

The Providence Journal

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 15, 2007

50¢

\$2.40 per week by carrier

WARM UP

A mixture of sun and clouds today, with highs in the mid-80s; clear tonight.

Forecast, E12

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Truck bombs kill 175 in Iraq

An obscure Kurdish sect is the target of some of the deadliest violence since the war began.

BY KIM GAMEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Four truck bombs struck nearly simultaneously at communities of a small Kurdish sect in northwestern Iraq late yesterday, killing at least 175 people and wounding 200 more, Iraqi military and local officials said.

The nearly simultaneous explosions in three Yazidi communities near the town of Sinjar added up to the deadliest attack in Iraq this year and one of the most lethal since the U.S. invasion in 2003.

It was also the most vicious attack yet against the Yazidis, an ancient religious community in the region whose members are considered infidels by some Muslims.

The bombings came as extremists staged other bold attacks, including leveling a key bridge outside Baghdad and abducting five officials from an Oil Ministry compound in the capital in a raid using gunmen dressed as security officers.

Nine U.S. soldiers also were reported killed, including five in a helicopter crash.

The U.S. military, meanwhile, sought to press its gains against insurgents. Some 16,000 U.S. and Iraqi soldiers began a sweep through the Diyala River valley north of Baghdad in pursuit of

SEE IRAQ, A4

Police defend actions in protest

North Providence leaders say officers did nothing wrong in the protest outside an Asian restaurant in which a woman's leg was broken.

BY RICHARD C. DUJARDIN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NORTH PROVIDENCE — As the police stepped up their probe into whether officers used excessive force against a 22-year-old demonstrator whose leg was twisted and broken during Saturday's protest against an Asian restaurant on Mineral Spring Avenue, Deputy Police Chief Paul Marino and Mayor Charles Lombardi both reiterated yesterday they don't believe local officers did anything wrong.

Alexandra Svoboda, of 139 Wood St. in Providence and originally from Lincoln, Neb., was in surgery yesterday for the second attempt to save her leg. Meanwhile, outside Rhode Island Hospital, fellow demonstrators from the Providence branch of the International Workers of the World gathered to express their support

SEE PROTEST, B2

GREEN



POWER

Energy is all around us — in the wind, the waves, the sun. But such renewable sources supply only about 9 percent of our electricity. As fossil fuels get harder and more expensive to produce, conservation and renewable alternatives are increasingly important. This five-day series explores renewable energy in Rhode Island and ways to conserve energy while saving money.

DAY 4

Cruising the Ocean State with the fuel of the future

BY MICHELLE J. LEE
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

FOR the past several months, two Save the Bay educational vessels have been polluting less while taking students on field trips and churning the waters up and down Narragansett Bay.

Since July 2006, the 45-foot Alletta Morris and 26-foot Swift have been using a blend of 20-percent biodiesel, a mixture of diesel and 20-percent processed vegetable oil, as part of a \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The fuel was acquired through a pilot program managed by the state Office of Energy Resources. The program also provided biodiesel for 14 vessels — ranging from launches, water taxis and tour boats — at Oldport Marine Services in Newport, said manager Matt Gineo.

Last summer, the company's boats used about 15,000

gallons of "pure biodiesel," processed oil that was later mixed with regular diesel. The federal grant has been renewed and has provided another 10,000 gallons this summer. Gineo said the boats needed no special adjustments to use the biodiesel and have run cleaner and better on the renewable fuel.

"It doesn't smoke as much as straight diesel fuel and it doesn't smell as offensive as straight diesel might," he said.

Save the Bay Captain Eric Pfirrmann agrees. While he's never smelled the so-called French fries or other food odors associated with biodiesel, he's noticed the fuel has made the boats run smoother and quieter.

"I feel the boats are a little cleaner to run, greener to run. I haven't seen a downside to it," said Pfirrmann. "I would definitely recommend it to

anyone switching. It's definitely the wave of the future."

The fuel, which is similar to plain diesel, can be slightly more expensive. But biodiesel, which is made by mixing diesel with processed vegetable, animal or waste oil, is

growing in popularity due to its environmental benefits.

Last year, an estimated 250 million gallons were sold in the United States — or about \$750 million given the price of \$3 per gallon, according to the National Biodiesel Board, an industry trade organization based in Jefferson City, Mo. In 2004, only 25 million gallons were sold.

Currently, there are 148 licensed biodiesel manufacturers across the country — including one in Rhode Island,

SEE BIODIESEL, A6

ILLUSTRATION BY TOM MURPHY / THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Your turn: Would you use energy from alternative sources? To respond, and to view a gallery of efforts to use energy from alternative sources in the Ocean State, go to www.projo.com

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Mattel recalls millions of unsafe toys

It's the second recall by the company in less than a month of lead-tainted toys made in China; other products being recalled raise questions about the industry's safety standards.

BY LOUISE STORY and DAVID BARBOZA
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mattel, the world's largest toy company, yesterday announced the biggest recall in its history.

In a double-barreled announcement, the company said it was recalling 436,000 Chinese-made die-cast toy cars depicting the character "Sarge" from the animated film *Cars* because they are covered with lead paint.

At the same time, the toy maker said it was recalling 18.2 million other toys because their small, powerful magnets could harm children if swallowed. The magnetized toys were also made in China, but they followed a Mattel design specification.

About half of the toys in each recall were distributed in the United States.

Amid a wave of increasing safety concerns about products made in China, the recall threatened to set the toy industry on its heels — just as companies are be-

ginning to ship toys to stores for the holiday shopping season, when half of all toy purchases are made.

Industry analysts said Mattel's woes are part of a much larger problem.

"If I went down the shelves of Wal-Mart and tested everything, I'm going to find serious problems," said Sean McGowan, managing director and the toy analyst at Wedbush Morgan Securities. "The idea that Mattel — with its high standards — has a bigger problem than everybody else is laughable. If we don't see an increase of recalls in this industry, then it's a case of denial."

Even Mattel executives said — repeatedly — yesterday that the

SEE TOYS, A7

Iranian corps may get terror label

The step would allow the Bush administration to apply additional economic pressure on the government in Tehran.

BY HELENE COOPER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is preparing to declare Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps a foreign terrorist organization, senior administration officials said yesterday.

If imposed, the declaration would signal a more confrontational turn in the administration's

approach to Iran and would be the first time that the United States has added the armed forces of any sovereign government to its list of terrorist organizations.

The Revolutionary Guard is thought to be the largest branch of Iran's military. While the United States has long labeled Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism, a decision to single out the guard would amount to an aggressive new challenge from an American administration that has recently seemed conflicted over whether

SEE IRAN, A4

Residents never told neighbor was rapist

Cumberland police say they were prohibited from publicizing the presence of Gary Lamountain, who was arrested Sunday on a sexual-assault charge, until a state board informed them of his status on July 20.

BY PHILIP MARCELO
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CUMBERLAND — Neighbors knew Gary Paul Lamountain as the landlord's maintenance guy, a burly 37-year-old with intense eyes who had lived at 21B Middle St. for more than three months.

He had a girlfriend nearby with a young child.

On Saturday, Lamountain was helping a 27-year-old woman who lived on the block move an air conditioner into her apartment, residents said.

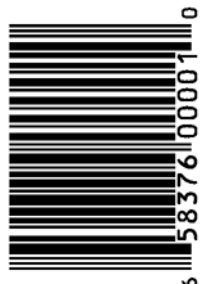
Early Sunday morning, the police say Lamountain broke into that same woman's apartment and raped her. He was arrested af-

SEE OFFENDER, B2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Gary P. Lamountain, a high-risk sex offender, appears in District Court yesterday.



INSIDE TODAY

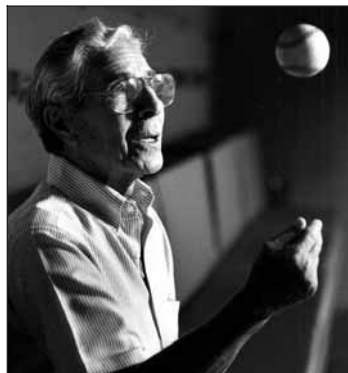
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PASSAGES: PHIL RIZZUTO

The sure-handed Hall of Fame New York Yankees shortstop nicknamed "The Scooter," who became famous exclaiming "Holy cow!" during his four decades as the team's TV broadcaster, dies at 89. C1

WORRIES ON WALL STREET

The Dow industrials drop more than 200 points as investors continue to worry about the problems in the credit market and the overall health of the economy. F1

A COMEBACK FOR IMUS?

Don Imus reaches a settlement with his former employer that may allow him to return to the airwaves at a different New York radio station. E7