

ALL GOOD THINGS...
Early showers replaced by hazy skies and highs in the 70s; overcast tonight.
Forecast, E16

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RESTRICTION ON ROUTE 95 BRIDGE

Weight limit lowered



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / STEVE SZYDLOWSKI

Above, state police Trooper Steven Haynes inspects a trailer being transported by Milton Roderquez yesterday on Route 95 near the Pawtucket River Bridge to ensure that it does not violate the weight limits imposed on the bridge. Below, a look under the bridge.

Obama victory seen as assured

According to a Democratic Party insider, the race is essentially over despite Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's intention to continue campaigning.

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton will soldier on, Sen. Barack Obama will almost certainly defeat her, and soon enough the Democratic presidential rivals will find grounds for reconciliation.

So runs one emerging line of hopeful partisan forecasting in the wake of a split verdict Tuesday — North Carolina for Obama, handily; Indiana for Clinton, barely — that gave most of the advantage to the front-runner, Obama.

Tuesday was “a decisive day in the nominating process,” said Democratic consultant Tad Devine. “It’s clear now that Senator Obama is going to be the nominee of the Democratic Party.”

Even as Clinton reiterated her intent to stay in the race until a nominee is chosen, Devine said “the only question now is how is this going to end? What is the choreography of the nomination?” Devine, a Providence native who helped write the nominating rules that make it hard for two well-matched candidates to break away from one another, voiced a widely held view among party insiders.

The math

It takes 2,025 delegates to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

As of yesterday, according to the Associated Press, Sen. Barack Obama has 1,846.5 delegates to 1,696 for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Those totals include superdelegates who have already announced their preferences. About 265 superdelegates have yet to indicate which candidate they favor.

Superdelegates are party and elected officials who will automatically attend the national convention and can support whomever they choose, regardless of what happens in the primaries and caucuses.

The Democratic National Convention opens in Denver on Aug. 25.

SEE **CAMPAIGN, A8**

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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, go to projo.com

Additional structural deterioration found in Pawtucket spans



BY BRUCE LANDIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The state Department of Transportation yesterday reduced the weight limit on the Route 95 bridge across the Pawtucket River for the second time because continued deterioration of major structural elements has further reduced its capacity.

Kazem Farhoumand, the DOT's acting chief engineer, said that the bridge remains safe and that the weight limit, reduced to 18 tons from 22 tons, has been changed to head off more deterioration, not because of a threat of collapse.

“If a truck that’s 19 or 20 tons goes over it, it doesn’t mean it’s going to cause major damage,” he said. He also said the DOT may repair the beams whose deterioration prompted the new weight limit.

Farhoumand said the reduction is in response to inspection results received last week that found increased deterioration of three steel floor beams. DOT officials met Tuesday with agency consultants and Federal Highway Administration officials and decided to impose the new weight limit, he

SEE **BRIDGE, A9**

Baby sitter testifies to beating inflicted on 3-year-old boy

Kayla Roderick details how Thomas Wright was dragged from his bed, then hit and slapped by Katherine Bunnell before being thrown across the room by Bunnell's boyfriend.

BY JOHN CASTELLUCCI
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The injuries that killed 3-year-old Thomas “T.J.” Wright were inflicted when his foster mother came home from a night out 3½ years ago and found a mess on the living room floor, the baby sitter in the Katherine Bunnell murder case testified yesterday.

“Why did you mess up my house? Why did you mess up my [expletive] house?” Kayla Roderick said Bunnell demanded as she dragged T.J. out of bed and led him around the living room of her Woonsocket apartment.

“Why did you do that to my floor? Why did you mess up my living room?” Roderick said Bunnell said.

“She was very angry and she was saying it very loud,”

SEE **TRIAL, A9**

Pamela Johnson, the chef at Cornucopia in East Greenwich and considered a whiz at cost evaluation, is watching every penny these days, right down to the cost of the carrots she chops in her kitchen. Restaurants locally and nationally are feeling the pinch of soaring food costs, as well as the high price of fuel.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
SANDOR BODO



Restaurants try to keep soaring costs off the menu

With everything from basic ingredients to utility bills rising, local restaurateurs look to control costs.

BY GAIL CIAMPA
JOURNAL FOOD EDITOR

The prices for flour, oil, dairy products and meat are soaring. Gas and energy costs are spiraling upward. There’s even an international rice crisis, with worldwide demand doubling costs and leading to fears of shortages in some Asian nations.

From the seasonal fish shacks to the neighborhood bistros to the highest-priced steak houses, restaurants in Rhode Island are not only dealing with the increasing cost of raw ingredients but seeing fuel surcharges on deliveries and even waste removal.

Egg prices have increased 187 percent over the last 24 months, while flour is up 108 percent; oil

up 63 percent; rice up 47 percent; cheese 30 percent; and milk up 25 percent, according to the National Restaurant Association’s analysis. Locally, the increases differ week to week and supplier to supplier.

In Rhode Island, restaurateurs cope by shopping around for the lowest prices from a variety of wholesale suppliers; others work to cut their energy or staffing costs. Some are watching portion sizes and preaching to staff about waste, others are offering deals to entice more customers. In some cases, bread is being served only on request.

SEE **COSTS, A11**

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PITCH FOR A LONGER RUNWAY

In his first public address to the Rhode Island business community since taking over as president of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation, Kevin A. Dillon says that T.F. Green Airport “cannot be competitive” without a longer runway. **F1**

MYANMAR’S GROWING DISASTER

With aid piling up in neighboring countries as the military junta balks at allowing international relief workers enter the country, U.S. officials speculate that the death toll from the cyclone that hit Myanmar could top 100,000. **A2**

SOX LET ONE GET AWAY

An error in the bottom of the ninth by shortstop Julio Lugo costs the Red Sox what would have been a come-from-behind victory against the Detroit Tigers, who go on to beat Boston, 10-9. **C1**

FOR THE BIRDS

Jane Goodall, best known for her work with chimpanzees, comes to Hopkinton for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at



the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, a “retirement home” for parrots and other exotic species of birds. **B1**

