

SLOW PROGRESS
Windy but gradually clearing today with highs in the mid-30s; clear tonight.
Forecast, A10

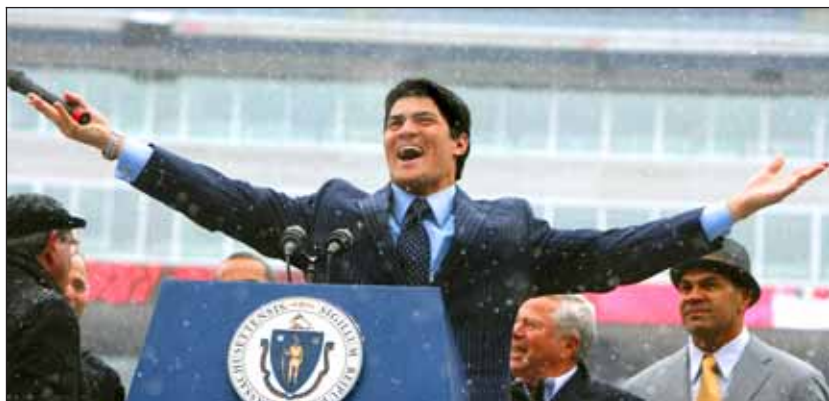
The Providence Journal

MONDAY
JANUARY 28, 2008

50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier

projo.com

SUPER BOWL XLII



Tedy Bruschi, far left, and Tom Brady, left, along with the rest of the New England Patriots, are on hand at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro yesterday, to greet the thousands of fans, below, at a rally for the Super Bowl-bound team.

A PERFECT SENDOFF



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

BY JENNIFER D. JORDAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

FOXBORO

Dyanne Spatcher and Sheila McKenna, neighbors and retired teachers at Attleboro High School, arrived early at Gillette Stadium yesterday morning, eager to secure a good view of the New England Patriots before the team left for sunny Arizona and Super Bowl XLII.

"I came for the sendoff three years ago, and I told myself I would never miss another one," Spatcher said, as she hustled

Thousands turn out as the New England Patriots depart for Arizona in pursuit of the perfect season.

projo.com

Extra: This week, Jim Donaldson looks back on each of the Patriots' five Super Bowls in special multimedia presentations at projosports.com/patriots
And for the latest news from Arizona, go to projosports.com/patsblog

through the parking lot at 9:30 a.m. She pointed to the long Patriot jersey, emblazoned with number 54, that she wore over layers of winter clothing.

"I like [Tedy] Bruschi," Spatcher said. "I have horses and pygmy goats at home and I named one of the goats Bruschi. He's my linebacker."

Stadium security estimated that 30,000 Patriots fans converged on Gillette, filling more than half of the lower level. Orga-

SEE PATRIOTS, A6

Kennedys decide to endorse Obama

Both the Massachusetts senator and the Rhode Island congressman will make their announcements today, calculating that the Illinois senator is best able to expand their party's electoral base in November.

BY SCOTT MACKAY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the Democratic Party's liberal lion, and his son, Rhode Island Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, will endorse Barack Obama for president today, giving the Illinois senator a new jolt of momentum in his campaign against New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

The Kennedy endorsements come in the wake of Obama's historic landslide victory Saturday in South Carolina's primary. More important, they arrive eight days before the round of 22 state primaries and caucuses on Feb. 5 that loom as a de facto national primary that could decide whether Clinton or Obama wins the nomination.

The endorsements will be issued at noon at an Obama rally on the Washington, D.C.,

SEE KENNEDY, A7

Economy may dog Bush in his final year

The president's State of the Union address tonight is expected to deal with the nation's financial concerns.

BY SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Will George W. Bush be remembered as the president who lost the economy while trying to win a war?

President Bush has spent years presiding over an economic climate of growth that would be the envy of most presidents. Yet much to the consternation of his political advisers, he has had trouble getting credit for it, in large part because Americans were consumed by the war in Iraq.

The chaotic events of the past week — wild stock market swings, a major cut in the interest rate from the Federal Reserve and a rare bipartisan deal between Mr. Bush and congression-

SEE BUSH, A7

Act of vandalism leaves Vermont wondering why

BY DAN BARRY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

RIPTON, Vt. — Imagining that late December night of long darkness, you can almost hear these youths of Vermont tramping up to the isolated farmhouse to intrude upon the sanctuary stillness. The break of snow beneath their feet would be the least of it.

They had driven or walked a half-mile up a snow-covered lane called Frost Road, then trudged past a large blue sign that explained the historic significance of the farmhouse and the cabin beyond. And now they were entering the coldness of an uninhabited place, carrying with them cases of beer,

SEE FROST, A7

Working to rebuild Iraq, one stop sign at a time

Lou Lantner, center, meets with senior Iraqi Army officers and area officials in Mahmudiyah, Iraq, last month to announce the distribution of \$1.3 million worth of wheat seed and fertilizer to farmers.

PHOTO COURTESY LOU LANTNER



A Woonsocket native brings his expertise to help Iraqis restart their lives in the war-ravaged country.

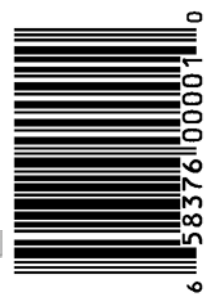
BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The irony of the stop-sign contract was not lost on Lou Lantner.

While scrambling to revive a shuttered metal parts and bicycle factory not far from Baghdad, Lantner's reconstruction team recently expedited a big order to make king-size, bilingual signs that bluntly order motorists to stop for inspection at security checkpoints.

The checkpoints are defenses against the violence — especially car bombs and roadside booby traps — that has plagued Iraq since the U.S. invasion almost five years ago. The factory, which once employed 1,500 people, is struggling to subsist on work such as the stop sign order,

SEE LANTNER, A6



INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829
5 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	D4	Lifebeat	D1
Bridge	D4	Lotteries	B4
Business	A8	Obituaries	C2
Classified	E1	People	D1
Comics	D5	Rhode Island	C1
Crossword	D4	Sports	B1
Editorial	C4	Television	D6
Kidsbeat	D3	What's Happening	D4
Legal ads	E4		

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Natasha Bedingfield may not be universally known, but her song "Unwritten" certainly is; now she's trying to build on that success with her second album, *Pocketful of Sunshine*. **E1**

FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Several Rhode Island universities are taking part in the national campaign "Focus the Nation" this week to show students that theirs is the generation that will be primarily responsible for slowing climate change. **C1**

VIOLENCE SPREADS IN KENYA

Gangs of youths armed with machetes and clubs fight running battles with the police and burn tribal rivals alive in their homes as the violence that began one month ago following the country's presidential vote escalates. **A2**

PASSAGES: PRESIDENT SUHARTO



Former President Suharto, the Cold War ally of the United States whose brutal military regime slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people during his 32-year rule, dies in Indonesia at 86. **A3**