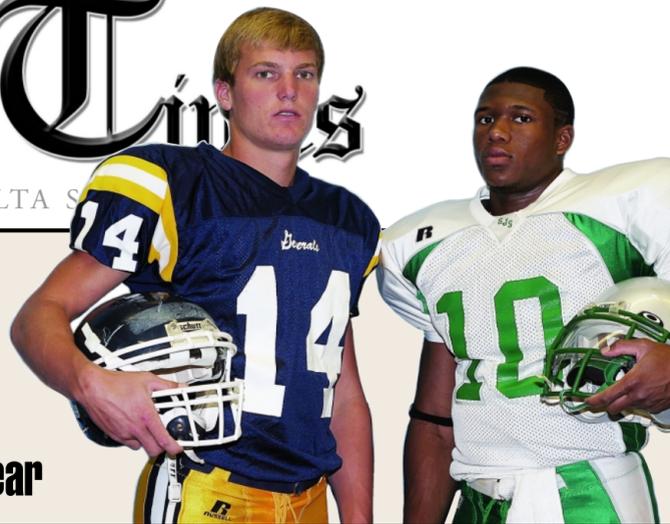


Delta Democrat Times

CHRONICLING STORIES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA



OPINION

Growing up a tough kid

Leroy Morganti: A4



INSIDE TODAY

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DDTONLINE.COM DAILY QUESTION

Should a local resident get his own personal jet fuel tank?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Log onto ddtonline.com to answer the question. The results will appear in Tuesday's newspaper.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Two women killed in car accident

JOSHUA HOWAT BERGER
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GREENVILLE — A traffic accident on U.S. 82 near Harlow's Casino Resort killed two women Saturday and sent a man to the hospital with a broken neck, the Mississippi Highway Patrol said.

Eston Switzer Jr., 77, of Belzoni, was driving his 2000 Lincoln Town Car west on U.S. 82 with his wife and daughter when another vehicle pulled out in front of him, officials said.

Switzer swerved to avoid hitting the other car and crossed the center into the path of an eastbound 18-wheeler, said Sgt. Ben Williams.

Peggy Switzer, 73, of Belzoni, and her daughter, Janice Smith, 54, of Winona, were killed instantly, Williams said.

Smith was the wife of Winona Fire Chief James Smith.

Mr. Switzer suffered a broken neck and broken ribs on both sides of his body and was airlifted to University Medical Center in Jackson, officials said. Williams said Switzer is listed in critical condition.

The driver of the 18-wheeler was unhurt.

The accident happened around 2 p.m. Saturday, Williams said.

MHP is still investigating the accident. Williams said it's possible misdemeanor charges will be filed against the driver of the vehicle that pulled out in front of Switzer.



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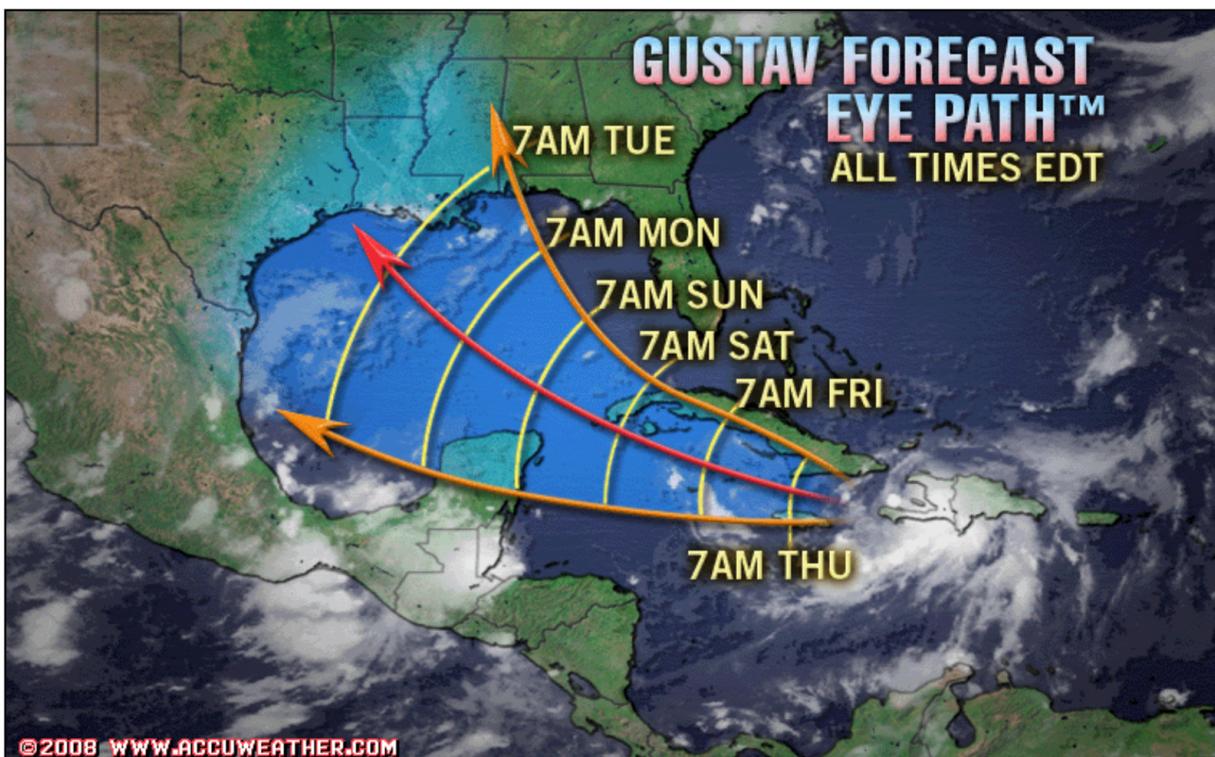
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Tropical weather

Gustav could take ominous track



Storm weakens but could become hurricane again before possibly taking aim at the Mississippi coast

JONATHAN M. KATZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Tropical Storm Gustav stalled in the Caribbean early Wednesday a day after hitting Haiti as a hurricane.

But the National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm could regain hurricane strength later in the day or on Thursday once it moves away from Haiti.

As of 5 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Gustav's maximum sustained winds were near 60 mph (95 kph) with higher gusts. The storm was centered about 80 miles (125 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince. The storm had not moved much during the last few hours,

the hurricane center said. But it was expected to continue moving toward the west-northwest.

Jamaica issued a tropical storm warning Wednesday and also remained under a hurricane watch along with the Cayman Islands. A watch means hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours.

A hurricane warning was in effect for parts of Cuba including the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay. A warning means hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours.

As a hurricane, Gustav caused a killer landslide and dumped torrential rains on southern Haiti on Tuesday before weaken-

ing to a tropical storm.

Forecasters said Gustav could become a Category 2 hurricane with winds topping 96 mph (154 kph) Thursday as it moves between Cuba and Jamaica.

After Haiti, a strengthening Gustav was projected to sideswipe Cuba's southern coastline all week before entering the central gulf on Sunday.

Forecasters were reluctant to predict the storm's path beyond the weekend, the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Thunderstorms associated with Gustav were already bringing downpours to some parts of eastern Cuba late Tuesday night.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Jet fuel tank approved for local resident

Commission approves plan despite warnings from experts

LOGAN MOSBY
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GREENVILLE — A Greenville citizen got his wish Tuesday night when county officials agreed to the construction of a private above-ground fuel tank on the grounds of Mid-Delta Regional Airport.

Joseph Terracina appeared before the Washington County Planning Commission to appeal

See **TANK** on A10

INSIDE

See related editorial. — Page A4

MEDICAID CRISIS

DRMC joins effort to thwart cuts

50 hospitals already oppose governor's health care plan

ELEANOR BARKHORN
eleanorbarkhorn@ddtonline.com

GREENVILLE — Delta Regional Medical Center joined more than 50 Mississippi hospi-

See **DRMC** on A10

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Obama set for battleground tour following convention

Joe Biden, Bill Clinton to speak in Denver tonight

PHILIP ELLIOTT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Barack Obama, his wife Michelle and running mate Joe Biden will embark on a bus tour of battleground states Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan later this week after he receives the Democratic presidential nomination, his campaign announced today.

That nomination will formally come later Wednesday as delegates to the Democratic National Convention crown Obama as the first black nominee of a major political party.

Obama was due to arrive in the convention city

INSIDE

Hillary Clinton makes clarion call for unity. — Page A3

Wednesday afternoon.

Former President Clinton was also set to deliver a prime-time address the convention, a day after his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, sought to unify the party after a bitter primary season, delivering the second part of a one-two punch.

See **OBAMA** on A10



PAUL SANCYA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., gestures as he stands at the podium at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Tuesday. He is scheduled to speak tonight.

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