments and even campus police agencies, it allows an officer to quickly check a suspect's criminal background based on a driver's license, plate or registration.

Tribal officers can't do that easily. When they stop a suspect, they must grab a cell phone, call the state police and give a password. A trooper then runs the background check.

The delay puts tribal police officers at a disadvantage and raises serious safety issues, says Chief Sachem Matthew Thomas. The tribe's rural land includes trans-

mission "dead zones," where cell phones don't work, he says. Recently, an officer was unable to run a background check on a suspect. Later, the officer discovered the suspect was wanted in New York.

"They're not security guards, they're well-trained officers," says Thomas, who is threatening to sue the state for discrimination. "We've asked for this every year for 11 years. There's no logical reason to deny us."

The tribal council has authorized the tribe's attorney, Jack Killoy, to go to court if the state continues to refuse to provide access to the database.

SEE TRIBE, A6



VIDEO: Watch members of the Narragansett Indian Tribal Police Department on patrol at projo.com/video

Serious moonlight: A way to view lunar landscape

A Brown University planetary geologist is among those who will be analyzing how sunlight reflects off the moon's surface to understand its composition.

BY C. EUGENE EMERY JR.
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — There may not be enough for astronauts to someday go skating, but some scientists suspect that there's ice on the moon.

You wouldn't be able to see it through a telescope. If it's there, it's probably at the poles, in a crater perpetually shielded from sunlight.

But Carle Pieters is going to be looking.

It's just one thing the Brown University planetary geologist and her colleagues will be scouting for as members of the team analyzing data from one of 11 instruments

aboard the Chandrayaan-1, the Indian spacecraft that went into orbit around the moon earlier this month.

Pieters is the principal investigator for the Moon Mineralogy Mapper — also known as M³ and pronounced "M-cubed" — which she helped design in conjunction with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. It will look at sunlight bouncing off the lunar surface.

Because certain substances reflect light at specific wavelengths — and the instrument can recognize 260 of them — M³ will give scientists a detailed look at the composition of the surface.

As the 1,500-pound spacecraft crosses the poles, Pieters said, there is hope that enough light will

SEE MOON, A5

Break, vandalism cloud urban bright spot

It's the first such incident since the Liberty Elm Diner, on Providence's South Side, opened for business in August 2007.

BY THOMAS J. MORGAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — There had been a surprise birthday party the night before by a group that booked the Liberty Elm Diner for a festive evening, and it had taken until after 1 a.m. to clean up, but when partners Carol DeFeciani and Diane Horstmyer opened up at 7 a.m. yesterday they encountered another surprise, this time a nasty one.

"We found the back door had been pried open," DeFeciani said.

Inside were the marks of the vandals. Pennies from an old-fashioned weight-and-fortune machine were strewn on the floor, and the machine had been busted open. A gumball machine had been smashed open, its



colorful contents scattered, some of the sugar-coated spheres mashed. A later tally showed that an iPod was missing and so was a 50-pound bag of potatoes.

A laptop computer "with all of our bookkeeping" was gone, DeFeciani said, as was a notary's seal that belonged to

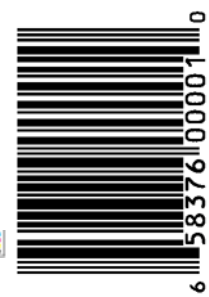
an employee. "Who would take a notary seal?" DeFeciani wondered.

The partners took over the historic diner at 777 Elmwood Ave., on the city's South Side, in August 2007 and have been

SEE DINER, A5

Despite the break-in, the Liberty Elm Diner, shown in a photo from last month, is back in business.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
SANDOR BODO



INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829
5 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	D6	Lifebeat	D1
Bridge	D6	Lotteries	B4
Business	A10	Obituaries	C2
Classified	E1	People	D1
Comics	D7	Rhode Island	C1
Crossword	D6	Sports	B1
Editorial	C6	Television	D5
Kidsbeat	D8	Today's Events	D2
Legal ads	C3		



A COLLABORATION OF THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
SANTA FUND AND HASBRO
To contribute, send a check or money order to:
Children's Holiday Hope Fund
c/o The Providence Journal
75 Fountain St.
Providence, RI 02902

SPILL CLOSES ROUTE 195

Traffic in both directions on Route 195 is snarled for hours after a gasoline tanker truck rolls over, spilling a portion of its load and forcing the police to close a portion of the highway in Swansea. C6

HOMEMADE HOLIDAY

Staring down a bleaker-than-ever economy this holiday season, more and more people are deciding to forgo store-bought presents entirely and instead are giving friends and family gifts they've made themselves. A8



CALIFORNIA BURNING

Hundreds of residents are urged to flee their Southern California homes in advance of fires in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties that have already destroyed more than 800 houses. A2