



Weather
Periods
of rain
Forecast, B8

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ECONOMY

U.S. hits its limit on borrowing

Unless debt ceiling is raised, administration warns nation could be in danger of default on loans in 11 weeks

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner informed Congress on Monday that the United States has reached its legal debt limit, setting off a time bomb that could explode in less than three months if lawmakers can't bridge differences and allow more government borrowing.

In hitting the \$14.3-trillion debt ceiling — the limit on how much the government can borrow — the Obama administration on Monday began temporarily halting payments to the retirement and federal pension accounts of federal workers and started borrowing from those funds. Those funds will eventually have to be restored.

Geithner sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., warning that the government can move money around for about 11 weeks but if a

SEE **DEBT, A9**

ECONOMY

Taco unveils \$18-million plan to expand

Company will add 25,000 square feet and renovate another 25,000 square feet at its headquarters on Cranston Street

By **NEIL DOWNING**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Cranston manufacturer Taco Inc. plans to launch an expansion and renovation within the next two weeks, a project that will cost about \$18 million and better position the company for future growth, said Taco president John Hazen White Jr.

"This building project is all about setting this business up to go to the next level of growth," White said in a telephone interview Monday.

Taco, the prominent maker of pumps, valves and accessories for heating and air conditioning worldwide, has its headquarters and principal manufacturing operation at a 165,000-square-foot facility at 1160 Cranston St., Cranston.

SEE **TACO, A4**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Civil union bill due for committee vote

A full House debate and vote on the measure that faces opposition from both sides could happen as soon as Thursday

By **RANDAL EDGAR**
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — In the words of House Judiciary Committee Chairwoman Edith H. Ajello, the civil unions bill that drew opposition last week from people on both sides of the same-sex marriage debate is "a compromise that satisfies no one."

But Tuesday night, the same committee that heard the testimony from dozens of people is expected to vote on the bill and, perhaps, set the stage for a full House debate and vote as early as Thursday.

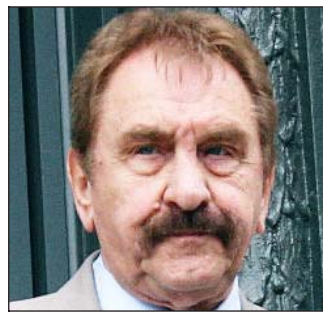
Ajello said Monday that while House bill 6103

SEE **BILL, A8**

COURTS | NORTH PROVIDENCE CORRUPTION



JOSEPH S. BURCHFIELD
64 months
3 years' probation
\$10,000 fine
Refund bribe money



EDWARD IMONDI
12 months, 1 day
3 years' probation
Return bribe money



RAYMOND L. DOUGLAS III
78 months
3 years' probation
\$22,500 fine
Refund bribe money

Jailed for extortion



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Edward Imondi, convicted of being an accomplice in a North Providence corruption case, addresses the media on the steps after sentencing at the U.S. District Court in Providence Monday.

2 ex-councilmen and middleman sentenced in shakedown scheme

By **MARK REYNOLDS**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Two former North Providence councilmen who conspired to shake down businesses for bribes and a middleman in the scheme will go to federal prison next month under sentences imposed Monday in U.S. District Court.

Chief Judge Mary M. Lisi sentenced former Council President Joseph S. Burchfield to 64 months, as proposed by prosecutors.

"This defendant held a leadership position in what we now know was nothing more than a criminal organization," Lisi said. "This defendant was president

of the North Providence Town Council and, in that position, he and his co-conspirators ran a shakedown operation."

Two hours later, she ordered former Councilman Raymond L. Douglas III to stand up to receive his sentence and curtly told him he would serve 78 months — 7 months longer than prosecutors proposed.

She began the day in the North Providence corruption case with the sentencing of Edward Imondi, 74, who delivered bribe money to the councilmen in return for their votes in a zoning case involving a proposed condo project in a mill building. Imondi got 12 months and one day in prison. Prosecutors had

asked for 30 months.

Lisi suggested that Douglas' conduct in an illegal gambling racket, which the FBI learned about through wiretaps in the municipal bribery and extortion case, puts him in a different category than Burchfield because he once "threatened violence and sent his thugs to his victim's home."

She sentenced him to an additional 78 months for extorting debtors in the sports-betting operation, but ordered that time to run concurrent with the municipal-corruption sentence. She fined him \$12,500 for the betting extortion.

SEE **CORRUPT, A10**

PROVIDENCE

Serious video-gamers have Convention Center in their cross-hairs

Major League Gaming will bring professional players and gaming products to its exhibition

By **PAUL GRIMALDI**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Sports Commission, an offshoot of the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, has secured a deal to bring 3,000 professional video-gamers to the city in the fall for a

national championship competition.

Video-gamers will compete in the Rhode Island Convention Center Nov. 18-20 as they finish up a tour in which they are battling for more than \$1 million in money and prizes. The event will include an exhibition area

where event attendees can meet professional gamers and take a look at coming video-game releases and gaming accessories.

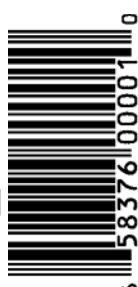
The Major League Gaming series stops in Dallas, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; Anaheim, Calif.; Raleigh, N.C., and Orlando, Fla., before it arrives here.

The sports commission projects the event will draw 16,000 spectators, in addition to the pro

gamers, and take up 1,400 hotel room nights, according to John Gibbons, the commission's executive director.

The bureau created the commission in October 2010 as a subsidiary to help pitch the state's virtues as a host for competitive events ranging from contract bridge and croquet to

SEE **GAMES, A8**



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NATION
For Trump, race over before it begins

Donald Trump, whose public flirtation with a presidential run overshadowed early stages of the Republican primary race, announces he will not be a candidate. **B2**

RHODE ISLAND
TV series departing R.I.

"Body of Proof," the TV series starring Dana Delany as a crime-busting medical examiner, gets renewed for next season but will no longer be filmed in Rhode Island. **A4**

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