

# Daily News

Niceville road woes grow

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Pioneering air commando recounts past

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Congress looks into steel money

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## WHAT NOW?

The campaigning continues as Obama wins North Carolina and Clinton hangs on in Indiana

### NORTH CAROLINA



OBAMA: 56%  
CLINTON: 42%  
98% REPORTING



### INDIANA

CLINTON: 52%  
OBAMA: 48%  
88% REPORTING



### Local Dems look forward to general election

By ANDREW GANT  
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**FORT WALTON BEACH** — Bold words came from an enclave of Democrats watching their party's primary results on television Tuesday evening.

"We're ready to win" the general election on the Emerald Coast, said 23-year-old Ben Barrick, founder and chairman of the Young Democrats of Okaloosa County. "We will win."

Barrick was one of about 30 optimistic Democrats who visited Rick's Crab Trap on Brooks Street throughout the night. The turnout was about the same in Walton County, he said.

The corps watched as front-runner Barack Obama claimed North Carolina and extended his lead in the delegate race, while Hillary Clinton held her ground in Indiana, which by many accounts was a must-win state for her.

J.C. Pike, 24, wearing an Obama campaign T-shirt at the end of the Crab Trap bar, said it wasn't time for Democrats to demand Clinton's exit; that wouldn't come until her mathematical elimination.

"You can't really tell someone it's time to give up," he said. "It's a democracy."

Pike and Barrick touted a surge in voter turnout — especially in Indiana, where Barrick said young voters turned out in record numbers even before 10 a.m. If those numbers carry to the general election, both men expect a landslide victory for the Democratic nominee.

Barrick includes Okaloosa County in that prediction.

"We don't consider Northwest Florida a Republican stronghold — we consider it a conservative area," he said before drawing a napkin diagram comparing the Democratic candidates to Ronald Reagan.

"Some people might call it a naive notion," he conceded. "That's OK."

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP) — 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 across more than 15 months and nearly all 50 states.

Returns from 98 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 through the late primaries. Returns from 88 percent of the state's precincts showed Clinton with 52 percent of the vote to 48 percent for Obama.

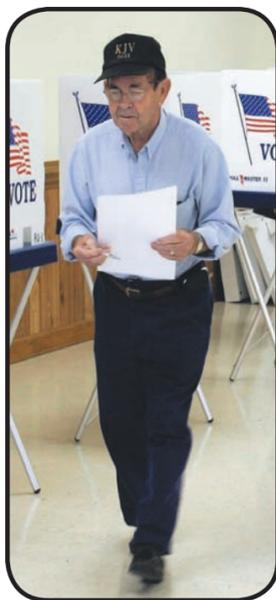
Obama won at least 63 delegates and Clinton at least 57 in the two states combined, with 67 still to be awarded.

Voters in both states fell along racial lines long since established in a marathon race between the nation's strongest-ever black presidential candidate

and its most formidable female challenger for the White House.

The economy was the top issue by far in both states, according to interviews with voters as they left their polling places.

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Photos by AP

Duell Hinson carries his ballot for the North Carolina primary election Tuesday as he walks past voting booths at the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department polling place.

### MYANMAR CYCLONE

## Cyclone death toll tops 22,000

First international aid arrives with 800 tons of food from U.N.

**YANGON, Myanmar** (AP) — International aid began to trickle into Myanmar on Tuesday, but the stricken Irrawaddy delta, the nation's rice bowl where 22,000 people perished and twice as many are missing, remained cut off from the world.

In the former capital of Yangon, soldiers from the repressive military regime were out on the streets in large numbers for the first time since Cyclone Nargis hit over the weekend, helping to clear away rubble. Buddhist monks and Catholic nuns wielded axes and long knives to remove ancient,

fallen trees that were once the city's pride.

However, coastal areas of the delta worst hit by the high winds and tidal surges were out of reach for aid workers, isolated by flooding and road damage.

Electricity remained cut for nearly all 6.5 million residents of Yangon, while water supply was restored in only a few areas. Some residents waited in lines for nine hours or more to buy gasoline to fuel generators and their cars. At one gas station in the Yangon suburb of Sanchaung,

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"Our biggest fear is that the aftermath could be more lethal than the storm itself."

— Caryl Stern  
head of the  
U.N. Children's Fund  
in the United States

## DUI-manslaughter trial under way in Walton County

Baheejah T. Jackson is charged with the 2007 death of Ruth J. Lakey of Panama City

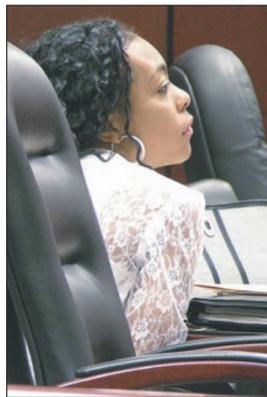
By ANDY MEINEN  
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**DeFUNIAC SPRINGS** — Trial testimony Tuesday claimed that a Marianna woman had marijuana in her system on the night she drove the wrong way on U.S. Highway 98 and caused a crash that killed a Panama City woman.

Baheejah T. Jackson, 26, is charged with DUI manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter and possession of marijuana. Her trial began Tuesday and is expected to end today.

Donna Stewart, a retired Florida Highway Patrol traffic homicide investigator who worked the wreck, said Jackson drove her white Mitsubishi west in the eastbound inside lanes of U.S. 98 on the night of Feb. 2, 2007. Jackson collided head-on with a Buick LeSabre driven by 74-year-old Ruth J. Lakey. Lakey died at the scene near Prophets Way in Inlet Beach, according to officials.

After the crash, Jackson was pinned inside her car. Firefighters cut her out with the Jaws of Life before Air-



ANDY MEINEN | Daily News

Baheejah T. Jackson, 26, of Marianna listens to testimony Tuesday at her trial for DUI manslaughter, vehicular homicide and possession of marijuana.

Heart flew her to a hospital in Pensacola, officials said.

Stewart said Jackson's blood tested positive for marijuana. During her investigation, Stewart found marijuana in a Christmas stocking in the

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### COMMENT OF THE DAY

I'll bet the government will send billions in aid to Myanmar faster than you can say "Hurricane Katrina."

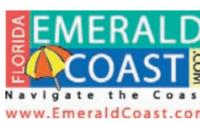
READ WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING | C1

### WEATHER

Partly sunny, warm and more humid. High 81; low 69. Wind from the south-southeast at 10 to 18 mph | B5

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