

LIFEBEAT WEEKEND: It's not all gambling at Connecticut casinos' many other attractions. **E1**



LET THE SUN SHINE
Sunny but cold today with highs only in the upper 20s; clear and very cold tonight.
Forecast, B6

The Providence Journal

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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2008

50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

Ty Pennington, center, host of ABC TV's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, says his lines into the camera before the demolition of Kenny and Doreen Silva's house in Warwick yesterday.

GOING TO EXTREMES

Neighbors pitch in to help crew from popular ABC show build a new house for Warwick's Silva family

BY BRYAN ROURKE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

WARWICK

Tuesday's trash day in the Yucatan Drive neighborhood. Yet yesterday morning, garbage trucks came; not one, two or even three of them, but four, all at once, in a caravan, horns blasting, workers hooting and spectators cheering.

"It almost brought tears to my eyes to see the garbage trucks," said Melissa Coutcher, who works in the mayor's office. "All these city workers were coming together for this family."

On Monday, the Silvas were selected as the first Rhode Island family for the ABC show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, then promptly sent away for a week to Walt Disney World in Florida. While they're gone, a small army of volunteers demolished their small, lead-paint plagued house. Then, in the wee hours of this

morning, they began building them a new one, three times larger.

"I love what this show does for people," said Barbara Allen, of Exeter, a nurse who volunteered on the project. "It changes lives."

Kenny Silva, 35, is a garbage truck driver for the city. His wife Doreen, 33, is an at-home mother to their two biological children, 11 and 14, both autistic, their three adopted children, 2, 5 and 6, all with disabilities, and their two foster children, 6 and 19 months. They've been foster parents to 16 children in the last six years. But the size and condition of their house, which they couldn't afford to address, posed a problem.

SEE **MAKEOVER, A7**

"We've learned a lot this year. We've learned that people are hungry for change. ... Hope is making a comeback. I like it."

MICHELLE OBAMA, wife of presidential hopeful Barack Obama



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Michelle Obama, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, campaigns for her husband at the Rhode Island Women for Obama event yesterday at the Providence Biltmore. She also appeared last night at a rally at CCRI in Warwick.

Making Obama's case

Michelle Obama, wife of presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, appears at two events yesterday in advance of the state's March 4 primary.

BY SCOTT MACKAY and MARK ARSENAULT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

A buoyant Michelle Obama, fresh from husband Barack Obama's 17 percentage point victory in Tuesday's Wisconsin presidential primary, wooed Rhode Island voters yesterday at a confab on women's issues in Providence and at a boisterous, applause-punctuated rally for her husband's campaign at the Community College of Rhode Island's Warwick campus.

Barack Obama has run the table since the Feb. 5 Super Tuesday contests, winning 10 consecutive Democratic primaries and caucuses over New York Sen. Hillary Clinton this month.

The wife of the Illinois senator visited Rhode Island yesterday to try to parlay his national surge into Rhode Island support in the run-up to the state's March 4 presidential primary.

"We've learned a lot this year," Obama told a CCRI gathering estimated at 2,200. "We've learned that people are hungry for change. ... Hope is making a comeback. I like it."

A Clinton victory here was once a foregone conclusion; the senator and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, were popular in the state during Mr. Clinton's White House years in the

1990s. Both Clintons have campaigned and helped raise money for prominent state politicians, such as Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rep. James Langevin and Providence Mayor David Cicilline.

Now, as Obama rolls up the score in state after state, he is running ahead in money, delegates and momentum. Clinton is pushing experience in a year when voters seem to yearn for change. Even Bill Clinton admits his wife must win the Texas and Ohio contests, held on March 4 with Rhode Island and Vermont.

In the afternoon, Obama spoke to about 150 professional and politically active women at a rally for Rhode Island Women for Obama at the Providence Biltmore. She used humor, family stories and a steely

SEE **OBAMA, A8**

U.S.-fired missile hits stricken satellite

It was not clear whether a tank aboard the descending satellite that carried a toxic fuel was destroyed.

BY ROBERT BURNS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A missile launched from a Navy ship struck a dying U.S. spy satellite passing 130 miles over the Pacific yesterday, the Pentagon said.

It was not clear whether the operation succeeded in its main goal of destroying a tank aboard the satellite that carried a toxic fuel that U.S. officials said could pose a hazard to humans if it landed in a populated area.

"Confirmation that the fuel tank has been fragmented should be available within 24 hours," the Pentagon said in a written statement.

The Lake Erie, armed with an SM-3 missile designed to knock down incoming missiles —

SEE **SATELLITE, A6**

Testimony at parole hearing was for naught

After the families of Marsha Bowman and 13-year-old Kaitlyn DeCubellis give their emotional testimony to the state Parole Board, Stephen M. Reise cancels his portion of the hearing.

BY RANDAL EDGAR
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

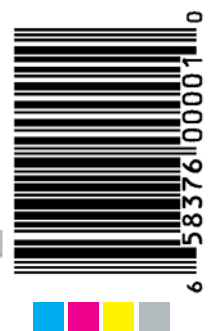
CRANSTON — For two families who lost loved ones in a horrific 1999 car crash, yesterday's hearing before the state Parole Board was supposed to be an opportunity to argue for a longer punishment.

Instead, a last-minute decision by the man who caused the crash turned it into what some family members said was an unnecessary ordeal.

Stephen M. Reise, sentenced to 14 years for the crash that killed 13-year-old Kaitlyn DeCubellis and her best friend's mother, Marsha Bowman,

SEE **PAROLE, A5**

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Your turn: Of the three presidential front-runners, which would you vote for? To respond, and for more photos of Michelle Obama's visit, go to projo.com



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FOR OSPREY, NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

The military has no complaints about the performance of Textron's oft-maligned aircraft since it entered service in Iraq last year. **F1**

SEEING GREEN

With St. Patrick's Day falling during Holy Week this year, some Roman Catholic prelates are suggesting that traditional celebrations should be more subdued this year. **A2**

QUESTIONS FOR MCCAIN

Sen. John McCain's previous relationship with a female lobbyist is raising questions about the GOP presidential candidate's ability to identify potential conflicts of interest. **A8**

A CROWDED CENTER STAGE

Coco Crisp, left, was the Red Sox regular center fielder for most of last year but the strong showing by Jacoby Ellsbury probably means that Crisp will eventually be playing elsewhere this season. **C1**

