

## Committee approves 24-hour gambling

Proponents say round-the-clock gambling at Twin River and Newport Grand on weekends and on nights before holidays would boost revenue for the state.

BY KATHERINE GREGG  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — As concerns mount about the financial health of Rhode Island's largest slot parlor, a Senate committee yesterday approved legislation to allow 24-hour gambling at Twin River and Newport Grand on weekends and the overnight hours before state and federal holidays that fall on a Monday.

The Native American tribe planning to build a casino in Massachusetts says the company behind Twin River remains the lead investor behind the project. **F1**

A key House committee has scheduled a hearing — and potential vote — on its version of the bill today.

This first step toward round-the-clock gambling won the unanimous endorsement of the Senate Constitutional and Regulatory Issues Committee after Senate Fiscal Advisor Russell Dannecker told the lawmakers, struggling to get a massive budget deficit under

SEE **GAMBLING, A8**

## Barrington teen sentenced over crash

The 17-year-old is to serve six months in the Training School for fleeing authorities while driving impaired and crashing his car, pinning a pedestrian underneath.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — A Barrington teenager was sentenced yesterday to six months in the state Training School for driving while impaired, fleeing authorities at Colt State Park and then slamming into a wall, pinning a pedestrian beneath his car.

The 17-year-old Barrington High School student must perform 200 hours of community service, write a letter of apology to the victim and undergo alcohol counseling. Also, he cannot have a driver's license until he's 21, and was required to tell the police who provided him with the alcohol.

"You know, I really don't understand," Family Court Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah Jr. said

SEE **DRIVER, A5**

## 3 more companies offer settlements in Station fire case

BY TRACY BRETON  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Three more parties sued by victims of the Station nightclub fire have offered tentative settlements in the civil cases now pending in U.S. District Court.

JBL Incorporated, formerly known as James B. Lansing Sound doing business as JBL Professional, which allegedly manufactured amplifiers and speakers used in the nightclub the night of the deadly fire on Feb. 20, 2003, has offered to settle for \$815,000.

The lawsuits filed by the fire victims allege that the speakers and amplifiers contained highly flammable foam and "were a proximate cause of the personal injuries and/or deaths of the decedents in

SEE **STATION, A7**



### THE BUDGET BATTLE

## Two views on dealing with deficit



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

While local business leaders, top, listen to Governor Carcieri express his opposition to proposals intended to boost tax revenue in order to deal with the looming state budget deficit, those opposed to cutting back on social program like the Head Start program in order to close the fiscal gap rally in the State House rotunda, above.

BY STEVE PEOPLES  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — The advocates flooded the State House hallways, staircases and committee rooms yesterday, fighting on the same afternoon for competing priorities as lawmakers decide how to close the largest state budget deficit in nearly two decades.

The army of protesters included poor children, business leaders, advocates for the homeless and taxpayer groups. At one point there were three rallies running simultaneously and two groups

"All they're doing is taxing just about everything that moves."

GOVERNOR CARCIERI

jockeyed for use of the microphone and podium in the State House rotunda.

Most were drawn to Smith Hill yesterday by a sweeping tax proposal introduced by Rep. Arthur Handy, D-Cranston, that leaders of his own

party did not support. But the battle that played out in the capital building's marble halls was bigger than one lawmaker's tax plan.

The General Assembly must decide a key question in the coming months: Should government raise taxes to help close the \$384-million budget hole or rely solely on cutting government spending?

Close to 140 witnesses signed up to testify on Handy's bill during a House Finance Committee

SEE **BUDGET, A9**

# Pushed to the limit

*fifth of eight parts*

STORY BY RICHARD SALIT  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRIEDA SQUIRES  
THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Officer Candidate School (OCS) recently returned to Naval Station Newport.

Those who complete the rigorous 12-week program become commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy. But not all are successful. Reporter Richard Salit and photographer Frieda Squires followed five candidates — Adam Cole, Sarah Engemann, Matthew Gottschalk, Nicole Lobecker and Jason Moehlmann — who joined Class 05-08 last fall.



### Even a lint speck can derail dreams of being an officer

Like storm clouds gathering on the horizon, the RLP looms for the new students at Officer Candidate School.

In two weeks, Marine drill instructors will march into their rooms and inspect everything from their beds to their toiletry bags to what they are wearing, all while making them shout and do grueling exercises. Navy officers will grill them on their knowledge.

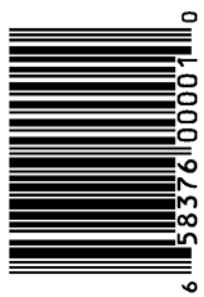
The RLP — Room, Locker, Personnel — inspection won't be anything like when their parents used to pester them to tidy their rooms and comb their hair. And failing will derail their dreams of becoming naval officers.

It's early evening on his 12th day at OCS and Adam Cole is in his room getting ready. He's studying Navy doctrine and stamping his clothes with his name.

"We have to be really focused and not buckle under the pressure," he says. When Navy officers conducted a mock inspection a week ago,

Officer Candidate Ike Candalaria holds an empty hanger as Marine Gunnery Sgt. Sandra Center shouts, "You Failed!" Candalaria had lost a pair of khaki pants.

SEE **INSPECTION, A11**



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### PROVIDENCE LOSES CASE

More than 100 police officers and firefighters are awarded \$500,000 after winning their federal suit against Providence over the installation of a secret recording system at the city's new public safety headquarters. **B1**

### JUST FOR LAUGHS

Something funny's going on at the R.I. Comedy Festival in Woonsocket this weekend. **E1**

### SOX SAY SAYONARA

A struggling Jon Lester gives up four runs in four innings as the Sox fall to the Oakland A's, 5-1, before departing Japan for Los Angeles, where they'll play three exhibition games before resuming the regular season. **C1**



### PASSAGES RICHARD WIDMARK

Richard Widmark, who made an indelible screen debut in 1947 as a giggling sadistic killer and later brought a sense of urban cynicism and unpredictability to his roles as a leading man, dies at 92. **A4**