



# THE ISLAND PACKET

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

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79° 67°

If you look hard enough, you'll see the sun. **6B**

**Crash injures 2, snarls traffic on US 278 3A**

**Dolphins will swim in the Georgia Aquarium 5A**



## 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

# Obama takes N.C., Clinton wins in Indiana



GERRY BROOME • The Associated Press

**Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and his wife Michelle react to the crowd in Raleigh, N.C., after winning the North Carolina Democratic presidential primary Tuesday.**



DARRON CUMMINGS • The Associated Press

**Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., right, addresses supporters in Indianapolis Tuesday night. Late night results had Clinton narrowly winning the Hoosier State.**

## Clinton vows to continue fight for the Democratic nomination

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.

"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 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 nearly 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

### DELEGATE COUNT



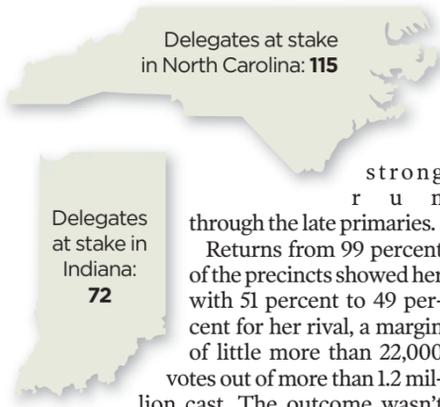
**1,672**  
Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton



**1,815**  
Sen. Barack Obama



**1,362**  
Sen. John McCain



Delegate counts as of 1:06 a.m.

black populations.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern contest for the former first lady, who had hoped to counter Obama's persistent delegate advantage with a

Please see CAMPAIGN on 11A

# Island may hike property taxes

By TIM DONNELLY  
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Hilton Head Island residents could see a portion of their property taxes increase for the first time ever this fall as the town prepares for what it expects will be a tough economic year ahead.

The increase would be relatively small — \$3 for many homes — but it signals how much town officials are fretting over the long-term financial picture. As the island approaches build-out, the housing market and economy continue to slump and a new state cap limits the ability of local government to tax its residents, the town is being forced to reexamine its spending practices on everything from pathway construction to police services.

Overall, the proposed \$73.9 million budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year the Town Council began discussing Tuesday is drastically conservative compared to years past, shrinking nearly \$9 million from this year. Cuts are proposed across several departments, including slowing construction projects and not adding new Town Hall staff positions.

### BY THE NUMBERS



**\$3**  
Tax increase on a \$200,000 home under proposal

**\$297,000**  
Additional money the increase would provide to the town

**\$9 MILLION**  
Amount the proposed budget for 2008-2009 will shrink by

"We're going to need to be more selective on how we take on new initiatives," town manager Steve Riley said. The increase "is something that I'm afraid I think we have to do."

The town is proposing raising its operating millage, or property tax rate, by .36 for a total of 19.36 mills. The increase translates into about an extra \$3 on a \$200,000 owner-occupied home.

Please see TAXES on 11A

# Mere threat of storm could hurt business

By LIZ MITCHELL  
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The 2008 hurricane season worries the Beaufort County Emergency Management director more than any other past season.

It's not the national predictions of 14 tropical storms and eight hurricanes — four of them major — that worry William Winn.

He's worried that just the threat of a hurricane could hurt small-business owners in Beaufort County because they're already facing a tough tourist season.

"The way the economy is right now, people won't come here with

**"It does not take a landfall storm to have a significant economic impact on Hilton Head Island."**

William Winn, Beaufort County Emergency Management director

the threat of a storm," Winn told a crowd of several hundred local business owners Tuesday at the annual Hurricane Expo sponsored by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce.

Please see HURRICANE on 11A



## 107 years and counting: Light bulb still burns

Five years after retirement, ex-firefighter Tom Bramell still likes to visit Station No. 6 in Livermore, Calif., to see the sturdy little object hanging from the ceiling in the firehouse's engine bay, emitting its faint orange glow.

At 107 years and counting, the low-watt wonder with the curlicue carbon filament has been named the longest continuously burning bulb by both Guinness World Records and Ripley's Believe It Or Not. The light bulb never gets turned off, which many people suspect is the secret to its longevity.

Hanging 18 feet above the floor at the end of a black cloth-covered cord, the little light with the filament the width of a No. 2 pencil is unprotected by any lampshade. Firefighters won't even dust it.

"You want that light on," said Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Zolfarelli, the new bulb keeper. "As long as it doesn't go out on your watch. Nobody wants to be onboard when that happens."

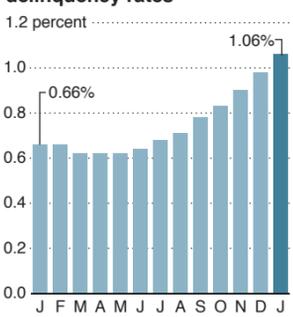
Los Angeles Times

## Fannie Mae losses darken housing picture

### Late payments rise

Fannie Mae's delinquency rate rose to 1.06 percent in January, up nearly half a percent from the previous year.

### Total single-family home loan delinquency rates



SOURCE: Fannie Mae

By MARCY GORDON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The outlook for the housing market darkened further Tuesday as the nation's largest buyer of home mortgages said it racked up more than \$2 billion in quarterly losses and forecast a steeper drop in home prices this year.

If Fannie Mae's prediction proves true, the real estate woes could further shake the confidence of consumers already stung by rising food and fuel prices, and an anemic job market.

Home foreclosures are accelerating around the country, adding to the glut of unsold properties and further depressing prices. As a result, a growing number of homeowners are saddled with loans that outstrip the value of their houses.

"I think that right now we are in the

### HOME PRICES IN Q1

Daniel Mudd, Fannie Mae's president and CEO, said home prices fell in the first quarter "faster than anyone anticipated" and that the company foresees a decline of 7 percent to 9 percent for the year, compared with earlier forecasts of a 5 percent to 7 percent drop.

belly of the cycle," Fannie Mae's president and CEO, Daniel Mudd, said during a conference call with analysts.

Still, investors pushed Fannie's shares sharply higher as federal regulators loosened the company's capital

Please see HOUSING on 11A



### INSIDE LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

**Looking for something to make this Mother's Day your mom's best one yet? Try these homemade doughnuts that are guaranteed to make her feel special. 1C**



### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People ask for criticism, but they only want praise."  
**W. Somerset Maugham,**  
English dramatist, novelist