



SWEAT IT OUT
Increased humidity today until a cold front brings showers this evening.
Forecast, **E16**

The Providence Journal

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Case of illegal immigrant fires political feud

The arrest of Marco Riz on kidnapping and rape charges and Providence police's relationship with federal immigration officials sets off an exchange between Governor Carcieri and Mayor David N. Cicilline.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
and W. ZACHARY MALINOWSKI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

PROVIDENCE — Here in the smallest state, one of the nation's biggest issues drew two top elected leaders into a personal, politically charged debate about illegal immigration this week.

The exchange, between Republican Governor Carcieri and Democratic Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline, was prompted by the arrest of Marco Riz, an illegal immigrant from Guatemala who has been living in Providence. Riz, 26, is charged with kidnapping a 30-year-old woman on June 8 outside a Warwick supermarket and raping her in Roger Williams Park in Providence.

A federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman criticized the Providence po-

lice for not checking on Riz's immigration status when they arrested him twice last year. But the Providence police said they notified the local ICE office about Riz's arrests and the federal agency never took the action needed to ship him back to Guatemala.

Carcieri entered the fray Monday. In a news release, the governor "decried the City of Providence's continued refusal to work with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials to prevent illegal immigrants from committing reprehensible crimes against Rhode Island citizens."

The governor, who cannot seek a third term, called the Riz



CICILLINE



CARCIERI

SEE **ARREST, A9**



Child's killer gets life without parole



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

Joshua Davis is led into the courtroom yesterday for his sentencing for molesting and killing his 8-year-old neighbor in Woonsocket, Savannah Smith. The victim's father says, "This is justice. It keeps a killer off the streets."

Judge says Joshua Davis, who pleaded guilty to molesting, then killing Savannah Smith, 8, cannot be rehabilitated

BY PHILIP MARCELO
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

While in prison awaiting trial on charges that he raped and killed an 8-year-old girl, Joshua Davis penned a letter in which he described catching a mermaid and taking her for a cruise in his boat. "I decided I couldn't let her leave, because if she swam back, the sharks would be looking for me," he wrote, "so I enjoyed my catch."

Assistant Attorney General Bethany Macktaz said yesterday that Davis was really talking about the warm spring day in 2006 when he took Savannah Smith for a ride in his red convertible from her Woonsocket neighborhood to a wooded area in Cranston where he molested her and then strangled her, leaving her bruised body under a tree.

SEE **LIFE, A9**



Lisa Smith, center, in green skirt, David Smith behind her and other relatives of Savannah Smith listen to the details of Savannah's murder in Superior Court, Providence, yesterday.

Ex-Lincoln official now charged in attack

Robert R. Picerno, a former member of the Planning Board, is accused of hiring two men to assault a member of the Town Council in 2001.

BY JOHN HILL
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Convicted bribery conspirator Robert R. Picerno was arrested yesterday morning and charged with hiring two men to attack then-Town Council member Dean L. Lees Jr. in 2001.

Picerno, 61, was arrested at his North Providence home and arraigned in District Court on one count of threatening a public official and one count of conspi-

racy in the Jan. 4, 2001, attack on Lees. He was released on \$25,000 personal recognizance bond, according to the state police. He faces potential maximum sentences of five years in jail on the threatening charge and 10 years on the conspiracy count.

Lees, who has been off the Town Council for four years, said he was gratified to hear

SEE **PICERNO, A7**

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Extra: Read the affidavit in support of Picerno's arrest on projo.com

projo.com

Gallery: See more photos from the sentencing of Joshua Davis on projo.com

The times aren't a-changin' in Providence

BY RICHARD C. DUJARDIN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE So you're running late and wonder if you still have enough time to catch the next train out of Providence Station.

You glance at one of the four clocks shining down from the station tower only to discover that the clocks are of no use. Depending on which side of the building you are looking at, it's either 7 o'clock, noon or midnight, guaranteed to be the same when you return.

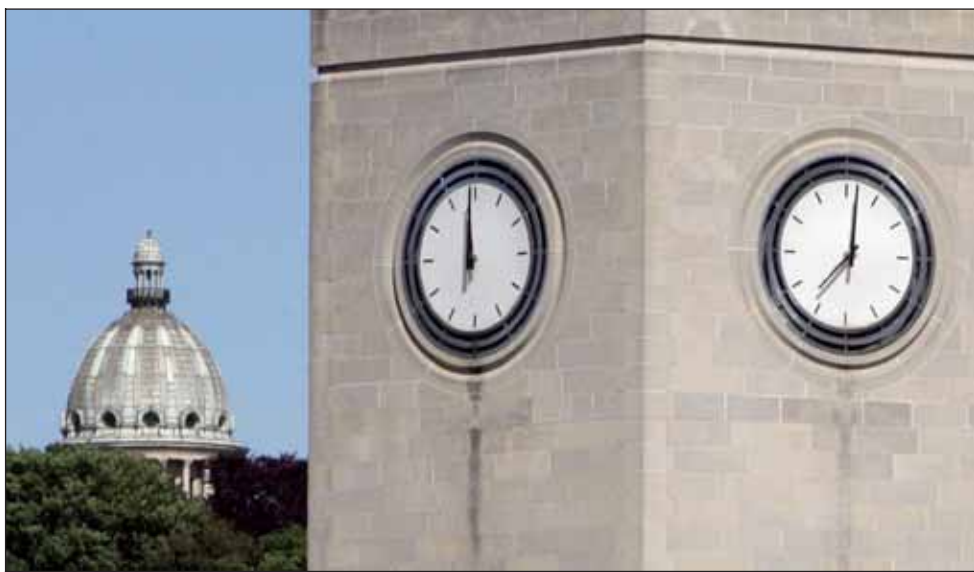
Welcome to a city where it may seem time is standing still.

Consider: At the First Baptist Church in America on North Main Street, passersby are informed, always, that it is 9:05. At the Cathedral of St. John up the street, the clocks are frozen at 3:50.

SEE **CLOCKS, B2**

projo.com

Gallery: For more photos of clocks around Providence, go to projo.com



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

The clocks on the Amtrak station tower are not working, just like many other clocks that can be seen in the downtown area. For the most part, tight budgets are blamed.

Board revokes pension of ex-Providence police chief

BY GREGORY SMITH
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — In a reverberation of the scandal that brought down former Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr., the city Retirement Board yesterday decided to strip former Police Chief Urbano Prignano Jr. of his pension for having rendered dishonorable service.

Prignano has admitted, and expressed his shame and regret for having helped, when he was chief, police officers cheat on their promotional examinations in order to win higher ranks.

The board now heads to Superior Court, where it will file suit to implement its decision. In the meantime, Prignano will continue to collect his \$66,560-a-year pension.

Although they had been invited to participate in a pension-revocation hearing to be held yesterday, neither Prignano nor his lawyers were present for the board meeting at City Hall. Prignano and his lawyers could not be reached for comment later.

SEE **PENSION, B6**

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Your turn: Do you agree with the decision to revoke Prignano's pension? To respond, go to projo.com



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The Providence Journal SUMMERTIME FUND™



A total of \$4,156 was donated last week. See the latest donations **B3**.

JOBLESS BENEFITS EXTENDED

With Rhode Island's jobless rate averaging 6.5 percent over the past three months, the state, starting next month, is extending unemployment benefits by 13 weeks to an estimated 8,000 to 10,800 unemployed. **F1**

DEATH PENALTY RESTRICTED

The Supreme Court rules that it is unconstitutional to execute someone convicted of raping a child, saying the death penalty may not be imposed "when a victim's life is not taken," except in the case of treason or espionage. **A2**

HUSBAND GUILTY OF MURDER



Neil Entwistle, who fled to England after his wife and nine-month-old daughter were shot to death in their Hopkinton, Mass., home, is convicted of first-degree murder. **A2**