

CLEARING OUT

Gradual improvement today with afternoon highs in the 60s; partly cloudy tonight.
Forecast, E8

The Providence Journal

TUESDAY
MAY 13, 2008

75¢
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

projo.com

R.I. National Guard chief makes frequent trips out of state

Since his hiring in 2006, Maj. Gen. Robert T. Bray has collected more than \$110,000 from the military in addition to his state salary.



BRAY

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

In his first 22 months as Rhode Island's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Robert T. Bray spent at least 130 days out of state at conferences, ceremonies and on military trips, at times collecting two paychecks — his state salary plus pay from the federal government.

From the time he was hired by Rhode Island on Feb. 26, 2006, to the end of 2007, Bray took dozens of trips and was paid \$110,246 by the

federal government and \$171,855 by the state.

The majority of Bray's trips are to conferences, but he also travels for military graduations and to see Rhode Island troops in Iraq, Germany and the United States when they return from service. He was out of Rhode Island for almost 7 of his first 22 months.

The Journal received information about Bray's travel and pay through open records requests to the state and the federal governments.

Governor Carcieri declined to speak to The Journal last week when asked, through his spokesman, for comment on Bray's travel and his pay. "Based on the information we have at

this time, Governor Carcieri does not believe that the concerns you have raised have merit, and he continues to support Robert Bray in his role as Adjutant General," his spokesman Jeff Neal wrote in an e-mail Friday afternoon.

An adjutant general has two roles, state and federal.

One is as a full-time state employee. Rhode Island's adjutant general is appointed by the governor to a four-year term to lead the Rhode Island Air and Army National Guard. By state law, the adjutant general is chief of staff to the governor — subordinate only to the governor — "in matters pertaining to the military and naval affairs of the state." In Rhode Island, the

general also oversees the state Emergency Management Agency.

The second role comes in when the general works for the federal government as a commanding general of the National Guard. He is paid by the federal government, which allows every adjutant general 60 days of paid leave for various training, conferences and military duty.

Bray hasn't responded directly to several requests from The Journal since April to discuss his travel and pay records. When reached on his cell phone April 15, he declined comment.

SEE BRAY, A8

Foam companies offer \$30 million in Station case

The settlement offer, from several companies that manufactured polyurethane foam, still needs approval by the judge and the plaintiffs.

BY TRACY BRETON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Several polyurethane foam manufacturers have tentatively agreed to pay \$30 million to the victims of The Station nightclub fire in settlement of federal civil suits pending against them in connection with the 2003 West Warwick blaze that killed 100 people and injured more than 200 others.

The new settlement offers were filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in Providence. Altogether, this brings the pool of money offered to victims so far to \$102.815 million. But the settlement offers are only tentative

Settlement offer

These companies have offered to pay \$30 million to settle civil suits in connection with the Station fire.

Defendants:

Foamex International
Linwood, Pa.

General Foam
(acquired by Foamex International)

Leggett & Platt
Carthage, Mo.

Future Foam of North Carolina
High Point, N.C.

William T. Burnett & Co.
Baltimore, Md.

Total settlement offers to date:
\$102.8 million

at this point. The fire victims and their families won't be getting any of the money anytime soon.

The foam companies that

SEE FOAM, A7

Carriuolo selected as RIC's next president

Nancy Carriuolo has worked for the state's Office of Higher Education since 2000.

BY JENNIFER D. JORDAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

WARWICK — Nancy Carriuolo, a state higher education official and the only internal finalist in a national search, has been selected the ninth president of Rhode Island College.

The state Board of Governors for Higher Education unanimously voted to approve the appointment last night at a meeting at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Carriuolo, 59, will replace John Nazarian, 75, RIC's presi-

dent since 1990. Nazarian, who has spent 58 years at the college as a student, professor and administrator, announced last fall he would step down when his contract expires June 30.



CARRIUOLO

Carriuolo is the second woman to be appointed president at one of the state's three public colleges. The first was Carol Guardo, who served as RIC's president for three years in the late 1980s. Neither the University of Rhode Island nor CCRI has had a female president.

SEE RIC, A5

Check it out: Libraries that will lend you fishing gear

Equipment for the little-known program is provided by The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association.

BY LISA VERNON-SPARKS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

It might be the best-kept secret in the state. And you can check it out at the public library; that is, the public libraries in Coventry, Lincoln and Scituate — just in time for fishing season.

Tucked in among the stacks of books are cabinets stuffed with fishing equipment: rods, reels, tackle boxes, hooks, lures,

sinkers and floats. If you fancy taking a youngster or two out for a leisurely day of fishing without an outlay of money to get started, here's your chance.

All you need is a library card.

Three branches in the Cooperating Libraries Automated Network, CLAN, allow patrons to borrow a full complement of

SEE FISHING, B2

OPERATION DOLLAR BILL

EX-CVS EXECUTIVES' BRIBERY TRIAL STARTS



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

John R. Kramer, accompanied by family members and lawyers, arrives at U.S. District Court for opening arguments yesterday in his federal corruption trial and that of fellow former CVS executive Carlos Ortiz.

Opening statements are heard yesterday in the federal trial of former CVS executives John R. Kramer and Carlos Ortiz, accused of attempting to bribe former state Sen. John Celona.

BY MIKE STANTON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE
The dueling personas of John Celona — political fixer versus public-relations consultant — were on display in federal court yesterday as lawyers for the prosecution and the defense made their opening statements to jurors in the corruption trial of two former CVS executives charged with bribing the one-time state senator.

Afterward, the government's first witness, an executive for CVS rival Stop & Shop, testified how Celona, who had been a steadfast supporter

of pharmacy-choice legislation that CVS opposed, later disappeared before a crucial vote on the matter.

Unbeknown to the executive, prosecutors say, Celona had joined CVS' payroll the month before, as a \$1,000-a-month consultant.

The trial of John R. Kramer, 75, and Carlos Ortiz, 64, on 23 counts of conspiracy, bribery and honest-services mail fraud opened with different perspectives on CVS' hiring of Celona — was he hired to help promote the drugstore chain's image in the Rhode Island community or to take care of the Woonsocket-based drugstore chain's financial interests

SEE CVS, A7

The principals

John A. Celona, the former state senator from North Providence, will be the government's star witness in the trial of ex-CVS executives John "Jack" Kramer and Carlos Ortiz. Celona, who is serving a 2½-year sentence in federal prison after pleading guilty to selling his public office, is cooperating with the prosecution in exchange for a sentence reduction.

John R. "Jack" Kramer, former senior vice president of corporate relations and community relations at CVS, is on trial for bribery, conspiracy and mail fraud.

Carlos Ortiz, former vice president of government affairs at CVS, also is on trial for bribery, conspiracy and mail fraud. Ortiz and Kramer are charged with conspiring to deprive Rhode Islanders of the honest services of a public official — Celona.

projo.com

Extra: For updates from the trial, and our continuing report on Operation Dollar Bill, go to projo.com

INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829
6 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	F6	Lotteries	C4
Business	E1	Obituaries	D4
Classified	E5	People	F1
Comics	F7	Poker	F6
Crossword	F6	Rhode Island	B1
Editorial	B4	Sports	C1
Legal ads	A9	Television	F8
Lifebeat	F1	What's Happening	F6
Local News	D1		

FRUSTRATED BY MYANMAR

Authorities in Myanmar raise the cyclone death toll to nearly 32,000, and the secretary general of the United Nations expresses "immense frustration" at the country's refusal to admit relief workers and supplies. A2



Earthquake strikes China

A massive, 7.9-magnitude earthquake strikes the central Chinese province of Sichuan, toppling buildings, schools and chemical plants. As rescue workers struggle to free a young girl trapped beneath the rubble from a collapsed school in Juyuan, left, Chinese authorities say the tremor left at least 10,000 dead. Landslides, power failures and fallen mobile phone towers cut off much of the affected area from the outside world and limited information about the damage. Tremors could be felt as far as Vietnam, while the quake set off aftershocks that rattled office buildings in Beijing, 900 miles away. Story, map, photos, A2