

**NO FOOLING**  
Breezy today, with occasional showers and highs in the 50s; clearing tonight.  
Forecast, E8

# The Providence Journal

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**TUESDAY**  
APRIL 1, 2008  
75¢  
Home Delivery 401.277.7600

## THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Rosalina Collazo, center, of Woonsocket, applauds the speakers at yesterday's news conference to denounce Governor Carcieri's executive order on illegal immigration. On the left are Melba DePena, of Providence, and Dr. Pablo Rodriguez, a leader in the Hispanic community.

## Carcieri's order decried

More than 250 activists and supporters, including the lieutenant governor, call for the governor to cancel his order cracking down on illegal immigrants.

BY KAREN LEE ZINER  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts and a host of community advocacy groups yesterday demanded Governor Carcieri rescind what Roberts called "a very shortsighted" executive order targeting illegal immigrants in Rhode Island.

More than 250 people crowded the Algonquin House community room for a news conference sponsored by Immigrants United, We Can Stop the Hate Rhode Island, the Hispanic Ministerial Association and the Univocal Legislative Minority Coalition. At several points, people chanted "All Human Beings are Legal," and "¡Un Pueblo Unido Jamás esta Vencido!" (A United People will Never Be Defeated).

SEE RALLY, A4



The Rev. Eliseo Noguerras of the Hispanic Ministerial Association speaks on behalf of the group of ministers gathered at the Algonquin House on Broad Street.

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Your turn: What's your reaction to the governor's executive order? To respond, and to read the order, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)

## Social Security abuses alleged

Lawsuits allege two insurers seek to avoid paying disability claims by demanding that clients first apply for government benefits they are not entitled to, thereby slowing the evaluation procedure for everyone.

BY MARY WILLIAMS WALSH  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Social Security system is choking on paperwork and spending millions of dollars a year screening dubious applications for disability benefits, according to lawsuits filed by whistleblowers.

Insurance companies are the source of the problem, the lawsuits say. The insurers are forcing many people who file disability claims with them to also apply to Social Security — even people who clearly do not qualify for the government program.

The Social Security Administration defines "disabled" much more stringently than the insurers generally do, so it rejects most of the applications, at least initially. Often, the insurers then tell their claimants to appeal, the lawsuits say, raising the cost.

The insurers say that requiring a Social Security assessment is a standard practice and that there is

SEE CLAIMS, A5

## Smoke-shop trial heads to jury today

Prosecutors and lawyers for the Narragansetts gave their closing arguments yesterday; Judge Susan McGuirl will instruct the jury this morning.

BY KATIE MULVANEY  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Though yesterday marked four years, eight months and 17 days since the state police raided the Narragansett Indian tribe's tax-free smoke shop, emotions surrounding that day's events remain raw, and personal, as made clear in arguments in Superior Court, Providence.

To lawyers defending seven Narragansett Indians arrested as state police executed a search and seizure warrant, the timing and manner of the raid was motivated by money and intended to humiliate the tribe.

"It was to send a message — to put a fist down on the

SEE TRIAL, A4

## Fighting ends, and Sadr's supporters celebrate a victory

BY NED PARKER and RAHEEM SALMAN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD — In a stucco compound at the center of the Sadr City neighborhood here, a follower of radical Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr gleefully handed out candies and toffee to visitors yesterday.

"Have a chocolate," the thin, bearded man said. "This is for our victory over (Prime Minister Nouri al-) Maliki."

Nearly a week after al-Maliki's security forces began fighting what amounted to a draw with al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia on the streets of the southern port of Basra and in the nation's capital, armed militia members had melted into the background yesterday both in Basra and the cleric's longtime Baghdad stronghold.

In Basra, Iraqi army and police forces immediately moved into neighborhoods abandoned by the Mahdi

SEE IRAQ, A4

## Bills aim to keep state's water supply flowing

Water flows abundantly at the Scituate Reservoir spillway, but experts say Rhode Island's water supply is threatened if new rules aren't imposed to limit water use across the state.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL  
KATHY BORCHERS

Further water use restrictions could mean higher water rates and more obstacles to watering lawns and gardens.

BY PETER B. LORD  
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

Heavy rains during the last month are expected to prompt the state to drop its drought watch this week.

Water levels in the Scituate Reservoir, along with other local reservoirs, have risen above the rated capacity.

And at the Old Forge Road Dam, on the East Greenwich-North Kingstown line, on the Hunt River — ground zero to those concerned about the state's drinking water supplies — the water flows so heavily it roars and fills the river with white froth.

SEE WATER, A5

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Your turn: Would you be willing to water your lawn less? To respond, and to read the full text of the House and Senate bills that would limit water use, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)



### INSIDE TODAY

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### PARKING RATES TO RISE

The Rhode Island Convention Center Authority decides to raise the rates it charges for monthly parking and parking during convention-center events and will consider changing its hourly rates as well. **E1**

### BROWN MAKES ITS CHOICE

Brown University selects Dr. Edward J. Wing, the longtime chairman of medicine, as dean of medicine and biological sciences. **B1**

### HUD CHIEF RESIGNS

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson steps down amid a criminal investigation into favoritism in awarding HUD contracts that critics say hampered the agency's effectiveness in dealing with the subprime mortgage crisis. **A2**



### BACK TO BUSINESS

With their final exhibition game behind them, the Red Sox get down to the business of defending their world championship tonight in Oakland. **C1**