

**STILL WINTER**  
A sunny but very cold start this morning; snow arriving later tonight.  
**Forecast, E10**

# The Providence Journal

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**FRIDAY**  
FEBRUARY 29, 2008

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## Director defends security at R.I.'s sole nuclear reactor

A recent federal audit says the 37 research reactors in the country, including the one in Narragansett, pose a security concern.

**BY TOM MOONEY**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

**NARRAGANSETT** — Since 1962, Rhode Island's only nuclear reactor has been housed in what resembles a giant sugar cube on a hill at the University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus; a five-story windowless block of concrete, painted white, and hiding in plain sight along Reactor Road.

Inside, protected behind 2-foot-thick concrete walls and submerged in 24 feet of cobalt-blue water, glows a 2-megawatt reactor, about the size of a trash can. For generations, scientists from sever-

al institutions have split atoms inside the reactor and used the irradiated neutrons the process produces to identify elements in air and soil and to track medicines streaming through blood and organs.

The reactor is 1 of 37 research reactors in the United States that, as a group, asserts a recent federal audit, have been underestimated by nuclear regulatory officials as potential terrorist targets.

But Terry Tehan, director of the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, a six-member staff that runs the reactor, said the GAO report "is not realistic."

Tehan said the reactor has substantial security measures. Unarmed campus police are the first line of defense, backed up by armed Narragansett town police, who patrol the area and could be there in minutes.

"I've got guns," Tehan says, referring to the Narragansett police. "I've got enough security protections here to make you cry."

In a Jan. 31 report, the GAO accused the National Regulatory Commission of underestimating the potential for terrorist attacks at some of the research reactors, 33 of which are on college campuses around the country. (Four others are



Terry Tehan, head of the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, stands in front of the research reactor on URI's Bay campus. "I've got enough security protections here to make you cry," he says.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL  
RUBEN W. PEREZ

SEE REACTOR, B3

"I have tried to be there for you. I hope on March 4, you'll be there for her."

**FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON**, asking R.I. voters to support his wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, in the presidential primary



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Former President Bill Clinton works the rope line yesterday after addressing a crowded gym on behalf of his wife, presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, at Bryant University. He says Senator Clinton can turn the race around with wins in Rhode Island, Texas and Ohio.

## Job loss signals R.I. nearing recession

The latest figures show that the state lost 1,700 jobs last month alone while the number of jobless in the state reaches its highest level in more than a decade.

**BY LYNN ARDITI**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Rhode Island employers last month shed an estimated 1,700 jobs and the state unemployment rate in January climbed to 5.7 percent, the highest since 1995, according to a government jobs report to be released today.

The state has lost 7,200 jobs during the last 13 months and ended last year with the first annual jobs decline since 2001 — the strongest signal yet, economists say, that Rhode Island is at the leading edge of a nationwide recession.

"The U.S. is beginning a recession and it looks like Rhode Island may have gotten a head start," David A. Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poors Corp. in New York, said yesterday.

Rhode Island's unemployment rate last month climbed 0.5 percent, to 5.7 percent — compared with 4.9 percent nationwide — and the number of unemployed residents in the state hit 32,800, the

SEE JOBS, A4

## Still reaching out for votes

### Democratic presidential candidates courting R.I.'s significant Latino vote

**BY STEVE PEOPLES**  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

**PROVIDENCE** — The battle is raging for Rhode Island's Hispanic voters, a growing force in Ocean State politics that may play a key role in Tuesday's presidential primary.

In recent weeks, the campaigns of the leading Democratic presidential hopefuls focused considerable efforts in local neighborhoods where Spanish replaces English as the primary language.

And voters are paying attention to both candidates.

Interviews with Latino community leaders this week suggest there is a division between longtime Sen. Hill-

ary Rodham Clinton allies and those attracted to the newcomer image of the young Illinois senator Barack Obama, who is an ethnic minority himself.

"Our community is actually very much split," said Jaime Aguayo, a former president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Volunteers for Obama and Clinton have knocked on doors from Broad Street in Providence to Dexter Street in Central Falls. They have hired Spanish-speaking staffers. And they have actively courted key Hispanic leaders.

"The Democratic Party in Rhode

SEE LATINO, A7

Former President Bill Clinton extols his wife's resumé in urging voters to support Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in Tuesday's presidential primary.

**BY MARK ARSENAULT and JOHN CASTELLUCCI**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

**SMITHFIELD**  
Calling New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton a "world-class change maker," former President Bill Clinton offered a passionate case for his wife's presidential campaign yesterday before students and admirers at Bryant University.

"No state in America has been better for me or our family," Clinton said of Rhode Island. "I have tried to be there for you. I hope on March 4, you'll be there for her."

Rhode Islanders vote on Tuesday in Democratic and Republican presidential primaries. The key states of Ohio and Texas also vote then, along with Vermont.

SEE CLINTON, A7

## E. Providence man dies in police struggle

The sisters of Leonel Farias, 40, whom they described as a diagnosed schizophrenic, witnessed the incident and say officers used excessive force.

**BY JOHN CASTELLUCCI and GINA MACRIS**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

**EAST PROVIDENCE** — The sisters of a man who died in police custody Wednesday said officers used excessive force to subdue him and that the force caused his death.

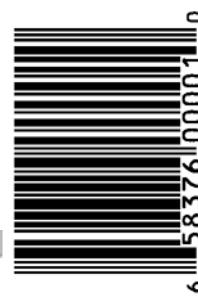
Gabriela Farias, 45, and Genoveva Porto, 46, didn't deny that their brother, Leonel Farias, 40, a diagnosed schizophrenic, waved a knife at the police or that he struggled with them after he had a violent outburst in his home at 153 James St.

Both sisters said the officers — Gabriela Farias said there were six to eight of them — continued to beat Farias even after he had been knocked out with chemical spray and was down on the pavement.

SEE DEATH, A4

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EXTRA: Hear audio and see more pictures from Bill Clinton's speech, find out more about the primary and get the latest political news, at: [projo.com](http://projo.com)



### INSIDE TODAY

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### ACCORD IN KENYA



Kenya's presidential rivals agree to share power in a coalition government aimed at ending post-election chaos that has left more than 1,000 people dead and brought the East African nation to the brink of collapse. **A5**

### PRISON POPULATION

A new study reports that, for the first time in the nation's history, more than 1 in 100 American adults are in jail or prison. **A2**

### SMOKE-SHOP TRIAL UNDER WAY

Newly chosen jurors in the trial of seven Narragansett Indians charged in a clash with state police over the tribe's smoke shop tour the site of the 2003 incident. **B1**

### CLEMENS UNDER SCRUTINY

Red Sox president Larry Lucchino shares his views on Roger Clemens as the FBI announces it has begun investigating whether the former Boston ace lied to Congress when he denied taking performance-enhancing drugs. **C1**