

MIXED BAG
Mixture of sun and clouds today with highs in the 60s; partly cloudy tonight.
Forecast, F8

The Providence Journal

THURSDAY
MAY 15, 2008

75¢
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

projo.com

U.S. declares polar bears threatened by decline in sea ice

But the Bush administration refuses to call for a reduction in greenhouse gases to halt global warming and protect the species.

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department declared the polar bear a threatened species yesterday because of the loss of Arctic sea ice but also cautioned the decision should not be viewed as a path to address global warming.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne cited dramatic declines in sea ice over the last

three decades and projections of continued losses, meaning, he said, that the polar bear is a species likely to be in danger of extinction in the near future.

But Kempthorne said it would be “wholly inappropriate” to use the protection of the bear to reduce greenhouse gases, or to broadly address climate change.

The Endangered Species Act “is not the right tool to set U.S. climate policy,” said

Kempthorne, reflecting a view recently expressed by President Bush.

Still, yesterday’s action marked the first time a creature has been added to the endangered species list primarily because of global warming.

It was also the first time in more than two years that the Interior Department extended protections to another species under the Endangered Species Act — the longest hiatus of new listings by the department since Presi-



The Interior Department warns that polar bears like this one in Point Barrow, Alaska, could soon become endangered.

AP / JOSEPH NAPAAQTUQ SAGE

SEE **BEARS, A9**

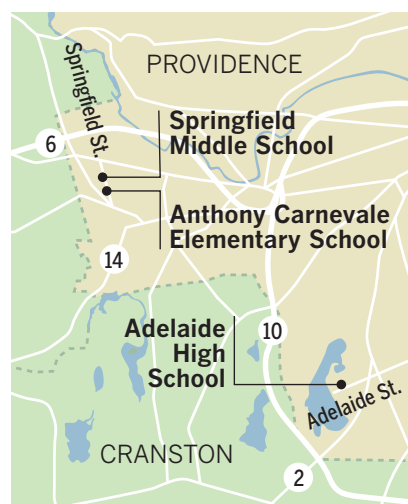
Pollution and the poor

Group forms to fight for ‘environmental justice’ in all neighborhoods



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

John O. Craig, assistant principal of Adelaide High School in Providence, points out the large stainless steel chimneys located on the roof of the school used to ventilate and purify toxic gases released from the the soil under the building.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / TOM MURPHY

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

No matter which way you look from inside the city’s new Adelaide High School in the Reservoir Triangle neighborhood, the views aren’t good.

Out back, a tall chainlink fence encloses a huge pile of debris. Off to the side, several acres between the school and Mashapaug Pond are also fenced off and signs warn people to keep out.

The front of the school faces an empty Stop & Shop supermarket and parking lot. Inside the store, crews are drilling

through the concrete floor so they can test for contaminants in the soils underneath.

Adelaide assistant principal John O. Craig, supervising students at the end of a recent school day, points to the ductwork designed to pull toxic gases from the soil and direct them away from classrooms. He thinks the school is safe, but barely adequate for his students.

“We’re doing the best we can with what we have,” says Craig. “But I’d just like to get a ball field and a running track for my students.”

The only other place in Rhode Island

SEE **POLLUTION, A9**

projo.com

Extra: For links to the RIDEM blog, “Environmental Justice,” and to investigative reports on the schools built on brownfields, go to projo.com

OPERATION DOLLAR BILL

Testimony turns to tickets for Oprah

An assistant to one of the two CVS executives accused of bribing former Sen. John Celona describes obtaining the coveted items for Celona.

BY MIKE STANTON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — A tale of power — of lobbyists and bills, campaign contributions and political fundraisers at the Villa Santini, even coveted tickets to *The Oprah Winfrey Show* — was interrupted by a power outage at the federal courthouse yesterday during the trial of two former CVS executives accused of bribing a Rhode Island senator.

Shortly past noon, a CVS employee who worked for defendant John R. “Jack” Kramer was testifying about her ex-boss’ dealings with John Celona, then a powerful senator, when the lights went dark in the 100-year-old courthouse on Kennedy Plaza. The large contingent of lawyers sat silhouetted in the gloom, prosecutor Stephen G. Dambruch frozen in mid-question, before Chief U.S. District Judge Mary M. Lisi sent everyone

THE WITNESSES

MARY JANE McCUSKER, administrative assistant to defendant John R. “Jack” Kramer, testified to her efforts to obtain tickets to *The Oprah Winfrey Show* for John Celona.

CLARK CURTIS, a lobbyist, testified about his work on behalf of CVS in 2002 and 2003.

SEE **CVS, A4**

Senator calls for independent probe of Patriots’ taping

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Sen. Arlen Specter called yesterday for a “transparent and independent” investigation into the New England Patriots’ illicit videotaping of opposing teams, asserting that the National Football League’s probe “has not been objective.”

The Pennsylvania Republican said the NFL should conduct an outside probe along the lines of former Sen. George Mitchell’s investigation of the use of steroids and other drugs to boost the performance of Major League Baseball players.

“If you cheat in the NFL, you can cheat in college, you can cheat in high school, you can cheat on your grade school math test. There’s no limit,” said Specter, a former prosecutor who is the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Thus after separate meetings Tuesday with former Patriots video assistant Matt Walsh, Specter and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell came to starkly different

SEE **PATRIOTS, A5**

projo.com

Your turn: Should there be a Mitchell Report-type investigation of Spygate? To respond, and for video of Specter’s Senate statement yesterday and the text of the statement, go to projosports.com/patriots

Against the wind: Surfer tells of being swept away

Natalie Baggesen, 19, of Hopkinton, was out to enjoy the heavy waves off Matunuck on Tuesday when the wind took control.

BY DONITA NAYLOR
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Riding her surfboard like a horse, her lower legs going like egg beaters in the water, Natalie Baggesen did her best to stay calm and keep the South Kingstown shore in view.

Tuesday’s high wind was blowing her toward Block Island. She had done everything she knew to get back to Matunuck Point.

It was about noon. She had already fought the wind and current for an

hour or longer, lying on the board and doing the crawl stroke with her arms, first trying to reach a group of surfers on her right, then trying to get to shore almost directly into the wind, then heading perpendicular to the wind, figuring she could walk back from Charlestown or wherever she landed.

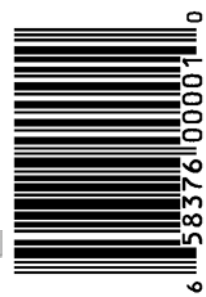
The only thing she got any closer to

SEE **SURFER, A4**



“Pick your days,” says surfer Natalie Baggesen, 19, a URI sophomore who has surfed for about three years.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
KRIS CRAIG



INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829

6 SECTIONS	
Ask Amy	E14
Bridge	E14
Business	F1
Classified	F5
Comics	E15
Crossword	E14
Editorial	B4
Legal ads	E10
Lifbeat	E1
Weekend	E1
Local News	D1
Lotteries	C4
Obituaries	D4
People	E1
Rhode Island	B1
Sports	C1
Television	E13

EDWARDS FOR OBAMA

Former North Carolina senator and Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards gives his endorsement to former rival Barack Obama. **A4**

AND THEN THERE WERE 2

Sysha Mercado is voted off *American Idol*, paving the way for the expected showdown between David Archuleta and David Cook. The two Davids will face off next week.

CELTICS OUTDUEL CAVS, 96-89

Paul Pierce scores 29 and helps shut down Cleveland’s LeBron James, while Kevin Garnett has 26 points and 16 rebounds and the Boston Celtics beat the Cavaliers, 96-89, to take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven conference semifinal. **C1**

PARENTS GRIEVE IN CHINA

With the death toll approaching 15,000 and the number of those believed buried beneath collapsed buildings from Monday’s earthquake at 26,000, many mothers in China are confronting the fact that many of the dead are children. **A2**

