

**SPRING DEFERRED**  
Cool today with periods of rain; light rain and possible snow showers tonight.  
**Forecast, E10**

# The Providence Journal

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**THE SMOKE-SHOP TRIAL**

## 'They meant business'

Chief Sachem Matthew Thomas describes the July 2003 state police raid on a tribal smoke shop as the defense rests its case.

**BY KATIE MULVANEY**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The defense rested yesterday in the trial of seven Narragansett Indians arrested during a state police raid on a tribal smoke shop with testimony from the tribe's leader, Chief Sachem Matthew Thomas.

Thomas was the final witness in the trial's fifth week at Providence County Superior Court. Closing arguments are set for Monday.

Thomas, who has led the tribe of about 2,800 since 1997, continued a running theme, saying troopers forcefully pushed onto tribal lands without presenting a search warrant, despite numerous requests for papers. Narragansetts, including his codefendants, and some non-natives rose from their seats as Thomas took and left the stand. His testimony began by tracing his roots to former Narragansett sachems and detailing the federal government's recognition of the tribe as a sovereign nation in 1983.

Thomas told jurors he wore a shirt and tie the morning of July 14, 2003, because he expected the state to take the tribe to court over the opening of the tax-free smoke shop on tribal land in Charlestown. A meeting with officials from the governor's office at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Warwick had ended without resolution the day before.

"The last words I said to the governor's staff was 'See you in court,'" Thomas said. The tribe believed, he said, they had the regulatory authority to open the shop as an economic development venture.

SEE **TRIAL, A5**

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**Extra:** For a gallery of photos from the trial, and to watch video used as evidence in the trial, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)



Chief Sachem Matthew Thomas testifies in Superior Court yesterday. He and six other Narragansett Indians face misdemeanor charges related to the raid.

## Crackdown on illegal immigrants

Governor Carcieri orders numerous state agencies to play a role in combatting illegal immigration.

**BY KAREN LEE ZINER**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Governor Carcieri yesterday signed a six-point executive order he said will enable "a vast array of state government agencies" to address illegal immigration in Rhode Island.

He said he did so because the federal government has dropped the ball on immigration reform and left state taxpayers to pick up what he said are the considerable costs of illegal immigration.

During a sometimes conten-

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**Extra:** To read the governor's executive order, and for more of our occasional series on how immigration — legal and illegal — is affecting our state and its institutions, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)



**CARCIERI**

tious news conference, the governor said he knew he was tackling "a difficult, sensitive issue," and one that "stirs great emotion."

"This is not about taking a hard line against immigrants," said Carcieri. "It's about making sure that those who come here can realize their goals of economic security and a better quality of life." Harking to his own immigrant roots, the governor said he supports people who follow legal channels to realize the American Dream.

SEE **CARCIERI, A5**

## Campaign against militias plunges Iraq into violence

The government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki faces a major test as it attempts to assert its authority.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

BAGHDAD — Thousands of supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr poured into the streets of the Iraqi capital yesterday to protest Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's ongoing security crackdown against al-Sadr's militia, as clashes continued in the southern city of Basra, new rocket attacks struck near the U.S. Embassy and a high-profile Iraqi government official was kidnapped.

The government announced a curfew across the capital until

Sunday in an attempt to quell violence, which has spread to several cities since the offensive began Tuesday in the southern city of Basra.

Al-Sadr loyalists rejected U.S. and Iraqi assertions that the Basra operation was aimed at rogue militiamen and insisted it was targeting al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia. A statement released late yesterday by al-Sadr's political office said the clergyman remained

SEE **IRAQ, A4**

"We have thought seriously about moving out of state. We don't want to do this."

**WAYNE McCARTHY**

Bed-and-breakfast owner

## Business owners urge lawmakers to hold line on taxes

**BY STEVE PEOPLES**  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island business does not want to be forgotten.

And this week, in a nearly unprecedented show of force, Ocean State business owners ensured they will be remembered as lawmakers struggle to close a state budget deficit that threatens government programs and tax policies that touch almost every Rhode Island citizen.

Dozens of advocates — bank presidents, yacht builders, inn keepers, and restaurateurs — flocked to the State House on Wednesday to fight proposals to reverse tax cuts for high earners and expand the sales tax to include services ranging

SEE **TAXES, B2**

# Pushed to the limit

sixth of eight parts

**STORY BY RICHARD SALIT**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRIEDA SQUIRES**  
THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Officer Candidate School (OCS) recently returned to Naval Station Newport. Those who complete the rigorous 12-week program become commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy. But not all are successful. Reporter Richard Salit and photographer Frieda Squires followed five candidates — Adam Cole, Sarah Engemann, Matthew Gottschalk, Nicole Lobecker and Jason Moehlmann — who joined Class 05-08 last fall.



In the classroom, on a ship, training remains rigorous

The quiet on deck is broken by the ship's intercom. "All hands man your battle stations. Enemy aircraft spotted off the port beam."

An alarm sounds, followed by the words no Navy sailor wants to hear.

"Missiles inbound, headed for port side. All hands brace for shock."

The sound of one explosion, then another, fills the air.

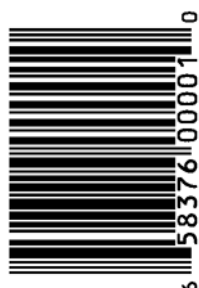
"Hit Alpha ... Hit Bravo," the intercom announces. "Investigators away."

The men and women on the ship's deck leap into action. Several go below to check for damage. They find water spewing into the compartment from several spots, including a lightning bolt-shaped gash in the hull. The water is quickly rising to their chests.

Something must be done. It's the sixth week at Officer Candidate

**Officer candidates learn how to shore a ship after being hit in a missile attack on the Buttercup — a mockup of an immersed ship also known as the Wet Trainer.**

SEE **HANDS-ON, A7**



**INSIDE TODAY**

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**JUDGE RULES OUT EXHIBITS**

A federal judge tosses out exhibits offered by those seeking class-action status on behalf of the 3,000 children in state custody and aiming for an overhaul of Rhode Island's child-welfare system. **B1**

**FOR SALE SIGN**

In a further sign of the slackening housing market, the partnership that owns The 903 Residences in Providence says that the condominium project is up for sale. **F1**

**WAITING GAME**

It's been nearly two weeks since Providence College dismissed Tim Welsh as head basketball coach and the school has yet to settle on a replacement. **C1**



**CRY FOR FREEDOM**

Tibetan monks shouting, "Tibet is not free! Tibet is not free!" catch Chinese officials off guard during a highly scripted tour for Western journalists of Lhasa's central Buddhist temple. **A2**