

OUT OF SEASON

Mostly sunny today with highs near 50; increasing clouds tonight.
Forecast, E16

The Providence Journal

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In Israel, Bush gives a nudge to peace plan

While looking to advance talks between Israelis and Palestinians, the president has strong words for Iran.

BY MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ
THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM — President Bush, on the first visit here of his administration, demanded yesterday that Israelis shut down unauthorized settler outposts on Palestinian territory, called on Palestinian authorities to take steps to halt rocket attacks against Israel and issued a sharp warning to Iran.

Even as he insisted he had not come to the region to impose the terms of a peace agreement on Israelis and Palestinians, Mr. Bush spent part of the first day of an eight-day trip to the Middle East issuing edicts to the parties — or, in his words, nudging them toward an accord that he hopes will eventually lead to the creation of Palestinian state and lasting Arab-Israeli peace.

“The only way to have lasting peace, the only way for an agreement to mean anything, is for the two parties to come together and make the difficult choices,” Mr. Bush said at a news conference with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. “But we’ll help, and we want to help. If it looks like there needs to be a little pressure, Mr. Prime Minister, you know me well enough to know I’ll be more than willing to provide it.”

Mr. Bush is on his first extended tour of a region that has figured prominently in the foreign policy challenges confronting his administration. Accused of years of disengagement from Middle East peacemaking, Mr. Bush is making a last-ditch try for an Israeli-Palestinian accord at a time of continuing violence and deep fractures within Palestinian society. He is also trying to marshal regional support for a policy of confrontation toward Iran.

Mr. Bush’s visit is being watched closely in the region — the arrival ceremony in Tel Aviv was shown live on Israeli TV — and security is

SEE **BUSH, A10**

Bills aim to boost role of lt. governor

The proposals come in the wake of last month’s crippling snowstorm and would put the lieutenant governor in charge when the governor is away.

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — It took 8 inches of snow to highlight a problem with the state’s ability to handle a crisis. Whether state legislators can find a solution is a matter that’s outlasted the snowfall.

Under a 1992 amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution, when the governor leaves the state, he takes his authority with him. While that may not be a problem when the governor’s in Attleboro and carrying a cell phone, sleeping on a plane halfway around the world left him out of touch when Rhode Islanders were gridlocked and dozens of school buses stranded in a fast-falling snowstorm last month.

Last night, the House Separation of Powers Committee heard the first of two bills to amend the state Constitution and allow the lieutenant

SEE **POWER, A8**

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Your turn: Do you support changing the state Constitution to allow the lieutenant governor to take charge if the governor is out of state? To respond and to read the full text of the proposal, go to projo.com

CAMPAIGN 2008

Reassessing the results



NYT / NICOLE BENVIGNO

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton gives a TV interview at her home in Chappaqua, N.Y., yesterday. Despite pollsters’ predictions, on Tuesday she defeated Sen. Barack Obama in New Hampshire’s Democratic presidential primary.

Human moment helped propel Clinton in N.H.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Sitting amid coffee mugs and microphones at a New Hampshire diner Monday, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton became emotional in talking about the grind of the presidential campaign. “This is very personal to me,” she said. “It’s not just political. It’s not just public.”

Now, in the wake of her victory in Tuesday’s New Hampshire primary, experts are saying the catch in Clinton’s voice helped her to catch Sen. Barack Obama, who had led in the polls.

“Part of her problem was that she

SEE **CLINTON, A5**

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For women only: What’s your take on Hillary Clinton as a presidential candidate now? To respond, go to projo.com



AP / CHARLES DHARAPAK

Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain and his wife, Cindy, center, on his campaign plane yesterday with staff members. Pollsters in most cases accurately predicted his win in New Hampshire.

So how “unexpected” was Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton’s victory in New Hampshire? The pollsters are trying to explain why their numbers were so wrong.

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — How did they get it so wrong?

As the candidates rushed to new battlegrounds yesterday, the pollsters scratched their heads over their failure to predict Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton’s narrow victory over Sen. Barack Obama in New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation Democratic presidential primary — despite generally correct forecasts of Sen. John McCain’s win on the Republican side.

Clinton bested Obama by about 3 percentage points — not an earth-shattering achievement, at least on paper, for a famous, lavishly financed veteran with a crack campaign organization and decades of political experience.

SEE **POLLS, A7**

Families opposed to parole for Derderian

Parole Board members Dr. Frederic G. Reamer and Lisa Holley last night listen as Robert Johnson testifies at a parole hearing for Station nightclub owner Michael Derderian. Johnson’s son, Derek, died in the 2003 Station nightclub fire.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
KRIS CRAIG

BY TRACY BRETON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

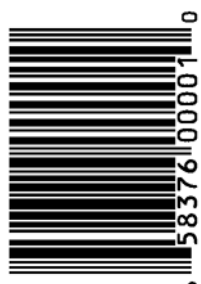
WARWICK — William C. Bonardi, who lost his only child in the Station nightclub fire, sat at a folding table in the Warwick police station last night, his wife, Dorothy, by his side, and urged the state’s Parole Board not to grant Michael Derderian, a co-owner of the nightclub, early release from prison.

“The Station fire tragedy, as we are aware, could have been prevented,” the Lincoln resident said. “However, Michael Derderian’s penchant for money overshadowed his obligation to provide a safe environment for his patrons. As a result, 100 lives were lost and 200-plus marred for life.” And Derderian, he asserted, has not

SEE **PAROLE, A4**

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Your turn: Should Michael Derderian be released on parole? To respond, go to projo.com



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REPORT CARD ON R.I. SCHOOLS

Rhode Island receives mixed grades on the quality of its public education system, scoring high in its academic standards and testing system but doing poorly in student achievement and efforts to improve teacher quality. **B1**

NO RESPECT

Patriots defensive back Ellis Hobbs is finding it’s hard to get respect when you play in the same secondary as Pro Bowler Asante Samuel. **D1**

WINTER IN WESTERLY

Westerly’s Twelfth Night pageant is part opera, part circus, part parade and all fun. **E1**

