



GRAYDAY
Showers ending this morning, with cloudy skies this afternoon and tonight.
Forecast, F8

The Providence Journal

projo.com

FRIDAY
MAY 2, 2008
75¢
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

Carcieri signs midyear budget

The plan closes a \$168-million deficit by cutting social-service programs and money to cities and towns.

BY STEVE PEOPLES
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU
PROVIDENCE — Governor Carcieri last night signed into law a swath of budget cuts that target poor children, state workers, and cities and towns to help close the largest current-year deficit in nearly two decades.

The governor signed the \$168-million midyear budget revision — known as the “supplemental budget” — privately in his office just minutes after the Senate approved the bill in a controversial vote that labor union leaders said did not meet the required two-thirds majority.

The flurry of activity capped four months of public testimony and negotiations on the spending plan that avoided tax increases, but left many General Assembly members shaking their heads.

“There are a lot of things here that I’m completely distressed about,” Sen. Stephen D. Alves, D-West Warwick, said during the 10 minutes of discussion that preceded the 25-to-11 vote (two senators did not vote). “However, they’re things that need to be done. They’re things that we can no longer afford.”

But the difficult votes have just begun.

The General Assembly now focuses on a budget hole more than twice the size of this year’s deficit for the fiscal year that begins in July.

“I can tell you just from the numbers that are coming in, they’re not looking very good at all. We’re probably facing a \$400-million deficit for the next fiscal year,” Alves said. “So, today we think these are tough choices? Two months from now brace yourself.”

Carcieri released a statement praising the Assembly for taking “the first step to solving the state’s fiscal crisis.”

“Unfortunately, we have much more work ahead of us,” he said.

The supplemental budget signed into law yesterday scoops

SEE **BUDGET, A6**

COPING WITH HIGHER FUEL PRICES

SHIFTING GEARS



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Trevor O'Driscoll, a teacher at The Wheeler School, in Providence, commutes to school by bike, while his wife, Vanessa, also a teacher at the school, walks the mile and a half from home to Wheeler.

As gas prices rise, people are finding that there are alternatives to driving

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER
Kim Stoddard, of Providence, was searching the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Web site for bus schedules to Newport when she found a link to help people set up carpools.

Stoddard, who sells insurance, gave it a try, and now has two regular passengers who help pay her gasoline costs and provide good company.

A program manager at Brown University has given his gas-guzzling Mercedes SUV to his parents and started driving their Volkswagen Beetle to work. It uses “far less gas,” says Bradford L. Briggs. When his office moves to

a more convenient location in Providence, he plans to take a bus.

Trevor and Vanessa O'Driscoll decided to stop using their car to commute to their teaching jobs at The Wheeler School in Providence. She walks and he rides a bike. Both said the exercise makes them feel better.

So many more people have switched to riding the state’s commuter buses,

SEE **SOLUTIONS, A8**



Multimedia: For Rhode Islanders’ solutions to the high cost of gas, and for previous installments in this series, go to projo.com

Car buyers downsize, switching to smaller, fuel-efficient vehicles

BY BILL VLASIC
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT — Soaring gasoline prices have turned the steady migration by Americans to smaller cars into a stampede.

In what industry analysts are calling a first, about one in five vehicles sold in the United States last month was a compact or subcompact car, based on monthly sales data released yesterday. Almost a decade ago, when sport-utility vehicles were at their peak of popularity, only one in every eight vehicles sold was a small car.

The switch to smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles has been building in recent years, but has accelerated recently with the advent of \$3.50-a-gallon gas. At the same time, sales of pickup trucks and large sport-utility vehicles have dropped sharply.

In another first, fuel-sipping four-cylinder engines surpassed six-cylinder models in popularity last month.

SEE **AUTOS, A8**

CAMPAIGN 2008

It's down to the final laps

For Clinton, math may be the enemy

BY ADAM NAGOURNEY and CARL HULSE
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Pumped up and focused, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton is putting in 16-hour days in Indiana and acting as if the Democratic presidential nomination was practically within her grasp.

In fact, many in the party are asking if her chances of winning the Democratic presidential nomination have markedly improved as Sen. Barack Obama has struggled through his toughest month of this campaign.

After weeks in which her candidacy was seen by many party leaders as a long shot at best, Clinton’s advisers argued strenuously yesterday that the answer is most assuredly

SEE **CLINTON, A9**



AP / ELISE AMENDOLA

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, at a rally in Jeffersonville, Ind., yesterday.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

It takes 2,025 delegate votes to win the Democratic presidential nomination. According to the Associated Press, as of yesterday, Sen. Barack Obama had 1,736.5 delegates to 1,602.5 for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Here are the remaining Democratic presidential primaries and the number of delegates at stake:

- Tomorrow**
Guam: 4
- Tuesday**
N. Carolina: 115
Indiana: 72
- May 13**
West Virginia: 28
- May 20**
Kentucky: 51
Oregon: 52
- June 1**
Puerto Rico: 55
- June 3**
Montana: 16
South Dakota: 15

To skeptics, Obama reintroduces himself

BY JEFF ZELENY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

COLUMBIA CITY, Ind. — There was no music, no sea of screaming admirers and only a light dabble of applause when Sen. Barack Obama walked across the green carpet of the Oak Pointe retirement center here yesterday at his first campaign stop of the day.

For a presidential candidate, particularly one in the throes of a rigorous political and personal test, such a dearth of energy could be a worrisome sign. For Obama, it was all part of the new script.

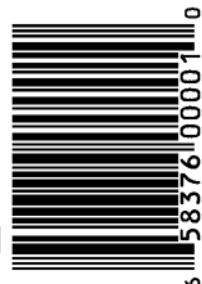
“What I want to do is spend more time listening than talking,” Obama told a small clutch of Indiana voters. “It’s been wonder-

SEE **OBAMA, A9**



AP / JAE C. HONG

Sen. Barack Obama, at a town hall-style meeting yesterday in South Bend, Ind.



INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829

6 SECTIONS			
Ask Amy	E8	Local News	D1
Bridge	E8	Lotteries	C4
Business	F1	Obituaries	D4
Classified	F4	People	E1
Comics	E9	Rhode Island	B1
Crossword	E8	Sports	C1
Editorial	B4	Television	E7
Legal ads	A11	What's Happening	E8
Lifbeat Movies	E1		

SOX FALL TO BLUE JAYS

Boston drops the last game of its homestand with the Blue Jays, 3-0, as Toronto’s A.J. Burnett scatters three hits pitching into the eighth inning and Alex Rios homers. Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield takes the loss. **C1**

LAW FIRM CLOSING ITS DOORS

Tillinghast Licht, a Providence law firm with roots dating to at least 1818, announces that it will be closing its doors within the next few months. **F1**

U.S. HITS TERRORIST IN SOMALIA

Aden Hashi Ayro, a suspected top al-Qaida commander in Somalia, and 10 others are killed in a U.S. missile strike. **A2**

IMMIGRANTS MAKE THEIR CASE



Hundreds of people rally outside the State House, left, urging lawmakers to oppose Governor Carcieri’s executive order cracking down on illegal immigration while thousands rally in cities across the United States in favor of immigration reform. **B1, A2**