

COMCAST HIKING RATES: Cable to jump as much as 27% for some SR customers **Business**

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT



KID CUISINE

Iron Chef winner Traci Des Jardins shares her secrets to cooking with children **Food & Wine**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

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SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

15-year-old RP girl survives near-fatal 0.57 alcohol level

Friends say teenager drank 20-ounce bottle of vodka at party with no adults present, later found unconscious at park

By LAURA NORTON

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

A Rohnert Park teenager nearly died of an alcohol overdose at a weekend party after she filled an empty 20-ounce Gatorade bottle with vodka and drank it straight before wandering off to a nearby park, friends said Tuesday.

The girl's blood-alcohol content was 0.578, seven times the level for drunken driving, when she was rushed by ambulance to Memorial Hospital and doctors feared she would not live through the night, Rohnert Park Police Sgt. Art Sweeney said Tuesday.

The 15-year-old girl, a freshman at Rancho Cotate High School, had a tube inserted in her throat to help with her breathing, friends said. She was kept at the hospital through Sunday and was fully recovered and back at school on Monday, doing fine and showing off a hospital bracelet, said friend Gabriel Gomez.

Medical professionals said the amount of alcohol in her blood could have been lethal.

"She's lucky that her friends got to her when they did," said Memorial Hospital emergency room doctor Josh Kucker. "It's tough to say what could have happened if she had come in two minutes later."

Speaking outside the girl's Rohnert Park townhome, her father declined comment and asked not to be identified.

Police investigators said Tuesday they still are piecing together what happened that night and determining if there was any criminal wrongdoing.

TURN TO ALCOHOL, PAGE A13

BLOOD-ALCOHOL CONTENT

Blood-alcohol content refers to the amount of alcohol absorbed into the bloodstream. A 100-pound person would have to consume nine to 10 drinks in one hour to have a blood-alcohol content of 0.50. Levels and their likely effects:

- 0.02: Lowest measure of drunkenness
- 0.08: California drivers exceeding this limit guilty of DUI
- 0.15: Judgment and perception are severely impaired
- 0.25: Asphyxiation and severe injury possible
- 0.30: Stupor
- 0.35: Surgically anesthetized
- 0.40 and up: Coma, respiratory arrest, possible death

Sources: Rutgers University Alcohol Studies; University of Oklahoma

Cyclone death toll in tens of thousands

41,000 reported missing in Myanmar; 1 million may be homeless; U.S. boosts aid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, Myanmar — The cyclone death toll Tuesday soared to more than 22,000, with more than 41,000 others missing, as foreign countries mobilized to rush in aid.

Up to 1 million people may be homeless after Cyclone Nargis on Saturday hit the Southeast Asian nation, also known as Burma. It was the nation's deadliest storm on record.

Some villages have been almost totally eradicated and vast rice-growing areas were wiped out, the World Food Program said.

Images from state television showed large trees and electricity poles sprawled across roads and roofless houses ringed by large sheets of water in the Irrawaddy River delta region, which is regarded as Myanmar's rice bowl.

"From the reports we are getting, entire villages have been flattened and the final death toll may be huge," Mac Piecowski, who heads the International Organization for Migration office in Yangon, said in a statement.

Buddhist monks and Catholic nuns wielding knives and axes joined Yangon residents Tuesday in clearing roads of ancient, fallen trees that were once the city's pride. Soldiers were out on the streets in large numbers for the first time since the cyclone hit, helping to clear trees as massive as 15 feet in diameter.

President Bush called on Myanmar's military junta to allow the United States to help. The White House said the United States will send more than \$3 million to help cyclone victims, up from an initial emergency contribution of \$250,000.

"We're prepared to move U.S. Navy assets to help find those who have lost their lives, to help find the missing, to help stabilize the situation. But in order to do so, the military junta must allow our disaster assessment teams into the country," he said.

TURN TO CYCLONE, PAGE A13



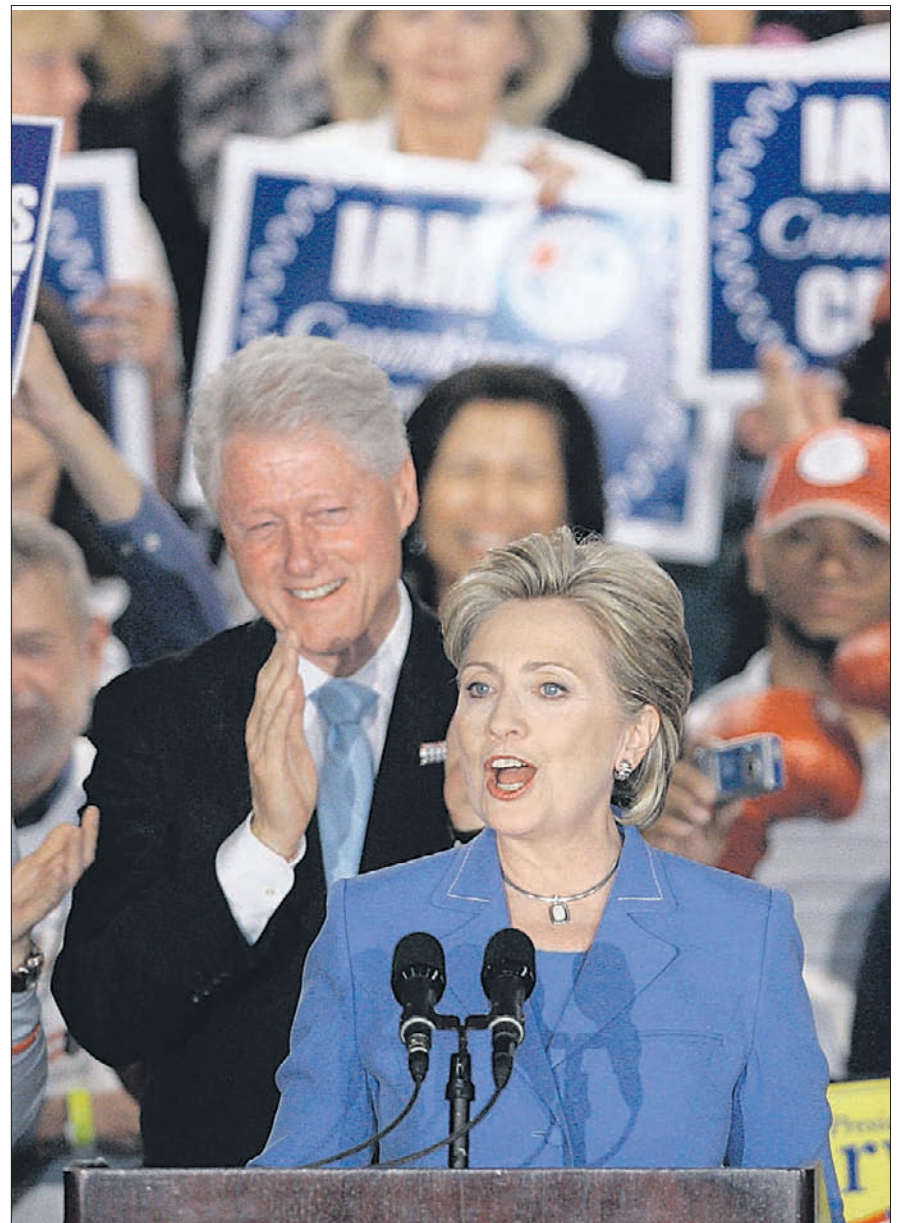
Democratic front-runner easily wins North Carolina; Clinton holds on in Indiana, but close race seriously cuts into her hopes

Obama solidifies lead



GERRY BROOME / Associated Press

Sen. Barack Obama speaks to supporters Tuesday in Raleigh, N.C. Obama easily won the state while picking up almost half the delegates in Indiana.



DARRON CUMMINGS / Associated Press

Sen. Hillary Clinton made clear to supporters Tuesday in Indianapolis that her fight for the Democratic nomination was not over.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

NORTH CAROLINA: Obama, 56%; Clinton, 42%; 99% of precincts in

INDIANA: Clinton, 51%; Obama, 49%; 99% of precincts reporting

DELEGATE COUNT

Tuesday: A preliminary count showed that of 187 delegates to be awarded in North Carolina and Indiana, Obama gained 94 and Clinton gained 75 so far.

Overall: Obama has 1,840 delegates, and Clinton has 1,684, according to the Associated Press. A total of 2,025 is needed to win.

By JEFF ZELENY

NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. Barack Obama won a commanding victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday and narrowly lost to Sen. Hillary Clinton in Indiana, an outcome that injected a boost of momentum to Obama's candidacy as the Democratic nominating contest enters its final month.

The results from the largest remaining Democratic primaries assured that Obama would widen his lead in pledged delegates over Clinton, providing him with new ammunition as he seeks to persuade Democratic leaders to coalesce around his campaign. He also increased his lead in the popular vote in winning North Carolina by more than 200,000 votes.

"Don't ever forget that we have a choice in this country," Obama said in an address in Raleigh,

N.C., that carried the unity themes of a convention speech. "We can choose not to be divided; that we can choose not to be afraid; that we can still choose this moment to finally come together and solve the problems we've talked about all those other years in all those other elections."

In winning North Carolina by 14 percentage points, Obama — whose campaign had been embattled by controversy over the incendiary remarks of his former pastor — recorded his first primary victory in nearly two months. His campaign was preparing to open a new front in his battle with Clinton, intensifying the argument to uncommitted superdelegates that he weathered a storm and that the time was dawning for the party to concentrate on the general election.

But as Clinton addressed her supporters at a rally

TURN TO PRIMARIES, PAGE A13

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SANTA ROSA
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Political heavyweights battle for state Senate seat

Sonoma's Joe Nation takes case to SF streets in race against Migden, Leno

By PAUL PAYNE

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

In the heart of San Francisco's Castro District, Joe Nation is handing out campaign fliers explaining why he's a better choice for state Senate than his two primary election rivals.

It seems an odd strategy for the former Democratic assemblyman, now from Sonoma, especially because incumbent state Sen. Carole Migden and Assemblyman Mark Leno claim huge support in their hometown.

But people in the Castro are telling Nation they've grown weary of fighting between Migden and Leno — two of the state's best-known gay politicians — and might look to someone else.

If Nation can persuade even a fraction of San Francisco residents to vote for him, he has a shot at winning the San Francisco-Marin-Sonoma county seat, given his strength in the North Bay.

"Some people thought it wasn't worth-

TURN TO SENATE, PAGE A12

THE CANDIDATES



Mark Leno



Carole Migden



Joe Nation



C M Y K