

DREARY
Increasing clouds today with showers arriving this afternoon; showers tonight.
Forecast, F8

The Providence Journal

FRIDAY
MAY 16, 2008
75¢
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

projo.com

498

Red Sox slugger Manny Ramirez 2 homers shy of baseball milestone

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Manny Ramirez hit his first two major-league home runs on Sept. 3, 1993, at Yankee Stadium.

He was a 21-year-old prospect in the Cleveland Indians' organization and was a September call-up when he made former Yankees pitchers Melido Perez and Paul Gibson his first two victims on that day in the Bronx, which just happens to be Ramirez's hometown.

Now, the soon-to-be 36-year-old (May 30) slugger for the Boston Red Sox is just two home runs away from 500. He will soon reach that milestone, and when his career is over his last home run will probably be off some kid who is pitching in a high school game somewhere today.

It's been an interesting ride for Ramirez during this Hall of Fame-caliber career. Until just recently he has shielded the outside world — at least outside of baseball — from getting to know

SEE **MANNY, A6**



WHERE MANNY STANDS

ALL-TIME HOME-RUN LIST

1. Barry Bonds 762
2. Hank Aaron 755
3. Babe Ruth 714
4. Willie Mays 660
- 24. Manny Ramirez 498**

ACTIVE PLAYERS' HOME-RUN LIST

1. Ken Griffey Jr. 597
2. Alex Rodriguez 522
3. Frank Thomas 516
4. Jim Thome 514
- 5. Manny Ramirez 498**

ALL-TIME RED SOX HOME-RUN LIST

1. Ted Williams 521
 2. Carl Yastrzemski 452
 3. Jim Rice 382
 4. Dwight Evans * 379
 - 5. Manny Ramirez * 262**
- * home runs hit as a member of the Red Sox

WEEKEND WATCH
MILWAUKEE at BOSTON
Today: 7:05 p.m.
Tomorrow: 3:55 p.m.
Sunday: 1:35 p.m.

OPERATION DOLLAR BILL

CVS listed Celona's pay as political contribution

The two former CVS executives on trial for bribery have contended that the former state senator was hired for community relations.

BY MIKE STANTON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — For more than an hour yesterday, the defense in the CVS corruption trial tried to show that former Rhode Island Sen. John Celona was hired for his public-relations value to CVS — promoting the drugstore chain's charitable endeavors through his cable-access television show.

Then, federal prosecutors produced CVS records documenting Celona's \$1,000-a-month consulting payments from the nation's biggest drugstore chain — payments that were made from CVS' "Political Contributions" account and approved by CVS' head of government affairs.

Records from 2001 showed

SEE **CVS, A9**

THE WITNESSES

MARY JANE McCUSKER, administrative aide to former CVS executive John R. "Jack" Kramer, spent about three hours testifying about her boss' meetings with Celona and other politicians in 2001, 2002 and 2003. More than a dozen exhibits detailing Kramer's meeting with various dignitaries were presented as evidence. McCusker concluded her testimony yesterday.

BETTY BIBEAL, a longtime CVS employee and former administrative assistant to former CVS executive Carlos Ortiz, spent the final 45 minutes of the day on the witness stand. She is scheduled to return at 9 a.m. tomorrow and resume testifying.

Court hears appeal of lead-paint ruling

State Supreme Court justices seem skeptical of the legal theories involved in the landmark case.

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

PROVIDENCE — If there has ever been a bigger civil case in Rhode Island than the state's lead-paint lawsuit, no one seems aware of it. Three paint companies could be forced to spend \$2.4 billion renovating virtually every older house in Rhode Island — 240,000 or more.

And unless the case is overturned, the three defendants would surely face more lawsuits across the country and the possibility of losing billions of dollars more.

Fittingly, the Rhode Island Supreme Court yesterday set aside nearly four hours to hear

arguments from 13 lawyers on the companies' appeals of a 2006 jury verdict that found they created a public nuisance by selling the lead-pigment paints in the first half of the last century that continue poisoning children today.

The four justices who heard the appeals frequently commented on the scale of the case. And they also seemed skeptical of the legal theories endorsed by Superior Court Judge Michael Silverstein as he presided over eight years of litigation and two

SEE **LEAD, A9**

House OKs expungement of some criminal records

The bill would eliminate records of cases in which the accused received a deferred sentence.

BY KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Advocates for convicted criminals scored a victory on Smith Hill yesterday.

Despite objections from the attorney general, the state police and the governor, the House voted 46 to 17 for a bill to quash and destroy the records of criminal cases in which the accused was

given a deferred sentence, usually in exchange for sparing the state a trial by pleading no contest or guilty to a crime.

The bill, which is now headed to the Senate, calls for the automatic destruction of all such records at the end of the deferral period — which usually runs five years, regardless of how serious the crime or the criminal history of the offender as long as he or she stayed out of trouble in the interim.

The bill sailed through the

SEE **RECORDS, A6**

BILL RELAXES LIMITS ON OLDER R.I. DRIVERS

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

CRANSTON — By midmorning yesterday, the parking lot at the Cranston Senior Center was jammed.

The elderly drivers who maneuvered into tight spots were proud to say that they still drive themselves there each day, despite being in their 70s or even their 80s.

But how old is too old to get behind the wheel?

With the baby boomers headed down the road to retirement and the country's population growing steadily grayer, a variety of states have proposed legislation restricting elderly drivers.

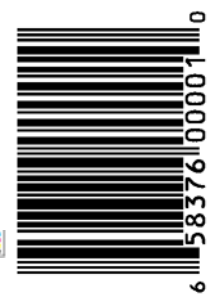
Here in Rhode Island, where limitations on older drivers are among the toughest in the nation, the opposite is

SEE **DRIVERS, A9**



At the Cranston Senior Center, Frances Rochefort, 70, talks about the pros and cons of a proposal that would require motorists at age 75 to renew their license every two years, rather than five. Currently, two-year licenses begin at age 70.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
KATHY BORCHERS



INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829
6 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	E8	Local News	C1
Bridge	E8	Lotteries	D3
Business	F1	Obituaries	C4
Classified	F9	People	E1
Comics	E4	Rhode Island	B1
Crossword	E8	Sports	D1
Editorial	B4	Television	E7
Legal ads	B3	What's Happening	E8
Lifbeat			
Movies	E1		

CALIF. COURT ALLOWS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



The California Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples should be permitted to marry, sparking an immediate effort by opponents of the ruling to seek an amendment to the state's Constitution banning gay marriages. **A2**

R.I. LOSING JOBS

Figures being released today show that Rhode Island last month shed 700 jobs, bringing the total number of jobs lost so far this year to 6,300 and putting the state's payroll employment at its lowest level since June 2003. **F1**

CHINA LOOKS FOR HELP

With the death toll from this week's earthquake climbing, China reaches out to other nations, asking for donations of heavy equipment needed for rescue operations and accepting relief missions from neighbors it has long treated as rivals or renegades. **A2**