

## IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION: WHY IT FAILED



"It was being blocked by the leadership and that shouldn't happen ... They should have let it go to the floor and let the members vote."

**GOVERNOR CARCIERI**



"There was no time left in the session to put it through the paces a second time in committee."

**JOSEPH MONTALBANO**  
Senate president

# A question of timing



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / CONNIE GROSCH

Senators Juan Pichardo, D-Providence, left, an opponent of the governor's effort to crack down on illegal immigrants, and Marc Cote, D-Woonsocket, a sponsor of the E-Verify bill, attend a Labor Committee hearing last month.

## Senate leaders call E-Verify bill unconstitutional; House, governor disagree

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE

The frenzied immigration debate that has engulfed Rhode Island politics and produced more legislative bills here than in almost any other state, ended with a thud over the weekend when a final proposal to crack down on illegal immigration collapsed in the waning hours of the 2008 Assembly session.

A controversial "E-Verify" bill requiring private employers to check the immigration status of new hires passed the House in April for the second year in a row before sputtering out in the Senate amid concerns about its constitutionality.

Finger-pointing was in high gear yesterday as bill sponsors and Governor Carcieri blamed the Senate leadership for thwarting the proposal and the governor sought to make connections between the need for such legislation and the reduction of violent crimes like the alleged kidnapping and

rape by an undocumented immigrant two weeks ago. Of the E-Verify bill, the governor said: "It was being blocked by the leadership and that shouldn't happen. ... They should have let it go to the floor and let the members vote."

But Senate President Joseph A. Montalbano said, "The bill was unconstitutional, as drafted, in the opinion of the Senate lawyers and therefore it did not pass."

Montalbano's concerns and those of Majority Leader M. Teresa Paiva Weed came out of a federal court ruling in Oklahoma, where this month a judge blocked enforcement of a similar law on the grounds that state governments don't have free reign to enact their own immigration policies. A similar legal challenge in Arizona survived, though judges in both states ruled that the government could not impose monetary fines for violators. An

SEE FAILED, A4

# Iraq reports cite progress, danger ahead

Two reports point to improvements in security but warn that political and economic progress have not kept pace.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The military buildup in Iraq that began last January is about to end.

But as the last of the five additional combat brigades prepares to head home next month, it appears that Iraq, while somewhat safer, is still not ready to stand alone.

That's the conclusion reached in two reports, released by the General Accountability Office and the Pentagon yesterday. Both cited significant security progress over the past year. But both also cautioned that the country remains unstable and volatile.

The quarterly Iraq progress report issued by the Pentagon warned that Iran and Syria continue to provide safe havens for terrorists, and allow them to travel across the borders into Iraq. It also repeated concerns that Iran's Quds Force, an elite unit of its Revolutionary Guards, continues to

supply both weapons and training for militants in Iraq.

The Pentagon also sounded a pessimistic tone regarding the Iraqi government, noting that it is still struggling to enact a budget and finance critically important reconstruction projects.

The government, it said, "lacks the ability to execute programs on the scale required," and economic improvements remain "fragile, reversible and uneven," the Pentagon concluded.

The GAO's report largely concurred with the Pentagon's conclusions, finding that the government in Baghdad "has not followed through on commitments to spend more money on its own reconstruction.

"Low spending rates for the critical oil, electricity and water sectors are problematic since U.S. investments have ended and increased production goals for these sectors have not been met," the GAO said.

The GAO report cited data from Iraq's Ministry of Finance indicating that, between 2005 and 2007, Iraq spent only 24 percent of \$27

SEE IRAQ, A5

# Reed among those pressing for passage of mortgage relief

The Rhode Island Democrat fashioned the financing package that won over some of his Republican colleagues to the bill that still may face a presidential veto.

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN  
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — When Sen. Jack Reed went to Public Street in South Providence last fall to celebrate the rescue of 17 low-cost rental housing units from foreclosure, fears were voiced that this bright spot in the city could be overshadowed by the spread of a nationwide housing crash that

was putting hundreds of thousands of home loans under water.

Since then, the managers of the Villita Apartments have indeed felt the effects of the foreclosure contagion, on Public Street and elsewhere in the neighborhood, said Alma Felix Green of the Women's Development Corporation, which worked with Reed last fall to prevent foreclosure on the complex subsidized by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Our units are not in peril, but what we have around here is a lot

SEE HOUSING, A4

# TEEN HOPING TO FIND HER VOICE IN IRELAND

Cranston's Hannah Devine is off to Ireland in a search of musical inspiration and, perhaps, stardom.

BY DAVID SCHARFENBERG  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CRANSTON — For Hannah Devine, aspiring rock star, music was a birthright.

Her parents played Irish music for her as she lay in the crib.

At six weeks, she attended a Sinéad O'Connor concert with her mother, Sorrel.

And her father, Jimmy, brought more than a fiddle when he joined in local Irish music sessions.

"I was under the table at the sessions, in a basket," she said, in a recent interview.

Now Devine, 17, a singer-songwriter who has generated some local buzz of late, is off to Ireland in a search for musical inspiration and, she hopes, a little stardom.

"She's promised to buy me my Mini Cooper" when she hits it big, said Sorrel, 56.

Devine, who plays jazz-inflected pop songs, has

SEE DEVINE, A4



COURTESY OF HANNAH DEVINE

Hannah Devine, 17, is pursuing her dreams of rock stardom in Ireland. "If I can come back with a little fame, that would be nice," she says.

# Report on Bay's health has high and low points

Menhaden stocks are way up, but bottom fish such as winter flounder are falling off, and the Bay's temperature has risen.

BY PETER B. LORD  
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

JAMESTOWN — Remember last summer when there were so many menhaden in Narragansett Bay that out-of-state purse seine boats showed up and politicians were arguing over who should be allowed to catch the fish?

Remember last fall, when vast schools of menhaden filled the rivers downtown, slowly gliding back and forth?

Yesterday, there were twice as many menhaden in the Bay than on the same day last year, according to state fisheries biologists. They estimated that some 24 million menhaden were swirling around the Bay.

"It is amazing. It's truly fantastic," said state Rep. Raymond E. Gallison Jr., D-Bristol, who placed himself in the midst of a menhaden controversy last year by sponsoring a bill that would have blocked a commercial fisherman from netting the fish for sale as bait to lobstermen.

This year, there seem to be enough menhaden for everyone.

SEE BAY, B6



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## IMPRESSIVE START OF CVS CLASSIC

Bubba Watson birdies the first three holes and, along with his partner, Camilo Villegas, finishes with a 10-under par 61 and the first-round lead in the CVS Caremark Charity Classic. **C1**



## PASSAGES GEORGE CARLIN

The stand-up comic who gave voice to an indignant counterculture and battled censorship with his Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television dies at 71. **F1**

## LANGEVIN TO SEEK REELECTION



Rep. James R. Langevin announces that he will seek a fifth term as representative of Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District. **B1**