

DOWNTURN

Colder today with showers and snow flurries into late this evening.
Forecast, **B6**

The Providence Journal

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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 7, 2008

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Twisters leave trail of death in South

At least 55 people are killed and hundreds injured when dozens of tornadoes tear across five states.

BY RYAN LENZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. — One man pulled a couch over his head. Bank employees rushed into the vault. A woman trembled in her bathroom, clinging to her dogs. College students huddled in dormitories.

Tornado warnings had been broadcast for hours, and when the sirens finally announced that the twisters had arrived, many people across the South took shelter and saved their lives. But others simply had nowhere safe to go, or the storms proved too powerful, too numerous, too unpredictable.

At least 55 people were killed and hundreds injured Tuesday and yesterday by dozens of tornadoes that plowed across Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. It was the nation's deadliest barrage of twisters in almost 23 years.

"We had a beautiful neighborhood. Now it's hell," said Bonnie Brawner, 80, who lives in Hartsville, a community about an hour from Nashville where a natural-gas plant that was struck by a twister erupted in spectacular flames up to 400 feet high.

The storms flattened entire streets, smashed warehouses and sent tractor-trailers flying. Houses were reduced to splintered piles of lumber. Some looked like life-size dollhouses, their walls sheared away. Crews going door to door to search for bodies had to contend with downed power lines, snapped trees and flipped cars. Cattle wandered through the

SEE **TORNADOES, A7**

Longtime Save the Bay director to step down

Public officials and advocates praise Curt Spalding, who joined the environmental group in 1988.

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

Curt Spalding, who has led Rhode Island's largest environmental group, Save the Bay, through a generation of dramatic environmental battles, announced yesterday that he will step down this year and look for other opportunities in public service.

Spalding, 49, of Cranston, said he has been at Save the Bay for 20 years and he thought it was time for a change, both for him and the organization.

"I realized that if I'm going to pursue any other career, I had to make the leap now," Spalding said. "But I also realize there isn't another job like the one I have now in Rhode Island."

Alden Anderson, president of Save the Bay's board of directors, said the group has selected a committee to begin a national search for a new director. He said the fact that Spalding is willing to stay around until summer, if

SEE **SPALDING, A8**

CAMPAIGN 2008: ASSESSING SUPER TUESDAY RESULTS



AP / CAROLYN KASTER

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, addressing the media at her national headquarters in Arlington, Va., yesterday, has the support of many Rhode Island Democratic leaders.



AP / RICK BOWMER

Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, speaking Tuesday in Chicago, has the support of Rep. Patrick Kennedy, and was in the Ocean State in 2006 for Sheldon Whitehouse's U.S. Senate campaign.

R.I. primary now matters

BY SCOTT MacKAY and MARK ARSENAULT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

With Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama in a tight contest for the Democratic presidential nomination, the smallest state could loom large.

PROVIDENCE — A month ago, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton appeared to have a lock on Rhode Island's Democratic presidential primary.

And why not? If ever a presidential couple lavished attention on a state that in a generation has never mattered in presidential selection, it was Bill and Hillary Clinton, who visited Rhode Island on numerous occasions both during and after his presidency.

But now, the close and intense Democrat-

ic race between Clinton and Illinois Sen. Barack Obama has made the state's March 4 presidential primary a potentially crucial event on the path to winning the nomination.

Both campaigns will be scratching for every delegate vote; Rhode Island's affection for the Clintons is about to get its severest test.

"They are known here; Bill Clinton was very popular and well-received here and Hillary Clinton has been here many, many

times," said Bill Lynch, Democratic state chairman. "With Senator Obama, the momentum he has seized throughout the country is going to be reflected in some measure here."

Obama also campaigned in Rhode Island twice in 2006 for Sheldon Whitehouse's victorious U.S. Senate campaign, even driving here once at the last minute from New Jersey when his flight was grounded by fog, said Lynch.

Among Republicans, the March 4 test has

SEE **PRIMARY, A11**

projo.com Extra: To see which candidates and delegates will be on Rhode Island's March 4 ballot, go to projo.com



AP / CHARLES DHARAPAK

Sen. John McCain emerges from Super Tuesday as the clear frontrunner in the GOP race.



AP / LM OTERO

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney spends yesterday in Boston planning strategy.



AP / DANNY JOHNSTON

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee continues to show strength in the South.

McCain seeks to close the deal

With a huge lead in delegates, the Arizona senator is trying to lock up the Republican nomination with an appeal to conservatives.

BY MICHAEL D. SHEAR and JULIET EILPERIN
THE WASHINGTON POST

The race for the Republican nomination shifted into a new phase yesterday, with a now dominant Sen. John McCain still facing at least a month-long trek through 11 states unless he or the party's leaders can ratchet up the pressure on his rivals to bow out of the increasingly lopsided contest.

McCain emerged from Super Tuesday with more than 700 delegates to the party's national convention. That was more than twice as many as the total of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and almost four times that of former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. McCain's total was fewer than 500 short of what he needs to secure the GOP presidential nomination.

"Hopefully, we can wrap this thing

up, unite the party and be able to take on the Democratic nominee in November," McCain told reporters gathered in an airport hangar as he prepared to depart Phoenix for Washington. "I think we've got to wrap this thing up as quickly as possible."

But Romney and Huckabee showed little interest in backing out of the contentious race after each captured a swath of the country in Tuesday's voting. Romney, who wrapped up low-delegate states in the West without any major break-

SEE **GOP, A9**

Democrats settling in for a long contest

Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama are locked in a tight race where every delegate counts.

BY PATRICK HEALY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

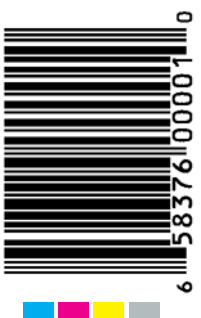
With no breakout winner in Tuesday's Democratic nominating contests, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama yesterday began fortifying for a drawn-out nomination fight, with Clinton disclosing that she had lent her campaign \$5 million while Obama raised \$3 million online in a single day and rejected calls for more debates.

According to the Associated Press, Obama gained 757 delegates in Tuesday's primaries and caucuses; Clinton won 782 delegates. The Democratic nomination requires support from 2,025 delegates.

Based on delegate counts tabulated by the Associated Press, The Washington Post and CBS News, Clinton's total delegate count stands at 1012 compared to Obama with 933 total delegates.

Obama and Clinton spent yesterday meeting with their advisers to calibrate for the next stage, and also held dueling news

SEE **DEMOCRATS, A11**



INSIDE TODAY

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6 SECTIONS	
Ask Amy	E12
Bridge	E12
Business	F1
Classified	F5
Comics	E13
Crossword	E12
Editorial	B4
Legal ads	F4
Lifebeat Weekend	E1
Local News	D1
Lotteries	C4
Obituaries	D4
People	E1
Rhode Island	B1
Sports	C1
Television	E11

UPGRADING NEWPORT NAVAL STATION

The Navy plans to spend about \$111 million at the Newport Naval Station over the next two years on new buildings and infrastructure improvements to cope with the expected large influx of trainees. **F1**

SENATE BALKS AT ADDITIONAL AID

Democrats fail to muster enough votes in the Senate to expand the House-approved economic stimulus package by \$44 billion to include aid for the elderly, disabled vets and the unemployed. **A2**

CHANGE OF HEART IN LINCOLN

Citing a "climate of inevitability," the president of the Lincoln Town Council drops his opposition to expanding the hours of operations of Twin River on a limited basis, along with other conditions. **B1**

CLEMENS' ACCUSER OFFERS EVIDENCE



A lawyer representing the trainer who says he injected Roger Clemens, left, with steroids says his client has turned over to federal prosecutors physical evidence, including syringes, to support his allegations. **C2**