

PICTURE PERFECT
Sunny and warm today with highs in the mid-70s; increasing clouds tonight.
Forecast, B6

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Housing market plunging in state

The Rhode Island Association of Realtors reports the median price of a single-family house in the first quarter of the year fell nearly 10 percent and sales are down 23 percent.

BY LYNN ARDITI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

EAST GREENWICH — Susan Marsh knew it was time to let go of her family house on Bunker Hill Lane.

projo.com

BROWSE recent real estate transactions in Rhode Island by town, at: projohomes.com

Key mortgage guarantor posts a \$2.2-billion loss. **F1**

Over the next 1½ years, the agent reduced the price seven times. She even took the house off the market and put it back on (sometimes

SEE **HOUSES, A4**

Assembly overrides veto on gambling

Over Governor Carcieri's objection, Twin River in Lincoln and Newport Grand will be allowed to operate around the clock on weekends and holidays starting Friday.

BY KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — With Twin River primed and ready to offer overnight gambling starting Friday night, the Democrat-dominated General Assembly yesterday overrode Republican Governor Carcieri's veto of legislation allowing 24-hour video-gambling at both Twin River in Lincoln and Newport Grand.

The Senate voted 24 to 8 to override the governor's veto of a day earlier, shortly after the House voted 51 to 16 to do the same.

Now law, the legislation allows the two privately owned slots emporiums to remain open overnight on

SEE **OVERRIDE, B2**

Video of brawling students goes online

BY LINDA BORG
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — An afterschool fight that drew 50 to 60 student onlookers in front of Roger Williams Middle School was posted on the Web site YouTube, making Providence part of a growing phenomenon in which teenagers use technology to publicize acts of violence.

When the police arrived Wednesday around 3 p.m., they saw three to five girls punching and kicking someone in front of a large crowd of students from

SEE **VIDEO, A4**

Split decision



AP / DARRON CUMMINGS, above; AP / JAE C. HONG, below

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, above, greets supporters at a rally last night in Indianapolis, after it appeared she narrowly won that state's Democratic presidential primary. Sen. Barack Obama, below, greets supporters in Raleigh, N.C., last night after winning that state's primary vote.



N.C. to Obama: Clinton leads in Indiana

BY JEFF ZELENY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. Barack Obama won a commanding victory in the North Carolina primary yesterday and was running closely behind Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in Indiana, where the Clinton campaign had been hoping for a big victory to propel its candidacy.

The results virtually assured that Obama would widen his lead in pledged delegates over Clinton, providing him with ammunition as he seeks to get the Democratic Party to coalesce around his candidacy. He was also poised to increase his lead in the popular vote with a strong showing in North Carolina.

Returns from 98 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama winning 56 percent of the vote to 41 percent for Clinton.

In Indiana, returns from 91 percent of the precincts showed Clinton with 51 percent of the vote to 49 percent for Obama.

In this case, however, most political observers say that the split cannot be considered a draw.

Clinton's loss in North Carolina, combined with a tight race in Indiana, where the counting was continuing deep into the night, did nothing to improve her chances of securing the Democratic presidential nomination. If anything, with few primary states remaining, Clinton's options for overtaking Obama may have dwindled further.

For Obama, the outcome came after a brutal period in which he was on the defensive over the inflammatory comments of his former pastor. That he was able, at a minimum, to hold his own under those circumstances, political observers say, should allow him to make a case that he has proved his resilience in the face of questions about race, values and patriotism — the very kinds of issues that the Clinton campaign has suggested would leave him vulnerable in the general election.

In Indiana, Obama stands tough

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

INDIANAPOLIS — If Sen. Barack Obama didn't decisively knock off Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in Indiana's photo-finish primary yesterday, he at least showed that he can take a punch and come back stronger.

Combined with his big win in North Carolina, Obama scored a virtual standoff in Indiana despite a new controversy over his former pastor that came at the worst possible time.

As Obama dealt with that crisis, Clinton attacked

economic issues with a populist edge and a pitch to cut gasoline taxes, apparently beating Obama among working-class white voters in Indiana and among those most concerned about pocketbook issues.

But that persistent weakness in Obama's appeal was overshadowed by the march of the nominating mathematics. Obama pushed his total of Democratic convention delegates closer to the majority that seems further than ever beyond Clinton's reach.

SEE **INDIANA, A5**

SEE **PRIMARIES, A5**

Trial starts in 2004 beating death of 3-year-old

Katherine Bunnell listens to her lawyer give opening arguments yesterday. Bunnell and her ex-boyfriend, Gilbert Delestre, face murder charges.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
STEVE SZYDLOWSKI

Katherine S. Bunnell, along with her former boyfriend, are accused of fatally beating foster child Thomas "T.J." Wright.

BY JOHN CASTELLUCCI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

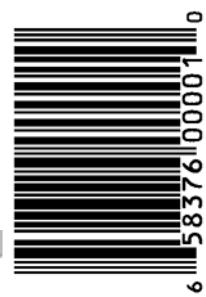
PROVIDENCE — Katherine S. Bunnell and her ex-boyfriend, Gilbert Delestre, now blame each other for the death of Thomas "T.J." Wright, their 3-year-old foster child, who was beaten so brutally 3½ years ago he was declared brain dead and taken off life support.

But on the night of the beating,

Bunnell and Delestre weren't trading accusations.

They were trying to pin the blame on the babysitter, a police officer testified yesterday — 15-year-old Kayla Roderick, who was asleep on the sofa of their Woonsocket apartment when Bunnell and Delestre came home from a nightclub around 2:30 a.m. on Oct.

SEE **TRIAL, A4**



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REACTION TO ARTICLE PROMPTS PROBES

Police launch two investigations in the wake of reaction to an article that appeared in Rhode Island Monthly magazine that looks at teen drinking in Barrington. **B1**

SAVING MYANMAR

International aid slowly begins to trickle into Myanmar, where more than 22,000 people died and twice as many are still missing after a powerful cyclone struck the isolated country. **A2**

SOX MOW 'EM DOWN IN MOTOWN

Tim Wakefield throws eight shutout innings, while David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez hit back-to-back homers to lift Boston to a 5-0 win over the Tigers. **C1**



LABOR OF LOVE

It took Joaquin Meza Jr. more than two years to create El Rancho Grande, a Mexican restaurant where his mother, Maria, could display her skills and indulge in her passion for cooking. **F1**