

SECTION B

The Providence Journal  
projo.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006

# LOCAL NEWS

## Polishing our world on Earth Day

Under an overcast sky, volunteers clean up roadways and water sites, while Warwick Mall hosts clean-energy exhibitions as part of the Earth Day Festival.

**BY FELICE J. FREYER,  
ZACHARY R. MIDER and JOHN HILL**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

Volunteers braved the chill of a gray spring day yesterday to clean up parks and shorelines at about 50 sites around Rhode Island, showing their concern for the environment on Earth Day.

And shoppers at the Warwick Mall got a glimpse at why it all matters as 41 exhibitors displayed their work and vision during Rhode Island's Earth Day Festival, held indoors this year for the first time.

In Pawtucket, about three dozen volunteers gathered at Slater Mill, the birthplace of American industrial pollution, to try to undo some of the two centuries' worth of polluting the river.

Dave Sherman was there from Blackstone,

Mass. — his girlfriend works at the mill — reaching down from the grassy field across the river from the mill, snagging an old 10-speed bicycle with a rake and lifting it onto the grass.

A shimmering cobalt-blue frame was still visible through a coating of river grime, and the letters "dmaster" were readable on the bike.

They dragged the grimy bike, as well as a rusting CVS shopping cart, over to where about a dozen yard-waste bags were standing, full of leaves, branches, mildewed sweatshirts, plastic foam cups and broken bikes. Before noon, the volunteers had filled nearly two dozen bags.

Francine Murphy-Brillon, marketing director for Slater Mill, organized yesterday's Earth Day activities in the area along the river by the mill. It

SEE **EARTH, B4**



JOURNAL PHOTO / FRIEDA SQUIRES

Alex Fournier, 13, of Narragansett, picks up trash along the causeway on Bonnet Shores, in Narragansett, during yesterday's annual spring cleanup.