

**MORE LIKE IT**  
Sunny and spring-like today, with highs in the 60s; increasing clouds tonight.  
**Forecast, B6**

# The Providence Journal

**WEDNESDAY**  
APRIL 9, 2008

**75¢**  
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

projo.com

## Study finds gap growing in R.I. between haves and have-nots

"We need to bring up the bottom," says the policy director for The Poverty Institute. "That's where the real problem is in the Rhode Island economy."

**BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Over the past two decades, the gap between the richest and poorest families increased more in Rhode Island than in any other state except Connecticut, according to a national study that is being released this morning.

Leaders of The Poverty Institute at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work hope the report will help guide state officials grappling with a projected \$384-million budget deficit in the coming fiscal year. They say it highlights the need to avoid cutting government programs aimed at keeping people in the work force.

**Extra:** To read the report, Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)

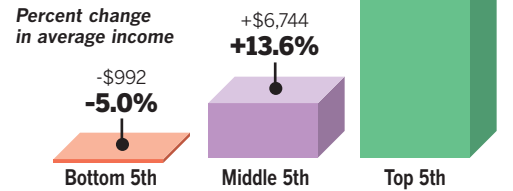
"We need to bring up the bottom," said Linda Katz, policy director for The Poverty Institute. "That's where the real problem is in the Rhode Island economy. The report sends the message that programs that help people remain in the work force, like medical assistance and child-care support, are becoming more vital as the economy hits a recession."

The study, "Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends," was conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonprofit research organization, and the Economic Policy Institute, a nonprofit think tank. Both organizations are based in Washington, D.C., and receive much of their money from foundations. The center was founded in 1981 to analyze federal budget priorities "with particular emphasis on the impact of various budget choices on low-income Americans." The institute was founded in 1986 "to broaden the discussion of economic policy to include the interests of low- and moderate-income workers."

The study found that from the late 1980s through the mid-2000s, Rhode Island ranked second in the growth of the gap between the richest 20 percent of

### THE RICH GOT RICHER

The gap in average incomes of Rhode Island's richest and poorest residents widened in the last 20 years.



SOURCES: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GEORGE SYLVIA

SEE **INCOME, A9**



## Rites of passage



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH, above and top center; GRETCHEN ERTL, top left and top right

Above, Boston Red Sox pitcher Jonathan Papelbon acknowledges the Opening Day crowd. At top left, Shirley Picard, of North Smithfield, left, and Lori Boothe, of Attleboro, Mass., are ready for Opening Day. Top center, former Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner acknowledges a standing ovation before throwing out the first pitch. Top right, with his paws and eyebrows dyed red for the occasion, Max the beagle, owned by Jane Azzinaro McNeace, of Westerly, stands outside Fenway. Complete game coverage in Sports, C1.

The Boston Red Sox bring a lot of pomp and style — and a win — to their 97th home opener.

**BY SCOTT MACKAY**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

BOSTON — The baseball fans of New England exorcised a 20th-century ghost and the Boston Red Sox, the defending World Series champions, did the rest yesterday, winning their home opener with a 5-0 shutout of the Detroit Tigers before the usual sellout crowd at sun-splashed Fenway Park.

Known as baseball's laughable losers, the

team that went 86 years without winning a championship in the 20th century, the Red Sox are the envy of baseball in the 21st, having won two World Series in the new century — two more, of course, than a certain American League team that calls Bronx, N.Y., home.

As is always the case in the year following a World Series victory, the pregame festivities were florid and lengthy. The Sox rolled out all of the pomp — flyovers by F-16 fighter planes, hoisting the championship banner up the flagpole, presenting players with World Series rings — and saved the emotion for the end. Minutes before the game was to start, Bill

Buckner, goat of the 1986 Red Sox World Series collapse, walked to the pitcher's mound to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. He was greeted with thunderous applause from all parts of the stadium.

A standout hitter known for one costly error, the mere mention of Buckner's name was forbidden among Sox fans for 18 years — until the 2004 championship wiped away the legacy of losing. A second championship last year has transformed New Englanders from fans who believed nothing good would ever

SEE **RED SOX, A6**

### The Immigration Issue

## DCYF director issues apology

One day after criticizing the governor's executive order on illegal immigrants, Patricia Martinez calls the directive a "step in the right direction."

**BY STEVE PEOPLES**  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — A member of Governor Carcieri's Cabinet apologized yesterday for raising concerns that the governor's effort to curb illegal immigration has caused hatred and widespread fear across the state.

"The executive order is the first step in the right direction toward immigration reform," said Department of Children, Youth and Families Director Patricia Martinez, a day after saying that Carcieri's recent order, like several bills proposed by the legislature, "is really slamming immigrants" by promoting racial profiling.

Martinez, a former leader of the Hispanic advocacy organization Progreso Latino, met with the governor yesterday afternoon behind closed doors for roughly 45 min-

SEE **DCYF, A9**

## Missing group home resident finally found

Joseph Bardsley Jr. was found by police officers after wandering away from his attendant after a shopping trip to Providence.

**BY GREGORY SMITH**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SMITHFIELD — An attendant at a group home for the disabled lost track of a 50-year-old male resident with severe Down syndrome, and the man apparently wandered off and spent a cold night in the woods Monday and yesterday, law enforcement authorities said.

Joseph Bardsley Jr., who relatives described as a gentle soul who can barely speak and has little stamina, suffered hypothermia and dehydration and was admitted in critical condition to Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, in North Providence, after he was found lying on the ground by two policemen riding a two-seat all-terrain vehicle, according to the authorities and his older sister, Alicia Coogan of Smithfield.

"Smithfield saved Joey's life," said Providence police Maj. Paul C. Fitzgerald. "Joey would have had a hard time lasting another night" out in the

SEE **MISSING, A6**

projo.com

**Extra:** For galleries from the home opener, Art Martone's Baseball Today column, Sean McAdam's daily audio feature and pregame blog reports tonight from Fenway Park, go to [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)



### INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829  
7 SECTIONS

Ask Army	E10	Local News	D1
Bridge	E10	Lotteries	C5
Business	F1	Obituaries	D4
Classified	F6	People	E7
Comics	E11	projoCars	G1
Crossword	E10	Rhode Island	B1
Editorial	B4	Sports	C1
Food	E1	Television	E6
Legal ads	F7	What's Happening	E10
Lifeline	E4		

### WRONGFUL DEATH CONVICTION APPEALED

A lawyer for David Swain asks the Rhode Island Supreme Court to overturn a civil-suit conviction that was instrumental in convincing authorities on the Caribbean island of Tortola to extradite the former Jamestown Town Council member to face a murder charge. **B1**

### EXPECTING THE WORST

With the Olympic torch hidden away at a secret location, San Francisco girds itself for mass protests similar to those in London and Paris that disrupted what was to have been a celebration of the Summer Games to be held in Beijing. **A6**

### REPEAT FOR LADY VOLS

The University of Tennessee claims its second straight women's basketball championship, beating Stanford, 64-48. **C3**

### THE WAR IN IRAQ



Appearing before two Senate committees, Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, left, and Ambassador Ryan Crocker testify that while progress is being made, more than 130,000 U.S. troops will still be needed in Iraq after the current withdrawals are completed in July. **A4**