

RAIN REPORT

Morning showers followed by steady rain this afternoon; heavy rain tonight.
Forecast, F8

The Providence Journal

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FRIDAY
MAY 9, 2008

75¢
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

R.I. superdelegates: Most still backing Clinton

Though at least one says he expects Sen. Barack Obama will be the nominee.

BY SCOTT MacKAY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island Democrats are among Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's strongest supporters — she won the state's March 4 primary over Sen. Barack Obama by 19 percentage points — but even among her local stalwarts, the feeling is sinking in that the party's presidential nomination is very likely going to Obama.

William Lynch, state Democratic chairman, convention superdelegate and prominent Clinton supporter, said yesterday that after Tuesday's primary defeat in North Carolina and the virtual draw in the Indiana contest, it appears

Obama will win.

Lynch's comments came hours before Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean visited Providence for a private dinner meeting with leading Democrats at a Federal Hill restaurant. "It is going to go to him ... it certainly feels that way right now," said Lynch yesterday, adding that he speaks often with other party leaders from around the country. "My opinion on this is not unique."

A8, 9

"I'm a Hillary Clinton supporter," Lynch said. "But people are now focusing on the fact that it is time to take a deep breath and start focusing on the fact that there is an election in November."

Lynch said he would never presume to tell Clinton when to fold her tent, but said the party should settle on a candidate "sooner rather than later" and at any rate, well before the Democratic National Convention in late August.

Continuing a negative campaign that highlights the differences between Obama and Clinton can only help Republicans in the run-up to the November general election, Lynch said.

"Some of us are growing concerned with the demographics of the primary voters and being divided along uncomfortable lines that nobody wants to talk about," said Lynch.

So far in primaries, Obama has done better with African-Americans, younger voters and voters with college

SEE **DELEGATES, A8**

WHERE THEY STAND

Here's a look at Rhode Island's 11 Democratic superdelegates and which candidate each supports for their party's presidential nomination.

FOR CLINTON

- Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
- Rep. Jim Langevin
- William J. Lynch State Party chairman
- Edna O'Neill Mattson State Party vice-chair
- Frank Montanaro President, Rhode Island AFL-CIO
- David N. Cicilline Mayor of Providence
- Grace Diaz State representative
- Mark S. Weiner Democratic Party fundraiser

FOR OBAMA

- Rep. Patrick Kennedy
- Patrick Lynch Attorney General

UNCOMMITTED

- Sen. Jack Reed

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Your turn: Would you advise Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to continue her campaign or drop out of the race? To respond, and for a full list of Rhode Island's presidential delegates, go to projo.com

ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLING \$7.3 MILLION

A high life unravels



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL / BILLY BLACK

Elizabeth C. Baldwin, at the Newport Shipyard in 2006, is charged with embezzling \$7.3 million from 47 investors. State police say Baldwin used the money to buy and operate a 65-foot yacht, rent a house in St. Barts and travel abroad.

BY TOM MOONEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

In NEWPORT yachting circles, Elizabeth C. Baldwin was known as "Liza," an affable divorcee and wealthy commodities trader who spent the high days of summer racing under snapping sails.

In June 2006, Baldwin, then 60, chartered one of the most distinctive sailboats in the harbor, a 65-foot mahogany sloop, for the centennial Newport-to-Bermuda race and announced intentions of buying it after the race.

Baldwin's boat, the Van Ki Pass, won the race in its category and Baldwin reportedly told a local reporter the experience seemed a "Cinderella story."

Elizabeth C. Baldwin, well known in Newport's yachting community, is charged in a scheme that stole millions from investors.

Law enforcement officials say it was part of a tale of deception.

On Monday state police arrested Baldwin at her Newport apartment overlooking the harbor on charges that she embezzled \$7.3 million from 47 investors — many of whom she had met or been referred to on waterfronts from Newport to the Caribbean.

Baldwin skippered an elaborate pyramid

projo.com

Extra: To read the police affidavit, go to projo.com

scheme, officials say, in which she paid off early investors with money she duped from later investors. Some of their money allegedly allowed Baldwin to buy the Van Ki Pass, rent a house in St. Barts and travel through the Caribbean and Europe.

The state felony charges were the latest to beset Baldwin; federal officials leveled civil complaints against her last fall as part of the same investigation.

But the allegations are inconsistent with the woman many have known for years along the Newport waterfront, says Jeff Stone, a marine appraiser who has captained yachts out of Newport for 30 years and who skippered the Van Ki Pass for Baldwin last summer in the Mediterranean.

SEE **EMBEZZLE, A6**

Myanmar junta slow to accept world's aid

Despite estimates that as many as 1 million people may be homeless, only a trickle of relief supplies have been allowed into the country recently battered by a cyclone.

BY AMY KAZMIN
and **COLUM LYNCH**
THE WASHINGTON POST

BANGKOK, Thailand — Two U.N. transport planes loaded with cyclone relief supplies landed in Myanmar yesterday, as international leaders heightened pressure on the country's secretive military government to fully embrace foreign help. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon tried unsuccessfully to telephone Myanmar's top general to press the case personally.

U.S. military transports were standing by in Thailand to fly in more supplies. But no clearance arrived from Myanmar, also known as Burma, where U.N. experts now estimate that 1.5 million people are in desperate need of help after last weekend's cyclone. Most of the survivors are still largely on their own.

"Burma has got to open itself up to a major international effort very soon if we are not to face a second

SEE **MYANMAR, A4**

Tribe ready for share of state's gambling money

After declining the funds, which now total almost \$1.5 million, the Narragansetts say they'll accept the money if the state gives assurances on how it can be used.

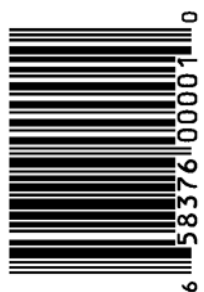
BY KATIE MULVANEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

After refusing for more than two years, the Narragansett Indian tribe is now ready to accept its share of the state's gambling revenue if Chief Sachem Matthew Thomas can get clarification about precisely how the money can be used.

At the urging of Governor Carcieri, the General Assembly struck a deal in 2005 under which the tribe would get 5 percent of the revenue generated by new slot machines at what was then known as Lincoln Park. The law

establishing the payment cleared the way for the sale of Lincoln Park to BLB Investors.

SEE **TRIBE, A6**



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VEGAS PROVES A SAFE BET

It's the solid chemistry between stars Ashton Kutcher and Cameron Diaz that helps turn Vegas into an appealing, screwball comedy. **E1**

WaterFire schedule

Here's this year's WaterFire schedule, along with lighting times.

May 24 8:08 p.m.	
May 30 8:13 p.m.	Aug. 30 7:22 p.m.
June 21 8:24 p.m.	Sept. 13 6:58 p.m.
June 28 8:25 p.m.	Sept. 20 6:46 p.m.
Aug. 2 8:02 p.m.	Sept. 27 6:34 p.m.
Aug. 16 7:44 p.m.	Oct. 11 6:10 p.m.

Partial WaterFire lightings are also scheduled for June 3, June 18, Sept. 18 and Sept. 19. Additional information in Lifebeat, **E1**

