

PATRIOTS 28, DOLPHINS 7

Proving that records are meant to be broken

New England wide receiver Randy Moss' touchdown reception during the second quarter of yesterday's game against the Dolphins helps the Patriots become the first team to win 15 games during the regular season and the highest-scoring team in NFL history. **Complete coverage in Sports, B1, and on projo.com/patriots/**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

"It never crossed my mind that he wouldn't make it."

THE GREATEST GIFT



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / FRIEDA SQUIRES

Eight-month-old John Davenport, born 12 weeks premature, is enjoying his first Christmas with parents Jeff and Maria Davenport, of Cranston. John was delivered by cesarean section because of a disorder that threatened the lives of mother and baby.

BY G. WAYNE MILLER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CRANSTON

Not so long ago, we would have a different ending to this Christmas story. We would write of what might have been, of a visit, perhaps, to a tiny grave — or two graves, one the mother's, the other her infant son's.

Instead, we have baby John, dressed in his red booties and snowman suit, bouncing on his father's knee next to the family Christmas tree.

"He's healthy," says Jeff Davenport.

"We both say we got the best gift," says

After beating the odds, John Davenport will celebrate his first Christmas.

his wife, Maria.

Flash back to Christmas 2006.

Maria had recently learned that she was pregnant with the couple's first child, and the news added excitement to a holiday they both cherish. They fantasized about December 2007, when they would hang a new stocking on the fireplace mantel. They would make an ornament with baby's picture and hang it on the tree next to one of them on

their wedding day. Maria, 31, an accountant, and Jeff, 34, a Providence firefighter, would celebrate baby's first Christmas.

Winter passed without complication. The Davenports ordered a crib and changing table and began to convert their spare bedroom into their baby-to-be's room. They figured they had plenty of time: their firstborn was due in July.

On the morning of April 16, Maria experienced pain in her upper abdomen. A midwife at her doctor's office examined her and concluded that she probably had

SEE **FAMILY, A8**

Some see dangers in arming Sunnis

While the Awakening program has been effective in combating al-Qaida in Iraq, it may also be sowing the seeds for a future civil war.

BY ALISSA J. RUBIN and DAMIEN CAVE
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD — The thin teenage boy rushed up to the patrol of U.S. soldiers walking through Dora, a shrapnel-scarred neighborhood of the capital, and lifted his shirt to show them a mass of red welts across his back.

He said he was a member of a local Sunni "Awakening" group, paid by the U.S. military to patrol the district, but he said it was another Awakening group that beat him. "They took me while I was working," he said, "and broke my badge and said, 'You are from al-Qaida.'"

The soldiers were unsure of what to do. The Awakening groups in their area of southern Baghdad could not seem to get along: they fought over turf and, it turned out in this case, one group had warned

SEE **IRAQ, A4**

Giuliani left struggling on sidelines

By deciding to largely ignore Iowa and New Hampshire, the former New York City mayor runs the risk of becoming irrelevant in the GOP race.

BY ADAM NAGOURNEY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HAMPTON, N.H. — Rudolph W. Giuliani has entered a turbulent period in his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, marked by what his aides acknowledge are missteps, sharp shifts in strategy and evidence that reports about his personal life have hurt his national standing.

A \$3-million investment in radio and television advertising in New Hampshire, a belated effort to become competitive in this state, is now viewed by the campaign as a largely wasted expenditure.

A Boston Globe poll published yesterday found that support for Giuliani had dropped in New Hampshire over the past

SEE **GIULIANI, A4**

Aged asking not to be held responsible for their mistakes

An increasing number are going to court arguing that the law should protect them from their errors in judgment because of their age.

BY CHARLES DUHIGG
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Eight years ago, when Robert J. Pyle was 73 years old, he had about \$500,000 in the bank and owned a house in Northern California worth about \$650,000. He was looking forward to a comfortable retirement.

Today, at 81, he has lost everything. Pyle, a retired aerospace engineer, lives in his stepdaughter's tiny, mountainside home in

a room not much larger than his bed.

By his own admission, Pyle willingly made every decision that led to his financial problems. He gave away large sums of money to people he thought were friends, and then, in need of money, sold his house at a deep discount to the first person who offered to buy it.

Even so, he claims in a lawsuit that he should be compensated for his losses for a

simple reason: he is old, and should not bear the full responsibility for his choices.

"I still make pretty good decisions about most things," said Pyle, who shows no signs of dementia. "But for others, I guess I'm not as sharp as I was before, and people take advantage of that."

In the last few years, thousands of older

SEE **AGED, A4**

A GROWING GAP

According to a news study released by the Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College, the gap between the haves and have-nots in the state has widened in recent years and the bulk of new jobs in the years to come will be "low-wage, low-skill, service-sector occupations," such as food-service workers. **C1**

ALL CHARGED UP

Making sure you have the right battery to power that electronic Christmas gift isn't that simple anymore. **A6**

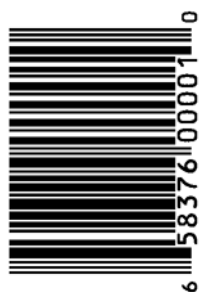


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LIFE IS STILL WONDERFUL

At this time of year, Jimmy Hawkins, who played little Tommy Bailey in the 1946 Frank Capra classic *It's a Wonderful Life*, never tires of talking about the film that remains the highlight of his long career. **D1**



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