

Weather



Partly sunny today with a high of 84, low in the 60's. Chance of a thunderstorm Thursday. Details, 10A

WEB SITE CHANGES



This is it! Today is the day when the Hattiesburg American begin its new Web site. The rollover is expected to happen around 2 p.m.

Although there may be bumps and glitches in the first few days, we pretty much expect for the most part there will be smooth sailing ahead.

You'll still be able to find the same news, information and sports online - it will just look different.

If you experience any problems with our new site, please feel free to contact online editor Lici Beveridge at lbeveridge@hattiesburgamerican.com.

On the Web



Photo galleries

- Sumrall defeats Franklin County
- Student Writers' Showcase
- FGH Spirit Girls' Mother-Daughter Fashion Show at Talbot's (hubmoms.com)
- Trinity Episcopal Youth scavenger hunt (hubmoms.com)

Events

- Find more than 70 events today with our online calendar.



Log onto www.hattiesburgamerican.com for local and national news 24 hours a day.

Inside today



Cyclone aftermath

Victims of the cyclone in Myanmar begin to receive much-needed aid. **Story, 5A**

Deaths

Nollie B. Baughman	Penne G. Hooper
Sherry L. Brady	Gregory Knight
Juanita Clemens	Bill Mooney
George W. Coleman	Eris Spence
Homer Evans	Baley Stewart
Gladys Hanberry	Homer Taylor
Harold Holmes	

Full obituaries, 8A

Index

Annie's Mailbox	6B	Crossword	5B
Asimov quiz	9B	Movie listings	7A
Bridge/Jumble	6B	Nation/World	5, 10A
Business	7B	Opinion	9A
Calendar	2A	Pine Belt	3A
Classified	8B	Sports	1B
Comics	5B	Stocks	7B
Crime scene	8A	Television	6B



USM athletes making the grade, 1B

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2008

A Gannett newspaper

50 cents

Delegate victory drawing closer IT'S A SPLIT



Photos by The Associated Press

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks to supporters in Raleigh, N.C., after winning the North Carolina Democratic primary Tuesday.

Obama wins N.C., Clinton takes Indiana

By **DAVID ESPO** and **LIZ SIDOTI**
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Barack Obama swept to a convincing victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton eked out a win in Indiana as she struggled to halt her rival's march into history.

What's next

Upcoming Democratic primaries

- May 13: Nebraska, West Virginia
- May 20: Kentucky, Oregon

"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from securing the Democratic nomination for presi-

dent of the United States," Obama told a raucous rally in Raleigh, N.C. - and left no doubt he intended to claim the prize.

Clinton stepped before her own supporters not long afterward in Indianapolis. "Thanks to you, it's full speed on to the White House," she said, signaling her determination to fight on in a campaign already waged across more than 16 months and near-

ly all 50 states.

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

See **SPLIT, 7A**

ANALYSIS

Clinton still underdog in Dem battle

By **CHUCK RAASCH**
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON - A more confident Barack Obama clawed closer to the Democrats' presidential nomination Tuesday, winning North Carolina convincingly and fighting Hillary Clinton to a virtual draw in Indiana.

Vote-counting problems in the Hoosier State left Indiana in doubt well past midnight. Clinton eventually pulled out a narrow victory in a state she desperately needed to win.

For now, the Democrats' presidential marathon moves on, and the ultimate choice between Obama and Clinton still could rest with party leaders called superdelegates. But early today, signs were growing of a rally-around-Obama scenario.

Obama's convincing victory in North Carolina, which he followed



DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., right, acknowledges supporters with her daughter Chelsea, left, and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, during an Indiana Primary rally Tuesday night.

with a speech aimed more at the general election, may not have been a clincher, but it put Clinton on the precipice of contention.

She had hoped to maintain momentum with a split decision Tuesday, but her thumping in North Carolina and her virtual clinch with Obama in Indiana provided him an important boost with just a half dozen primaries remaining.

Her fate now rests on a fleeting hope that Tuesday's results were muddled enough to keep undecided superdelegates - Democratic Party leaders and elected officials - from being swept along in a fresh Obama underdog and granting him the party's nomination.

Clinton planned meetings and a

See **CLINTON, 7A**

HHS' student wins Coca-Cola Scholarship

By **VALERIE WELLS**
American Staff Writer
vwells@hattiesburgamerican.com

Hallie Paul desires equity for at-risk students in public schools.

"I've been able to do so much," Paul, 18, said. "We should make sure it's not just the top-tier students at every school who can participate."

She is one of those top-tier students. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 Regional Coca-Cola Scholarship to Paul, a senior at



Paul

Hattiesburg High School.

She's one of only four winners of the scholarship in Mississippi and the only winner in the Pine Belt.

Paul is the daughter of Meg

and Joe Paul. Her mom is a hospice nurse at Forrest General Hospital, and her father is vice president of student affairs at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Despite that connection to Southern Miss, Paul was drawn to the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at Alabama.

"They have just made me feel so welcome," Paul said. "It's a competitive environment, but they take care of their own."

"Hallie is a well-rounded student, and not just a high

achiever academically," said Robert Sanders, principal at Hattiesburg High.

Paul is on the debate team, involved with theater and has taken art classes every year in high school along with a heavy academic load. She also is active with her youth group at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Balancing all that activity has been part of her education. Managing time means learning to say no and keeping her planner by her side, she said.

See **PAUL, 7A**

Odor's origin located

City officials to determine best means of paying for solution

By **TERRY L. JONES**
American Staff Writer
tjones@hattiesburgamerican.com

After weeks of denying city lagoons were the cause of the foul stench that has blanketed much of Hattiesburg recently, Director of Public Services Bennie Sellers admitted to City Council on Tuesday that the smell is indeed a city problem.

STORYCHAT

Post your comments on this story online

"We do have an odor coming from our south lagoon," Sellers said after Tuesday's City Council meeting. "Our action is to do some treatment of our waste water by adding a product that would reduce the biochemical oxygen demand and also decompose and reduce some of the sludge that has built up at the bottom of one of our cells."

That assessment came hours after officials with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, city officials and several consulting engineers spent much of the day Tuesday conducting investigations at the city's north and south lagoons.

But Sellers said blame doesn't rest solely on the city's shoulders.

Sellers told the council that USA Yeast also may be contributing to the lagoon's sludge buildup. He said the plant's waste water has a high biochemical oxygen demand that the city's facility is having difficulty processing thoroughly.

Steve Mitchell, a private chemical engineer from St. Louis, said yeast is a "very different beast" to deal with.

Mitchell said the city's aerators can not properly break down yeast alone. He said the best option for the city to effectively address both issues would be to use archaea to decompose waste in the lagoon.

Archaea is a natural organism that "works without air to do its work," he said.

Mitchell said using archaea also will relieve the demands of the city's aerators, which are currently responsible for waste breakdown in the lagoons.

See **ORIGIN, 7A**

Shooting in Saucier kills four

The Associated Press

SAUCIER - Four people, including the alleged shooter, have died in Saucier on Tuesday in what authorities are calling a murder-suicide.

Harrison County Sheriff Melvin Brisolaro said deputies got a domestic disturbance call about 3 a.m. Tuesday.

Brisolaro said when deputies got to the mobile home, they began talking to a man inside. After about an hour, the sheriff said deputies heard a gunshot and went inside.

Brisolaro said deputies found the bodies of Sherry Lee, 17, and Stacy Lee, 19, in a bathroom. He said the body of 19-year-old James Glass of Long Beach, identified as a boyfriend of one of the women, was found in the living room.

Harrison County Coroner Gary Hargrove identified the alleged gunman, who investigators say committed suicide, as Walter Ferry, 50. Hargrove said Ferry was the Lee sisters' stepfather.

Hargrove said Sonja Ferry, the girls' mother, escaped through a window and ran for help. At least seven shots were fired inside the home and two guns were found at the scene.

Autopsies were pending.