

WASHOUT
Mild but rainy and very windy today; clearing overnight.
Forecast, B6

The Providence Journal

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It's invisible and odorless, and without a detector, carbon monoxide can be 'THE SILENT KILLER'



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Three people were found dead in this house at 345 Blackstone St. in Providence Monday. The cause of death was carbon-monoxide poisoning, blamed on the faulty installation of a boiler. State law requires all homes to have carbon-monoxide detectors, but many do not.

The recent deaths of three people prompt safety officials to urge residents to install carbon-monoxide detectors, which sell for about \$25.

BY TOM MOONEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE
State Fire Marshal Frank Sylvestro has been a firefighter and chief for 40 years. In that time he has come to believe carbon-monoxide detectors are even more important in the home than smoke detectors.

"Smoke you can see, you can smell it, you can taste it," he said yesterday. "Carbon monoxide is the silent killer and the only time many people think about it is when something like this happens. Then you think: Wow."

Providence police on Monday found

the bodies of three people in their Blackstone Street home, all of whom succumbed to carbon-monoxide poisoning, the state medical examiner has said. The police say an improperly installed boiler-caused the deadly gas — which displaces oxygen in the bloodstream and causes suffocation — to accumulate in the house rather than be vented outside.

The deaths of the 46-year-old mother, her 14-year-old son and the woman's boyfriend spurred city leaders yesterday to announce a campaign to educate people about the danger of carbon-monoxide poisoning. The threat knows no

SEE **DETECTORS, A7**

Preventing carbon-monoxide poisoning

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install a battery-operated carbon-monoxide detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If the detector sounds, leave your home immediately and call 911.
- Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect carbon-monoxide poisoning and are feeling dizzy, lightheaded or nauseous.
- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement or garage.
- Don't run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Don't use a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- Don't heat your house with a gas oven.

Slowing economy worries Fed chief

Increased unemployment, slowing retail sales and the continued housing crisis may prompt interest rate cuts.

BY PETER GOSSELIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, acknowledging that slumping employment and continued turmoil in financial markets pose mounting threats to the U.S. economy, said yesterday that the central bank may be ready to make "substantive" interest rate cuts to avoid recession.

Bernanke's comments in a speech in Washington suggested that the Fed would slash its key target interest rate by a half-point from its current 4.25 percent when it meets later this month. And it could make further steep interest rate cuts in the months to come.

Such aggressive rate-cutting was precisely what Fed policymakers had appeared unwilling to do last fall. In September, they made a half-point cut, followed by two quarter-point reductions as they

SEE **ECONOMY, A6**

Limit eyed on number of jailed youths

Under the plan, the number of youths held at the state's new Training School could not exceed its capacity of 148, well below its historic population.

BY STEVE PEOPLES
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — The governor's budget office this week ordered the Department of Children, Youth and Families to draft a plan to cap the number of children locked up at the state Training School at 148 — significantly lower than the facility's average census over the last three decades, which hovered around 200.

The proposal, if included in Governor Carcieri's 2008-09 spending plan due out next week, could have sweeping implications.

SEE **LIMIT, A6**

\$1-million bequest seen as bonanza for R.I. Philharmonic

BY CHANNING GRAY
JOURNAL ARTS WRITER

George M. Sage, the Bonanza Bus Co. founder who died a little more than a year ago, has left \$1 million to the Rhode Island Philharmonic, it was announced yesterday. The gift comes as the orchestra is trying to raise millions to build an education center at its home in East Providence.

"He was such a generous man," said David Wax, the orchestra's executive director. "It's more than any of us expected."

Sage's widow, Barbara, said the gift was a "complete surprise" to her. She was unaware of the amount until her late husband's will was read late last year.

Sage, who died while playing his beloved game of tennis in December 2006,

SEE **BEQUEST, A7**

Historic or a hazard? Court asked to decide fate of warehouse

BY DANIEL BARBARISI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The state has gone to court to block developer Carpinato Properties from razing the Providence Fruit and Produce Warehouse, a historic 1929 building behind Providence Place mall.

The Johnston developer bought the property from the state last February, at a substantial markdown from its market value, on the condition that it would not destroy the low-slung, 810-foot-long warehouse on Harris Avenue, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

But preservationists say that a provision protecting the building was not included in the final sale document, for reasons none of the parties involved can explain.

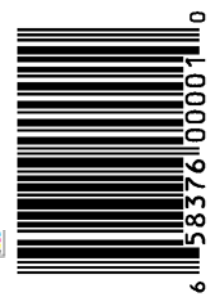
Tuesday, Carpinato sought emergency approval to demolish the structure on the grounds that it is structurally unsound and a public safety hazard, and re-

SEE **WAREHOUSE, A7**



The rundown Providence Fruit and Produce Warehouse, now owned by Carpinato Properties, near the Providence Place mall, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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ANDREW DICKERMAN



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BUSH SEES A MIDEAST SOLUTION

In the clearest terms so far, President Bush provides the outline of a two-state treaty he hopes to broker between Israel and the Palestinians by the end of his term. **A2**

PLAYOFF PREPARATION

The Patriots will be facing a team with talented players on both offense and defense when they line up against the Jacksonville Jaguars tomorrow night at 8 at Gillette Stadium for the divisional playoff. **D1**

PASSAGES: SIR EDMUND HILLARY



The famed New Zealander who was the first person to reach the summit of Mount Everest dies at 88. **A2**