

**EASY TO TAKE**  
Mostly sunny today with highs in the low 40s; chance of a shower tonight.  
Forecast, E16

# The Providence Journal

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## A storeowner's demand that two Spanish-speaking customers prove their citizenship prompts an outcry from Latino leaders



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

The Rev. Eliseo Nogueras, center, speaks to the media yesterday outside Rhode Island Refrigeration, owned by David C. Richardson, below. Next to Mr. Nogueras is the Rev. Miguel Rivera, president of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders.

# Raising their profile

The storeowner insists he did nothing wrong but says "I apologize" if anyone was intimidated by his actions.

BY KAREN LEE ZINER  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — A national Latino clergy leader yesterday called on the state to "investigate immediately" a storeowner's demand to see the Social Security card of one or both of two Spanish-speaking customers, and his subsequent threat to call immigration authorities and make "a citizen's arrest."

The storeowner, David C. Richardson, said he did so out of his belief that "the majority of people — more than 51 percent" who do not speak English in Rhode Island "are here illegally," and it is his right as an American citizen to take action if he believes someone is an

illegal immigrant.

The March 1 encounter between Richardson, owner of Rhode Island Refrigeration, and state worker José A. Genao and his friend, was the subject of a story in yesterday's Providence Journal and the paper's Web site, projo.com.

Genao told The Journal that he and his friend — who declined comment — are natives of the Dominican Republic and U.S. citizens. Genao said that after he asked Richardson, in English, for a part at his plumbing supply store, he



SEE RESPONSE, B2

# R.I. seen needing millions for roads

Governor Carcieri appoints a 12-member panel to study how to pay for the expected \$600 million in repairs.

BY KATHERINE GREGG  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — After reexamining the condition of Rhode Island's bridges, the state Department of Transportation has identified the need for "approximately \$600 million in bridge repair and replacement projects" over the next five years, Governor Carcieri told a news conference yesterday.

But the money may not be there. Rhode Island is in danger of losing \$60 million to \$70 million in federal transportation aid each year. The state's 30-cent gasoline tax cannot make up the difference. And even if the state's must-fix list is pared to high-priority projects, he said, the state faces a potential \$210-million shortfall in available funding.

"Unfortunately, Rhode Island's roads and bridges are aging and deteriorating," Carcieri said. "In fact, the majority of our most heavily traveled roads and bridges were built between the 1950s and the 1970s. That means that we are facing a

SEE ROADS, A10

# N.Y. governor resigns over sex scandal

Eliot Spitzer mentions his "private failings" but does not specifically address the prostitution scandal that derailed his brief term as governor.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK — Gov. Eliot Spitzer, whose rise to political power as a fierce enforcer of ethics in public life was undone by revelations of his involvement with prostitutes, resigned yesterday, becoming the first New York governor to leave office amid scandal in nearly a century.

The resignation will be effective at noon on Monday. Lt. Gov. David A. Paterson, a state legislator for 22 years and the heir to a Harlem political dynasty, will be sworn in as New York's 55th governor, making him the state's first black chief executive and the first who is legally blind.



SPITZER

SEE SPITZER, A11

# Weighing cost, benefit of 'time off' for inmates

Would revising the way the state's prisoners can reduce their length of time in prison save money and curb crime or would it pose a threat to the general public?

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — When the steady rise in population counts at Rhode Island prisons hit an all time high of 4,000 last fall, Corrections Director A.T. Wall knew the system was headed for trouble.

Prison services "at all levels" were strained and the facilities were running out of beds.

Just a few months earlier, corrections officials had obtained a court waiver allowing them to increase the number of inmates at the Adult Correctional Institutions, but still the daily census continued to rise.

"I thought, if something isn't done now, we will soon reach the point where we trigger overcrowding provisions and emergency releases will be necessary," Wall recalls.

Rhode Island's Criminal Justice Oversight Commission, which monitors prison populations, had much the same fear.

The result was a sweeping proposal now making its way through the General Assembly to change, for the first time in almost 50 years, the way the state awards inmates time off

SEE PRISON, A8



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Inmates in the Spectrum Drug Treatment program at the ACI applaud a fellow inmate who has just spoken during the class. If an inmate completes the program, he gets 18 good-time days, 3 per month, removed from his sentence.

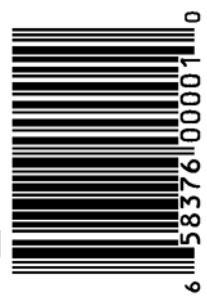
# Senate panel mulls 24-hour gambling, sports-betting bills

BY KATHERINE GREGG  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — With gambling promoters dangling the promise of tens of millions of new state dollars before their eyes, lawmakers yesterday turned their attention to professional sports-betting and round-the-clock gambling at Twin River and Newport Grand as possible ways to plug the state's massive deficit.

No votes were taken. But at a Senate committee hearing yesterday, lobbyists and executives from the state's two video-slot parlors pitched 24-hour gambling on weekends and the nights before state and federal holidays as an opportunity to raise upwards of \$14.8 million annually in new

SEE GAMBLING, A6



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## PLANES GROUNDED

Southwest Airlines grounds 43 planes and cancels scores of flights after acknowledging it failed to perform required inspections on some of its aircraft for cracks. **F1**

## SUSPECTED CON CASE UNDER WAY

An 83-year-old woman is among the first witnesses to testify in the trial of alleged con man John Kluth, who faces 32 counts of obtaining money under false pretenses. **B1**



## A LOSE, LOSE SITUATION

Charlotte beats URI, 75-73, left, to eliminate the Rams from the Atlantic-10 men's basketball tournament; the Friars, right, fall to West Virginia, 58-53, and are eliminated from the Big East tournament. **C1**

