



LIFEBEAT MOVIES
Dr. Seuss' Horton is a hoot. **E1**

MOSTLY MILD
Cloudy but mild today, with highs in the 50s; showers arrive tonight.
Forecast, B6

The Providence Journal

projo.com

FRIDAY
MARCH 14, 2008

50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier

DMV alters its rules for license renewals

A Social Security card will no longer be required for license renewal; but the agency insists that the rule still applies to first-time applicants.

BY KAREN LEE ZINER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — People renewing their driver's licenses and identification cards will no longer be required to present their Social Security cards to the state Division of Motor Vehicles, as a result of a consent agreement between the agency and the Rhode Island Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The agency ceased doing so yesterday, according to ACLU volunteer lawyer James Kelleher, who filed the lawsuit in Superior Court.

Kelleher argued successfully that the DMV "had no statutory authority to implement the policy and that it violated the due process rights of licensees." He said the goal "was to gently remind those in power that their authority is limited by law."

The DMV may still collect Social Security numbers from people seeking license or identification renewal if the DMV does not already have those on record — but only by asking people to provide the numbers — not show their cards.

There appeared to be disagreement yesterday.

SEE LICENSE, A6

In R.I., Ferraro sidesteps talk about Obama

Still, the outspoken former Democratic vice-presidential candidate addresses the issues of gender and race in politics.

BY SCOTT MacKAY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SMITHFIELD — Geraldine Ferraro declined yesterday to discuss her hot-button comments about Sen. Barack Obama, but still waded into the treacherous waters of race, gender and ethnicity at a speech before 1,000 female professionals at Bryant University's annual Women's Summit event.

While refusing to talk about her controversial comment about Obama, she made the audience pause when she took a shot at how Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas — a

SEE FERRARO, A8

1 killed as train strikes 3 workers in Providence

BY MICHAEL P. MCKINNEY
PROJO.COM STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — One person was killed and two others seriously injured when they were struck yesterday afternoon by an Amtrak Acela train just north of the Providence station as it headed to Boston.

Two of the victims were Amtrak employees; the third was a contractor. All three were at work inspecting tracks when they were hit at about 1:15 p.m., Amtrak spokeswoman Tracy Connell said yesterday. She could not say if the victims were male or female.

The two who were hurt were taken to a hospital, but Connell did not know which one.

No one on board the train was hurt, she said, and passengers remained on the train. According to Connell, there were 162 passengers and 6 crew members on board.

SEE TRAIN, B2

WHAT A DUMP



JOURNAL FILE / BILL MURPHY

Bulldozers move trash around at the Central Landfill in Johnston. A newly released state audit raises questions about the management of the state's dump. "There's some smoke here — is there fire?" asks Governor Carcieri.

Audit of agency running state's landfill suggests mismanagement, sweetheart deals

BY MIKE STANTON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

A preliminary audit of Rhode Island's \$70-million trash agency has found signs of mismanagement, cronyism and possible corruption, from inflated land deals near the Central Landfill in Johnston to questionable charitable donations to handling of pension funds.

Among the beneficiaries of agency largess, says the audit released yesterday, was the extended family of former Johnston Mayor William R. Macera, who sold land to the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation for \$8 million while the mayor was supporting the agency's controversial efforts to develop an industrial park near the landfill.

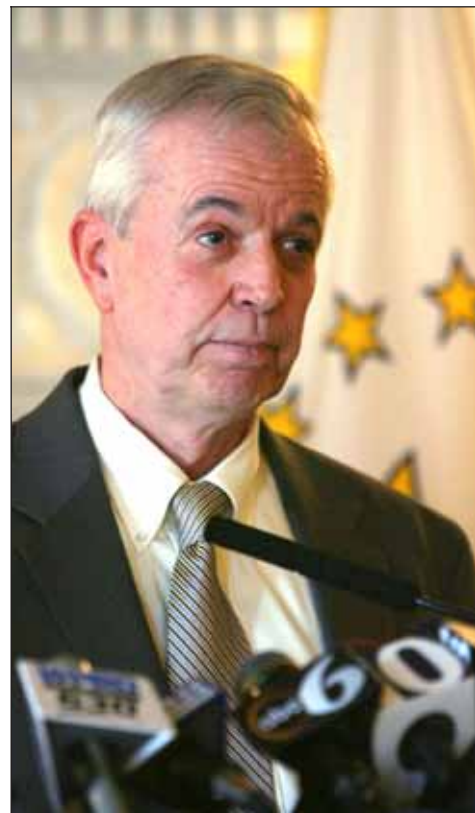
Macera, who left office last year, personally profited from a \$2-million deal in 2002, when Resource Recovery bought family land that was encumbered by wetlands and of dubious value to the agency, the report says.

In recent interviews with The Journal, which has also been looking into the land deals, the Maceras have denied any inappropriate conduct, and say that the state paid a fair price for their land.

In one deal illustrating the nest of entanglements that auditors sought to unravel, the agency's former executive director, Sherry Mulhearn, is related by marriage to the sellers — the Maceras. Another relative by marriage works at the law firm that handled the closing. The title attorney was the son of John St. Sauveur, a Resource Recovery commissioner. And the agency's appraiser had done business with Resource Recovery Chairman A. Austin Ferland's real-estate company.

Ferland, a prominent Rhode Island developer and

SEE DUMP, A9



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

Concerns over irregularities flagged last fall by Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Executive Director Michael O'Connell prompted an audit and raised questions about the relationship between the agency and ...



Ex-Johnston Mayor William R. Macera ...



Former RIRRC Director Sherry Mulhearn ...

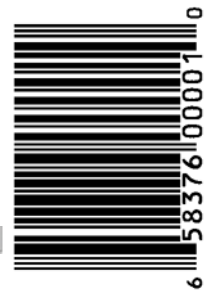


JOURNAL FILES

and ex-RIRRC Chairman and developer A. Austin Ferland.

projo.com

Extra: To read the 46-page summary, released yesterday, of the preliminary audit's findings, go to projo.com



INSIDE TODAY

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ECONOMIC NEWS GRIM

The prices of oil and gasoline continue to climb while the value of the dollar plunges against foreign currencies. **F1**

AGENCIES AT ODDS

Even as a House panel considers a proposal to merge three state agencies dealing with the environment, a dispute flares up between two of the offices in question. **B1**

FBI EXCEEDING ITS AUTHORITY

A new report reveals that the FBI illegally collected personal information on thousands of American citizens in 2006, misusing the expanded terrorism-fighting powers granted it by Congress after the Sept. 11 attacks. **A2**

SOX PART WITH MIRABELLI



The Red Sox unconditionally release Doug Mirabelli, right, knuckleballer Tim Wakefield's personal catcher, and place Curt Schilling on the 60-day disabled list. **C1**