

THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH

www.cdispatch.com

MAY 7, 2008

A locally owned newspaper with a mission of service

129TH YEAR, NO. 49 ■ 25 CENTS

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The Commercial est. 1894, The Dispatch est. 1879, Consolidated March 12, 1922, Columbus, Mississippi

Obama's star rising after trading wins with Clinton

By Calvin Woodward
The Associated Press

McGovern endorses Obama

By Dennis Gale
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Politically wounded and financially strapped, Hillary Rodham Clinton plunged back into the presidential campaign Wednesday even as Barack Obama declared that Tuesday's primary results left him with a "clear path to victory."

Obama beat Clinton soundly in North Carolina and fell just short in an Indiana cliffhanger, a rebound for the Illinois senator that presented Clinton with fast-dwindling chances to deny him the Democratic presidential nomination.

Putting her money troubles into clearer focus, Clinton's campaign said Wednesday that she lent her campaign \$6.4 million over the past month. Earlier this year, she gave her campaign \$5 million.

But even as Obama planned to take the day off from the campaign trail Wednesday, Clinton showed no public

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SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Former Sen. George McGovern, an early supporter of Hillary Rodham Clinton, urged her to drop out of the Democratic presidential race and endorsed her rival, Barack Obama.

After watching the returns from the North Carolina and Indiana primaries Tuesday night, McGovern said Wednesday it's virtually impossible for Clinton to win the nomination. The 1972 Democratic presidential nominee said he had a call in to former President Clinton to tell him of the decision, adding that he remains close friends with the Clintons.



Mark Lennihan/AP

A photograph of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton is on the cover of the New York Post at a newsstand today in New York.

Young leaders encouraged to pursue 'significance'

By Vicky Newman
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They're still two years from finishing high school, but some area sophomores are ready to reach for success and begin their lives as the leaders of tomorrow, after graduating Tuesday from the Lowndes Young Leaders program.

Now in its eighth year, the youth leadership program sponsored by the Columbus-Lowndes Development Link and the Columbus Rotary Club is open to high school sophomores. It is designed to develop an energetic

and diverse group of informed and qualified young leaders who will become the business and community leaders of tomorrow.

Dr. Suzanne Bean, director of the Roger Wicker Center for Creative Learning at Mississippi University for Women, addressed the graduates. Bean told the 2007-08 class they should strive to have lives that are significant, as well as successful.

"Success could last a lifetime, but a significant life lasts beyond a lifetime," Bean said. "In the course of a life, the things that determine your significance are the relationships you

form, the decisions you make and the actions you take."

Bean encouraged the 20 young graduates, representing all Lowndes

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From left, Columbus High School student Erica Harrison talks to Bill Walker, a member of Rotary and chairman of the Lowndes Young Leaders program. At right is Alexandra Woolbright of New Hope. Harrison and Woolbright are new graduates of the Lowndes Young Leaders program.



Joe Ray Roberson/Dispatch Staff

May flowers



Joe Ray Roberson/Dispatch Staff

City of Columbus employee Tommy Sanders waters the flowers and trees in planters along Main and Fifth streets Tuesday. The pots, which contain roses, marigolds, zinnias, coleous, parsley and lantana, are watered by the city twice a week.

Football players get probation for firing guns

By Chris Talbot
The Associated Press

JACKSON — A judge has given two former Mississippi State University players suspended sentences for firing guns on campus in March.

Oktibbeha County Circuit Court Judge Lee Howard gave Michael Brown, 21, of College Park, Ga., a two-year suspended sentence to the Mississippi Department of Corrections and Quinton Wesley, 21, of Atlanta, a three-year suspended sentence to MDOC. Each will be on probation during the sentence and could serve time in jail if they do not meet all the requirements.

Having a gun on an educational campus is a felony punishable for up to three years in MDOC.

"I want you to get this behind you, and make it a bad memory," Howard told Wesley and Brown in his

Please see MSU on Page 10A



Brown



Wesley

Pooper-scooper law to go into effect in 30 days

By Kristin Mamrack
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Pet owners in Columbus now must scoop their pets' poop or face a hefty fine.

The Columbus City Council Tuesday issued final approval for a city ordinance requiring residents to pick up after their pets.

The council initially approved the ordinance April 1, but it was required to "sit on the table" for 30 days before final adoption, City Attorney Jeff Turnage explained.

The ordinance requires pet owners —

or those with custody of the animal — to remove the animal's waste from public property, including town-owned parks, recreation areas, playing fields, school grounds, sidewalks, easements, rights-of-way and the "traveled portion of public streets and roads."

Additionally, waste must be removed from all private property.

The ordinance also stipulates waste be removed from the private property of the pet owner, "if such defecation causes a malodorous condition that offends neighboring property owners."

Violations of the city ordinance will be considered a misdemeanor, resulting

in a \$100 fine for each violation.

If the fine is not paid within 30 days, the fine will be doubled as penalty for non-payment and a contempt citation will be issued.

If a violator requests a Municipal Court trial and is found liable, within 30 days the fine will be doubled and a contempt citation issued.

In other matters,

Ward 2 Councilwoman Susan Mackay noted a city/county intergovernmental relations committee Tuesday decided not to recommend a smoking

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TODAY'S DISPATCH

Proverbs

By James Brewer

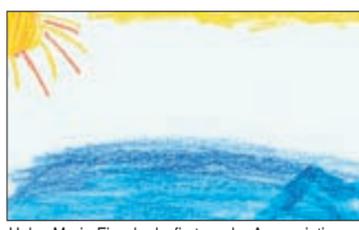
The man who really wants to do something finds a way, the other finds an excuse.

Five questions

1. What South American nation's International Potato Center is guarded by a statue of a harvest god clutching a pair of potato plants? 2. What Muppet said of his famed facial feature: "Never underestimate the power of the unibrow"? 3. What animal yields the bulk of the butter spread on bread in northern Bhutan? 4. Who was the first European to be named NBA Rookie of the Year? 5. What columnist was honored in 2002 when Grand Forks, N.D., named its Sewage Lift Station Number 16 after him?

Answers: 12B

Weather



Haley Marie Fisackerly, first grade, Annunciation

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To market, to market

Fresh food and fun are on the menu during "Celebration Saturday" at the Hitching Lot Farmer's Market. 7B

