

QUICK CHANGE
Much colder and windy today with highs in the 40s; cold tonight.
Forecast, **F8**

The Providence Journal

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A day of rousing rivalries



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

La Salle Academy's Carl Grimo, left, and Richard Angell go airborne to break up a pass play to East Providence High School's Brian Luis during yesterday's game at Pierce Memorial Field and Stadium in East Providence. La Salle went on to beat the Townies, 21-19.

In Sports: Scores, stories and photos of all of yesterday's high school football action. **Online:** Photo galleries from Woonsocket, Cranston and East Providence, and your chance to predict the outcome of the coming playoff games, on HSGametime.com/rhodeisland

SCOREBOARD

Yesterday's games

La Salle	21	Ponaganset	13	West Warwick	18	North Providence	13	Durfee	37
East Providence	19	Burrillville	7	Coventry	0	Smithfield	2	New Bedford	34
Cranston East	21	Stonington	20	Woonsocket	42	Exeter/W. Greenwich	20	Seekonk	35
Cranston West	14	Westerly	7	Cumberland	18	Chariho	14	Dighton-Rehoboth	7
North Kingstown	20	Portsmouth	48	Hendricken	35	Scituate	20	Somerset	35
South Kingstown	19	Middletown	14	Toll Gate	8	North Smithfield	13	Case	0
Barrington	26	Tiverton	33	Pilgrim	7	North Attleboro	24		
Mt. Hope	22	Central Falls	21	Warwick	6	Attleboro	14		

New role for U.S. military in Iraq

With some American combat forces due to be withdrawn next year, the emphasis may shift to training Iraqi forces to defend themselves.

BY MICHAEL R. GORDON
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — With violence in Iraq on the decline and a quarter of U.S. combat brigades scheduled to leave by July, commanders plan to give the remaining brigades an expanded role in training and supporting Iraqi forces, according to officials involved in a confidential military review of troop deployment for the coming year.

The plan, not yet in final form, is designed to transfer more of the burden for security in Iraq to the Iraqis without giving up the gains that the Americans have made in recent months in pacifying the most violent areas and weakening the Sunni insurgency.

The approach is strikingly different from the plans advocated by many U.S. politicians, including some Democratic presidential primary contenders, who have called for a rapid withdrawal of U.S. combat brigades from Iraq —

SEE IRAQ, A10

Bridge repair could cost millions

The DOT will have to spend at least several million dollars to shore up deteriorating areas of the Route 95 bridge over the Pawtucket River.

BY BRUCE LANDIS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PAWTUCKET — As ironworkers shored up the weakened Pawtucket River Bridge this week, engineers at the state Department of Transportation were looking at more than 100 places scattered throughout the bridge where the structural steel holding it up needs repairs that will cost millions of dollars.

The engineers are also continuing to analyze inspection data looking for more problems — and, according to Kazem Farhoumand, the DOT's acting chief engineer, are likely to find some.

He said it's not clear how much repair work the DOT will do, or whether the weight

SEE BRIDGE, B3

Few can offer insight into Almond's ideology

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Lincoln D. Almond, nominated last week to be Rhode Island's newest federal judge, has left good impressions of his competence and demeanor over the course of an 18-year career in the law — but few clues about his ideological bent.

President Bush's nominee to the U.S. District Court in Rhode Island "has a very good judicial temperament; he's always well-prepared; he has good questions to ask of counsel — showing that he understands the issues. He's fair and he's very knowledgeable about federal practice and procedure," said George Lieberman, a former president of the state chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

"I think he'd make an excellent federal judge," said Lieberman, a self-described political independent who

SEE NOMINEE, B2



NYT / ERIC THAYER

Even GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who points to his fitness with pride, must bend to the needs of stumping, such as trying pastry at a bakery in Pella, Iowa, in June.

Food the enemy of those hungry for White House

Americans prefer their leaders fit and lean, but woe to the candidate who refuses to dine on the local delicacy.

BY JODI KANTOR
THE NEW YORK TIMES

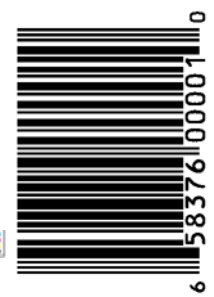
Running for president is like entering a competitive eating contest and a beauty pageant all at once. Candidates are expected to eat local specialties often and with gusto, yet still look attractive and fit.

So it is no wonder that many of this year's candidates have what might be called food issues — the

same kinds that plague the rest of us, especially at this time of year, but exacerbated by the brutal demands of campaign life.

The Democratic contenders include Gov. Bill Richardson, a veteran of the Atkins and liquid diets who wears a double chin despite daily workouts. Sen. Barack Obama, who was chubby as a child, refers to himself as skinny in speeches and barely touches fatty foods — except at events such as the

SEE CAMPAIGN, A12



INSIDE TODAY

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DEFICIT COSTS QUONSET

Money the Quonset Development Corporation has been setting aside for upgrades at the 3,000-acre Quonset Business Park is the latest victim of the state's burgeoning budget deficit. **F1**

CITIZENSHIP STALLED

Several hundred thousand people may not be granted citizenship in time to vote in next year's elections because the Department of Homeland Security failed to prepare for a massive influx of applications for U.S. citizenship this summer, prompting complaints from Hispanic leaders and voter-mobilization groups. **A2**

NEW CHALLENGE IN PAKISTAN

Even as Pakistan's Supreme Court clears the way for the president to be sworn in for another term, Gen. Pervez Musharraf faces yet another challenge with the imminent return of one of his fiercest critics from exile in Saudi Arabia. **A10**

LIFE ON THE ROAD



Far from their loved ones on Thanksgiving, cast members from *High School Musical*, on stage at the Providence Performing Arts Center, find that the company of actors becomes a second family of sorts. **B1**