

COOL COMFORT
Morning clouds will give way to sunny skies and highs in the 70s today.
Forecast, E10

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THE PRESIDENT IN RHODE ISLAND



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

President Bush receives a warm welcome from Governor Carcieri and his wife, Sue, after Air Force One touched down at Quonset Point, yesterday morning, before heading to an address at the Naval War College in Newport.

Bush steadfast over Iraq

In his first visit to the state since being elected president in 2000, President Bush offers his vision for the future of that troubled country during an address at the Naval War College in Newport.

BY SCOTT MACKAY and NICOLE DUNGCA
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

NEWPORT — With his Iraq war policies under sharp criticism from the American public and Congress, President Bush yesterday renewed his stout defense of U.S. strategy, telling military leaders that progress is being made in Iraq and asking the public to be patient while U.S. troops complete the surge that began in January.

Before a friendly Naval War College audience of Republican partisans and military leaders from the United States and its world allies, Mr. Bush said progress is being made in stabilizing Iraq, combating sectarian violence and promoting democracy in a country shad-

SEE **BUSH, A11**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / FRIEDA SQUIRES

About 100 protesters gathered outside Gate 1 of the Naval Station in Newport to protest President Bush's visit to the Naval War College. Newport and state police kept a close watch on the demonstrators.

TALL SHIPS 2007

Smooth sailing as visitors arrive to tour vessels

Free admission to the sailing ships currently visiting Newport proves a powerful attraction.

BY RICHARD SALIT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT — Sailors strolled around downtown in their dress whites. A band of singers roamed the waterfront performing sea chanteys. Families milled around the wharves taking in the sights.

And everywhere there were Tall Ships, their towering masts beckoning sightseers to come for a closer look.

On the first full day of activities of Tall Ships Rhode Island 2007, people came from near and far to see the flotilla of immense sailing vessels gathered here from all over the world. But the tourists didn't

come in numbers great enough to form tortuous lines or, for that matter, to wow festival organizers.

"Everybody is in a wonderful mood. I don't think I've seen a happier crowd," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Thomas R. Weschler, co-chairman of the event. But, he added, "The attendance is down ... We aren't anywhere near the numbers that could have happened."

Weschler guessed that forecasts for thunderstorms that

SEE **SHIPS, A9**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / FRIEDA SQUIRES

Stuart Siddons, 22, of Jacksonville, Fla., an intern deckhand on the Virginia, bids farewell to Susan Yarnell, of Elizabethtown, Pa., and her family as they depart the ship yesterday.

Lawsuit alleges DCYF failing state's foster youths

The state's child advocate sues Governor Carcieri seeking an overhaul of the state's child-welfare system.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK and MARK ARSENAULT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

PROVIDENCE — Children in state foster care are being neglected, molested, beaten, burned with cigarettes and, in one high-profile case, killed, according to a sweeping civil rights lawsuit filed in federal court by the state child advocate, backed by a national watchdog group.

Child Advocate Jametta O. Alston is pursuing class-action status on behalf of the 3,000 children now in state custody, aiming for nothing less than an overhaul of Rhode Island's child-welfare system, which the suit portrays as overburdened and mismanaged.

"It's beyond broken," Alston said of the system. "It's demolished. It doesn't work."

Rhode Island was the worst in

the nation in the number of children abused and neglected while in state foster care in five of the six years between 2000 and 2005, according to the suit. "We beat Mississippi and Alabama," Alston said. "Think

about that."

The suit claims state caseworkers are laboring under "excessive caseloads"; the state places too many children in institutions, group homes and emergency shelters; and children are being "reunited" with

SEE **DCYF, B6**

Court limits use of race in school diversity plans

In a ruling that could affect a number of school districts, a divided Supreme Court strikes down integration policies in Louisville, Ky., and Seattle.

BY ROBERT BARNES
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court yesterday restricted the ability of public school districts to use race to determine which schools students can attend, a decision that could sharply limit integration programs across the nation.

Voting 5 to 4, the court, in an opinion by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., invalidated programs in Seattle and metropolitan Louisville, Ky., that sought to maintain school-by-school diversity by limiting transfers on the basis of race or using race as a "tiebreaker" for admission to particular schools.

Educators said the decision may lead many schools to drop efforts at racially balancing schools.

In a dramatic 45 minutes on the final day of the court's term, three justices took turns reading sometimes biting opinions that portrayed the ruling as either the nat-

SEE **COURT, A8**

Senate again blocks immigration bill

Supporters fail for a second time to advance the legislation to a final vote, putting the prospects of majors revisions in immigration policy in doubt for the remainder of President Bush's term.

BY ROBERT PEAR and CARL HULSE
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Bush's effort to overhaul the nation's immigration policy, a cornerstone of his domestic agenda, collapsed yesterday in the Senate, with little prospect that it can be revived before Mr. Bush leaves office in 19 months.

The bill called for the biggest changes to immigration law in more than 20 years, offering legal status to millions of illegal immigrants while trying to secure borders. But the Senate, forming

blocks that ignored party affiliation, could never unite on the major provisions.

Rejecting the president's last-minute pleas, it voted, 53 to 46, to turn back a motion to end debate and move toward final passage. Supporters fell 14 votes short of the 60 needed to close the debate. Rhode Island's senators, Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, voted to end the debate.

Mr. Bush placed telephone calls to lawmakers throughout the morning. But members of his

SEE **SENATE, A9**



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THE THRILL IS GONE

After arriving with great fanfare in 2003, Krispy Kreme announces that its only doughnut shop in Rhode Island will be closing early next month. **F1**

WHERE CATS COME FROM

Your hunch is correct: genetic researchers looking into the origins of today's domestic felines conclude that it was cats that decided to live with humans about 12,000 years ago, not the other way around. **A7**

SHOOTING IN WARWICK

One man is dead and two people are injured in an early morning shooting in the Hoxie neighborhood in Warwick. **B1**



CELTICS DEAL DRAFT PICK

With the fifth pick in the NBA draft, the Boston Celtics select Jeff Green from Georgetown but are expected to trade him, along with Delonte West and Wally Szczerbiak to Seattle for guard Ray Allen, left. **D1**