

SECOND LIFE



Business restores road-worn Caddys. **Nation 3A**

CITY LANDMARK

Shoals marquee gets replica of original sign. **Region 1B**

DRIVING WHILE PETTING

Blame it on Paris: No dogs on laps

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A California lawmaker wants to ban motorists from holding pets on their laps while driving and getting caught can net a \$35 fine. The bill passed the Assembly on a 44-11 vote Monday. Ridiculed as the "Paris Hilton Bill" in honor of the celebrity dog lover, the bill now goes to the state Senate. Assemblyman Bill Maze said his legislation has nothing to do with pet-loving celebrities who are photographed driving around Los Angeles with their small dogs. Maze said he introduced the bill after seeing a woman driving with three dogs on her lap.

QUITE THE FAN

After 4 years, boy sheds Farve shirt

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Finally, David Witthoft shunned his Brett Favre jersey for the first time in 1,581 days. The Ridgefield, Conn., boy wore the No. 4 jersey every day since receiving it as a gift for Christmas in 2003. David's father, Chuck Witthoft, said his son's last day wearing the jersey was April 23 — his 12th birthday. Witthoft conceded his son was starting to become more concerned about his appearance after the jersey barely came down to his belt. Witthoft attended his first Packers game in December. He's also planning to attend the Sept. 8 game when the Packers retire Favre's No. 4.

ONLINE TODAY

See video footage of fatal accident on U.S. 72 on Tuesday. TimesDaily.com/video

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Tuesday's question: Do you support a temporary reprieve of the federal gas tax?
 Yes: 61.5%
 No: 38.5%

Today's question: How many foreign countries have you visited?

Vote daily online at: TimesDaily.com

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TIMES DAILY

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AT THE BALLGAME



Lexington sweeps, Central swept. **Sports 1C**

COLBERT COUNTY

Man killed in U.S. 72 crash

By Tom Smith
 Senior Staff Writer

A Colbert County man was killed Tuesday when the motorcycle he was riding slammed into the back of a pickup truck on U.S. 72, authorities said.

Phillip Barry Manley, of 1535 Red Rock Road, Tusculmbia, was 58.

State troopers said the crash site was three miles west of Tusculmbia, between the Locust Shore community and Pride Landing, and occurred just before 2 p.m.

Colbert County Coroner Carlton Utley pronounced Manley dead at the scene about 30 minutes later.

Utley said Manley died from multiple blunt force trauma to the head.

The driver of the pickup, Harley Kent, was not seriously injured, troopers said.

Both vehicles were eastbound on U.S. 72, based on witness accounts.

Troopers said it appears Manley, who

On the Net

Video footage of Tuesday's fatal accident is available at TimesDaily.com/video.

was driving a 2004 Yamaha Road Star motorcycle, ran into the back of the 1994 Chevrolet 1500 pickup as Kent was turning into a driveway.

Emergency crews at the scene said the impact was so severe that it broke the rear housing on a riding lawn mower that was in the bed of Kent's pickup. The truck was heavily damaged.

The collision also broke the motorcycle's front fork.

Will T. McCrory and his wife, Clarice, live a few yards from where the accident occurred.

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Matt McKean/TimesDaily
A volunteer firefighter stands next to a crumpled motorcycle along U.S. 72 in the Locust Shores community after it struck the rear of a pickup truck Tuesday, killing the rider.

KILLEN

Courting new friends in America

By Gregg Dewalt
 Sports Editor

About 20 minutes before tip-off Monday night, players from the visiting team wandered into the bleachers and handed out gifts to the small number of fans in attendance at the Brooks High School gym.

Later, when the teams took to the floor, the scene was repeated with each player on the Alabama Twisters basketball team receiving a gift from their opponents.

Those were the first clues that the visitors — clad in their orange and blue uniforms — aren't from around here. It's difficult to imagine that scenario playing out at any home-grown rivalry game.

The next clue came when coach Margreet Van Putten began giving her team instructions — in Dutch.

On this night, the Almonte Under 20 junior team from Eindhoven, Holland, is running and gunning against the Twisters, a Shoals-based AAU team coached by Bob Harris. It's the next-to-last game on the team's 10-day stay in the Shoals, and the outcome is unimportant. It's the interaction between the Dutch players and their new American friends that has helped make it a memorable visit to the United States.

For the 15 players and two coaches that comprise Almonte's traveling party, the visit to Alabama has provided a lifetime of memories, an opportunity to experience American-style basketball and interaction

Please see **Dutch**, Page 3A



Matt McKean/TimesDaily
Members of a basketball team from the Netherlands give assistant coach Jris Verbakel the miniature glass wooden shoes they will hand out while staying in the area. The team is practicing at Brooks High School. More photos at TimesDaily.com/photos.

Obama closes in on prize

By David Espo and Liz Sidoti
 Associated Press Writers

Barack Obama swept to victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton clung to a narrow Indiana lead, struggling to halt her rival's march into history.

"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from securing the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," Obama told a raucous rally in Raleigh, N.C. — and left no doubt he intended to claim the prize.

Clinton and Obama both said the former first lady would win Indiana. Yet thousands of votes were yet to be counted, principally in Lake County, not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

She told cheering supporters in Indianapolis, "Thanks to you; it's full speed on to the White House," signaling her determination to fight on in a campaign already waged for more than 15 months.

Returns from 99 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama winning 56 percent of the vote to 42 percent for Clinton, a triumph that mirrored his earlier wins in Southern states with large black populations.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern contest for the former first lady, who was hoping to counter Obama's persistent delegate advantage with a strong run.

On the Net

See video coverage of the primary elections at TimesDaily.com/video.

WASHINGTON

Cost to produce coins has Congress thinking steel

By Laurie Kellman
 Associated Press Writer

If you think times are tough, it now costs more than a penny to make a penny. And the cost of a nickel is more than 7½ cents.

Surging prices for copper, zinc and nickel have Congress trying to bring back the steel-made pennies of World War II, and maybe using steel for nickels, as well.

"If we continue minting coins with the current metal content, with each new penny and nickel we issue, we will also be contributing to our national debt by almost as much as the coin is worth," said Rep. Luis Guterierrez, D-Ill., who chairs the House panel that oversees the U.S. Mint.

Copper and nickel prices have tripled since 2003 and the price of zinc has quadrupled, Guterierrez said.

A penny, which consists of 97.5 percent zinc and 2.5 percent copper, cost 1.26 cents to make as of Tuesday. And a nickel — 75 percent copper and the rest nickel — cost 7.7 cents, based on current commodity prices, according to the Mint.

That's down from the end of the 2007, when even higher metal prices drove the penny's cost to 1.67 cents, according to the Mint. The cost of making a nickel then was nearly a dime.

Guterierrez estimated that striking the two coins at costs well above their face value set the Treasury and

taxpayers back about \$100 million in 2007 alone.

A lousy deal, lawmakers concluded as the House moved toward a vote Tuesday that directs the secretary of the Treasury to "prescribe" — suggest — a new, more economical composition of the nickel and the penny.

Unsaid in the legislation is repeating the Constitution's delegation of power to Congress the power "to coin money (and) regulate the value thereof."

The Bush administration, like others before, chafes at that.

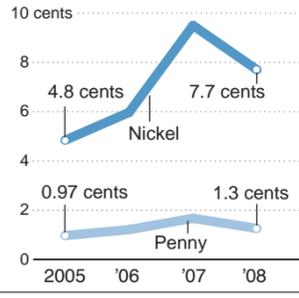
Mint Director Edmund Moy told House Financial Services Chairman

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Costs for coins

The U.S. Mint pays more to make pennies and nickels than their actual value.

Production cost, fiscal year



SOURCE: U.S. Mint AP