

NOT SO NICE

Cloudy today, with light rain showers ending by afternoon; clearing tonight.
Forecast, B6

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Obama adds to delegate lead with a win in Miss.

The Illinois senator defeats Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton by a comfortable margin as the campaigns now head for Pennsylvania.

BY DAVID ESPINO
and **CHARLES BABINGTON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSON, Miss. — Sen. Barack Obama won the Mississippi Democratic presidential primary decisively last night, adding to his overall lead in delegates as he and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton plunged into a six-week battle ahead of a showdown in Pennsylvania. Obama was winning roughly 90 percent of the black vote but only about



OBAMA

one-quarter of the white vote, extending a pattern that carried him to victory in earlier primaries in South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. But his triumph seemed unlikely to shorten a Democratic marathon expected to last at least six more weeks — and possibly

far longer — while Republicans and their nominee-in-waiting, Sen. John McCain, turn their attention to the fall campaign.

“Now we look forward to campaigning in Pennsylvania and around the country,” Maggie Williams, Clinton’s campaign manager, said in a written statement that congratulated

Obama on his victory. “I’m confident that once we get a nominee, the party is going to be unified,” Obama said as he collected his

victory. But in a race growing more contentious, he took a swipe at the way his rival’s campaign has conducted itself.

“We’ve been very measured in terms of how we talk about Senator Clinton,” he said. “I’ve been careful to say that I think Senator Clinton is a capable person and that should she win the nomination, obviously, I would support her. I’m not sure we’ve been getting that same approach from the Clinton campaign,” he said on CNN.

Returns from 80 percent of Mississippi’s precincts showed Obama gaining 59

percent, to 39 percent for Clinton. Obama picked up at least 17 of Mississippi’s 33 delegates to the Democratic National Convention, with 5 more to be awarded. He hoped for a win sizable enough to erase most if not all of Clinton’s 11-delegate gain from last week, when she won three primaries.

The Illinois senator had 1,596 delegates to 1,484 for Clinton. It takes 2,025 to win the nomination.

Neither of the two rivals appears able to win enough delegates through pri-

SEE **OBAMA, A5**

Hospital chiefs ask lawmakers for budget relief

Most of the state’s hospitals finished last year with large deficits and the governor’s proposed budget would worsen matters, their leaders say.

BY STEVE PEOPLES
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — The heads of four Rhode Island hospitals testified yesterday that their medical institutions are teetering on the brink of financial disaster.

And they pleaded with key lawmakers to help — or at least not hurt — their hospitals in the 2008-09 state budget being debated before the House Finance Committee.

Governor Carcieri’s proposed budget would force hospitals to pay \$32.7 million more for their

licenses in the coming year, a move his office said is necessary to help close a deficit of at least \$348 million. The proposal, along with the rest of the governor’s cost-cutting plans, now rest with the General Assembly.

“We need your help. The budget that we’re looking for is a life preserver. The one that’s out there now is made out of concrete,” Charles S. Kinney, president and chief executive officer of Westerly Hospital, told the

SEE **HOSPITALS, A7**

A clash of cultures at a heating-supply store

A store owner’s decision to challenge the citizenship of two Spanish-speaking customers points to greater tensions in society.

BY KAREN LEE ZINER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — All José Genao planned to do at the heating equipment supply store was buy a spare part for his boiler.

While the owner began searching for the part, Genao and his friend began speaking to each other in Spanish.

As owner David C. Richardson was ringing up Genao’s \$18 purchase, he demanded to see their Social Security cards.

What followed was a telling encounter underscoring the tensions in this country over immigration and ethnicity.

When Genao told Richardson “he did not have the right to ask

SEE **STATUS, B3**



JOURNAL FILE / BOB THAYER

Concrete piers and pier caps, such as these, make up a large portion of the Route 195 relocation project.

Feds hit DOT over missed tests



JOURNAL FILE / ANDREW DICKERMAN

The Federal Highway Administration says at least 64 structures that support the ramps and bridges in the Route 195 reconstruction project, show in October 2007, contain concrete that wasn’t tested for strength.

Federal officials detail the state DOT’s failure to adequately test the concrete used in the \$610-million Route 195 project — meaning the state must repay the federal government millions in highway aid.

BY BRUCE LANDIS and KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

PROVIDENCE — The Department of Transportation failed to test the strength of concrete used in structural elements that hold up much of its flagship project, the new section of Route 195 being built through the city, according to just-released federal documents.

In all, Federal Highway Administration documents said, at least 64 structures that support the ramps and bridges in the \$610-million project contain concrete that wasn’t tested for strength, in violation of various standards.

The structures in question extend across the sprawling construction site, including the ramps that will form

Route 195’s new interchange with Route 95 and connect it to the new Providence River Bridge and the supports of the new arch bridge itself.

In an Aug. 15, 2007, letter to DOT Director Jerome F. Williams, the federal agency said that DOT’s concrete sampling and testing “was found generally to be non-compliant” with the DOT’s own regulations.

There were these other developments:

■ Williams confirmed that he has reassigned two top DOT engineers pending an internal investigation on concrete testing. They are James R. Caroselli, a \$92,792-a-year chief civil engineer in charge of the 195 project,

and Mark E. Felag, the \$106,019-a-year managing engineer in charge of the DOT’s materials section, responsible for testing materials including concrete.

Caroselli has been shifted to the DOT maintenance division and Felag to its research section, Williams said. He said the reassignments are temporary and are not intended as punishment.

■ The FHWA has made public a second notice to the DOT that it would not be reimbursed for Route 195 costs, this time for \$679,399 of the cost of metalizing steel for the new

SEE **CONCRETE, A7**

Twin River misses payment on loan; credit rating is cut

The gambling and entertainment venue’s owner blames a short-term cash-flow problem; officials say the state’s share of the revenue is not at risk.

BY KATHERINE GREGG and NEIL DOWNING
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

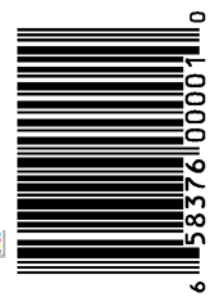
The Twin River gambling and entertainment site in Lincoln has run into some problems with its lenders, but said it is confident it can work things out.

UTGR Inc., the company which owns Twin River, missed one of its loan payments to lenders, which was due last week, according to the leveraged commentary and data unit at Standard & Poor’s Corp. (S&P) of New York.

Separately, the S&P ratings organization last week downgraded the ratings it assigns to UTGR’s debt. Overall revenue at Twin River is up sharply, but S&P said it is concerned about UTGR’s ability, after paying expenses, to fully cover the interest and principal payments on its loans.

Twin River spokeswoman

SEE **REVENUE, A7**



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FED’S MOVE BOOSTS STOCKS

Stocks surge more than 400 points after the Federal Reserve moves to make \$200 billion available to help struggling banks and mortgage providers. **F1**

SURVEY FINDS STD AMONG TEEN GIRLS

More than 3 million, or one in four, American girls between the ages of 14 and 19 has a sexually transmitted disease, according to a first-of-its-kind federal study conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a finding that startles some adolescent-health experts. **A2**

WAITING AND WATCHING THE SPITZERS

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer remains in seclusion as he weighs his options following the revelation of his involvement with a prostitution ring; plus, a look at the script political wives seem to follow as they stand by their men. **A6, E5**



ADMIRAL OPTS TO STEP ASIDE

Less than a year after assuming responsibility for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Adm. William J. Fallon resigns, reportedly over differences he has with the Bush administration’s policy toward Iran. **A5**