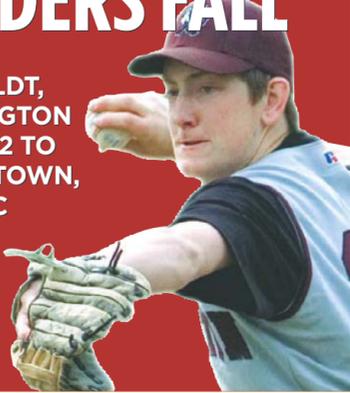


RAIDERS FALL

CONOR BIERFELDT, TORRINGTON LOSE 4-2 TO WATERTOWN, PAGE 4C



CALL HIM CAPTAIN



FRAN MARRELLO OF CANAAN COUNTRY CLUB ABOUT TO ADD TO HIS GOLFING HIGHLIGHT REEL, PAGE 1C

SCHOOL BUDGET GETS SUPPORT

About 200 Torrington residents rallied for their school district budget Tuesday. For that story and the results of budget votes across Litchfield County, turn to PAGE 1B



Aid reaches cyclone survivors

As the death toll from the weekend cyclone surpassed 22,000, the first international aid began arriving in Myanmar on Tuesday. Thousands of people are missing. PAGE 7A

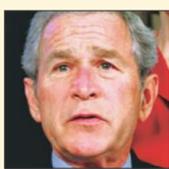
Torrington police phones stop

The Torrington police phone system was down for about five hours Tuesday because of a software glitch. The city's 911 system, however, never failed. PAGE 2B

Highway work targeted by bill

The troubled stretch of I-84 in Waterbury and Cheshire prompted lawmakers to pass a bill that makes everyone associated with a highway project more accountable. PAGE 6B

Bush asked for oil task force



As oil approached \$123 a barrel, two senators asked President Bush to create a task force to determine if speculators are illegally driving up prices. PAGE 8D



WEB EXTRAS TODAY AT WWW.REP-AM.COM

- » Video of track meet with Naugatuck, Seymour and Woodland.
- » Photo gallery of Torrington-Watertown baseball game.



High **74** Sunny and warm today, with clouds and rain moving in late tonight. Page 10B
Low **51**

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Accent 1D | Crossword 5D | Obituaries 8-9B |
| Annie's Mailbox 4D | Editorials 8-9A | People 4D |
| Births 7B | Horoscope 4D | Public record 2A |
| Business 8-10D | Jumble 5D | Stocks 9D |
| Classified 7C | Lottery 2A | Sudoku 5D |
| Comics 6D | Movie times 7D | Television 5D |



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Democrats' split decision

Obama wins easily in North Carolina; Clinton leads Indiana

THE LATEST COUNTS

OVERALL: The latest delegate tabulation shows Obama with a lead of 1,800.5 to 1,654, which includes separately chosen superdelegates; 2,026 are needed to secure the nomination.

TUESDAY: Early counts showed Obama earning at least 55 delegates and Clinton getting at least 46, with 86 still to be awarded.

BY DAVID ESPO AND LIZ SIDOTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — 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 led narrowly in Indiana, struggling to halt her rival's march into history. "Tonight we stand less than

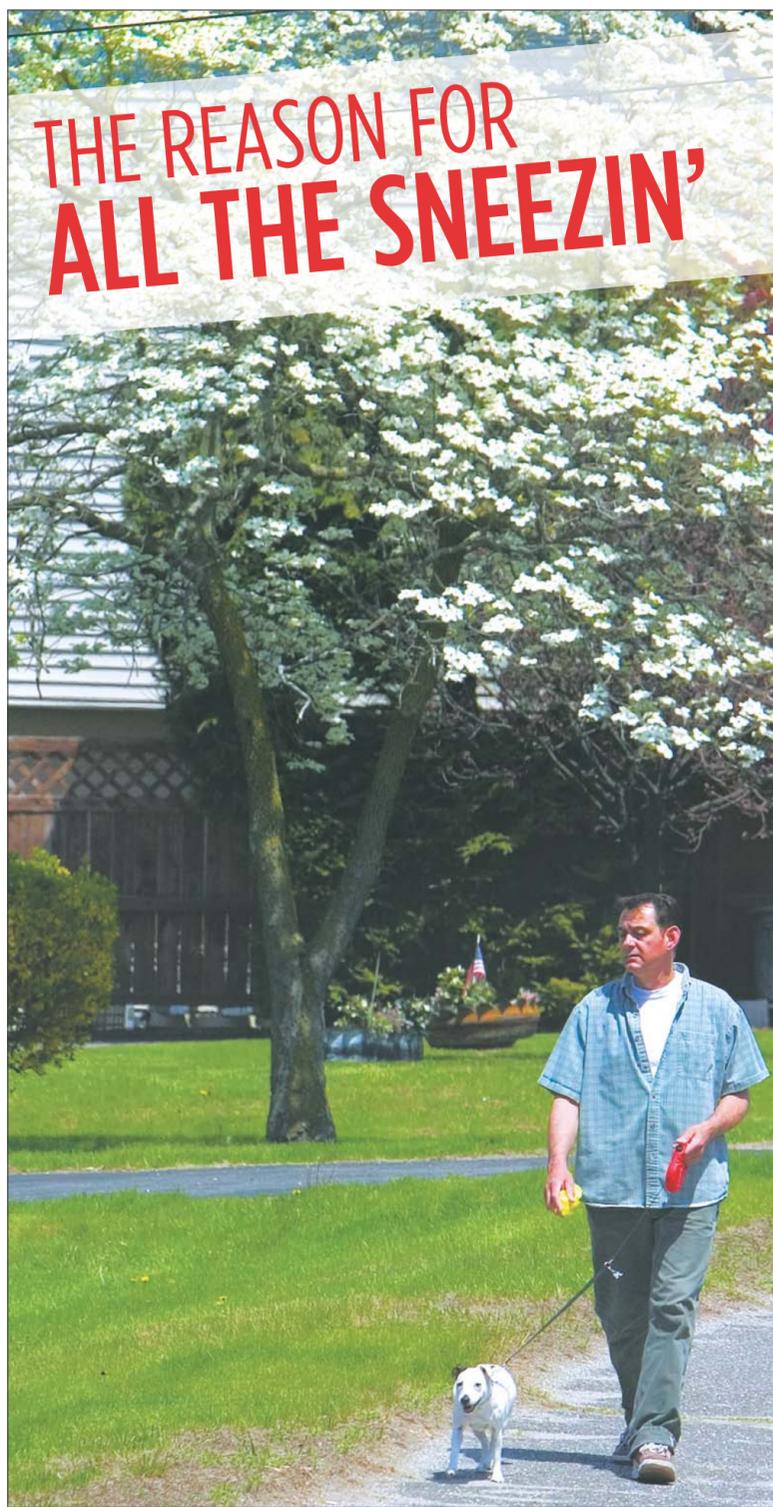
200 delegates away from winning the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," Obama told a raucous rally in Raleigh, N.C. — and left no doubt he intended to claim the prize.

He said it appeared Clinton had won Indiana. Thousands of votes had yet to be counted, principally in Lake County, a heavily black area not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

She told cheering supporters in Indianapolis, "Thanks to you, it's full speed to the White House," signaling her determination to fight on in a campaign already waged across more than 15 months and nearly all 50 states.

Returns from 62 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama beating Clinton

See **VOTE**, Page 6A



STEVEN VALENTI REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN
Steve Torres of Waterbury walks his dog, Maya, past trees in full bloom Tuesday on Woodtick Road in Waterbury. Some blooming trees and pollen have aggravated allergy sufferers.

Mild winter leads to earlier pollen pain

BY GENNADY SHEYNER
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Ellen Crocco typically knows May has arrived when grass sprouts, trees bloom, and her 11-year-old son, Michael, wakes up with his eyes swollen shut and his nose running uncontrollably.

But this spring has been among the worst for the Southbury family and others with pollen allergies. Michael has had to miss school because he couldn't see through the swelling. And during baseball games, he has had to wear glasses under his catcher's mask because he couldn't fit his contact lenses over his eyes.

"There are days when he looks like a boxer," Crocco said.

Crocco knew Michael's suffering had reached a new high when he asked to get allergy shots, a step he previously re-

» **STAYING FREE AND CLEAR:** Find some tips for avoiding the symptoms caused by pollen and allergens on Page 6A.



STEVE RAGGIE REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Cheshire drops plan for killing park geese

Outcry means town will enlist dogs instead

BY MICHAEL PUFFER
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

CHEESHIRE — The Canada geese at Mixville Recreational Area can breathe a little easier.

Town officials have backed away from a plan that could have seen 15 of the unwelcome birds killed.

In late April, the Town Council endorsed a plan to enlist the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Cheshire's longstanding struggle to shoo the troublesome birds away from town parks. For \$3,000, USDA experts would spoil goose eggs, scare the geese with noisemakers and, as a last resort, capture and kill as many as 15 of the birds.

Geese have created a minefield of droppings at Mixville, chasing away visitors and resulting in repeated closures of a swimming pond due to high bacteria counts.

Town officials agreed to the lethal strategy after years of fruitless attempts to chase the birds away with noisemakers, coyote decoys and other measures.

The announcement of the plan was met with a flurry of letters, e-mails and telephone calls from people in opposition, so town staff decided to give non-lethal efforts another try.

"There was a large outcry and we do try to be sensitive to the public," Recreation Director Robert Ceccolini said.

See **GEESE**, Page 6A

NOT WORTH THEIR WEIGHT



THE PENNY
Value: 1 cent
Cost to make: 1.26 cents



THE NICKEL
Value: 5 cents
Cost to make: 7.7 cents

The rising price of copper, zinc and nickel have driven up the costs to make the coins. Some members of Congress are suggesting they be made of steel, something that hasn't been done since World War II.

Story on Page 8D.

See **SNEEZE**, Page 6A