

**FAIRLY ENJOYABLE**

Sunny today with temperatures climbing to the upper 70s; clear tonight.  
Forecast, **E12**

# The Providence Journal

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## Governor blocked from hiking health costs

Carcieri says he is "outraged" by the judge's decision, and has appealed to the state Supreme Court.

**BY STEVE PEOPLES**  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — A Superior Court judge has explicitly blocked Governor Carcieri from forcing higher health-care costs on nearly 5,000 unionized state workers.

But the battle between the Republican governor and the largest state employees union is far from over.



**CARCIERI**

Judge Patricia Hurst released a "supplemental decision" yesterday clarifying a complex ruling six days earlier that confused both the Republican governor's administration and Council 94, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents about one-third of Rhode Island government's work force.

But yesterday's ruling was not ambiguous. The decision was "aimed at putting to rest any notion that the governor may act unilaterally..." Hurst wrote in a 10-page ruling, offering a sharp rebuke to Carcieri, who had as recently as Monday reiterated plans to force higher benefit costs on 4,842 state employees beginning with their Sept. 5 paychecks.

Hurst specifically barred such action. "He cannot implement an executive order increasing Council 94's health-care deductions if doing so runs afoul of the law — as it would under the present circumstances," Hurst wrote. "The governor is subject to all of the laws of this state that govern collective-bargaining disputes, and his executive powers neither supersede them, transcend them, nor trump them in

SEE **DECISION, A4**

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Extra: Read Judge Hurst's 10-page clarification at [projo.com](http://projo.com)

## Russia raises tensions in the Caucasus

The Kremlin defies the West by granting recognition to two territories seeking to break away from Georgia.

**BY PHILIP P. PAN and JONATHAN FINER**  
THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW — President Dmitry Medvedev recognized the independence of two breakaway regions of Georgia yesterday and called on other nations to do the same, escalating what has become one of the most serious conflicts between Russia and the United States since the end of the Cold War.

In a statement broadcast live on national television, Medvedev said he signed decrees recognizing South Ossetia and Abkhazia because it was the "only way to protect people's lives." He said Russia had tried for years to resolve the ethnic conflict between Georgia and the two provinces through peaceful negotiations but Georgia's pro-Western president, Mikhail Saakashvili, made a negotiated settlement impossible by trying to seize South Ossetia by military force and killing its residents.

The Georgian government "made its choice in the early hours of August 8," he said, referring to a military operation launched by Saakashvili to try to quell a separatist movement in South Ossetia. The move prompted a Russian incursion deep into Georgian territory.

"Saakashvili chose genocide for resolving his political problems. Saakashvili has thus killed every hope for peaceful coexistence of Osse-

SEE **RUSSIA, A4**

## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION 2008

# Obama 'is my candidate'



AP / STEPHAN SAVOIA

Chelsea Clinton, right, introduces her mother, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, at the Democratic National Convention in Denver last night. "We don't need four more years ... of the last eight years," the New York senator told the cheering crowd.

## For 2 men with much in common, divide is wide between Clinton, Obama

**BY DAVID MARANISS**  
THE WASHINGTON POST

DENVER — Bill Clinton and Barack Obama — in so many ways two sides of the same coin. Old heat and new cool, two guys who came out of nowhere, bereft of early connections, overcoming the odds. Each raised by a single mother and grandparents, in blended families featuring a variety of half-siblings, with lost and distant fathers and stepfathers and no strong male role models. Both drawing on uncommon will, Ivy League legal training, mental agility, innate adaptability and the symbolism of hope to reach the heights of American politics.

"They are very similar in their strengths and weaknesses," noted Rep. Rahm Emmanuel, D-Ill., and chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, who views the two men from a unique perspective as a congressman from Obama's home town, Chicago.

SEE **CLINTON, A6**

In a prime-time address, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton implores her supporters to back her rival's candidacy.

**BY DAVID ESPO**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Hillary Rodham Clinton last night summoned millions of voters who supported her in the primaries to send Barack Obama to the White House, declaring in a Democratic National Convention speech that the man who defeated her "is my candidate and he must be our president."

In a prime time address, the former first lady added, "we don't have a moment to lose or a vote to spare."

The packed convention floor became a sea of white "Hillary" signs as the New York senator strode to the

podium, and thousands of Democrats cheered as she took a pre-speech sip of water.

While her prepared remarks included a full-throated endorsement of Obama, she did not indicate whether she would have her name placed in nomination or seek a formal roll call of the states when the nomination is awarded by delegates tonight.

Calling herself a "proud supporter of Barack Obama," she dismissed Republican John McCain with a few choice words.

"No way. No how. No McCain," she said as the hall erupted in cheers.

"We don't need four more years ... of the last eight years," she added.

Like other failed candidates at conventions past, Clinton recalled her own quest for the White House.

SEE **DEMOCRATS, A9**

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Your turn: React to Hillary Clinton's speech, and get the latest from Journal Washington bureau chief John E. Mulligan, blogging live from the convention, at [projo.com](http://projo.com)

## Wood pellet stoves are hot, hot, hot in Rhode Island



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / STEVE SZYDLOWSKI

There are concerns that the supply of pellets may not be able to keep up with the soaring demand.

Stoked by skyrocketing prices for oil and gas, Rhode Islanders have snapped up nearly every one of the stoves for sale in the state.

**BY PETER B. LORD**  
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

EAST PROVIDENCE — Cathy Medina may be one of the few Rhode Islanders looking forward to cold weather. She wants to try out her new heating system.

"I can't wait," she said last week, as her husband helped install a new stove in their small ranch house here in Riverside. The stove burns wood pellets, which look a lot like rabbit food.

Medina, fed up with high oil prices, bought the stove in June. But it wasn't until last week that she was able to get someone to install it.

That still puts her ahead of an anxious crowd in this region that has suddenly discovered wood pellet stoves, and now

can't get them because manufacturers can't make them fast enough.

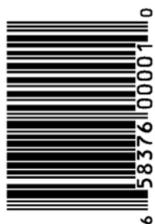
The boom began in June. Local stove shops, which usually enjoy quiet summers, have been flat out ever since. Now, while a few stoves are available here and there, several store owners said they are taking orders for February, at the earliest.

And there are growing concerns about

SEE **STOVES, A4**

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Your turn: Are you considering switching to a cheaper alternative to heat your home? Respond at [projo.com](http://projo.com)



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### A HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

The credit crisis continues to drive down Rhode Island's real-estate prices, prompting a sharp increase in multifamily house sales. **F1**

### ENGLISH ONLY ON THE LINKS

The LPGA decides that all its players need to be able to speak English, with women who've been members of the professional golfers' association for two years facing suspension unless they pass an oral evaluation testing their language skills. **A2**



### GROUP EFFORT LIFTS SOX

Tim Wakefield, above, and five Boston relievers combine to contain Yankee batters as the Red Sox cruise to a 7-3 victory in the Bronx. **C1**