

MORE LIKE IT
Sunny and mild today with afternoon highs near 50; partly cloudy tonight.
Forecast, E16

The Providence Journal

THURSDAY
MARCH 6, 2008

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Campaigns, reconsidered



AP / CHARLES DHARAPAK

From former rival, McCain gets a presidential endorsement

President Bush welcomes Sen. John McCain to the White House yesterday, one day after the Arizona Republican clinched his party's nomination for president. McCain says he will welcome the president's support during the campaign. **Story, A11**

In R.I., women, older voters were the difference

Pollsters who failed to predict Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's margin of victory over Sen. Barack Obama say they were confounded by the record presidential primary turnout.

BY MARK ARSENAULT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama rode into Rhode Island on a winning streak of 11 straight primaries and caucuses, but on Tuesday crashed into a demographic wall of older voters and women who sent him to his first defeat in a month, a 58- to 40-percent drubbing in favor of New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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"The demographic groups here are the ones [Clinton] usually does well with," said pollster Joseph Fleming. "And she did extremely well with

them" on Tuesday. Clinton won two-thirds of the voters over age 60, a group that accounted for 33 percent of the record turnout in Tuesday's Democratic Party presidential primary, according to exit polls done by CNN. Clinton was the choice of 70 percent of the voters age 65 and older.

"Lots of older voters turned out, and that hurt Obama," said Fleming.

Clinton won every age group over age 30, and minimized the impact of

SEE **PRIMARY, A11**



N.Y. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign is revived.



Ill. Sen. Barack Obama's Providence rally didn't seem to help.

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Your turn: Has the momentum shifted to Hillary Rodham Clinton? To respond, go to projo.com

Clinton, Obama facing challenges in capturing their party's nomination

The New York senator looks for ways to overcome her rival's lead in delegates; the Illinois senator's losses Tuesday have put him on the defensive.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's victories in Texas, Ohio and Rhode Island reinvigorated the New York senator's presidential candidacy and reshaped her debate with Sen. Barack Obama, but those successes yielded only a modest gain in the battle for delegates, underscoring the daunting odds she faces in overtaking Obama before the end of the primary season in early June.

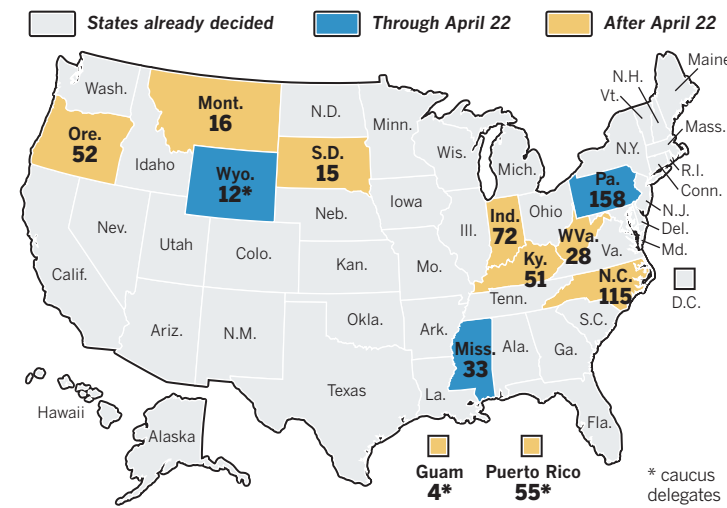
As a newly confident Clinton publicly entertained the idea of Obama of Illinois running as her vice presidential nominee, advisers sketched out a new scenario for overcoming Obama's delegate lead: a Clinton win in the Pennsylvania primary in April and then persuading the more than 300 uncommitted superdelegates who are poised to decide the race that she would be the stronger general-election nominee.

Obama, who won only the Vermont primary Tuesday, blamed his poor showing on Clinton's negative attacks and spent yesterday challenging her national security credentials, as she had done to him in the final days before the Texas and Ohio primaries. He also

SEE **CAMPAIGN, A11**

THE BATTLE AHEAD

Here's a look at the primary schedule and pledged delegates between now and the Democratic National Convention in Denver on Aug. 25.



SOURCE: The New York Times

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GEORGE SYLVIA

Subpar DOT tests costs R.I. millions

The Federal Highway Administration is seeking \$3.1 million from the state for failing to adequately test concrete on the Route 195 relocation project.

BY BRUCE LANDIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
AND KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Federal officials have demanded that the state repay \$3.1 million because the Department of Transportation didn't adequately test concrete on major sections of its flagship project, the Route 195 relocation, which it calls the Iway.

The Federal Highway Administration, the agency paying for most of the \$610-million project, also cited a lack of inspection, failure to take random samples of the concrete for testing and lack of enforcement of penalties that are supposed to be imposed on contractors for supplying substandard concrete.

Jerome F. Williams, the DOT's director, acknowledged yesterday that the agency had not met federal requirements, using practices "that did not comply with what we should have been doing." He said those problems occurred in 2005, 2006 and part of 2007, and that the DOT has since changed its practices. Governor Carcieri appointed Williams department director in December 2006, replacing James R. Capaldi.

Williams also said that paying back the FHWA could force the DOT to put off some highway projects, which he did not identify.

SEE **TESTS, A10**

For Kennedy, bill's passage a personal victory

The House approves the Rhode Island Democrat's bill to grant mental illness the same insurance coverage as physical illness or injury.

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The House last night handily passed Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy's legislation to put medical insurance for the treatment of mental illness and addiction on a par with coverage of physical ailments.

The 268-148 vote sets up potentially difficult compromise talks with the Senate, which last fall passed a more restrictive version of mental-health insurance parity, under the sponsorship of the congressman's father, Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, among others.

The House vote was a personal victory for Patrick

SEE **PARITY, A4**

One year later, immigration raid's impact disputed

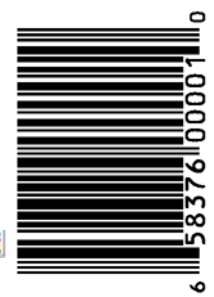
BY KAREN LEE ZINER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

One year after federal agents detained more than 300 illegal immigrants at a New Bedford factory, advocacy groups continue to decry the "needless havoc" and lasting emotional fallout for detainees and their families, particularly children who were separated from their mothers.

One advocate calls March 6, 2007, "a day that destroyed the immigrant family" and sent reverberations throughout the country.

But a government spokesman says the raid succeeded as an "eye-opener" for employers who hire illegal immigrants, and as a deterrent to illegal immigration.

SEE **RAID, A9**



INSIDE TODAY

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6 SECTIONS	
Ask Amy	E14
Bridge	E14
Business	F1
Classified	F5
Comics	E15
Crossword	E14
Editorial	B4
Legal ads	F4
Lifebeat	Weekend E1
Local News	D1
Lotteries	C4
Obituaries	D4
People	E1
Rhode Island	B1
Sports	C1
Television	E13

PIECE OF PARK'S HISTORY

One of the original bonds that helped pay for today's Roger Williams Park is purchased from a yard sale in Pawtucket and is now on display at the park's Museum of Natural History. **B1**

GATHERING OF THE GREEN

Members of the turfgrass industry from across New England gather in Providence for the 11th annual conference and show to discuss what's increasingly becoming an important cash crop. **F1**

BORDER TENSIONS

Venezuela says it was moving air, land and sea forces to its border with Colombia in a further escalation of tensions that erupted after Colombian forces crossed into Ecuador over the weekend and killed a guerrilla leader taking refuge there. **A2**



GARNETT LEADS THE CELTS

Kevin Garnett, shooting over Detroit's Rasheed Wallace, left, nets a season-high 31 points as the Celtics stall the Pistons last night, 90-78. With the win, Boston becomes the first NBA team to clinch a playoff spot this season. **C1**