

**IT'S THE HUMIDITY**

Hazy and humid today with highs in the mid 80s; showers, thunderstorms tonight.

Forecast, F8

# The Providence Journal

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THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

A piping plover chick looks for food along East Beach in Watch Hill, while a parent, below, sits on a nest full of eggs, and a sign warns visitors that the area is a nesting site for plovers and least terns, another shore bird.

## Back from the brink

Once threatened, piping plovers now thrive on R.I. shores

BY PETER B. LORD  
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

WESTERLY — On a rocky beach below a row of Watch Hill mansions, a newborn bird scampers back and forth — a tiny puff of feathers on spindly legs. The bird is so young, it trips and staggers across dimples in the sand.

One of its parents follows a few feet away. As they make their way down the beach, they encounter another adult. An intense, albeit barely perceptible, confrontation of peeps and wing flapping erupts between the two adults before both back off.

Not long ago, it was difficult to find piping plovers in Rhode Island. Numbers of the migratory shore bird were so low, it was declared a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Now the birds have recovered so well, particularly at exclusive locations such as Watch Hill, that they are battling over territory.

A total of 61 pairs of plovers are nesting on Rhode

Island beaches this summer — the highest number in years. Massachusetts is home to about 600 more nesting pairs.

In recent weeks, the bald eagle has been in the news because its numbers have risen so well it is being removed from the endangered species list. Less noticed has been the success story of the plovers. In the North Atlantic region, wildlife experts say they feel the plovers will have recovered when the number of nesting pairs reaches 2,000. It has climbed to about 1,600 pairs so far.

Twenty years ago, the decision to save the birds sparked some of Rhode Island's most intense and emotional battles over its coastline.

SEE PLOVERS, B6

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**Extra:** Do you support the efforts that have helped the plovers survive? To respond, and for more photos, go to [www.projo.com](http://www.projo.com)



## Pope cites 'defects' in other Christian faiths

Benedict XVI releases a document restating the position that the Roman Catholic Church is the only true "church."

BY NICOLE WINFIELD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LORENZAGO DI CADORE, Italy — Pope Benedict XVI reasserted the primacy of the Roman Catholic Church, approving a document released yesterday that says other Christian communities are either defective or not true churches and Catholicism provides the only true path to salvation.

The statement brought swift criticism

from Protestant leaders. "It makes us question whether we are indeed praying together for Christian unity," said the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, a fellowship of 75 million Protestants in more than 100 countries.

"It makes us question the seriousness with which the Roman Catholic Church takes its dialogues with the reformed family and other families of the church," the group said in a letter charging that the document took ecumenical dialogue back to the era before the Second Vatican Council.

It was the second time in a week that Benedict has corrected what he says are erroneous interpretations of the Second Vatican

Council, the 1962-1965 meetings that modernized the church. On Saturday, Benedict revived the old Latin Mass — a move cheered by Catholic traditionalists but criticized by more liberal ones as a step backward from Vatican II.

Among the council's key developments were its ecumenical outreach and the development of the new Mass in the vernacular, which essentially replaced the old Latin Mass.

Benedict, who attended Vatican II as a young theologian, has long complained about what he considers its erroneous inter-

SEE POPE, A7

## An uncertain fate for some in DCYF care

Budget cuts and a change in Rhode Island law put in doubt services provided to those between 18 and .

BY STEVE PEOPLES  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Shantaine Hall has less than a month to find a new home.

And the 20-year-old single mother is not alone.

There are an estimated 600 young adults who may lose state-subsidized housing and other services in the coming weeks as the Department of Children, Youth and Families struggles with a limited budget to help young people raised in state care.

The young adults of Rhode Island's child-welfare system have depended on the state for housing, health care and education. Raised in foster homes, institutions and group homes, state law affords them benefits they do not receive from the families they were taken away from.

But the system as it has existed for nearly three decades is about to change because of the state's new

Case will test DCYF cutoff age

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — In a closely watched test case, the state Department of Children, Youth and Families is running into vehement opposition as it tries to end Family Court's involvement with a 20-year-old resident of a state group home.

For decades, children in state custody have remained under Family Court jurisdiction until they turn 21. But in passing this year's state budget, the General Assembly followed Governor Carcieri's recommendation and lowered that cutoff to age 18.

On Monday, DCYF filed a motion to close a Family Court case involving Kenneth K., a man who was abused and neglected as a child, spent six years in a foster home and now lives in a group home in Providence.

SEE CARE, A7

SEE CASE, A7

## Bush asks Congress to put off deciding on new Iraq policy

The president says it will take until September to determine whether his "surge" strategy is working, but many senators seem reluctant to wait.

BY JEFF ZELENY and SHERYL GAY STOLBERG  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Fearful of a Republican rebellion over Iraq that his own aides believe could force him to change course, President Bush said yesterday that the United States would be able to pull back troops "in a while," but asked Congress to wait until September to pass judgment on a future military presence there.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., freshly back from a trip to Iraq, joined in the call for patience, imploring lawmakers not to "let fatigue dictate our policies." As the Senate began a two-week debate over a major military spending bill,

Three people, including an American, are killed in a mortar attack on the Green Zone in Baghdad. A5

the White House dispatched Cabinet officials and advisers to urge other Republicans to stand by the president.

The administration's message was spelled out in remarks Mr. Bush delivered in Ohio, in which the president signaled more clearly than before that he might be

SEE IRAQ, A5

## Homeland Security chief warns of greater terror risk

Michael Chertoff says there are no signs of an imminent attack, but warns that al-Qaida is "feeling more comfortable."

BY E.A. TORRIERO  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Fearing complacency among the American people over possible terror threats, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said yesterday that the nation faces a heightened chance of an attack this summer.

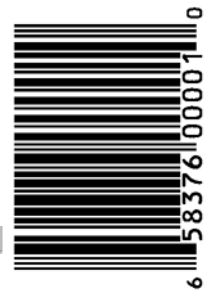
"I believe we are entering a period this summer of increased

risk," Chertoff told the Chicago Tribune's editorial board in an unusually blunt and frank assessment of America's terror threat level.

"Summertime seems to be appealing to them," he said of al-Qaida. "We do worry that they are rebuilding their activities."

Still, Chertoff said there are not enough indications of an imminent plot to raise the current threat levels nationwide. And he indicated that his remarks were based on "a gut feeling" formed by past seasonal patterns of terrorist attacks, recent al-Qaida statements, and intelligence he

SEE CHERTOFF, A7



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**PLAYING POLITICS WITH SCIENCE**

A former U.S. surgeon general says Bush administration officials prevented him from releasing accurate public health information on such issues as stem-cell research and teen pregnancy because of political considerations. A6

**PAIR QUITS MCCAIN CAMPAIGN**

Two top advisers to Sen. John McCain of Arizona announce that they are leaving his presidential campaign in the latest wave of turmoil to sweep over McCain's troubled effort to win the GOP nomination. A2

**CAUSE OF BIG DIG COLLAPSE CITED**

U.S. transportation investigators blame the fatal collapse in Boston's Big Dig tunnel last year on an inadequate ceiling adhesive that was used to secure overhead panels. A2

**AN ALL-STAR LINEUP**



Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants gets to play before a hometown crowd in the All-Star Game but it's Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki's night to shine. C1