

STORMS ABREWIN?

Partly sunny and breezy today. Two possible snowstorms heading our way. Forecast, F8

The Providence Journal

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PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE / MARY MURPHY

How R.I. spending ranks

1st in the nation in spending per \$1,000 of personal income on firefighting.

RIPEC looks at where the money goes

BY PAUL EDWARD PARKER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Rhode Island ranks first in spending on fire departments and near last on parks and recreation, according to an analysis of U.S. Census data done by the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council.

The Ocean State is in the top 10 in spending on Medicaid ven-

dor payments, welfare programs, and housing and community development, while being in the bottom 10 on higher education and highways, according to RIPEC, an independent watchdog agency whose executive director will step down next month to head the state's Department of Revenue.

RIPEC's report, How Rhode

Island's State and Local Expenditures Compare, 2007 Edition, was made public Monday. The agency compared Rhode Island to other states based on government finance data available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site. It covers the budget year that ended in 2005, which is the latest national

SEE SPENDING, A13

CIA director distances self from tapes

Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee want to know who authorized their destruction, and why Congress was not told.

BY MARK MAZZETTI
AND DAVID JOHNSTON
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Gen. Michael V. Hayden, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, distanced himself yesterday from the decision to record and subsequently destroy hundreds of hours of video taken during the interrogations of senior al-Qaida captives.

Speaking in public after delivering classified testimony before a Senate committee, Hayden said that the decision to record the interrogations in 2002 was made under George J. Tenet, then the director of central intelligence, and that the destruction of those tapes in 2005 came under the watch of Porter J. Goss, who succeeded Tenet.

"There are other people at the agency who know about this far better than I," Hayden said after he testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee. He became the agency director in May 2006, six months after intelligence officials have said the tapes were destroyed.

Congressional officials said

yesterday that they would probably call Goss and Tenet before the committee as part of its investigation.

In a statement to agency employees last Thursday, Hayden indicated that he supported the decision to destroy the videos. He did not reiterate that support in his public comments yesterday, although he did not say the decision was wrong.

Congressional officials said that Hayden tried to provide a timeline of events surrounding the destruction of the tapes that he had constructed from agency records.

Emerging from the meeting, Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., the chairman of the committee, called the hearing "useful" but said he still had questions about who authorized the destruction of the tapes in 2005 and why Congress was not told at the time.

Hayden, in his message last Thursday, said that the CIA had informed leaders in Congress about the destruction of the vid-

tapes were destroyed.

SEE CIA, A4

RIPTA driver in fatal accident not facing charges

Officials say there's no indication that Raymond Belanger, 54, who also passed two blood alcohol tests, did anything wrong.

BY BRUCE LANDIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The driver of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority bus that killed a pedestrian in Pawtucket on Friday, the second pedestrian a RIPTA bus has killed in eight months, passed two blood alcohol breath tests and probably won't be the target of any criminal charges, the police said yesterday.

RIPTA spokeswoman Karen Mensel said yesterday the agency has interviewed witnesses who said that the victim, Domenick Paola, 57, had stood on the curb on East Avenue, fallen, gotten up, and walked into the

moving bus before he went under it. The driver had barred Paola from the bus because he appeared to be drunk.

She said that RIPTA hadn't obtained the police report on the accident yet, but said her agency had no indication that the driver, Raymond Belanger, 54, did anything wrong. "I don't think there is any question that he was operating the bus safely," she said.

The driver, she said, "has taken some days off because he is pretty distressed."

The Pawtucket police report on the accident said the driver voluntarily took two breath tests for alcohol, and that both showed that he had a blood alcohol level of zero. No criminal charges are expected, said Detective Lt. Daniel Mullen.

SEE RIPTA, A10



44th on highways



5th in Medicaid / vendor payments



19th on public education



48th on parks and recreation

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

Protesters say governor's layoff of state interpreters will harm immigrants

BY KAREN LEE ZINER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Lucey Ok, a 15-year-old Cambodian organizer for the Providence Youth Student Movement, said the governor's layoff of three Southeast Asian interpreters "is not only cruel, it's unlawful."

Ok joined others at a news conference at the International Institute of Rhode Island yesterday in protesting Carciari's cuts to the state Department of Human Service's full-time interpreter

staff. The cuts were announced last month as part of an effort to pare the state's estimated \$450-million budget deficit.

Ok and other speakers cited Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which requires, in part, that state agencies that receive federal money not discriminate against people who have limited English-speaking ability.

They argued that replacing the DHS

SEE PROTEST, A13

Proposal would cut 400 from Head Start

The plan submitted by the state Department of Human Services would save taxpayers an estimated \$3.3 million.

BY STEVE PEOPLES
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — An estimated 400 poor children will be knocked out of the popular preschool Head Start program under a proposal submitted by the state Department of Human Services last week that caught lawmakers and child advocates by surprise.

Governor Carciari has yet to commit to the plan, which would save Rhode Island taxpayers \$3.3 million by cutting all state aid to the comprehensive program aimed at 3- and 4-

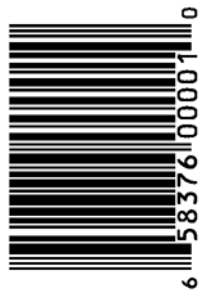
year-olds living in poverty. The federal government would continue to provide roughly \$16 million to finance the majority of Head Start in Rhode Island, which currently serves 2,369 children, according to the DHS.

The proposal angered child advocates just days after they learned of another plan to cut subsidized health insurance for nearly 18,000 low-income Rhode Islanders, including more than 10,000 children.

"We're talking about the youngest and the poorest," said Lynda Dickinson, chief executive of CHILD Incorporated, a Head Start provider in Kent County. "We can't let it happen."

The Head Start cuts are among a host of cost-cutting rec-

SEE HEAD START, A13



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LANDLORDS MUST FOLLOW LEAD LAW

State Supreme Court upholds law that dictates how landlords must take care of potential lead hazards in their rental units. **B1**

LIFE AFTER CHEATING SCANDAL

How the Patriots' and Jets' seasons have gone in opposite directions since "videogate." **C1**

U.N. TARGETED IN ALGERIA ATTACKS



An al-Qaida affiliate calls the U.N. offices "the headquarters of the international infidels' den" in attacks that killed at least 26 and injured 200. **A2**