

Overtime swells pay for many R.I. workers

Last year, 209 state employees earned more in overtime than in base pay.

BY PAUL EDWARD PARKER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Which of the following employees did the state pay the most last year?

- A. The governor.
- B. The superintendent of the state police.
- C. A guard at the Adult Correctional Institutions.
- D. A nursing supervisor in the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals.
- E. The president of the University of Rhode Island.
- F. The chief justice of the Supreme Court.
- G. A child-support technician at the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

The answer is D.

Before taxes last year, Allan R. LeBeau was paid \$214,776.78. That's \$88,537.72 in base pay, plus \$126,239.06 in overtime. He is a supervising registered nurse at the MHRH division that runs Eleanor Slater Hospital and several group homes.

Those figures are according to a list of state employee earnings obtained by The Providence Journal under the state's Open Records Law. Under a similar request, The Journal obtained a

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Discoveries offer hope to MS patients

Researchers say new drugs to combat multiple sclerosis could be available in 5 to 10 years.

BY SARAH LINDENFELD HALL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

RALEIGH, N.C. — Studies published yesterday pinpoint genes that increase the risk of developing multiple sclerosis.

The advances by researchers around the world, including a team at Duke University, are the first major genetic discoveries in more than 30 years to shed light on the neurological disease. The findings appeared yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine and another journal, Nature Genetics.

It doesn't mean that people like Michelle Witherspoon, who along with her sister and aunt have multiple sclerosis, will be picking up new medications at the pharmacy next month or

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ONE HAPPY DAY IN IRAQ

'We are like brothers ... together'



AP / DITA ALANGKARA

Iraq's captain, Younes Mahmoud, is lifted by teammates as they celebrate their 1-0 victory over Saudi Arabia at the Asian Cup 2007 soccer final match yesterday in Jakarta, Indonesia. Mahmoud said later he might not be able to return to Iraq.

Asian Cup champs give their country something to cheer about

BY STEPHEN FARRELL and PETER GELLING
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The bare statistics will record that in the 71st minute of a soccer tournament 5,000 miles from Iraq, a Kurd from Mosul kicked a ball onto the head of a Sunni from Kirkuk, who ricocheted it into the goal to secure a 1-0 victory for Iraq over Saudi Arabia in the final of the 2007 Asian Cup, in Indonesia.

What weeping, shouting, horn-honking, flag-kissing, Kalashnikov-firing Iraqis will remember is that their team, "The Lions of the Two Rivers," overcame virtually insurmountable sporting and societal odds yesterday to vanquish the land of the Two Holy Mosques. It was one of the few unifying moments in the recent history of a perhaps fatally disunited country.

"This Is Your Day, Iraqi," prophesied the lyrics of a popular anthem that has poured out of every Iraqi television speaker from Kurdistan to the Persian Gulf in recent times. And so it came to pass.

Taking its nickname from the waterways of the Tigris and Euphrates that gave ancient Mesopotamia its name, the Iraqi team — prevented by the threat of terrorism from training on its own soil and, perhaps, even returning to it — was a little-fancied underdog. It had never reached the

SEE IRAQ, A4



NYT / JOHAN SPANNER

In Baghdad, Iraqis celebrate their team's victory. Celebrations spilled out into the street despite a government curfew to try to prevent suicide bombers from killing fans.

Is this town big enough for the two of them?

Speculation abounds over how Vincent A. Cianci Jr.'s return will affect the fortunes of Mayor David N. Cicilline, which are tied to the "new Providence."

BY DANIEL BARBARISI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The new mayor wants to talk about the new Providence.

But the new Providence just wants to talk about the old mayor.

It's the problem Mayor David N. Cicilline has faced ever since he took over the city from Vincent A. "Buddy" Cianci Jr. in 2003 after Cianci's conviction on federal racketeering charges. Providence's recent good-government accomplishments are not nearly as sexy a story as its charismatic, deposed long-time mayor.

After all, who wants to talk



CIANCI



CIKILLINE

about business investment and community policing when there's a tale this good: A mayor who ran Providence from 1975 to 1984 — until his conviction for assaulting his wife's alleged lover — stepped down, became a radio personality, won

SEE RIVALRY, A10

DID YOU EVER WONDER ABOUT ROADKILL?

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The remains of the unfortunate litter the highways and back roads.

The gray squirrel that couldn't decide which way to run. The snake seduced by the sun-warmed pavement. The greedy seagull absorbed by a half-eaten burger tossed from a passing car. The deer blinded by lust — and oncoming headlights.

Once you get beyond the gross-out factor, roadkill has a story to tell about what's happening in the natural world. There are patterns when you look for them. Different animals appear on the roads during certain times of the year, depending on their feeding and mating habits. Roads that pass near water and food sources such as fields have more creatures crossing them. The appearance of wild animals could be a sign that a species is flourishing, or that their habitat is being sliced up by development.

Nationally, roadkill science is imperfect. Most official statistics, including those kept by Rhode Island's Department of

An animal's appetite, for food or for love, is just one of the fatal forces at work along highways and byways.

Environmental Management, tend to focus on the animal-related collisions that cost human lives and money. The deer-vs.-car collisions are such a problem here that the

state is urging more people to allow hunting on their private property.

For other species, the impact of roads is alarming.

Collisions kill more animals than hunters do. Endangered Florida panthers are killed more often by cars than anything else. A recent study in Idaho found so many dead barn owls along an interstate that a researcher worried those hunter birds were vanishing. Nearly half the turtle species in the nation are disappearing, which a researcher at State University of New York is attributing in part to turtles

trying to cross busy roads.

Charlie Brown, a biologist who works in the DEM's quarters at the Great Swamp, in South Kingstown, keeps an unofficial tally of the dead during his daily 70-mile commute from and to his home in Barrington. Aside from the ever-present squirrels (221 during one month in 2004), Brown sees other creatures killed in the same road locations, where their world intersects with the human world.

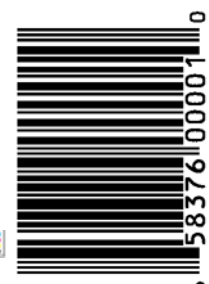
"Every time you put a road on the landscape, you're basically bisecting a habitat," Brown said. "We just keep making smaller and smaller blocks of land."

What's the meaning behind roadkill? Ask "Dr. Splatt."

Brewster Bartlett, a science teacher at Pinkerton Academy, a high school in Derry, N.H., runs the RoadKill Project, an Internet-based program that connects students from schools around the country in studying flattened fauna.

Every spring since 1993, students involved in the RoadKill Project adopt a

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WHEELS OF FORTUNE

Skateboarding is no longer just the domain of disaffected youth. Here's one example: Ryan Sheckler, 17, earns a six-figure income in prize money alone, with sponsorship deals adding significantly to that. Some kids as young as 8 are landing corporate sponsorships. **D1**

SPEEDIER PASSAGE TO NEWPORT

The state Turnpike and Bridge Authority has decided it's time to explore the installation of an EZPass system at the entrance to the Claiborne Pell Bridge. **C1**

CONTADOR CLAIMS TAINTED TOUR



Ominous talk about the pervasiveness of blood doping and questions about the very existence of cycling's premier event overshadow the joy of its newest and youngest winner in 10 years, Alberto Contador of Spain, who rode for the U.S. Discovery Channel team. **B1**