

MIXED UP
Sun and clouds,
scattered T-storms.
Forecast, **F8**

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Carcieri: Health-care hike coming retroactively

If a Superior Court judge agrees with his order compelling higher premium contributions, the governor says, he will make up for lost time.

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Governor Carcieri has warned thousands of workers in the largest state workers union that he plans to retroactively deduct higher health-care contributions from their paychecks to try to balance the budget.

As part of his much-contested executive order, Carcieri said he is also considering more severe alternatives that his administration suggests may include layoffs and shutdown days. His actions will depend on the result of a Superior Court review of the case.

"No matter the outcome, my staff has contingency plans in place that could be executed quickly to achieve the needed budget savings," the governor said in a statement issued yesterday afternoon. "As I have previously said, implementing the co-shares and plan design changes, as agreed to by more than two-thirds of state employee unions and by Council 94 representatives, is far less severe than it would be to commence layoffs and shutdown

SEE **UNION, B3**

Before bodies found, relatives grew concerned

A Warren man held in the killing of his parents fended off inquiries with various stories about where they were, the police say.

BY MEAGHAN WIMS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

It had been 10 days since neighbors and family members had seen or heard from James and Marian Soares.

Most phone calls to their house went unanswered. Messages went unreturned.

When the couple's son, James A. Soares Jr., did pick up the phone, he said his parents were out of the house, or on vacation, or too busy to talk. Then Marian missed a July 12 family reunion that she had helped plan.

The elder James Soares' brothers, David and John, were worried. It just wasn't like James and Marian to miss calls or go out of town without telling anyone.

On July 15, nine days after the Soareses

SEE **SOARES, B3**

Former bin Laden driver receives 5½-year sentence

BY WILLIAM GLABERSON
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — Rejecting a prosecution request for a severe sentence, a panel of military officers yesterday sentenced a former driver for Osama bin Laden convicted of a war-crimes charge to 5½ years in prison. The sentence means that the first detainee convicted after a war-crimes trial here could complete his punishment by the end of this year.

The military judge, Capt. Keith J. Allred of the Navy, had already said that he planned to give the driver, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, credit for at least the 61 months he has been held since being charged, out of more than six years in all. That would bring Hamdan to the end of

SEE **HAMDAN, A7**

THE 2008 SUMMER GAMES

China's daunting debut



AP / GREG BAKER

The \$43-billion Beijing Olympics begin with the pomp of tonight's opening ceremony tinged with politics and pollution.

BY MARK MAGNIER and RANDY HARVEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING — For the past seven years, through clouds of construction dust, thousands of meetings, millions of man-hours and an unprecedented political mobilization, China has waited for today.

At \$43 billion, the Beijing Olympics, which begin today, represent one of the most expensive coming-out parties in history. And the belle

of the ball has a lot to be proud of. China has risen from poverty and social chaos to engineer one of the most impressive economic success stories ever.

With a delegation of 600 athletes, China hopes to punctuate its success with a slew of gold medals between now and the end of the Games on Aug. 24.

"This is such a great moment for China," said Chen Yongming, 55, an engineer and a big track and field, table tennis and swimming fan. "We're very proud of our civilization."

At a time when the government should be beaming, however, it has got the jitters.

An attack on a border police station in distant Xinjiang province Monday at the nation's far western reaches killed 16 paramilitary mem-

SEE **CHINA, A4**

With the opening ceremonies only hours away, people chant slogans in support of China and the Olympic Games after the dawn flag-raising ceremony in Tiananmen Square today.

INSIDE

■ A guide to watching Olympic events this weekend.

■ Fundraiser is set to help mother, brother of R.I. swimmer cover cost of trip to Beijing.

Stories, **A4**

Ex-URI prof. is monitoring air quality at the Games

BY KATIE MULVANEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NARRAGANSETT — Kenneth A. Rahn is monitoring an Olympic-caliber competition from a paper-strewn office at the University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus.

An atmospheric chemist, Rahn pulls data from across the globe to watch China battle the forces of nature and progress as it struggles to improve Beijing's air quality in time for this year's Olympic Games.

The Chinese government has ordered half the city's 3.3 million cars off the road, closed factories and stopped most construction in an effort to bring more "blue-sky days" to the host city. Still, Mother Nature and the country's booming industry threaten to blanket Beijing in a choking haze.

Concerns about air quality are so acute that members of U.S.

SEE **RAHN, A4**

At last, his golden opportunity

Sunday, 4-7 p.m.



AP / MARY ALTAFFER

U.S. Olympic boxer Demetrius Andrade works out in a training session last month in New York City.

Demetrius Andrade, of Providence, has his sights on a gold medal in boxing.

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Demetrius Andrade's Olympic journey began 14 years ago. He was 6 when he used to climb in the back of his father's car with his older brother Mike, who was then the boxer in the family, and head to a karate studio that his father, Paul, opened with his good friend Joe Perez.

Their mission: to become the best boxers in the world.

It was there where Paul taught his two sons how to box, and it was there where Andrade first dreamed about fighting for the United States Olympic Boxing Team.

Back then it was just a fairy tale. Today, in Beijing, China, that fairy tale comes true.

All of the hard work has paid off. All of the sacrifices he has made over the past 14 years have become worth it.

And perhaps the best news for

SEE **ANDRADE, A5**

MORE FROM R.I.

Elizabeth Beisel of Saunderton and Jill Craybas of East Greenwich will compete in Beijing.

Tomorrow, 3:30-6 p.m.

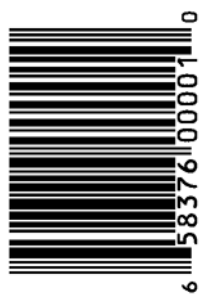


Elizabeth Beisel, 15, will swim in the 400-meter individual medley and the 200-meter backstroke.

Tuesday, 8 a.m.-noon



Jill Craybas, an alternate until two days ago, will compete in women's singles tennis.



INSIDE TODAY

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RANKS OF FIRST-TIME JOBLESS SWELL

The number of Americans filing first-time claims for unemployment benefits rises unexpectedly to the highest level in six years, signaling that the labor market continues to weaken. **F1**

REMOTE-CONTROL BATTLE STRESS

Air National Guardsmen sit in California, piloting unmanned aircraft that carry high-resolution cameras and Hellfire missiles into battle in Iraq. What they see on their video screens sometimes haunts them. **A7**



PATRIOTS OPEN THE PRESEASON

More than anything, the New England Patriots' first preseason game offers a glimpse of what the team would look like without Tom Brady, Randy Moss and Wes Welker, and the picture is not pretty. **C1**