

HOLD ON
Strong winds continue,
with sunny skies and
highs in the upper 50s.
Forecast, B6

The Providence Journal

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2006 New England Newspaper of the Year

A trunk, a photo, and a family's life revealed

Heirlooms abandoned on a New York City street lead a photographer to a prominent Rhode Island family.

BY PAUL DAVIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Stacy Morrison's life changed with the discovery of a mysterious trunk on a street in Manhattan early in 2002.

A professional photographer, Morrison had lost both her prized apartment and her boyfriend. She felt anxious and

vulnerable as she walked to Crosby Street to meet two women looking for a roommate.

One of them had just found a battered leather trunk atop a pile of garbage bags on the street.

Curious, Morrison peeked inside.

Someone — New Yorkers were so quick to jettison the past — had tossed away dozens of family heirlooms: 19th-century paper dolls dressed in shoes with pink bows; a brown daguerreotype of two girls, hands clasped, their faces pensive;

wallpaper swatches; a bracelet made of human hair; and a calling card for a Susan A. DeWolf.

"I started crying," says Morrison. "When I looked at these things — the photographs, the book, the dolls — I was so devastated that the objects had been thrown out that I had to elevate them to art."

Among the photos in the trunk was one of a young woman, dressed in black, with braided hair.

Morrison arranged to rent the apartment with the two women;

as soon as she moved in, she started photographing items from the trunk with a large camera and special film.

The combs, pins and playing cards made her contemplate the aftermath of her own death. What, if anything, would she leave behind? Would her things be thrown away?

When Morrison moved six months later, she took the trunk with her. At night, she started dreaming about the mysterious woman dressed in black, with braided hair.

"We would have conversa-

tions, which are long forgotten to me now," Morrison would later write. "She was calling out to me, imploring me to look, to think, to feel for her. When I would awaken in the morning, in a blurry state of half-consciousness, I would be confused

SEE **TRUNK, A10**

Stacy Morrison displays a photograph of Sylvia DeWolf Ostrander that she found in a trunk outside her apartment.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY



Weapons provided to Iraq missing

A study, intended to determine whether Iraqi forces had the equipment necessary to defend themselves, instead discovered a lack of accountability.

BY JAMES GLANZ
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The American military has not properly tracked hundreds of thousands of weapons intended for Iraqi security forces and has failed to provide spare parts, maintenance personnel or even repair manuals for most of the weapons given to the Iraqis, a federal report released yesterday has concluded.

The report was undertaken at the request of Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., who is the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and who recently provided an assessment far darker than the Bush administration's on the situation in Iraq.

Warner, who warned that the situation in Iraq was "drifting sideways," sent his request in May to a federal oversight agency, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. He also asked the inspector general to examine whether Iraqi security forces are developing a logistics operation capable of sustaining the hundreds of thousands of troops and police officers the American military says it has trained.

SEE **WEAPONS, A5**

Sectarian attackers kill 23 police

The deaths in the Shiite-dominated city of Basra are being blamed on Sunni insurgents.

BY STEVEN R. HURST
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Suspected Sunni Arab gunmen killed 23 policemen yesterday, including 17 in one attack in the predominantly Shiite southern city of Basra, signaling the possible start of an intensified insurgent campaign against Iraq's predominantly Shiite Muslim security forces.

Political tension deepened in Baghdad when Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, the country's highest-ranking Sunni politician, threatened to resign if Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki did not act quickly to eradicate two feared Shiite militias.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, depends heavily on the backing of the two Shiite political parties that run the militias and has resisted American pressure to eradicate the private armies — the Mahdi Army of radical cleric Muqtada

SEE **IRAQ, A5**

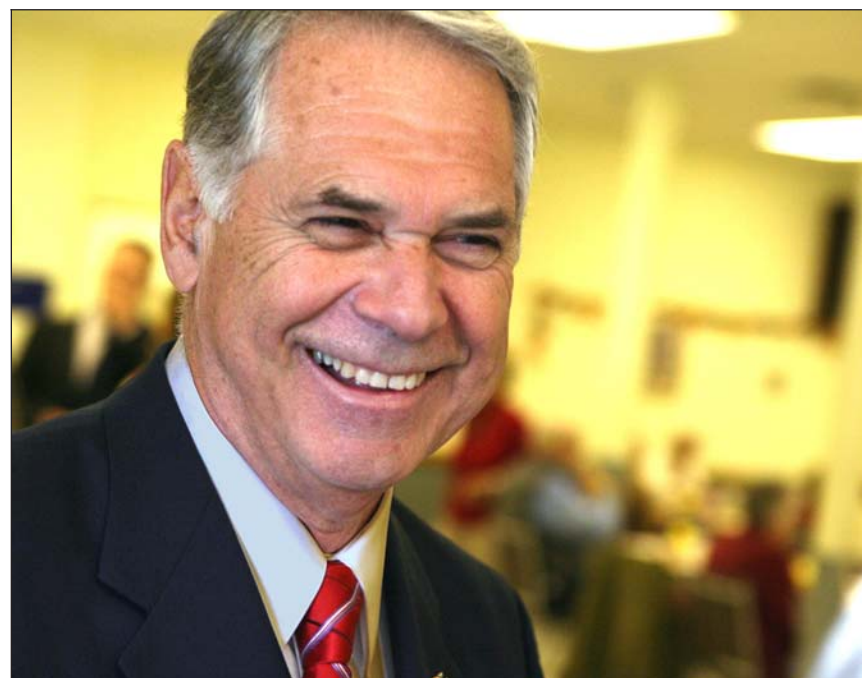
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S RACE

Roberts vs. Centracchio



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

Elizabeth Roberts leaves the stage following her speech at a fundraiser for Democratic Senate candidate Sheldon Whitehouse.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

Reginald Centracchio, the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, campaigns at the Barrington Senior Center on Thursday.

Affordable health insurance key to senator's campaign

BY KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

CRANSTON — *Clatter. Clatter. Thud.*

"The new sounds of my life are the frames of lawn signs bouncing in the back of my car," Elizabeth Roberts said with a laugh as she darted from one campaign stop to another in her otherwise soundless hybrid electric car.

Roberts had begun the day at her kitchen counter, making an easy-to-chew yogurt and peanut butter sandwich for her 14-year-old daughter, with newly tightened braces, to take to school for lunch.

Next she drove Nora to the private Moses Brown School in Providence — a daily routine that Roberts says she relishes be-

cause "it's the time I know I always see her and get a chance to catch up with her." (Older daughter Kathleen is in college.)

Then she was off to a Red Cross-sponsored breakfast for "community heroes," a newspaper editorial board interview, a benefit roast of Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, in Cranston, a house party in her honor in North Smithfield, and finally to a fundraiser for her labor-backed colleague in the state Senate, John Tassoni. At Tassoni's event, Roberts, in dark brown slacks, burnt orange jacket and a smidgen of Revlon No. 235 lipstick on her deceptively young 49-year-old face, got to — literally — kick

SEE **ROBERTS, A2**

Longtime military officer serious about new mission

BY ELIZABETH GUDRAIS
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

For Reggie Centracchio, the biggest challenge of the campaign for lieutenant governor is selecting the right tie each day.

That's the joke, anyway, from a man who's spent most of his adult life in uniform.

As Centracchio travels around the state, someone will occasionally say, "You look different with clothes on." He knows what they mean.

He also likes to joke that this is a general election — one in which the voters should elect a general.

Centracchio spent 48 years in the Rhode Island National Guard, 10 of them as the state adjutant general. He was appointed twice by former Republican Gov.

Lincoln C. Almond, and again by Governor Carcieri, before retiring earlier this year with the rank of major general. ("You know when it's time for you to do something else," he says.)

As an officer in the National Guard, Centracchio worked with six other governors before Almond. He cites that as evidence he would work effectively with Democratic Lt. Gov. Charles J. Fogarty, should Fogarty win the governor's race. (As a Republican, Centracchio naturally favors Carcieri, and would like to see Rhode Island's Constitution changed so the governor and lieutenant governor run on a single ticket. "I think that the lieutenant governor is obliged to

SEE **CENTRACCHIO, A2**

HEALEY: Lighthearted campaign, serious message. **STORY, A2**

Many in GOP are counting on Rove to come through once again

Despite predictions of Democrat gains next week, the architect of President Bush's campaign successes is still preaching optimism.

BY MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — By many calculations, Democrats are ready to make big gains in the midterm elections, enough to take over the House and possibly the Senate. But White

House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten says there is one reason he is feeling upbeat amid so much Republican gloom.

"I believe Karl Rove," Bolten said in an interview in his West Wing office Friday. "Karl Rove, somewhere inside that massive brain of his, has figured out the political landscape more clearly than the entire collection of conventional-wisdom pundits and pollsters in the entire city of Washington."

That was true for two elections in

a row, in 2002 and 2004, and President Bush's senior adviser has insisted to West



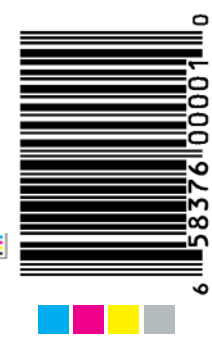
ROVE
num status.

Even within Rove's party, expect-

tations are widespread that the Nov. 7 elections will mark a repudiation for the base-rallying, contrast-drawing brand of politics with which he and Mr. Bush have been so closely aligned. But it's a mark of the particular place Rove holds in the Washington psyche that even the most exuberant Democrats are wondering why Rove seems so confident.

There are two questions. Is Rove just acting cocky as a way of lifting

SEE **ROVE, A6**



INSIDE TODAY

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THE SAFEST CITIES IN AMERICA

Based on FBI statistics, Cranston and Warwick are among the safest cities in America, according to a new survey being released today. **A2**

CASINO QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Beginning today, the Journal answers the public's questions on the most hotly contested referendum item on this year's ballot: Whether to amend the state's Constitution to allow construction of a gambling casino in West Warwick. **C1**

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Rhode Island's very own plumber/paranormal investigators swing into action on a live, six-hour Halloween special on the Sci-Fi Network. **D1**



REMEMBERING 'RED'

Memories of the man who made the Boston Celtics into one of the most storied franchises in professional sports history, including Dave Gavitt's thoughts on Arnold "Red" Auerbach's abilities behind the wheel. **B1**

C M Y K