

STILL COLD
Continued cold today with highs only in the mid-30s; clear and very cold tonight.
Forecast, B8

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Landmark mental health bill celebrated

Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy and his father, Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, mark the passage of the parity legislation at the White House with President Bush.

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — In one sense, the late autumn interlude in the Oval Office was one more heartening proof that politics makes for strange bedfellows — “a perfect example,” in Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy’s words, “of everybody coming together for a happy ending.”

But yesterday’s muted commemoration of a landmark mental-health bill held an element of the bittersweet as well. President Bush welcomed a couple — Republican Sen. Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico and his wife, Nancy — drawn long ago to the cause by the heartbreak of their daughter Clare’s schizophrenia.

Two others in the room, Rhode Island Democrat Kennedy and his friend Jim Ramstad, a Republican congressman from Minnesota, knew the horrors of addiction from humbling personal experience.

Then there were the two men who have faced demons of their own in years gone by and who today, in different ways, are nearing the end of their time on the public stage. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat who is Patrick’s father, is gearing up for another long campaign to enact sweeping health-care reform, but he has only recently returned to work after long treatment for cancer of the brain. Mr. Bush is concluding a difficult and divisive eight years as president, without

SEE **KENNEDY, A8**

Mother channels her grief to help save other teens

Robin Monica’s 19-year-old son had been drinking before his fatal car crash; now she’s trying to prevent similar tragedies.

BY PAUL DAVIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NORTH KINGSTOWN — A cross on Frenchtown Road marks the spot where Jeffrey Monica died. After drinking a few beers, the 19-year-old took a curve at 100 miles an hour and smashed into a telephone pole.

A second shrine dominates the Monica living room, in a two-story house tucked away on a quiet street. Jeff’s soccer jersey, framed, blocks the brick fireplace. A signed soccer ball rests on the hearth.

SEE **DRINKING, B4**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

Robin Monica, of North Kingstown, with a portrait of her son, Jeffrey, who died five years ago in a car crash.

projoVIDEO

EXTRA: Watch Robin Monica talk about the loss of her son Jeffrey, at projo.com/video

MARKETS

Stocks plunge for the second straight day, with major indexes falling to levels not seen in more than five years. **Details, D1**

REGION

Analysts predict New England can expect to lose 250,000 more jobs over the next two years as the recession deepens. **Details, D1**

BENEFITS

Congress passes a seven-week extension of unemployment assistance for those whose benefits are about to expire. **Details, A5**

AUTOS

Congress abandons efforts to bail out U.S. automakers as some warned they could go broke before the end of the year. **Details, A6**

52,900

9.3% OF RHODE ISLANDERS OUT OF WORK



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Johana Sica, 16, of Providence, applies for work at stores and restaurants at the Providence Place mall. She’s looking for a job to help her mother, who’s been laid off.

Pace of job losses faster than expected

BY LYNN ARDITI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Rhode Island’s unemployment rate last month climbed to 9.3 percent, the highest since 1983, as job cuts in the private and public sectors coursed through nearly every part of the economy, a government report released today shows.

Factories, offices and retail stores, among others, slashed payrolls in October, eliminating 2,400 jobs, according to the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. The ranks of the unemployed last month swelled to nearly 53,000, the highest on record.

Rhode Island’s October unemployment rate is identical to that of Michigan, where Detroit’s Big Three automakers this week pleaded for American taxpayers to help their industry as prospects of receiving federal rescue aid dimmed.

The latest jobs report is grim even in light of the economic forecast released yesterday by the nonprofit New England Economic Partnership. The NEEP economists predicted that during the next two years, Rhode Island would lose nearly 15,000 more jobs and unemployment would hit 10 percent, probably by the end of next year.

But the pace of the decline is swifter than predicted. The October job losses already account for more than 70 percent of the 3,400 jobs that NEEP had forecast the state would lose during October, this month and next month.

“It’s moving very fast,” said Edinaldo Tebaldi, assistant professor of economics at Bryant University and NEEP’s co-forecaster for

SEE **JOBS, A5**

For teens, job hunt is tough

High school students are always at a disadvantage, but now more than ever, with retail sales declining and stores cutting positions rather than hiring for new ones.

BY LYNN ARDITI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The Providence Place mall sparkled with holiday lights as Johana Sica prowled its hallways, her hopes tucked in a folder under her arm.

The 16-year-old had “dressed up” in jeans, a red cropped sweater and matching red heels. The shoes were a gift from her mother. That was before her mom was laid off from her \$13-an-hour packing job.

Johana thumbed through her folder of job applications and

Fewer positions

Retail sales jobs are usually plentiful during the holiday season. But not this year. Retail is among five industries reporting the biggest job losses in Rhode Island in 2008.

Manufacturing: -2,600
Professional and business services: -2,400
Retail: -2,300
Construction: -1,300
Finance: -1,300

Source: RI Dept. of Labor and Training

ticked off the list: Taco Bell, Charley’s, Newbury Comics, Levi’s, Forever 21...

In the food court, she marched past the customers lining up at Taco Bell and caught the attention of a young male cashier. He took her application, glanced at it, and smiled.

“See, she put references,” he said to his coworker. “That’s smart.”

“We’ll call you,” the other cashier said.

SEE **RETAIL, A6**

Many meetings, no movement on R.I. budget deficit

Neither Governor Carcieri nor leaders of the General Assembly will discuss how they plan to cope with the most severe state-budget crisis in the nation.

BY STEVE PEOPLES,
CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
and KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — There have been no news conferences, public hearings, or conference calls.

Indeed, things have been markedly quiet on Smith Hill in the 10 days since Rhode Island govern-

ment learned it was facing one of its worst budget deficits in state history. The relative silence continued yesterday, even as Rhode Island’s most powerful elected officials met for the first time to begin crafting a plan to fill a \$357-million current-year budget hole.

Governor Carcieri yesterday hosted separate closed-door meet-



MURPHY



PAIVA WEED

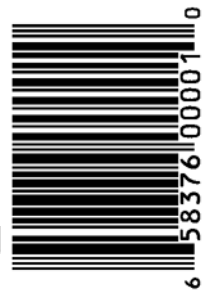
ings with House Speaker William J. Murphy and Teresa Paiva Weed, who is expected to become Senate president in the General Assemb-

ly’s coming session. The participants afterward avoided disclosing the content of the meetings, although the governor could release a detailed budget-balancing plan by the middle of next month, according to his spokeswoman Amy Kempe.

“Everything is on the table. Every proposal and idea will be considered,” she said.

Paiva Weed acknowledged the

SEE **DEFICIT, A5**



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CHANGING CHAIRMAN

Rep. Henry A. Waxman, of California, ousts Rep. John D. Dingell, of Michigan, from his post as chairman of the influential Committee on Energy and Commerce, giving President-elect Barack Obama an advantage in his plans to promote efforts to combat global warming. **A3**

PAIR SENTENCED FOR KILLING

A judge sentences one man to 40 years in prison and another to 20 years behind bars for the 2007 killing of a Fall River man. **B1**



CELTICS POWER PAST PISTONS

Kevin Garnett, left, pours in 15 points while guard Rajon Rondo outscorers newly acquired Piston Allen Iverson as Boston cruises to a 98-80 win over Detroit. **C1**