

SLOW START

Morning showers, becoming partly cloudy this afternoon; clearing tonight.
Forecast, C6

The Providence Journal

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Lakers beat Celtics, 103-98

Boston's comeback effort comes up short in the fourth quarter. **Sports, B1**
Extra: Find a game recap, more photos and stories at projosports.com/celtics



AP / MATT YORK

Celtics forward Paul Pierce, who scored 38 points, battles Lamar Odom of the Lakers last night during Game 5 of the NBA Finals at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Despite last night's loss, Boston still holds a three-game-to-two advantage in the best-of-seven series, which returns to Boston tomorrow night.

Children first affected by Rite Care cut

No one is sure how about 2,800 youths, some with serious medical conditions, will now be able to afford the treatment they need.

BY FELICE J. FREYER
JOURNAL MEDICAL WRITER

Ana Beltre watches her 13-year-old son with great anxiety these days, urging him not to run around too much. She fears he'll set off an asthma attack. That will mean the terror of watching her tall, lean youngster gasp for air as she rushes him to the emergency room.

Her boy, Brian Cordones, had been able to keep his asthma under control with regular puffs from an albuterol inhaler. But a couple of weeks ago, Brian lost his health insurance. Albuterol costs \$100 per canister, and Beltre, who works in a jewelry factory, says she can't afford the medication.

Brian came to Providence from the Dominican Republic in 2005. He is among some 2,800 immigrant children who were removed from Rite Care, the state-run health plan for poor families,

"What do we do with these children? Ignore them?"

DR. ROBERT BURKE
pediatrician

on June 1, as the state reacted to a deficit in the current fiscal year. As the General Assembly considers additional cuts in Rite Care, possibly affecting 1,000 adults in the next fiscal year, these children stand at the leading edge, demonstrating the effects of such changes.

Among the 2,800 already removed from Rite Care, just under half are illegal immigrants. But the other half have the right to be here. And all of them are children.

Some, in fact, are very sick

SEE RITE CARE, A7

Rogue states may have designs for nuclear weapons

Plans produced by a Pakistani nuclear scientist could have been widely distributed.

BY JOBY WARRICK
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — An international smuggling ring that sold bomb-related parts to Libya, Iran and North Korea also managed to acquire blueprints for an advanced nuclear weapon, according to a draft report by a former top U.N. arms inspector that suggests the plans could have been shared secretly with any number of countries or rogue groups.

The drawings, discovered in 2006 on computers owned by Swiss businessmen, included essential details for building a compact nuclear device that could be fitted on a type of ballistic missile

used by Iran and more than a dozen developing countries, the report states.

The computer contents — among more than 1,000 gigabytes of data seized — were recently destroyed by Swiss authorities under the supervision of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, which is investigating the now-defunct smuggling ring previously led by Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan.

But U.N. officials cannot rule out the possibility that the blueprints were shared with others before their discovery, said the report's author, David Albright, a prominent nuclear weapons expert who spent four years researching the smuggling network.

"These advanced nuclear

SEE WEAPONS, A10

COPING WITH THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

Executives still manage to prosper

BY RACHEL BECK
and MATTHEW FORDAHL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — As the American economy slowed to a crawl and stockholders watched their money evaporate, CEO pay still chugged to new heights last year, an Associated Press analysis shows.

The AP review of compensation for the heads of companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index finds the median pay package added up to nearly \$8.4 million. That's a comfortable gain of about \$280,000 from 2006.

The 3½ percent pay increase for CEOs came even as the landscape for both workers and shareholders darkened considerably due to the housing market free fall, layoffs and soaring prices for fuel and food.

Collectively, the 10 best-paid CEOs made more than half a billion dollars last year. Yet half the

SEE PAY, A6

BAD ECONOMY A YELLOW FLAG FOR SMALLER RACECAR VENUES

Semiprofessional competitors say they're being hurt by the high cost of hauling their vehicles between tracks and declining sponsorships.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

Race car drivers at smaller Northeast tracks like Seekonk Speedway are struggling to cope with rising operational costs.

BY PAUL GRIMALDI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

A misfiring economy and rising energy prices are choking off the racing done by the semi-pro drivers who grind gears each summer at Seekonk Speedway and other small tracks around the Northeast.

Record oil prices are pushing up the cost of many products associated with auto racing, including the fuels used to tow racecars to the tracks and to propel them once they arrive, the parts used in the racecars, and even the food sold in the stands.

"There's no question that it's a problem for everyone," said Francis Venditti, Seekonk Speedway's owner. "We're all struggling."

Operating costs are up at Seekonk Speedway but ticket prices remain about where they have for years, ranging from \$1 to \$20, depending on the event. Early-season rainouts haven't helped, canceling the Speedway's opening day program May 4 and scrubbing races May 31.

The 110-octane fuel used in race cars costs

SEE RACING, A6

GOP lawsuit to take aim at legislative grants

At issue is the method the General Assembly's Democratic hierarchy uses to distribute \$2.3 million to rank-and-file members for a range of private organizations and programs in their home districts.

BY KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

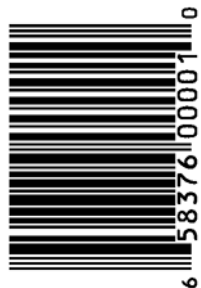
PROVIDENCE — State lawmakers wait anxiously each year — and especially in election years — to find out how much taxpayer money the General Assembly's Democratic hierarchy will give them to personally deliver to their hometown Little Leagues, soccer clubs, American Legion posts, St. Patrick's Day parade committees and assorted "right to life" and religious groups.

While much else across state

government is being cut to close a massive deficit, legislative leaders have preserved this special \$2.3-million pot of "legislative grant" money for year-round distribution to rank-and-file members of the House and Senate in widely varying amounts, ranging from \$500 to \$15,000, for their pet organizations and causes.

After protesting for years the way, they say, legislative leaders have used these taxpayer dollars

SEE GRANTS, A5



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A UNITED FRONT

Local emergency management directors in Rhode Island incorporate their informal association as a nonprofit organization that they hope will give them a unified voice on statewide emergency management issues. **C1**

FRUSTRATION FOR FARMERS

Corn and soybean prices are at record highs, but floodwaters across much of the Midwest mean many farmers are unable to reap the benefits of soaring demand. **A2**



WOODS FORCES PLAYOFF

Trailing by one stroke in the final round, Tiger Woods rolls in a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole to force an 18-hole playoff today with Rocco Mediate for the U.S. Open golf championship. **B4**