

RELIEF IN SIGHT
Rain and showers slowly tapering off with a chance of clouds breaking later today.
Forecast, E12
50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier

The Providence Journal

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2006 New England Newspaper of the Year

A new view of Providence



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / SANDOR BODO

A view from the upper floors of Waterplace, a new condominium project being built in the Capital Center District of downtown Providence by Intercontinental Real Estate Corp. of Boston, shows how the city's skyline has changed in recent years. New or under construction projects visible from the site include, from left, the Courtyard by Marriott hotel, the Residences at the Westin Providence (also under construction), the newly opened GTECH headquarters building, Providence Place mall and Waterplace Park. Yesterday marked the completion of the steel structure on the project. **More photos, story in Business, E1.**

Minorities still lagging in income, home ownership



NYT / MICHAEL TEMCHINE

Inequality remains an emotional issue. **Story, A2**

Census figures show that whites continue to have higher incomes and are more likely to own a home than blacks and Hispanics.

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Decades after the civil rights movement, racial disparities in income, education and home ownership persist and, by some measurements, are growing. White households had incomes that were two-thirds higher than blacks and 40 percent higher than Hispanics last year,

according to data released today by the Census Bureau.

White adults were also more likely than black and Hispanic adults to have college degrees and to own their own homes. They were less likely to live in poverty.

"Race is so associated with class in the United States that it may not be direct discrimination, but it still matters indirectly," said Dalton Conley, a sociology professor at New York University and the author of *Being Black, Living in the Red*.

"It doesn't mean it's any less powerful just because it's indirect," he said. Home ownership grew

among white middle-class families after World War II when access to credit and government programs made buying houses affordable. Black families were largely left out because of discrimination, and the effects are still being felt today, said Lance Freeman, assistant professor of urban planning at Columbia University and author of *There Goes the Hood*.

Home ownership creates wealth, which enables families to live in good neighborhoods with good schools. It also helps families finance college, which leads to better-paying jobs, per-

SEE **CENSUS, A11**

Study suggests breast cancer, red meat link

A journal reports the first research of its kind to focus on premenopausal women and the first to examine the question by type of breast cancer.

BY ROB STEIN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Younger women who eat red meat regularly appear to face an increased risk for a common form of breast cancer, according to a large well-known Harvard study of women's health.

The study of more than 90,000 women found the more red meat the women consumed when they were in their 20s, 30s and 40s the greater their risk for getting breast cancer fueled by hormones in the next 12 years. Those who consumed the most red meat faced nearly twice the risk of

SEE **CANCER, A10**



AP / DENNIS COOK

The freshman class of 2006

Sen.-elect Sheldon Whitehouse, second from right, and the other newly elected Democratic senators get their first taste of life in Washington as they are welcomed at the Capitol yesterday by incoming Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. The incoming freshmen, whose election last week gave control of the Senate to the Democrats for the first time since 2002, include, from left, Sen.-elect James Webb, D-Va., Sen.-elect Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Sen.-elect Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., Reid, Sen.-elect Jon Tester, D-Mont., Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., Sen.-elect Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, Sen.-elect Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., Whitehouse, and Sen.-elect Robert Casey, D-Pa. **Story, B2.**

R.I. budget shortfall seen surpassing \$100 million

Gambling revenues are down, spending is up, and an insurance settlement worth millions has yet to be finalized.

BY SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU
PROVIDENCE — The state's budget situation looks bleak, real bleak.

The amount of cash flowing into the state's coffers this year is estimated to fall \$74.2 million short of previous predictions, causing a major headache for all branches of state government.

To further exacerbate the problem, a report due out later this week is expected to show that department spending is far

above what has been budgeted. Those added expenses could push the current year deficit well above \$100 million, according to state Budget Officer Rosemary Booth Gallogly.

"It doesn't look good at all," Gallogly said yesterday. "We're going to go back and look at every item in the budget."

There are two major factors behind this year's shortfall: Rhode Islanders are gambling less than state budget analysts had forecast and a one-time budget fix from an insurance settlement hasn't yet materialized.

Last year, the state learned that a settlement that insurance giant American International

SEE **SHORTFALL, A4**

Bush hears calls for sharp change in his Iraq policy

The president meets with a bipartisan group reviewing the nation's options and hears calls for a shift in direction from at home and overseas.

BY MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ AND THOMAS E. RICKS
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — President Bush came under new pressure yesterday at home and abroad to alter his policies in the Middle East. British Prime Minister Tony Blair pushed for a broader Middle East peace initiative to help stabilize Iraq, while the incoming chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee pledged to take a hard line on seeking early troop withdrawals. Mr. Bush offered little indica-

SEE **IRAQ, A15**

Where suicide bombers find a safe haven

BY CARLOTTA GALL
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Afghan and NATO security forces have recently rounded up several men such as Hafez Daoud Shah, a 21-year-old unemployed Afghan refugee who says he drove across the border to Afghanistan in September in a taxi with three other would-be suicide bombers.

Every case, Afghan security officials say, is similar to that of Shah, who repeated his story in a rare jailhouse interview with

SEE **BOMBERS, A14**

High caseloads said to endanger children

The warning by supervisors to the head of the Department of Children, Youth and Families echoes one issued last week by the state child advocate.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

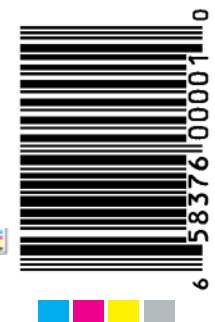
PROVIDENCE — Casework supervisors in the state Department of Children Youth and Families sent their boss a letter last week, saying the state needs to reduce "unmanageable" caseloads to ensure the safety of children in state custody or under state supervision.

"This letter serves to inform you that despite our extraordin-

ary efforts, we are unable to achieve compliance with departmental policy under the current, unmanageable caseload and workload conditions," supervisors told DCYF Director Patricia Martinez in a Nov. 6 letter. "It is critical for the safety and well being of the children and families we serve to reduce caseloads in Family Services to ensure compliance with agency policy and best practice."

The letter, signed by 21 casework supervisors in the Family Services Units, was written one week after the state child advocate issued a report, saying DCYF has failed to make some of the most important changes that

SEE **DCYF, A12**



INSIDE TODAY

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6 SECTIONS / 56 PAGES

Ask Army	F6	Local News	D1
Business	E1	Lotteries	C4
Classified	E6	Obituaries	D4
Comics	F7	People	F1
Crossword	F6	Poker	F6
Editorial	B6	Rhode Island	B1
Kidsbeat	F3	Sports	C1
Legal ads	E5	Television	F8
Lifebeat	F1	What's Happening	F6

URI LOSES IN OVERTIME

Houston overcomes a 90-86 deficit with less than 15 seconds to play in regulation and Oliver Lafayette sinks a last second 3-pointer in overtime to lift Houston to a 102-99 win over URI. **C1**

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

With the holidays rapidly approaching, charities all across the area are looking for donations and volunteers as they try to assist those most in need. Find out how you can help. **B1**

SLOWDOWN EXPECTED

Rhode Island's economy is forecast to stall next year, as the housing market weakens and the rate of job growth slows. **E1**



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

What better time than National Geography Week to see whether you can identify some of the people and places that make up the world in which we live. **F3**

C M Y K