

ERIN GO BRAGH

A bright but brisk St. Patrick's Day, with highs in the 40s; chilly tonight. Forecast, A12

The Providence Journal

projo.com

MONDAY
MARCH 17, 2008

50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier

Rhode Island will soon be opening its new, state-of-the-art Training School but some are asking if the facility is . . .



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

Patricia Martinez, left, director of the Department of Children, Youth and Families, and Adelita Orefice, deputy secretary of the Office of Health and Human Services, tour the new Training School nearing completion in the Pastore Complex, Cranston.

Already undersized?

"Unless drastic steps are taken," a federal court special master tells legislators, the \$61-million facility "may become yet another symbol of DCYF's inability to properly manage those entrusted to its care."

BY STEVE PEOPLES
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

CRANSTON — There are hardwoods in some hallways, huge windows with garden views and flat-screen TVs extending from the 18-foot ceilings.

Each unit offers study areas with computer access and a private outdoor basketball court just off the common area. An indoor recreation center features a weight room and a regulation-size basketball court equipped for volleyball.

And there's a top-of-the line security system.

Welcome to Rhode Island's new juvenile-detention center, a bright and airy \$61-million complex in the Pastore Complex that state officials say will be operational by June.

"The kids are never going to want to leave the Training School!" exclaimed Patricia Martinez, director of the De-

partment of Children, Youth and Families, while walking under one of the many skylights during a recent tour.

The new Training School, which consists of a 52-bed temporary detention center and a 96-bed building for more-serious offenders, is a model for a juvenile justice system that favors rehabilitation over simple detention, according to state officials. There's an on-site medical and dental clinic. Educational facilities include a computer lab, a science lab, and a stainless-steel teaching kitchen with a built-in projector and video screen.

But all is not well.

There are concerns that the state-of-the-art center — built in accordance with a 1979 federal court order that cited overcrowding and poor living

SEE TRAINING, A8



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

A resident of the soon-to-be-replaced Rhode Island Training School walks past a row of beds in a hallway, a consequence of crowding.

Fed acts to avert financial meltdown

The nation's central bank steps in to facilitate the sale of an investment banking firm in danger of collapse, cuts a key interest rate and moves to make credit more available.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve took dramatic action on multiple fronts last night to avert a crisis in the global financial system, backing the acquisition of a wounded investment firm and increasing the flow of money to other banks squeezed for credit.

After a weekend of marathon negotiations in New York and Washington, the central bank undertook a broad effort to prevent key financial players from going under, including the unprecedented offer of short-term loans to investment banks.

The central bank also approved a cut in its lending rate to financial institutions to 3.25 percent from 3.50 percent, effective immediately.

SEE FED, A9

Cash-strapped GOP split on fall strategy

State GOP Chairman Giovanni Cicione sees 2008 as a "great opportunity" while Dave Cote, head of the state GOP chairmen's caucus, says the party should cut its paid staff.

BY MARK ARSENAULT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — With the General Assembly elections less than nine months away, the Republican State Central Committee has one-tenth of the cash reserves of its Democratic counterpart and has undergone a heated internal debate over how best to spend its money to elect more Republicans to the legislature this fall.

The GOP began 2008 with just \$9,721 in the bank, according to filings with the state Board of Elections, after a fourth quarter in 2007 in which the party spent more than \$50,000 on staff and fundraising costs.

By contrast, the Democratic State Committee started 2008 with about \$96,000.

Rhode Island GOP Chairman Giovanni Cicione says the 2008 cycle offers local Republicans "great opportunities" to dent the Democratic Party's dominance on Smith Hill, "given the budget, and the

SEE GOP, A8

R.I. hardly alone as it faces sharp budgetary shortfall

BY JENNIFER STEINHAEUER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Programs for the elderly are being slashed in Maine. Government jobs are being eliminated in New Jersey. Prison construction has been put off in Virginia. Some schools in California will end their music programs.

It may be cold comfort to Rhode Islanders, whose own state is facing budget deficits for the current fiscal year and next, but across the country, about half of the state legislatures are scrambling to plug gaps in their budgets, shot through by rapid declines in corporate and sales tax revenue, distressed housing markets and a national economy on the verge of a recession.

Many states are reporting their largest budget shortfalls since the recessions of 2001 and 1991 and 1992.

"It is not just the standard downturn where unem-

SEE STATES, A9

China mobilizes forces as Tibet protests spread

The Dalai Lama calls for an investigation as unrest forces Beijing to move police across the country to suppress demonstrations.

BY CARA ANNA and TINI TRAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TONGREN, China — Protests spread from Tibet into three neighboring provinces yesterday as Tibetans defied a Chinese government crackdown, while the Dalai Lama decried what he called the "cultural genocide" taking place in his homeland.

Demonstrations widened to Tibetan communities in Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu provinces, forcing authorities to mobilize security forces across a broad expanse of western China.

In Tongren, riot police sent to pre-

vent protests set off tensions when they took up positions outside a monastery. Dozens of monks, defying a directive not to gather in groups, marched to a hill where they set off fireworks and burned incense in what one monk said was a protest, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene.

In a sign that authorities were preparing for trouble, AP and other foreign journalists were ordered out of the Tibetan parts of Gansu and Qinghai provinces by police who told them it was for

SEE TIBET, A9



AP / ANDY WONG

Police run toward a monastery in Xiahe, Gansu province, yesterday. On Saturday, police dispersed hundreds of Tibetans after they smashed windows in the police headquarters there.



INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829

5 SECTIONS			
Ask Amy	D4	Lifebeat	D1
Bridge	D4	Lotteries	B4
Business	A10	Obituaries	C2
Classified	E1	People	D1
Comics	D5	Rhode Island	C1
Crossword	D4	Sports	B1
Editorial	C3	Television	D6
Kidsbeat	D3	What's Happening	D4
Legal ads	A8		

SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS

Three people were still listed as missing as rescue teams picked through the rubble of a Manhattan townhouse crushed when a 19-story construction crane toppled, killing four workers. **A2**

URI, BROWN GET TOURNAMENT BIDS

URI wins an invitation to the National Invitation Tournament where the Rams will face off against Creighton in the first round, while Brown will be playing in the College Basketball Invitational. **B1**

McCAIN IN IRAQ

As Democratic Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama continue to battle for their party's presidential nomination, Sen. John McCain, the Republican Party's presumptive nominee for president, travels to Baghdad to meet with Iraqi and U.S. diplomatic and military leaders. **A8**



TOPIC OF CONVERSATION

With some sharp sketches based on the Democratic presidential contest, *Saturday Night Live* has managed to put itself back into the national discussion. **D1**