

**FAIR TO FOUL**  
Mostly sunny today with highs in the low 60s; increasing clouds tonight.  
**Forecast, B6**

# The Providence Journal

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## CALMING A CITY



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

A Central Falls police car passes a makeshift shrine for Edelmiro Roman at the corner of Dexter and Darling streets after 9 last night — the time a new curfew for youths under age 18 took effect. Roman was killed Sunday night while walking home.

# Curfew quiets Central Falls

## Looking for a way to safeguard youths

BY JOHN CASTELLUCCI  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CENTRAL FALLS — Mayor Charles D. Moreau won praise and applause when he announced a curfew to prevent further outbreaks of the violence that left two teenagers dead over the weekend.

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**Your turn:** What do you think of the Central Falls curfew? To respond, and for a roundup of photos from the aftermath of the fatal shootings, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)

But in Chicago, where 26 shootings were reported the weekend of April 19 and 20, seven of the victims were juveniles, and five were out after the city's 11 p.m. curfew, the Associated Press reported.

And, in California, where curfews were touted as a way to curb violence among young people, two researchers who correlated crime data with curfew enforcement a decade ago concluded, "Curfew enforcement generally had no discernible effect on youth crime."

State and local officials acknowledged yesterday it will take more than the 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew imposed on individuals under 18 in Central Falls to prevent a

SEE CURFEWS, A7

By late last night, the measure, ordered after the shooting deaths of two teens over the weekend, appeared to be keeping youths under 18 off the streets.

BY TATIANA PINA  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CENTRAL FALLS — Central Falls High School senior Luis Pastor sat in the school library yesterday with a thick binder that contained the work he planned to present as part of the portfolio required for graduation.

Pastor was dressed for the occasion: He wore a crisp plaid dress shirt, his slacks were pressed and his hair was trimmed. But his heart wasn't in it. On Sunday night, someone had shot and killed his good friend and classmate, 16-year-old Edelmiro Roman, near Dexter and Darling streets. Roman was one of two teenagers killed over the weekend.

On Tuesday, Pastor had visited a memorial that classmates set up on Dexter Street. "My mind isn't in this. It's hard," Pastor said yesterday. "I'm afraid I'm gonna forget stuff."

Sue Cranston, the administrator of the graduation portfolios program, said that when Pastor told her he was struggling, she reminded him how hard he had worked on it and told him that Roman would have wanted him to succeed. When a group of five educators arrived at Pastor's workstation, the young man who loves computers and music presented his

SEE QUIET, A6

# Veto of 24-hour gambling 'likely'

Governor Carcieri says he thinks revenue estimates are inflated; the House and Senate may be able to override a veto.

BY KATHERINE GREGG  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU  
and JOHN HILL  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — With a 24-hour gambling bill now headed to his desk, Governor Carcieri served notice yesterday that he will "most likely" veto the legislation because he has "serious reservations and concerns" about the "inflated" revenue projections and does not believe the state should force more gambling on communities that do not want it.

Before the day was over, the Senate had nevertheless approved and sent to the governor a House-passed version of the bill allowing 24-hour gambling at the state's two video-slot emporiums on weekends and the overnight hours before holidays.

The bill also stretches the closing time at Twin River and Newport Grand to 3 a.m. on all other days,

SEE GAMBLING, A4

# Poll: Voters see Democratic race tightening

BY ROBIN TONER and MEGAN THEE  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Sen. Barack Obama's aura of inevitability in the battle for the Democratic presidential nomination has diminished in the wake of his loss in the Pennsylvania primary and the furor over his former pastor, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll.

The poll was conducted Friday through Tuesday, largely before Obama's news conference on Tuesday denouncing his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., and may not fully capture the impact of that controversy or the response.

But the survey found that Obama, whose lead in the race for the delegates needed to secure the nomination has given him a commanding position over Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton since February, is now perceived to be in a much tighter fight.

SEE POLL, A9

# GAS PRICES FORCING SOME OFF THE ROAD



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Wanda Perez, of Providence, walks home in the rain from her part-time job at the Hartford Avenue apartment complex. Because of the rising cost of gas, Perez leaves her van at home.

BY KAREN LEE ZINER  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Holding her yellow umbrella against the sleet, Wanda Perez stepped into an urban stream Monday that coursed down Hartford Avenue in Providence. Every few yards, she paused in sodden shoes, shifted a bag from one arm to the other and pressed homeward through the rain.

## FOURTH OF FIVE PARTS

Given the weather, she would have preferred to drive. But she can't afford the gasoline.

"Three days ago, I stopped driving — only if I have to," said Perez, who lives in the Hartford Park low-income housing development and works at its community center. "Right now, my son is sick with asthma. I had to take him to the emergency room. I need to use my car, but I try to save for gas. I don't know what to do."

The only thing Perez can think of is rationing her gasoline-buying to \$10 a week. She stopped picking up her youngest child from elementary school, and restricts trips to absolute musts. For

SEE FUEL, A10

## INTEREST RATE CUT

With new figures showing the economy growing at an anemic 0.6 percent annual rate, the Federal Reserve cuts a key interest rate by a quarter point to its lowest level since 2004. But local retailers don't expect to feel the impact of the latest rate cut anytime soon.

F1

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**Your turn:** The ripple effect of gas prices: Where are you seeing it? To respond, and to read previous installments in this series, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)

# Moratorium on shutoff of gas, electricity ends

BY TIMOTHY C. BARMANN  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

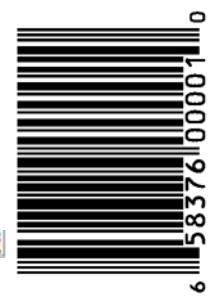
Beginning today, thousands of Rhode Islanders are facing the imminent shutoff of their gas or electricity service because they didn't — or couldn't — pay their bills.

State regulations prohibit utility companies from shutting off the service of certain low-income households during the winter months. That moratorium begins Nov. 1 and usually ends April 15. But this year, National Grid voluntarily agreed to extend it through yesterday.

Community advocates say that with continued high energy prices, a sagging economy and virtually no heating assistance from the state, the number of utility shutoffs is likely to set a record this year.

The number of shutoffs last year set an all-time record. Utility companies turned off service to

SEE SHUTOFFS, A10



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## DEATH TOLL CLIMBS IN IRAQ

Six U.S. soldiers are killed in Iraq over the past two days, bringing the military's death toll for April to 50, the highest for a single month since September. A2

## CELTICS RETURN TO FORM

Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen pace the Celtics past the Atlanta Hawks last night, 110-85, pulling ahead three games to two in their first-round playoff series. Boston's Big Three combined for 61 points. C1

## WATERFIRE STILL BURNING BRIGHT



Despite concerns about rising costs and a slowing economy, WaterFire will return for its 13th season later this month, with at least 11 full lightings and 3 partial lightings scheduled for this year. B1