

YUCK
Snow and sleet changing to cold, soaking rain today; light showers tonight.
Forecast, F12

The Providence Journal

THURSDAY
APRIL 12, 2007

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NO DICE AT FENWAY



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON



TODAY
projo.com/redsox

- See more photos of last night's game;
- Talk about Daisuke Matsuzaka's performance;
- Listen to Steve Krasner's analysis on Projo SoxTalk with Art Martone, posted by noon;
- Get reports before, during and after today's game, on www.projo.com/soxblog
- Upload your photos from Boston's home opener;
- Find out how the Impossible Dream Red Sox did on April 11, 1967.

Daisuke Matsuzaka's first game at Fenway Park last night proved to be memorable, but not for the reason Red Sox fans were hoping. While giving up eight hits and three runs over seven innings, he was bested by Seattle's starter, Felix Hernandez, who allowed only one hit — a single by J.D. Drew in the eighth. The Mariners beat the Sox, 3-0. Sports, C1

Probe clears Duke players of all charges

A "rogue prosecutor" is blamed for pursuing the case against three members of the elite school's lacrosse team, who were accused of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a woman.

BY DUFF WILSON AND DAVID BARSTOW
THE NEW YORK TIMES

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina's attorney general declared three former Duke University lacrosse players who had been accused of gang-raping a stripper innocent of all charges yesterday, ending a prosecution that provoked bitter debate over race, class and the tactics of the Durham County district attorney.

The attorney general, Roy A. Cooper, said the players had been wrongly accused by an "unchecked" and "overreaching" district attorney who had ignored contradictory evidence and instead relied on the stripper's "faulty and unreliable" accusations.

"We believe that these cases were the result of a tragic rush to accuse and a failure to verify serious allegations," Cooper said at a news conference.

For coach, a feeling of vindication

Mike Pressler resigned in the wake of the rape charges against his lacrosse players and is now the coach at Bryant University.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SMITHFIELD — Angry and bitter for a few months after he was forced to resign as lacrosse coach at Duke



PRESSLER

University last April in the wake of rape charges against three of his players, Mike Pressler revealed the depth of his feelings only to family and close friends.

Despite numerous requests to comment publicly, even as the prosecution's case crumbled and he started a new career as head

SEE **DUKE, A11**

SEE **COACH, A11**

Veto looms over easing stem-cell rules

With the Senate again approving legislation, President Bush vows to veto any lifting of research restrictions.

BY RICK WEISS
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — For the second time in nine months, the Senate yesterday passed a bill that would loosen President Bush's restrictions on human embryonic stem cell research — but once again fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a promised veto.

Nineteen Republicans joined 44 Democrats and independents to pass, 63 to 34, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which would allow federally financed

studies of stem cells isolated from embryos slated for disposal at fertility clinics. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, both Democrats, voted for the measure.

The vote followed 20 hours of often passionate debate, with proponents focusing on the stem cells' potential to help treat a wide range of diseases and with opponents decrying the fact that human embryos must be destroyed to retrieve the cells.

With the House having passed a similar bill in January, the two chambers are now set to work out compromise wording and

send the legislation to Mr. Bush. But their victory promises to be short-lived. Yesterday, the president voiced his intention to veto the bill — just as he had last July when nearly identical language passed the Senate, 63 to 37.

"This bill crosses a moral line that I and many others find troubling," Mr. Bush said in a statement issued after the vote. "If it advances all the way through Congress to my desk, I will veto it."

That means that despite a mammoth mobilizing effort by proponents of the research, the situation will remain as it has

SEE **STEM CELL, A7**

Troops to serve longer terms in Iraq, Afghanistan

The defense chief says the move was necessitated by President Bush's decision to send more troops to Iraq.

BY ROBERT BURNS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Stretched thin by four years of war, the Army is adding three months to the standard yearlong tour for all active-duty soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, an extraordinary step aimed at maintaining the troop buildup in Baghdad.

The change, announced yesterday by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, is the latest blow to an all-volunteer Army that has been given ever-shorter periods of rest and retraining at home between

overseas deployments.

Rather than continue to shrink the at-home intervals to a point that might compromise soldiers' preparedness for combat, Gates chose to lengthen combat tours to buy time for units newly returned from battle. The longer tours will affect about 100,000 soldiers currently in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus untold thousands more who deploy later. It does not affect the Marine Corps or the National Guard or Reserve.

SEE **TROOPS, A6**

Long-forgotten painting could sell for \$1 million

"Under a Kirghiz Tent," by Alexander Yakovlev, was donated to the Attleboro Arts Museum in the 1950s.

BY TALIA BUFORD
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

ATTLEBORO — A painting by a Russian artist that had gone virtually unnoticed for decades at a local museum was put on public display in New York City yesterday in preparation for an auction that could lead to a \$1-million sale.

The auction house Sotheby's New York said the painting, "Under a Kirghiz Tent" by Alexander Yakovlev, is expected to fetch \$800,000 to \$1.2 million when it goes up for bid in June.

The painting was one of two by the artist donated by local resident William Charles Thompson. The other painting, "The Afghans," hung in the auditorium of the Community School in



North Attleboro for years, its value unknown until a town resident alerted officials to its worth in February.

Yakovlev painted "Under a Kirghiz Tent" in 1932 after spending a year traveling through Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, China and Indochina, according

to Sotheby's. Yakovlev created more than 500 pieces of art culled from the sketches and paintings he gathered during the trip. Around the same time, Yakovlev painted "The Afghans," a 7-foot-by-10-foot depiction of a clan of

"Under a Kirghiz Tent" is put up for viewing at Sotheby's New York, which will auction the painting in June.

COURTESY / ATTLEBORO ARTS MUSEUM

SEE **PAINTING, A10**

New charges surface in dispute over marina

The chairman of the Coastal Resources Management Council testifies that House Speaker William Murphy tried to influence a vote on the expansion of a Block Island marina. Murphy denies the allegation.

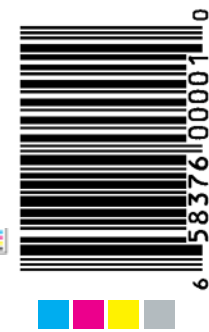
BY MICHELLE J. LEE
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

PROVIDENCE — A four-year battle over the expansion of a Block Island marina took another twist with accusations that the House speaker tried to influence the vote of at least two members of a Coastal Resources Management Council subcommittee.

CRMC Chairman Michael Tikoian, under scrutiny himself for

allegedly allowing Governor Carcieri to influence his decision on the proposed expansion of Champlin's Marina, testified last week in Superior Court that subcommittee member Thomas Ricci was committed to the expansion at the behest of House Speaker William Murphy, D-West Warwick.

SEE **MURPHY, A10**



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COMING BACK TO LIFE

Two clothing stores, a wine merchant and a home furnishings and gift store are opening on Westminster Street in downtown Providence, helping to bring the once thriving retail district back to life. **F1**

OUT IN THE COLD

Renovations set to begin at the Dunkin' Donuts Center will leave the Providence Bruins and the Providence College basketball team without a home for at least the early part of next season. **C1**

CABLE CHANNEL CANCELS IMUS

MSNBC announces that it is dropping its simulcast of the *Imus in the Morning* radio program, responding to growing outrage about the radio host's racial slur against the Rutgers women's basketball team. **A3**



MCCAIN OFFERS EXPLANATION

Seeking to right a presidential campaign that's struggling even before it's officially begun, Republican Sen. John McCain offers a detailed explanation of why he supports the Bush administration's Iraq war plan and sharply criticizes Democrats' call for a withdrawal. **A8**