

ACHIEVEMENT



Westerly's Cruso ties school record. p.9

WEATHER



LYDIA SOUSA

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with highs in the mid-40s. Details, p.2

WESTERLY  
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JAPAN NOW DEALING WITH THREAT OF RADIATION

**Fears grow with explosion, exposed fuel rods**

By ERIC TALMADGE and SHINO YUASA  
Associated Press

SOMA, Japan — The second hydrogen explosion in three days rocked a Japanese nuclear plant today, devastating the structure housing one reactor and injuring 11 workers. Water levels dropped precipitously at another reactor, completely exposing the fuel rods

and raising the threat of a meltdown.

The morning explosion in Unit 3 of the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant was felt 25 miles (40 kilometers away), but the plant's operator said the radiation levels at the affected reactor were still within legal limits. Hours later, officials reported that the fuel rods at another reactor, Unit 2, were fully exposed, at least temporarily.

Authorities began pouring sea water into that unit to re-cover the rods — as they are at the plant's two other troubled reactors after cooling system failures in the wake of Friday's massive earthquake and tsunami, which killed at least 10,000 people. The latest explosion triggered an order for hundreds of people to stay indoors, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

Operators knew the sea water flooding at Unit 3 would cause a pressure buildup in the reactor containment vessel — and potentially lead to an explosion — but felt they had no choice if they wanted to avoid a complete meltdown. In the end, the hydrogen in the released steam mixed with oxygen in the atmosphere and set off the blast. The inner containment shell

surrounding the Unit 3 reactor was intact, Edano said, allaying some fears of the risk to the environment and public. But the outer building around the reactor appeared to have been devastated, with only a skeletal frame remaining.

Tokyo Electric Power Co., which operates the plant, said radiation

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**INVESTMENT**  
*in* **THE FUTURE**

Sen. Reed applauds Westerly's commitment to science



SUSANNAH H. SNOWDEN / The Sun



Leonardo da Vinci, upper left, is one of several contributors to technology who are profiled in the hallway of the new Westerly High School science and technology wing. In top photo, Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., who joined residents and town officials during an open house at the new wing Sunday, says he's proud of Westerly's taking the lead in science education. In bottom photo, Westerly Middle School 7th grader Nicolas Silvestri, left, and WHS 9th grader Delaney Silvestri check out a touch screen monitor in the hallway of the new wing. Visit [thewesterlysun.com](http://thewesterlysun.com) for more photos.

CASINO BUS CRASH

**Riders dispute driver's account**

■ The bus was one of scores traveling daily between Chinatown and Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods.

By TOM HAYS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Investigators will be looking at footage from a video camera mounted inside the tour bus that crashed and killed 14 people on a New York highway to help determine the cause of the horrific weekend accident.

The National Transportation Safety Board will analyze footage from the camera that faced passengers and will also examine an engine control module that may indicate how fast the bus was going.

Passengers and witnesses to the crash that sheared the top off the bus told investigators that the driver's account of getting clipped by a tractor-trailer didn't match up to what they felt and saw before the vehicle slid off the road and into a sign pole.

Driver Ophadell Williams had told police that his bus was hit just as it crossed the New York City line early Saturday on a trip from the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut.

But passengers said Williams had already swerved at times to the right for no reason before the accident, a law enforcement official said Sunday. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the probe and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The bus was returning to Manhattan's Chinatown after a quick overnight trip to the casino. The official said that passengers said they didn't feel anything hit them and that other motorists on Interstate 95 said they didn't see the bus get hit. The official said police spoke to the tractor-trailer driver,

See CRASH, page 5

**Praise for rising to educational challenge**

By EMILY DUPUIS  
Sun Staff Writer

WESTERLY — U.S. Sen. Jack Reed joined town and school leaders Sunday in applauding Westerly's commitment to advancing science, math and technology education.

"This building is a beautiful facility, but what's more important is it's going to enable very bright students and very dedicated teachers to prepare the next generation," Reed, the state's senior Democratic senator, said of Westerly High School's new science and technology wing.

Reed, local officials and members of the community attended a morning open house in the roughly \$6 million,

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**Project to ease flooding in area of Pond Road**

■ New culverts, beaver fences will be installed, but the improvements will not prevent flooding of the magnitude of last spring's storm.

By DALE P. FAULKNER  
Sun Staff Writer

WESTERLY — Work to improve drainage on an undeveloped section of Pond Road is scheduled to be completed by the end of the spring.

Three culverts that were built to handle water flowing from the Aguntaug Swamp will be replaced. Officials say they were too small and installed at improper elevations. The swamp is the second largest wetland complex in Rhode Island.

Nils S. Wiberg, project manager with Fuss & O'Neill, a civil and environmental engineering firm, said the project began in 2007

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**Fundraiser planned in memory of 'amazing son'**

■ Phil Agins' mother extends his love of music with Berklee scholarship; fundraiser set for Friday at Westerly Yacht Club.

By NANCY BURNS-FUSARO  
Sun Staff Writer

WESTERLY — Paula Agins is jazzed. It's her birthday, but Agins, a social worker, therapist and mother of three, is far more focused on March 18 than on any celebration being held in her honor.

For the third year in a row,



Paula Agins

Agins, with help from family, friends and local businesses, will be the host of a fundraiser named for her son, Philip, a musician who died at 25 from a drug overdose in 2008.

All money raised will go toward the Philip B. Agins Scholarship Fund at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Agins established the scholarship fund,

along with her oldest son, Dan, to help send a local high school musician to the five-week summer program at the prestigious music school — the summer school Phil himself attended and loved.

"He had the best time at Berklee. It really changed him as a musician," says Agins. "He began the camp saying he was just a guitar player and came home saying he was a musician with a love of performing."

Plus, she adds, "As a mom, I

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Doctors find more evidence that success of treatment depends on attitude. p.17

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