

RAIN CONTINUES
More rain and thunderstorms today; showers lingering tonight.
Forecast, **B8**

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'Plantations' opponents ready name-change campaign

Though the General Assembly has yet to approve placing the question before the state's voters, the campaign for dropping "Plantations" from the state name has begun.

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Supporters of a plan that would give voters in next year's general election the opportunity to strike the phrase "and Providence Plantations" from the state's formal

name, launched a public awareness and education campaign Wednesday. The legislature still has not given final approval to bills that would place the question before voters statewide, although leaders say that approval is likely. Backers say there is much work

to be done if they are to persuade Rhode Island voters that the word "plantations" conjures up enough negative images of the state's involvement in the slave trade to warrant a name change.

"When I see that word 'plantations,' I start thinking about slavery. I start thinking about the injustices," said Sen. Harold M. Metts, a Providence Democrat and a bill sponsor. "... It's not about guilt. For me, it's about heal-

Senate creates panel to study issues surrounding marijuana. **B1**

ing." Metts stood in an East Side church basement Wednesday alongside House sponsor and fellow minority caucus member Joseph S. Almeida, and a small, but dedicated group of supporters and volunteers including local residents and representatives from the Ur-

ban League of Rhode Island and Progreso Latino, at a news conference to kick off their campaign.

Once a version of the legislation passes both chambers of the legislature, as Assembly leaders indicate is likely to happen when they return this summer, the coalition will unveil a Web site and begin raising the money needed to educate Rhode Islanders

SEE **NAME, A10**

Super soaker for R.I.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Kaili Withrow, left, and Macy Wilcox-Tillett, both 15 and from Pawcatuck, Conn., splash in a puddle created by the rain Wednesday afternoon, in Wilcox Park in Westerly — where 5.2 inches of rain fell in just a few hours.

Portions of state swamped by heavy rains

It looks like July is picking up right where June left off, with rain and cool temperatures.

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Welcome to the first day of July — which brought more rain than the entire month of June.

Severe thunderstorms rumbled into Southern New England beginning at daybreak on Wednesday and continuing at 11 a.m. for a second round, clustering together over the southernmost tip of Rhode Island with wave after wave of heavy rain and lightning strikes.

Roads flooded and left motorists stranded in their swamped cars. Lightning struck houses from Westerly to Coventry. Torrential downpours — at times about an inch an hour — overwhelmed drainage systems, forcing street and highway clo-



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

Motorists had second thoughts going down a heavily flooded Cadillac Drive in Providence on Wednesday.

The deluge

Rainfall amounts around the state:
Westerly: **5.2 inches**
Charlestown: **4 inches**
Newport: **2.06 inches**
T.F. Green: **1.92 inches**

projoVIDEO

Extra: Watch the wild weather all across the state at projo.com/video

sures in parts of South County. The rain gauges used by engineers at the Department of Transportation showed 4 inches of rain fell in just two hours in Charlestown — approaching levels of a hundred-year storm, said department spokesman Charles St. Martin.

Westerly got the worst of it. The seaside town logged 5.2

SEE **RAIN, B4**

Democrat Roberts opts against run for governor

But the field of would-be successors to Governor Carcieri still remains crowded even after the lieutenant governor's announcement.

BY STEVE PEOPLES
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts will not run for governor in 2010, according to a surprise announcement Wednesday afternoon that squelched widespread speculation the Cranston Democrat would compete for Rhode Island's most powerful elective post.

The move comes just two



ROBERTS

months after the first-term lieutenant governor unveiled a high-profile "campaign team" to explore a gubernatorial bid.

Roberts, 52, offered no direct explanation for her decision, saying only that she would seek another term in her current office, while "pledging to use her position to make health care affordable for every Rhode Islander."

"I've spent the past few

SEE **ROBERTS, A10**

W. Warwick schools lose Caruolo case

The board had been seeking an additional \$3.3 million from the town.

BY LISA VERNON-SPARKS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

WARWICK — The West Warwick School Committee's legal quest to pry an extra \$3.3 million from the town to pay off expenses for the year that just ended came to an abrupt halt Wednesday in Superior Court.

Judge Steven P. Nugent, in a ruling from the bench, dismissed the School Committee's Caruolo suit against the town, saying that

school officials didn't even try to balance their fiscal 2009 budget after voters at the Financial Town Meeting limited their spending to \$49.2 million — roughly \$4 million less than they had requested.

Nugent said the committee had failed to heed the state law requiring that it give the town and the state auditor general a corrective action plan within five days of realizing that it would have a substantial shortfall.

Instead, he said, the School Department simply added a line

SEE **RULING, A8**

R.I. shooting suspect captured in Atlanta

Law enforcement officials have no trouble tracking down Jonathan Quaway after his image appears on *America's Most Wanted*.

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — A wanted man from Rhode Island with a long criminal history looked out the window of an apartment in Atlanta on Tuesday morning and saw the cops waiting.

Jonathan Quaway tried to run. This time, he didn't get far.



QUAWAY

His flight from the law that began after he allegedly shot up the Sportsman's Inn and Gentleman's Club in Providence in March ended more than three months and 1,000 miles later, shortly after his case was broadcast on the national TV show *America's Most Wanted*.

SEE **FUGITIVE, A8**

Cost of crossing Pell, Mt. Hope bridges might climb

It may soon cost \$4 to cross the Pell Bridge, if you pay in cash or have an out-of-state E-ZPass transponder; tolls on the Mount Hope Bridge, which were eliminated in 1998, may be reinstated.

BY RICHARD SALIT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Tolls at the Claiborne Pell Bridge may be going up for motorists who don't own an E-ZPass transponder purchased in Rhode Island.

And the Mount Hope Bridge, free to cross since 1998, could see a return to its

long history of collecting tolls.

David Darlington, chairman of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority, will recommend to his board Wednesday that it hold public hearings and adopt a plan to raise the tolls.

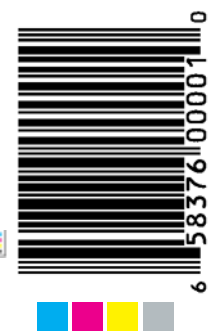
The agency, he said, should also do what other states do and raise tolls auto-

matically, every three years.

"The safety of the bridge must remain our highest priority," Darlington said in a statement. "We simply don't have the resources necessary to maintain them without this increase."

Darlington says the toll increases — the first in the history of the Newport bridge — are necessary to pay for future bridge improvements and to prevent a \$223-million shortfall over the next 20 years.

SEE **TOLLS, A8**



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The Providence Journal SUMMERTIME FUND™



A total of \$954 was donated last week. See the latest donations **B2**.

HOSPITAL FOUND NEGLIGENT

A Superior Court jury awards a Providence man nearly \$4 million after finding Roger Williams Medical Center negligent when he fell from his hospital bed and fractured his hip. **B1**

RETAILERS GOING OFF-LINE

At least two more online retailers terminate their contracts with Rhode Island advertising affiliates now that the state has enacted legislation taxing online sales. **A11**



PASSAGES KARL MALDEN

The Academy Award-winning actor who appeared in such classics as *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *On the Waterfront*, but who may be best remembered for the TV show *The Streets of San Francisco*, as well as for his American Express commercials, dies at 97. **A7**