

IN FOR A CHANGE
A cold front will bring showers and thunderstorms later today and tonight.
Forecast, B6

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A day to honor their sacrifices



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Bob and Donna Hendry, of Warwick, visit the grave of Donna's brother — Vietnam veteran Charles Edward Gwilliam — at the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, in Exeter, yesterday. At top, Rotary Club members march in this year's Memorial Day Parade in Wakefield yesterday morning. Coverage of how the holiday was marked across Rhode Island is on Page B1; and in your community, in your local news section.

Nuclear monitors critical of Iran

The international agency says it remains concerned that Tehran may be developing a weapons program.

BY ELAINE SCIOLINO
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS — The International Atomic Energy Agency, in an unusually blunt and detailed report, said yesterday that Iran's suspected research into the development of nuclear weapons remained "a matter of serious concern" and continued to need "substantial explanations."

The nine-page report accused the Iranians of a willful lack of cooperation, particularly in answering allegations that its nuclear program may be pointed less at energy generation than at military use.

Part of the agency's case hinges on 18 documents listed in the report and presented to Iran that, according to Western intelligence agencies, indicate the Iranians have ventured into explosives, uranium processing and a missile warhead design — activities that ordinarily would be associated with constructing nuclear weapons.

"There are certain parts of their nuclear program where the military seems to have played a role," said one senior official close to the agency, who spoke on condition of anonymity under normal diplomatic constraints. He added, "We want to understand why."

Iran has dismissed the documents as "forged" or "fabricated," claimed that its experiments and projects had nothing to do with a nuclear weapons program and refused to provide documentation and access to its scientists to support its claims.

The report also makes the serious allegation that Iran is learning to make more powerful centrifuges that are operating faster and more efficiently, the product of robust

SEE IRAN, A6

Program aims at nipping risky behavior in the bud

About 3,400 sixth graders are participating in a \$3.5-million experiment designed by University of Rhode Island researchers aimed at preventing smoking and drinking.

BY JENNIFER D. JORDAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

JOHNSTON — In a computer lab at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School, 21 sixth graders on laptops scrolled through a series of questions — not the kind asked in English, math or science.

"Do you think you will drink alcohol within the next six months?"

"How often in the last 30 days has your family ... encouraged each other to stay away from cigarettes?"

"How much do you agree or disagree with the

following statement: I will have more fun if I don't drink alcohol?"

Statewide, 3,400 sixth graders — roughly a third of public school sixth graders — are participating in a \$3.5-million research experiment, Project BEST. Designed by researchers at the University of Rhode Island, the computerized program aims to guide pre-teens away from smoking and drinking before those risky behaviors take root, as well as encourage them to eat right and exercise.

The program, financed by a five-year grant

from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, is being run by URI's Cancer Prevention Research Center, which conducted similar projects for older students and adults in the 1990s that showed improvement, according to the center.

The computer survey asks the students a series of questions and provides support in curbing risky behavior. The students' answers trigger follow-up questions specific to that student. Researchers hope Project BEST's personal approach will help it succeed where other programs targeted toward preventing risky behaviors among middle school students have failed.

SEE RISKS, A7

Tragic end to rafting adventure

Walter Cruz, 53, of Seekonk, who was whitewater rafting on the Penobscot River in Maine with his teenage sons Sunday, falls overboard and later dies.

BY PAUL GRIMALDI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

A 53-year-old Seekonk man died Sunday morning during a whitewater rafting trip on Maine's Penobscot River, according to a spokesman for the Maine Warden Service.

Walter Cruz, of 41 Briarwood Drive, was aboard one of several rafts taking part in a river excursion run by New England Outdoors when the incident occurred Sunday at approximately 11:30 a.m., according to Sgt. Ronald Dunham of the Maine Warden Service in Ashland. The Seekonk man was rafting with his 15- and 17-year-old sons, who are from Coventry.

Cruz was riding in a 15-foot-long commercial raft with seven other people when the raft twisted on its side after flowing over a boulder. Cruz, who Dunham described as a novice rafter, tumbled into the water along with four others.

Cruz swam for a bit as he tried to reach one of the rafts that had proceeded ahead of the toppled craft, witnesses told the warden

SEE RAFTING, A7

The housing crisis begins to reach into the garage

Tight credit, sparked by the sharp decline in housing prices, is making it harder for many to buy a car.

BY ERIC DASH
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The auto industry is getting sidetracked by the housing crisis.

Auto lenders and banks, closing their wallets, have prevented hundreds of thousands of consumers from getting financing for a car.

Home equity loans, which had been used in at least one of every nine deals, when lenders were more

generous, are no longer a source of easy money for many prospective buyers. And used-car prices have fallen nearly 6 percent as repossessed cars and gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs flood auction lots.

Those forces, on top of the softening economy, are putting enormous pressure on the American

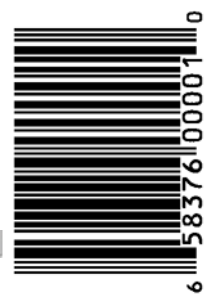
SEE AUTOS, A5



WHAT LIES BELOW

The Phoenix spacecraft on Mars is already sending back images hinting that ice may be buried beneath the planet's surface. Story, A2.

JPL-CALTECH/
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA VIA AP



INSIDE TODAY

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RESCUE AT SEA

The three-person crew aboard the Point Judith-based Dona Maria fishing boat is rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter 180 miles off Cape Cod. B1

GROWTH INDUSTRY

Alexion Pharmaceuticals is poised to join the growing ranks of high-tech drug firms in Rhode Island, having finished retrofitting a plant in Smithfield as it prepares to seek regulatory approval to begin manufacturing next year. E1

BEACHES OFF THE BEATEN PATH



Tucked away near a submarine manufacturer and pool-filter maker at Quonset Point are four little-known beaches that have recently been spruced up by the development corporation that operates the site. B1