

AT EASE
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Forecast, B6

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THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

100th Anniversary

U.S. Supreme Court chief justice to honor Providence landmark

Romney gets key win in Michigan

It was a much-needed victory for the former Massachusetts governor, who grew up in Michigan, and leaves the Republican presidential field with no clear front-runner.

BY JOHN M. BRODER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who ran as a son of Michigan though he left the state nearly 40 years ago, won the Republican primary here with a message aimed at voters deeply anxious about the state's economy and their own financial prospects.

CAMPAIGN 2008

Promising to revitalize the distressed automobile industry, Romney defeated his principal rival, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, by winning a clear plurality of Republicans and conservatives, who turned out in greater numbers than they had in the 2000 primary, which McCain won.

"Tonight marks the beginning of a comeback," Romney said in declaring victory at a hotel rally in Southfield. "Tonight is a victory of optimism over Washington-style pessimism."

With most precincts reporting, Romney had 39 percent of the vote, McCain had 30 percent and Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Ar-

SEE **CAMPAIGN, A7**

FDA finds cloned milk, meat safe

But producers will be asked to keep cloned cattle, pigs and goats out of the food supply during a transition period to give consumers time to get used to the idea.

BY KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Food and Drug Administration yesterday declared that meat and milk from cloned animals and their offspring is as safe as the natural version, clearing the way for the products to enter the food supply without special labeling.

In releasing their final risk assessment on the safety of cloning technology, the FDA asked producers to continue keeping cloned cattle, pigs and goats out of the food supply during a transition period of unspecified length to give the market time to adjust.

But products from the offspring of clones can be sold to the public immediately, the federal

SEE **FDA, A4**

Making parking a movable feat in Providence

PROVIDENCE — A Florida company is proposing what may soon be the strangest part of the Providence skyline: a pair of 13-story, translucent parking towers that operate like Ferris wheels, loading cars at the ground level and then moving them high up into the structure for storage.

The Weybosset Street project would be the first public parking garage of its kind in the continental United States, said Douglas Dodd, chief operations officer of Mechanical Vertical Parking Inc., the West Palm Beach, Fla., company backing the project.

SEE **PARKING, A6**

A court of appeal

Once slated to be replaced, the Providence Federal Building and Courthouse, on Kennedy Plaza, will now be the scene of a yearlong celebration.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts is scheduled to visit Rhode Island on Feb. 12 to help celebrate the centennial of the federal courthouse in downtown Providence.

The event will mark the first time a sitting Supreme Court chief justice

has come to the state since Charles Evan Hughes was here in 1937, said Senior Circuit Judge Bruce M. Selya, a Rhode Islander who is the liaison for Roberts' visit. Newspaper articles indicate that

Hughes, an 1881 Brown University graduate, came to see his grandson graduate from Brown.

Another chief justice, Warren E. Burger, spoke during the New England Institute of Technology graduation ceremony in 1988, but he was retired at the time.

"As far as I can determine," Selya said, "this will be the first time a sitting chief justice has come to Rhode Island for an official function, at least since the 1790s," when the country's first chief justice, John Jay, was here.

Roberts' visit will highlight a year-long centennial celebration of the five-story gray granite building, which was built between 1904 and 1908 as the Providence Post Office, Court House and Custom House.

"We are cosponsoring a series of events that will bring members of the public into the building so they can

SEE **COURTHOUSE, A7**



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A stained glass ceiling above Ceremonial Courtroom 1 is one of the architectural features of the Providence Federal Building and Courthouse, on Kennedy Plaza, above.

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Gallery: For more photos of this historic courthouse, go to projo.com

Bills would send a message to cell phone-using drivers

One measure would outlaw texting-while-driving by those 18 and younger while a second would prohibit the use of hand-held devices by drivers of all ages.

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

Amid growing reports nationwide of fatal car accidents tied to cell phone use, Rhode Island lawmakers are considering a pair of bills that would ban hand-held mobile telephones and prohibit text messaging while driving.

This is not the first time the General Assembly has looked at legislation

compelling drivers to use hands-free devices. But never before has it extended the proposed ban to include text and instant messaging.

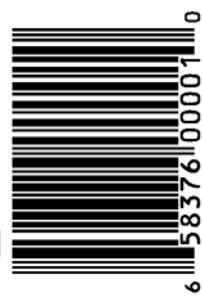
Text messaging, which presumably requires drivers to take their eyes off the road in order to type messages or send e-mails, has been cited as the cause of an accident in Massachusetts that killed a 13-year-old Taunton boy last month. The New Bedford man charged in his death allegedly lost control of his SUV while sending a text message and smashed into the boy as he rode his bike. The driver told the po-

SEE **TEXTING, A6**



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Rep. Joanne Giannini, left, at a House committee hearing yesterday, sponsored a bill that would "make unlawful the use of a non-hands-free mobile telephone and/or text messaging" while driving.



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SAUDIS UNSYMPATHETIC

President Bush's warning that high oil prices could push the U.S. economy into a recession receives a cool reception in oil-rich Saudi Arabia. **A2**

WORRIED BY WIND FARMS

Rep. Patrick Kennedy voices his concerns over Governor Carcieri's proposal to build wind farms in Rhode Island waters between Newport and Block Island. **F1**

TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR BASEBALL



Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig appears before a congressional committee investigating the use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs by players. **C1**