

A WET ONE
Very humid today, with showers and thunderstorms today and tonight.
Forecast, **E16**

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President seeking his place in history

President Bush quietly turns to a wide range of thinkers as he grapples with his second-term setbacks and the interminable war in Iraq.

BY PETER BAKER
THE WASHINGTON POST
WASHINGTON — At the nadir of his presidency, George W. Bush is looking for answers. One at a time or in small groups, he summons leading authors, historians, philosophers and theologians to the White House to join him in the search. Over sodas and sparkling water, he asks his questions: What is the nature of good and evil in the post-Sept. 11 world? What lessons does history have for a president facing the turmoil I'm facing? How will history judge what we've done? Why does the rest of the world seem to hate America? Or is it just me they hate?

These are the questions of a president who has endured the most drastic political collapse in a generation. Not generally known for intellectual curiosity, Mr. Bush is seeking out those who are, embarking on an exploration of the currents of history that have swept up his administration. For all the setbacks, he remains unflinching, rarely expressing doubt in his direction yet trying to understand how he got off course.

These sessions, usually held in the elegant living areas of the executive mansion, are never listed on the president's public schedule and remain largely unknown even to many on his staff. To some of those invited to talk, Mr. Bush seems alone, isolated by events beyond his control, with trusted advisers

SEE **BUSH, A7**

Flight delay data only part of story

The figures provided by the airlines fail to reflect the effect missed connections due to late flights have on passengers.

BY JEFF BAILEY
and **NATE SCHWEBER**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

As Northwest Airlines counts it, Janis Cavinder endured a two-hour delay during a quick trip to London to celebrate the Fourth of July with a college roommate. But by her count, it was a full-day ordeal that diverted her to Newark, N.J., and ended last night with a flight on another airline.

Cavinder, a 27-year-old Air Force captain who is headed to Afghanistan soon, missed a connection after her first flight from San Diego to Detroit. That led to the diversion to Newark and a six-hour layover. She made the best of it, quickly visiting the Statue of Liberty and ground zero, but felt sorry for her friend, a fellow Air Force officer, who was

SEE **DELAYS, A2**

THE FOURTH IN BRISTOL



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / JOHN FREIDAN

Shaina Rathbun, 21, takes center stage on the "Colors of Our Nations" float, sponsored by the Warren Growing Minds Home Day Care, during yesterday's Bristol Fourth of July Parade.

Tradition marches on

In Bristol, the 222nd annual Fourth of July Parade draws tens of thousands of spectators to the 2.6-mile route, many of whom arrived by 5:30 a.m.

BY ALEX KUFNER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

If there were any doubt about what the Fourth of July means to a native Bristolian, it was dispelled by the look on Manuel C. "Manny" Correia's face yesterday.

After cutting the ribbon to start the town's 222nd annual parade, Correia, this year's chief marshal, was overcome by emotion. It wasn't just joy or simple excitement. It was pure feeling. He handed his scissors off to a parade official and then reached into his pocket for a tissue. In the minutes before the parade stepped off at 10:30 a.m. at Hope and Chestnut streets, Correia stood nervously with his wife, Bunny, and accepted congratulations from friends and acquaintances. He talked about his mother who died last year.

"This would have been the culmination for her of everything I've ever done in my life," Correia said solemnly. "You can't go any further than this." It's not a surprising statement for someone born and raised in Bristol. This town's identity is inextricably tied to the Fourth of July. Bristol prides itself on having the oldest continuous Independence Day celebration in the country. It's a tradition that goes back to 1785. In short, the Fourth of July is to Bristol what Mardi Gras is to New Orleans.

So nobody in town was going to miss yesterday's parade — especially on such a sunny, temperate day. By 9:30 a.m., a full five hours before the ribbon-cutting, deck chairs already lined either side of Hope Street. Two hours later, every patch of sidewalk and grass along the 2.6-mile parade route had been claimed. And as the parade started, with Town Crier Gerry MacNeill swinging his brass bell back and forth at its head, the crowds along Hope and High streets were packed seven and eight rows deep.

SEE **PARADE, A2**

Court limits bias suits

The state Supreme Court rules that workers claiming job discrimination have only a year to file a lawsuit.

BY BENJAMIN N. GEDAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Less than a month after the U.S. Supreme Court limited the ability of workers nationwide to sue their employers for discrimination, the Rhode Island Supreme Court shut down a separate avenue for some victims seeking a legal remedy in state court.

In a decision late last month, the state Supreme Court ruled that victims of employment discrimination have only one year to file a complaint under the Rhode Island Civil Rights Act, not the three years given to victims of most types of personal injury.

Though the Rhode Island Civil Rights Act, enacted in 1990, does not specify a statute of limitations, the court applied the one-year limit imposed by the legislature in a similar law, the Fair Employment Practices Act, approved in 1949.

That decision was a blow to civil-rights advocates who have urged greater flexibility, arguing that many victims of discrimination in pay do not learn of the disparities until years after their salary is set.

SEE **SUITS, B6**

Diploma criteria changes next year

Beginning this fall, high school seniors in Rhode Island must prove their mastery of skills and subjects in new ways.

BY JENNIFER D. JORDAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

For the past four years, the Rhode Island Department of Education has been preparing the state's 36 school districts for a significant shift to a new diploma system students must pass to graduate from high school, starting with next year's senior class.

State education officials say that while several districts have embraced the new requirements and have already started making major changes, others are lagging and will probably struggle to comply with the system in the coming year.

Starting this fall, high school seniors must prove their mastery of skills and subjects in new ways, such as compiling a portfolio of their work, completing and presenting a major project, or taking new end-of-course exams.

Districts must select two of these three options. They are allowed to develop their own approach to the two options they

SEE **DIPLOMAS, B3**

ALL ACROSS RHODE ISLAND



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LIFE AFTER FOXWOODS
Richard A. Hayward, the man who led the Pequot when they built one of the most profitable casinos in the world in Connecticut, and the other members of his family say they now feel shunned by other members of the tribe. **F1**

LIFE IN CAPTIVITY
BBC correspondent Alan Johnston, released after being held for nearly four months by Palestinian kidnappers, says he felt as if he were "buried alive" but remained buoyed by international support he knew was out there by listening to his network's radio broadcasts. **A4**

LIFE ON THE BUS
The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority is installing new electronic "smart" fare boxes on its 376 regular and paratransit buses to replace the mechanical ones that the agency says are not just obsolete, but also worn out. **B1**

LIFE CHALLENGES EX-NFL GREAT
Earl Campbell, a Heisman Trophy winner and one of the greatest running backs of all time, today struggles to walk and often has trouble recalling names or prominent dates; his current medical condition has become a topic among retired players battling the NFL and the players' association for improved health and pension benefits for retired players. **C1**

