

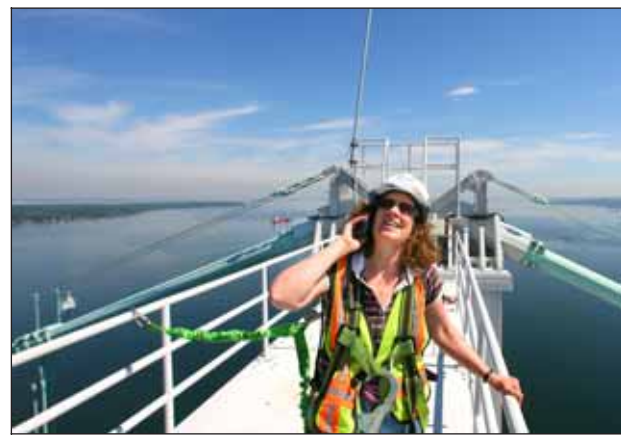
NICE ENOUGH
Sunny and dry today with highs in the low 80s; clear and cool tonight.
Forecast, E10

The Providence Journal

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SKY HIGH in Newport



Jim Romano, above, walks the cables of the Claiborne Pell Bridge for various maintenance duties, such as changing light bulbs. Top, engineer Debra L. Moolin-Taylor enjoys the view from the top of the bridge.

401 feet above the Bay, the air is salty, the mood is tranquil

BY G. WAYNE MILLER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

On a clear day, you can see Block Island from atop the east tower of the Newport bridge. You can look deep into Rhode Island and, facing east, Massachusetts. You are 401 feet, 10 inches, above the water. The sky and ocean are dreamy shades of blue. Carried on the summer breeze, the salt air can be tasted. It tastes delicious.

An airplane provides comparable views of Narragansett Bay. But an airplane moves too fast, is too enclosed and mechanical, to fully in-

dulge the senses. Up here, you experience tranquility. If you don't fear heights, that is. Debra Moolin-Taylor does not. She is a structural engineer for the company that designed the bridge and still tends it, as lovingly as one would a dear friend requiring attention with advancing age. That is how she considers the 39-year-old bridge: with affection, and as almost alive. "It moves in temperature," she says. "It moves under live load, it moves under wind." Listen carefully, and you hear it speak: in a distinctive squeal, the bridge keepers' word for

it, caused by traffic on the deck flexing the expansion joints, which have interlocking metal fingers that are longer than a human arm. "One of the things we talk about is life-cycle costing," Moolin-Taylor says. "It goes through stages of its life where you have to spend more money on it: when it needs a facelift, when it needs some reconstructive surgery. And then a little bit less when you're in a maintenance mode. It is a living thing, I can imagine." Moolin-Taylor works for Parsons Brinckerhoff, a New York-based firm that designed this bridge and many others. In her role as project manager and engineer under contract to the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority, which owns the

SEE BRIDGE, A7

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT DEBATE

"What we have witnessed is that the police action of ICE against immigrants has divided the community, instilled fear in our streets, disrupted the everyday life of good people and separated family members, innocent of any crime, from one another."

BISHOP THOMAS J. TOBIN,
bishop of Providence

Bishop urges authorities to halt raids

The national organization of Roman Catholic bishops considers following the Providence prelate's lead.

BY TOM MOONEY
and **KAREN LEE ZINER**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

PROVIDENCE — Breaking new ground on the national immigration debate, Rhode Island's Roman Catholic bishop yesterday called on federal immigration officials to stop the mass arrests of suspected illegal immigrants, saying the raids had cast a "pall of fear" across the state and torn families and communities apart.

A letter from Bishop Thomas J. Tobin and 15 pastors also took the extraordinary step of calling on immigration agents to "evaluate the morality of their participation in immigration raids" and consider refusing to take part in them if they cannot do so in good conscience.

The letter sent to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office

SEE BISHOP, A4



Bishop Thomas J. Tobin's call letter to ICE was also signed by 15 pastors.

Full text of Bishop Tobin's letter to ICE, A4

Across U.S., church leaders have been calling for change

BY KAREN LEE ZINER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas J. Tobin's criticism of U.S. immigration policy and his condemnation of recent raids reflect the views of Catholic bishops and other religious leaders around the country — and of Pope Benedict XVI, who called for immigration reform in his visit to the United States this spring.

Some churches have gone further, offering sanctuary to illegal

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Your turn: Should ICE agents be able to opt out of duties they feel are immoral? Respond, read the bishop's letter and hear the bishop talking about his stance on immigrants, at projo.com

immigrants facing arrest by ICE agents.

During the past two years, ICE raids have taken place at factories, farms, meat-packing plants, stores, shopping malls and other locations. High-profile enforcement actions took place in Greeley, Colo.; Grand Island, Neb.; Postville, Iowa; Salt Lake City,

SEE ICE, A4

U.S., Iraq set date for withdrawal of troops

Other issues, however, remain to be resolved before an agreement can be reached on the future of the U.S. military presence.

BY KAREN DEYOUNG
and **SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN**
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD — U.S. and Iraqi negotiators have agreed to the withdrawal of all U.S. combat forces from the country by the end of 2011, and Iraqi officials said they are "very close" to resolving the remaining issues blocking a final accord that sets out the terms of the future American mil-

itary presence here.

Iraqi and U.S. officials said several difficult issues remain, including whether U.S. troops will be subject to Iraqi law if accused of committing crimes. But the officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were unauthorized to discuss the agreement publicly, said key elements of a timetable for troop withdrawal once resisted by President Bush had been reached.

"We have a text," Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said after a daylong visit yesterday by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

SEE IRAQ, A7

House holdings spark a political spat

Sen. John McCain, shown in this Feb. 5 photo, in the hallway of his home in Phoenix. In an interview yesterday, McCain said he was not sure how many houses he owned.

AP / STEPHAN SAVOIA



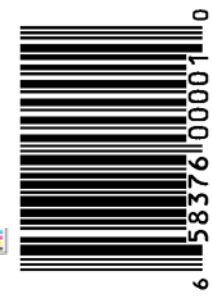
BY JONATHAN WEISMAN
and **ROBERT BARNES**
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain's inability to recall the number of homes he owns during an interview yesterday jeopardized his campaign's carefully constructed strategy to frame Democratic rival Barack Obama as an out-of-touch elitist and inspired a round of attacks that once again ratcheted up the negative tone of the race for the

White House.

A week dominated by vice presidential speculation and the run-up to the Democratic National Convention was quickly overtaken by the McCain miscue. In an interview with Politico.com, the presumptive Republican nominee was asked how many houses he and his wife, Cindy, heir

SEE CAMPAIGN, A7



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SCHOOLS' STATUS

With Rhode Island schools scheduled to reopen next week, 12 districts are still in negotiations with teachers' unions. B1

PAKISTAN BOMBING

Attacks by two Taliban suicide bombers on Pakistan's largest weapons manufacturing complex kills 67 people. A6

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