

MID-SEASON FORM
Sunny, warm and dry today with afternoon highs around 70; clear tonight.
Forecast, B6

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NFL: No new tape, no new foul for Pats

Commissioner Roger Goodell comes to that conclusion after meeting with a former New England employee.

Patriots head coach Bill Belichick was already fined \$500,000 and the team \$250,000 and the loss of a first-round draft pick for videotaping opposing coaches.



Jim Donaldson on the tale of the tape. **C1**

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell had his long-anticipated meeting with former New England Patriots video assistant Matt Walsh yesterday, and once it was over, declared that further sanctions against the Patriots are unlikely.

After speaking with Walsh, now an assistant pro at a Hawaii golf course, for 3 hours and 15 minutes, Goodell held a news conference to share what the two had discussed.

Perhaps most important, Goodell said Walsh affirmed that he does not have, nor did

he make, a tape of the St. Louis Rams' final walkthrough before Super Bowl XXXVI, in 2002.

"The fundamental information that Matt provided was consistent with what we disciplined the Patriots for last fall; that essentially they were taping coaches' signals, against NFL policy," Goodell said. "We were also able to verify that there was no Rams walkthrough tape. No one asked [Walsh] to tape the walkthrough he's not aware of anybody else who may have taped the walkthrough."

SEE **PATRIOTS, A3**



Former New England Patriots videotape operator Matt Walsh leaves NFL headquarters in New York yesterday after his meeting with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

AP / LOUIS LANZANO

OPERATION DOLLAR BILL

Witness tells of his work as a lobbyist

Joseph Walsh says he arranged a meeting between then-Sen. John Celona and the two former CVS executives now on trial for bribery.

BY W. ZACHARY MALINOWSKI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Sometime in early 2000, Joseph W. Walsh, a powerful lobbyist and former Warwick mayor, was walking through the State House when he bumped into John R. "Jack" Kramer, a top executive for CVS.

The two men had a friendly working relationship: Walsh and his law firm, Tillinghast Licht & Semonoff, were paid \$5,000 a month to handle government relations issues for the Woonsocket-based drugstore chain.

"I just wanted you to know that we are doing something with Celona and it was approved by the [Rhode Island] Ethics Commission," said Kramer, according to Walsh.

A few weeks later, Carlos Ortiz, another ranking officer at CVS, was having a telephone conversation with Walsh.

"Did Jack mention Celona to you?" Ortiz said.

"Yes," he remembered answering. Walsh, known as a political operative who shuns the limelight, took center stage for nearly three hours yesterday in the federal bribery, fraud and conspiracy trial of Kramer, 75, and Ortiz, 63, in U.S. District Court. They are accused of bribing former state Sen. John A. Celona.

Celona has pleaded guilty to selling his office to CVS, Roger

SEE **CVS, A4**

THE WITNESSES

PAUL DEROUCHE, vice president of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, testified about his dealings with John Celona, John Kramer and Carlos Ortiz on pharmacy issues of mutual interest to the Chamber and CVS.

JOSEPH W. WALSH, a prominent State House lobbyist who represented CVS from 1998 to 2004, testified about lobbying, legislation and Celona. He described a key State House meeting that he arranged with Kramer, Ortiz and Celona in 1999, but said he did not recall any mention of a CVS consulting job for Celona.

CLARK CURTIS, a lobbyist who worked for Walsh, is expected to be the next witness.

China's growing agony



AP / LI GANG

A nurse comes to the aid yesterday of a youth trapped in the earthquake-hit region of Beichuan County, the scene of one of the largest rescue efforts by the Chinese government and where more than 5,000 people died.

As the death toll from the earthquake tops 12,000, rescue workers struggle to reach tens of thousands of people who remain buried.

BY EDWARD WONG and JAKE HOOKER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

YONG'AN, China — The battle for survival here is as stark as anywhere in the earthquake zone.

Wang Guofei and his younger brother drove yesterday morning to look for their mother in the rugged county of Beichuan, where at least 5,000 people died in Monday's earthquake. But the road had been washed out by a landslide, and Wang said he would return the next day and search for his mother on foot.

"She has potatoes," he said. "She can live for a while."

Rescue workers across southwest China struggled to reach the tens of thousands of people who remained buried in the aftermath of the earthquake, as the death toll climbed above 12,000, according to provincial authorities. That toll is likely to rise still higher as workers break through to affected areas, making the earthquake China's deadliest natural disaster in three decades. Hundreds of thousands are injured or homeless.

The authorities said that more than 18,000 people

SEE **CHINA, A5**

Questions halt House's vote on expungement bill

Some lawmakers argue that the bill, which aims to allow certain criminal records to be erased, is poorly framed.

BY KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — After a spirited debate in which lawmakers accused one another of trying to rewrite history by running a giant "eraser" through the state's criminal record books, House leaders had second thoughts yesterday about putting a far-reaching "quash-and-destroy" bill to an im-

mediate vote.

In the wake of complaints that the bill did not do what its sponsors said it did — and was sloppily written — House Majority Leader Gordon Fox, D-Providence, agreed to postpone the vote until tomorrow so that it can be rewritten to address some of the more technical con-

SEE **EXPUNGE, A4**

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Extra: For more from the General Assembly, go to projo.com/generalassembly



Chairman of the board: Gone but not forgotten

Proving that cool never goes out of style, the U.S. Postal Service today will issue a stamp honoring Frank Sinatra on the 10th anniversary of his death. It's just part of a major Sinatra revival. **E5**

USPS

Americans increasingly rely on prescribed drugs

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J. — For the first time, it appears that more than half of all insured Americans are taking prescription medicines regularly for chronic health problems.

The most widely used drugs are those to lower high blood pressure and cholesterol — problems often linked to heart disease, obesity and diabetes.

The numbers for the report were gathered last year by Medco Health Solutions Inc., which manages prescription benefits for about one in five Americans.

Americans buy much more medicine per person than any other country. But it was unclear how their prescriptions compare with those of insured people elsewhere. Comparable data were not available for Europe, for instance.

SEE **MEDICINE, A4**



INSIDE TODAY

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SORENSTAM STEPS ASIDE

Saying "I have other priorities in my life," professional golfer Annika Sorenstam, the only woman to shoot a 59 in a tournament and compete against men on the PGA Tour, announces her retirement at age 37. **C3**

PASSAGES

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG

The prolific American artist who succeeded in breaking down the boundaries that had traditionally separated different forms of expression dies at 82. **E5**

CLINTON WINS BIG IN WEST VIRGINIA



Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton wins by a wide margin over Sen. Barack Obama in West Virginia, but the victory is unlikely to improve her chances of gaining the Democratic presidential nomination. **A3**