

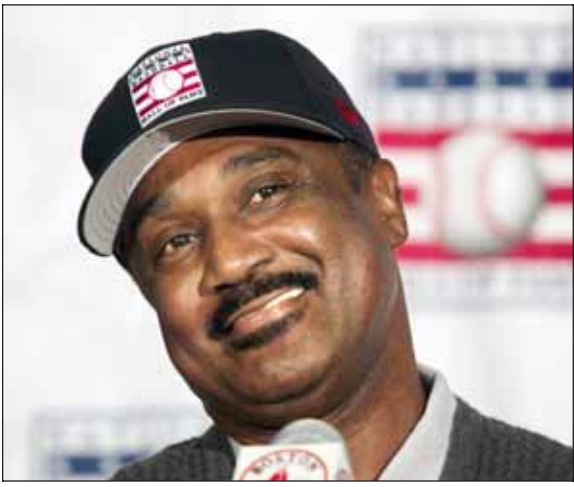
CLOUDING UP
Partly cloudy today with highs in the upper 30s; rain or snow showers tonight.
Forecast, B8

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AP / STEVEN SENNE

After 14 years of disappointment, former Red Sox slugger Jim Rice yesterday savors his selection into baseball's Hall of Fame.

For Rice, deserved respect arrives at last

In the summer of 1988, I made a pilgrimage to Anderson, S.C., the small sleepy town near Clemson University where Jim Rice grew up.

BILL REYNOLDS

The point of the visit was to try to figure out the enduring mystery of Jim Rice, the man who had become the least-known superstar ever to play in Boston.

He was in his 14th season at the time, in the twilight of his great career, and in many ways we knew as little about him then as we did when he first had come to Red Sox in 1975, the year he and fellow rookie Fred Lynn burst across the baseball world like some supernova across the nighttime sky.

All this came rushing back at me yesterday

afternoon upon hearing the news that Rice has been named to the Baseball Hall of Fame, the culmination of a baseball journey that began in the South Carolina of his childhood, light years from the bright lights of the biggest baseball stadiums in the country.

I thought of the small town in the summer heat, with its main street full of stores whose glory days seemed all in the past.

The Jim Ed Rice Center, an old elementary school that had been turned into a youth center, complete with a large picture of Rice in his Red Sox uniform, the center field bleachers of Fenway Park behind him, his large Afro sticking out from under a red hat.

The woman writing a letter to Rice asking him to stop into the center sometime, that the



EXTRA: Watch Rhode Island baseball fans comment on Jim Rice's selection into the Hall of Fame at projo.com; and learn more about his career with the Red Sox and Rice's reaction inside on D1.

kids see his picture but they don't know him.

All of it. For this is a journey that had its roots in the segregated South, to the point that Rice had

SEE **RICE, A5**

ALL IN THE DETAILS

Unless the General Assembly acts by Thursday, an agreement between Rhode Island and the federal government giving the state unprecedented authority over how it operates its Medicaid program will go into effect. But many still wonder how the deal will affect them.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / CONNIE GROSCH

Gary Alexander, director of the Department of Human Services, left, listens yesterday to testimony at the global Medicaid waiver hearing before the House Finance Committee. At right is Elena Nicolella, health care financing consultant for DHS; center background is Corinne Calisse Russo, director of the Department of Elderly Affairs.

Doubts remain over impact of 'the global Medicaid waiver'

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — When the Carcieri administration announced plans to overhaul Rhode Island's Medicaid system, Brenda Myette vowed to learn all she could about the proposal.

Myette's 38-year-old son, Edward, has Down syndrome, making him one of 180,000 Rhode Islanders eligible for the government health services program. He's lived with Myette and her husband his whole life, but as the Cranston couple settle into their 70s they know the time



YOUR TURN: Tell us what you think of the Medicaid waiver program at projo.com

will come when Edward must live elsewhere, with help from the Medicaid system.

Getting informed about her son's options is critical, Myette said.

A year later, despite attending every information session offered, Myette still has

questions about what the administration's deal with the federal government — limiting Medicaid spending to \$12 billion over five years in exchange for leeway in how the state offers Medicaid services — will mean for Edward.

"In order to allay our fears, we asked for concrete plans," she said. "There were no concrete plans then, and from what [I've] heard ... solid plans are still lacking."

Her anxiety was shared by the dozens

SEE **WAIVER, A4**

Immigration panel: Order created fear

A group appointed by Governor Carcieri to monitor his illegal immigrant policy urges him to clarify its intent.

BY RANDAL EDGAR
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Governor Carcieri's executive order on illegal immigration has created such fear throughout Rhode Island that a panel he appointed to monitor the order's unintended consequences is recommending he make a "well-publicized clarifying statement" to explain what the order does and doesn't do.

The order, issued last March, has been "misunderstood and misinterpreted" by immigrant communities, as well as by the police and the public, causing havoc and unnecessary worry among legal and illegal immigrants, panel members said yesterday.

"There are people living in basements in fear, afraid to go out to the grocery store," the Rev. Donald C. Anderson, executive minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, said as the panel issued a draft report. "That's the reality. The question is

"There are people living in basements in fear, afraid to go out to the grocery store."

REV. DONALD C. ANDERSON,
executive minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches

how do we get it back to some sense of normalcy."

The panel, a mix of religious leaders, community advocates and people from government, law enforcement and business, gathered its impressions during five "listening sessions" with members of the immigrant community. The sessions, held at churches and community centers in Providence and Newport, underscore a high level of fear.

"I know of a family in New Bedford that drives around Rhode Island to get to Connecticut because they are afraid to drive through Rhode Island," said a person who attended a session at St. Edward Church in Providence.

"I know of a man who has been cashing his paycheck at Stop &

SEE **ORDER, A5**

Cell phone thefts boost crime rate in Providence

Break-ins at foreclosed and abandoned properties also appear to account for a significant increase.

BY GREGORY SMITH
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — There was a severe outbreak of crime, especially violent crime, in the city in the first six months of 2008 compared with the same period in 2007, the FBI reported yesterday.

The number of violent crimes went up from 440 to 553, an increase of nearly 27 percent.

Muggings for cell phones — a phenomenon in large cities and some midsize cities across the nation — appear to be a major factor in the rise. The police have said that muggings are difficult to prevent because they are crimes of opportunity.

Of late, one-third of all robberies are for cell phones, Police

Chief Dean M. Esserman said. Robberies skyrocketed by 60, from 170 to 230, or 35 percent, during the first six months.

The police have made inquiries with a cell phone research and development company, Qualcomm, and with the FBI to find a way to render stolen cell phones unusable to robbers and, therefore, unattractive to grab.

All told, there were 4,866 violent and property crimes reported through June 30, compared with 4,217 the year before, an increase of more than 15 percent. In addition to the cell phone muggings, break-ins at foreclosed and abandoned properties appeared to account for a significant portion of that increase.

Although the Police Department has not yet calculated final figures for the entire year, Es-

SEE **CRIME, A5**

List of judicial vacancies in R.I. grows

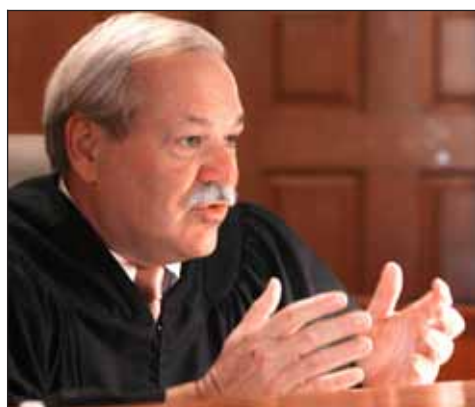
Governor Carcieri will have seven positions to fill with the retirement of Superior Court Judge Mark A. Pfeiffer.

BY KATIE MULVANEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Mark A. Pfeiffer, a seasoned judge with two decades' experience, is retiring from the Superior Court in March, creating a seventh opening on the state's benches.

"I think new blood is good. I think it does bring new perspective," said Pfeiffer, who will be giving up the lifetime post March 27 at age 60.

Pfeiffer has overseen high-profile criminal matters as well as sticky civil battles since being appointed by Gov. Edward D.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

Judge Mark A. Pfeiffer, shown at a Superior Court trial last year, says he will retire in March.

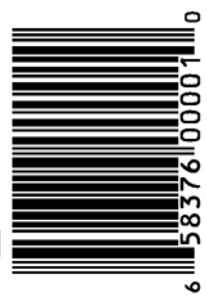
DiPrete in 1988. Most recently, he has presided over the East Providence teachers union's effort to block the School Committee from cutting salaries across the board.

His retirement has ramped up concerns about judicial vacancies and the timely delivery of justice, particularly as two judge-ships have remained vacant since last spring. And some fear more judges will soon step down in response to Governor Carcieri's proposal to end the 3 percent annual pension hikes for public employees who do not retire by April 1.

One-third of the state's judges — 19 out of the 60 now sitting — are eligible to retire.

Pfeiffer, the fifth most senior Superior

SEE **JUDGES, A5**



INSIDE TODAY

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MALL ON THE MARKET

Financially strapped General Growth Properties Inc. puts the Providence Place mall up for sale as the company attempts to cut its \$27-billion debt. **C1**

CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD?

Researchers report that getting a good night's sleep may be the surest way to boost your immune system and ward off the common cold virus. **A2**

LAST WORDS

During what he describes as "the ultimate exit interview," President Bush, by turns impassioned, defiant, reflective and lighthearted, concedes that some things "didn't go according to plan" as he reviews his two terms in office. **A4**

