

WINTRY MIX
Chilly today with occasional light snow or rain; overcast tonight.
Forecast, F8

The Providence Journal

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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 27, 2007

50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier

HISTORY, FOR ALL TO SEE

Pats-Giants game to be simulcast on CBS, NBC

BY PAUL EDWARD PARKER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

If the New England Patriots make football history Saturday night by beating the New York Giants and becoming the first undefeated team since 1972, Patriots fans throughout Rhode Island — and across the country — will be able to watch, thanks to a broadcasting reverse called yesterday by the National Football League.

The league had planned to broadcast the game only on its NFL Network, which is available to a fraction of cable television subscribers because of a marketing dispute with several cable companies. But in the face of criticism that included letters

from U.S. senators and congressmen, the NFL decided to also make the broadcast available nationwide on NBC and CBS. That guarantees the game will make history, as it is the first NFL game simulcast on two broadcast networks since the first Super Bowl, in 1967.

For Rhode Islanders, the NFL's change in broadcasting plans means watching the game will be a lot less complicated.

Cox Communications, the cable provider available in all of Rhode Island except on Block Island, includes the NFL Network on its sports and information package, which is available to digital cable

SEE **GAME, B6**

projo.com

Your turn: Who are the real winners in NFL's decision to simulcast the Pats-Giants game? To respond, go to projosports.com/patriots

HOW TO WATCH

The Patriots will try for an undefeated season Saturday night, and the game will be shown locally on Channels 10 and 12 as well as on the NFL Network.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Cox Communications technician Nelson Oliveira watches Tom Brady in a Providence home he had just upgraded to digital cable.

CAMPAIGN 2008

Step 1 in picking the next president

In Rhode Island, five more candidates take a major step toward getting on the primary ballot.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Republicans Mitt Romney, John McCain, Mike Huckabee and Ron Paul and Democrat Christopher Dodd have submitted enough signatures to appear on Rhode Island's March 4 presidential primary ballots, according to local boards of canvassers.

They join Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and Republican Rudy Giuliani, who had already amassed more than the required 1,000 validated signatures, the secretary of state's office reported yesterday. The final step before appearing on the ballot requires the secretary of state to certify the signatures.

Other candidates might appear on the primary ballot. While the deadline for signatures was 4 p.m. yesterday, local boards have until Jan. 10 to validate signatures, and an unknown number

SEE **PRIMARY, A8**

CERTIFIED



Barack Obama - D

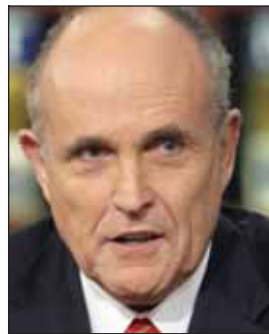
The final step, where the secretary of state certifies the legitimacy of the submitted signatures.

VALIDATED



Hillary Clinton - D

An intermediate step, where local boards of canvassers tally the number of signatures submitted and determine that they are eligible voters.



Rudy Giuliani - R



Mitt Romney - R



Ron Paul - R



John McCain - R



Mike Huckabee - R



Christopher Dodd - D

TO BE DETERMINED

Tally not completed; signatures not yet validated by boards of canvassers.

- John Edwards - D
- Dennis J. Kucinich - D
- Fred Thompson - R
- Duncan Hunter - R
- Hugh Cort - R
- Alan Keyes - R
- Tom Tancredo* - R
- Joseph Biden - D
- Bill Richardson - D
- Mike Gravel - D
- Raymond Stebbins - D

*Dropped out of race

With first vote in Iowa a week away, final push begins

BY ADAM NAGOURNEY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DES MOINES, Iowa — After a 48-hour lull for Christmas, the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns came back to life yesterday with a barrage of new advertisements, closing campaign arguments and more than a few attacks as they girded for the eight days leading up to the first vote of 2008 here next week.

"How was Christmas, good?" said Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, speaking to hundreds of voters gathered in a school gymnasium in Mason City, as he began what his aides said would be a nonstop bout of bus-riding across the state. "You know what I got for Christmas? Eight hours' sleep. It was outstanding."

That holiday cheer lifted as the day went on and the candidates — mostly in

Iowa, but also in New Hampshire and Florida — retook the campaign field anxious about the outcome of a race that, for both sides, appears entirely up in the air.

Obama sharpened his distinctions with his two main rivals, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and John Edwards of North Carolina, testimony to just how tight the Democratic race remains in Iowa.

"If they've been secretive in the past, they'll be secretive as president," Obama told voters in Mason City. "If they haven't been all that strong on lobbyists in the past, it doesn't matter what they say during the campaign, they won't be that strong about it when they're president."

Clinton, touching down here later in

SEE **CAMPAIGN, A8**

Environmental education gaining ground in schools

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

Last spring, Dan Miller, head of school at The Wheeler School, sought volunteers from the faculty and staff to look for solutions to transportation problems in the school's crowded quarters on Providence's East Side. He had no idea what that simple request would trigger.

Some 30 teachers stepped forward, he said. They created parking incentives for car poolers and recommended subsidies for bus passes. More people began bicycling and taking trains. And then the faculty, staff and students wanted to do much more.

Since then the school has launched programs to reduce its use of electricity, paper and water — and saved thousands of dollars. It is using more local produce in its cafeteria. It has made curriculum changes ranging from summer reading assignments to math projects.

SEE **GREEN, A8**



Honor Davis, 11, a sixth grader at The Wheeler School, checks out the Solar Composter with Paul Pieri, director of the Wheeler Farm program. She and other students will bury the bottom basket and the cone remains above ground.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
FRIEDA SQUIRES

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Your turn: What else can schools, businesses and municipalities do to be more green? To respond, go to projo.com

Corrente to fight for his Providence pension

The convicted former aide to ex-Mayor Vincent A. Cianci is expected to ask the city to restore his \$70,576-a-year pension.

BY GREGORY SMITH
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Frank E. Corrente, who famously was caught on FBI videotapes taking bribes from a cooperating government witness in a corruption investigation, is coming back to City Hall.

Corrente, who was former Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr.'s top lieutenant, used to be a powerful tough-talking figure, able to dispense or withhold the favors of city government on a whim.

Brought down with the mayor in the Operation Plunder Dome

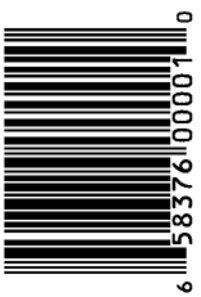
probe of City Hall corruption, Corrente is now a 79-year-old supplicant from Cranston. Today he is scheduled to resume his fight in a City Hall conference room for his \$70,576-a-year municipal pension, which was suspended when he was convicted in Operation Plunder Dome.

In a previously undisclosed move, the administration of Mayor David N. Cicilline also took away his city-paid medical and dental insurance. Corrente man-

SEE **CORRENTE, B2**

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Extra: Replay the FBI surveillance video of Frank E. Corrente accepting a cash-filled envelope from an undercover businessman at projo.com



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A total of \$21,818.60 has been donated.
See latest donations on Page B3.

DISAPPOINTING SALES SEASON

The nation's retailers are counting on a post-Christmas shopping spree to make up for an otherwise disappointing season that saw sales grow by an anemic 2.4 percent compared with last year. **F1**

CENSUS REPORTS R.I. SHRINKING

Only Rhode Island and Michigan lost population for the year ending July 1, according to figures being released by the Census Bureau today, which put the U.S. population at 301.6 million. **A2**



TIGER ATTACK INVESTIGATED

Investigators at the San Francisco Zoo are trying to determine how a 300-pound Siberian tiger that killed a visitor managed to escape from its high-walled pen. **A2**