

**SLOW START**  
Morning sprinkles to be replaced by afternoon sunshine and highs in the 60s.  
**Forecast, E16**

# The Providence Journal

**THURSDAY**  
APRIL 10, 2008

**75¢**  
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

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"I want to be a judge. If someone does something wrong, I won't let them go. I'll be strict."

**SYLVIA BOGUSZ**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

Sylvia Bogusz, left, enjoys being back home in South Kingstown after spending months in Boston and Rhode Island hospitals. She was hit by an alleged drunken driver last year. At her side is her mother, Grazyna Chylinska.

## SYLVIA'S COMEBACK

An accident last year nearly took Sylvia Bogusz' young life, but months of care and recovery have landed her back home in South Kingstown.

**BY PAUL DAVIS**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

**S**OUTH KINGSTOWN  
Sylvia Bogusz still writes poetry, but the words don't come as easily. Right-handed for 17 years, she scrawls letters with a shaky left hand. "My thoughts are scattered," says Bogusz, whose body was hurled 100 feet when a driver hit her 10 months ago.

Her doctors thought she would die. The speeding car ripped her brain tissue, cracked her liver, fractured her lower spine and pelvis, broke her upper arm and thigh bone and tore two arteries that carry blood to her brain. Doctors also discovered a "Hangman's fracture" — an injury found in people who are hanged.

At Rhode Island Hospital, Bogusz slipped into a coma, breathed through a tube and did not talk for months. But last week she testified at the State House in favor of several bills that would strengthen the state's drunken-driving laws.

The police say the woman who hit her was drunk.

"I was so nervous," says Bogusz, who "wobbles like a penguin" and walks with a cane. Still, she wanted to tell lawmakers what had happened to her. "I said, 'I have a traumatic brain injury and I've had major surgery.'"

When she couldn't finish, her mother, Grazyna Chylinska, spoke. Too many people are being hurt or killed by drivers who drink, she said. Police Lt. Gerald

Richard — who worked on her daughter's case — was also struck by a drunken driver, she said. "We want to prevent other families from going through this."

"Most of the time, these drunken drivers are repeat offenders, and they don't care," says Sen. Leonidas Raptakis, D-Coventry, one of several lawmakers looking to punish drinkers through tougher laws, including longer license suspensions.

Raptakis wants Bogusz to speak at other State House hearings. "Her testimony is powerful."

Before the accident, Bogusz studied Italian at South Kingstown High School. She graduated last June and, a day later, started classes at the University of Rhode Island.

SEE SYLVIA, A5

### The Immigration Issue

## Legislators consider dueling proposals

The one bill that passed a House Committee would require all Rhode Island employers to participate in the federal employment-verification program.

**BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM**  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — The immigration debate that has dominated Rhode Island's political consciousness in recent weeks made its way to the State House last night, as lawmakers reviewed a spate of bills that would crack down on illegal immigration.

In hours of testimony that stretched late into the night, the House Judiciary Committee heard comments on bills that would block illegal immigrants from getting driver's licenses, housing assistance and punish businesses and state agencies that hire them, effectively taking Governor Carcieri's recent executive order a step further.

A second set of proposals that would prevent busi-

SEE IMMIGRATION, A7

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**Your turn:** What do you think of the specific provisions of the governor's executive order? To respond, go to **projo.com**

## Subterfuge thwarts torch demonstrators

But the tactic means few in San Francisco actually get to see the Olympic symbol.

**BY JESSE MCKINLEY**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO — The nation's only chance to see the Olympic flame up close became an elaborate game of hide-and-seek here yesterday, as city officials secretly rerouted the planned torch relay, swarmed its runners with blankets of security and then quickly evacuated the torch to the airport in a heavily guarded motorcade.

The closing ceremony to mark the flame's only North American stop was effectively canceled in the face of thousands who turned out to demonstrate both for and against China and waited for hours in

SEE TORCH, A5

## Assembly vote saves historic tax credit

But lawmakers make some modifications, which they say will save taxpayers about \$40 million over two years.

**BY STEVE PEOPLES**  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — The state will borrow an estimated \$280 million to temporarily save Rhode Island's popular historic tax credit program, which is largely credited with breathing new life into the state's crumbling mills and industrial properties.

Both chambers of the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly last night to approve the borrowing plan, which will ultimately save state taxpayers roughly \$40 million over the next two years by blocking new projects from entering the program and slightly reducing promised payouts to developers.

But in adopting the compromise legislation last night, the Assembly ignored an alternative that may have saved as much as \$70 million more.

Key lawmakers in recent weeks briefly considered

SEE CREDIT, A7

## More misery ahead for air travelers

Stricter FAA inspections, which led American Airlines to cancel more than 1,000 flights, may continue through June.

**BY MICHELINE MAYNARD**  
and **MATTHEW L. WALD**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Air travelers, whose plans have already been disrupted by thousands of canceled flights recently, may face continued chaos in coming weeks as the Federal Aviation Administration and the airlines expand their scrutiny of passenger planes.

The groundings at airlines such as American, Alaska, Delta and Southwest resulted from a broader round of inspections, ordered by the FAA, to determine whether the airlines have complied with past directives to check airplane structures, wires, electronics and other components.

A second wave of audits began on March 30 and will continue through June 30. Lau-



Passengers traveling through Chicago's O'Hare International Airport yesterday were especially hard hit by American Airlines' decision to cancel more than 1,000 flights system wide to inspect part of its fleet.

AP / PAUL BEATY

SEE AIRLINES, A4

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### MILITARY AT ITS LIMIT

Signaling that the American military has reached its limit, Gen. David Petraeus tells a House panel that he is unlikely to endorse any fresh buildup of troops even if security in Iraq should seriously deteriorate. **A2**

### ARREST IN ALLEGED ABDUCTION

A Woonsocket man is under arrest after allegedly abducting an 11-year-old girl at knife-point as she was walking to school. **B1**

### GAMBLING VOTE DELAYED

At the last minute, House Democratic leaders at the General Assembly put off a scheduled vote on a 24-hour gambling bill that critics argue would bring the two state-sanctioned slot parlors one step closer to becoming full-fledged casinos. **B1**



### SOX FALL PREY TO TIGERS

Detroit notches its first win in 8 games, finally showing the muscle that earned the team preseason raves, by beating Kevin Youkilis, left, and the Red Sox 7-2 in Boston last night. **C1**