

Billings Gazette



CYCLE OF LIFE

TAVIN DAVIS, 14, MAKING QUICK CLIMB IN THE RANKS OF BMX RACING

Sports 1D



BUILT TO RACE

3 months after heart surgery, Jay Marshall finishes endurance race. Health 1C

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008

The Source

LOCAL EDITION

Today's briefing

Local



A team room in the center of each pod inside the new middle school in Lockwood will allow teachers to see students at their lockers and in the hallways. Students start at the new school on Thursday. 1B

POST CONSOLIDATED: Yellowstone County commissioners on Tuesday voted to fold the county office of superintendent of schools into the county treasurer's office following the 2010 election. 1B

State

BEAR SHOT: An adult male grizzly bear was shot by a Silver Gate resident Saturday night after the bear returned after trying to break into the man's home on Friday. 1B

GAME VIOLATIONS: A South Carolina man pleaded guilty Monday to a felony and seven misdemeanors and no contest to two other misdemeanors for an illegal outfitting operation in Sweet Grass County that was busted by state investigators in November. 3B

NEW VOTING SYSTEM: Workers are installing new digital voting systems in the Montana House and Senate chambers in Helena. 3B

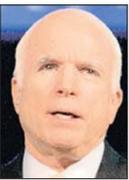
ANIMAL SHELTER: Volunteers will gather this Labor Day weekend in Baker to build what is to be the only nonprofit animal shelter in Eastern Montana. 5B

POWER PLANT PERMIT: NorthWestern Energy said Tuesday that it is seeking permits for a natural-gas-fired power plant near Anaconda, and hopes to start building the plant next year. 5B

Nation

THREATS AGAINST OBAMA: A group of suspected drug users arrested in Denver this weekend with methamphetamine, guns and bullet-proof vests made racist threats against Barack Obama but posed no true danger to the presidential candidate, federal authorities said Tuesday. 2A

MCCAIN CRITICIZES OPPONENT: Speaking to the 90th convention of the American Legion, Sen. John McCain accused Sen. Barack Obama of being confused about America's role in the world as he continued to pepper Obama with criticism during the Democrats' political convention in Denver. 3A



MCCAIN

HEALTH INSURANCE: The number of people without health insurance fell by more than 1 million in 2007, the first annual decline since the Bush administration took office, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday. 3A

DEATH IN BOISE FIRE: A Boise State University professor was identified Tuesday as the victim of a wildfire that destroyed or damaged at least 19 houses and forced the evacuation of more than 100 people from a Boise neighborhood Monday night. 5A

World

AFGHAN OPERATIONS: In a stark warning to U.S. forces, the Afghan government said it will try to regulate the presence of U.S. troops and their use of airstrikes, while the United Nations on Tuesday announced that "convincing evidence" exists that an American-led operation killed 90 civilians. 6A

BLAST IN IRAQ: A suicide bomber with explosives hidden beneath his traditional robe blew himself up Tuesday in a crowd of Iraqis trying to join the police force. The blast killed at least 25 people in the second major bombing in Iraq this week. 11A

Freshmen get helping hand on schools' 1st day



JAMES WOODCOCK/Gazette Staff

Bronc Advocate Owen Haacke helps new students Tara Selby, center, and Maryellen Brink during a new-student and freshman orientation at Senior High on Tuesday morning.

About 1,920 kids attending classes at Senior, SD2 says

By BECKY SHAY
Of The Gazette Staff

A freshman's first day of school is scary. And not just for the student.

"I'm a little bit apprehensive, like my daughter," said first-time freshman father Sherman Lose. "Maybe more."

His daughter, Hayley Lose, was among about 480 freshmen taking to the halls of Senior High for the first time Tuesday.

Freshmen step into a

world that not only marks the next level in their education but also an environment that may be harsher and more demanding than their earlier school years.

That's why Tuesday was freshmen-only day at Billings' public high schools.

The freshmen were joined by some upperclassmen who serve as advocates, or mentors, and help the ninth-graders around the maze of halls.

"We teach them how to go to school," Senior High Principal Dennis Holmes said.

Owen Haacke, a senior, is a Bronc Advocate who worked

Please see Students, 12A

VIDEO, PHOTO GALLERY

billingsgazette.com

Tuesday was first-year teacher Josh Anderson's first day of school. Watch how he did on The Gazette Web site.



ANDERSON

Send your first-day-of-school photos to citynews@billingsgazette.com. They'll be posted on The Gazette Web site.

Clinton urges support of Obama



LARRY MAYER/Gazette Staff

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., watches Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer speak at the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday evening with Penny Hanson and Josh Mahon, left, at Eran and Carlee Thompson's home on Hilltop Road in the Heights.

New York senator promotes unity, criticizes McCain



CLINTON

DENVER (AP) — On Tuesday night, Hillary Rodham Clinton summoned the millions of voters who supported her in the primaries to send Barack Obama to the White House, and she drew thunderous applause at the Democratic National Convention when she declared her one-time rival is "my candidate and he must be our president."

"We don't have a moment to lose or a vote to spare," said the former first lady, writing the final chapter in a quest for the White House every bit as pioneering as Obama's.

The packed convention floor became a sea of white "Hillary" signs as the New York senator — Obama's fiercest rival across 56 primaries and caucuses — strode to the podium for her prime-time speech. The signs were soon replaced others that read "Unity."

Please see Convention, 13A



Anti-abortion protesters arrested, 2A

Obama focusing on vets in Billings

Candidate arrives in town, watches convention at Heights home

Gazette Staff

When Barack Obama sits down today to listen to veterans, he might hear from Purple Heart recipient Jerry LaFountain, a Vietnam veteran from Billings who was invited to hear the Illinois senator speak.

LaFountain said he wants to know what Obama's plans are for veterans, since the next president will have to worry about an inflated rank of veterans created in the past eight years.

"I'm hoping to hear what he proposes to do to make things better for veterans and our country," LaFountain said. "I know an awful lot about veterans, such as the status of (Veterans Affairs) and such. I'm hoping to hear as much. Or if he doesn't know as much, that he's got people lined up who do know."

LaFountain will be one of about 200 people to hear Obama speak this morning at Riverfront Park. The exact time of Obama's event is unknown, but attendees are asked to be at a staging point by 9 a.m. From there, they will be bused to the park.



JAMES WOODCOCK/Gazette Staff

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., arrives Tuesday with his entourage at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

MULTIMEDIA

billingsgazette.com

Log on today for latest updates, videos, and picture galleries of the presidential candidate's visit.

Obama, who arrived in Billings on Tuesday afternoon, was expected to meet with a military family before speaking to the crowd. He was spending Tuesday night in a downtown hotel.

Tuesday evening, he visited a convention-watching party at the Heights home of Eran and Carlee Thompson. Eran Thompson, an organizer for Montana People's Action, is a member of the Obama campaign's Billings staff. He introduced Obama at a town hall meeting at West High in May.

Obama arrived at the Thompsons' sometime before 8:30 p.m. Reporters were not allowed at the party; photographers were

"I'm hoping to hear what he proposes to do to make things better for veterans and our country."

— Jerry LaFountain

Vietnam veteran who has been invited to hear Obama speak

allowed for just a few minutes.

Carlee Thompson said she found out that Obama was coming to the watching party only a few minutes before he arrived. "It all happened really quickly," she said. "They told me about 10 minutes before he came, and then he showed up."

Please see Obama, 13A

ON THE NET

billingsgazette.com



Follow four Montanans as they attend the Democratic National convention in Denver.

Schweitzer's raucous speech fires up crowd

By MIKE DENNISON
Gazette State Bureau

HELENA — Gov. Brian Schweitzer fired up a partisan crowd Tuesday night at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, delivering an animated speech touting Democrats' energy plans and blasting Republican presidential candidate John McCain as the "same old, same old."

"After eight years of a White House waiting hand and foot on Big Oil, John McCain offers more of the same," he said. "At a time when America should be working harder than ever to develop new sources of energy, John McCain wants more of the same."

Schweitzer's several-minute speech preceded the night's marquee address by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., who narrowly lost the presidential nomination race to Barack Obama.

Please see Schweitzer, 13A

ON THE NET

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For an analysis of Gov. Brian Schweitzer's speech and to read the complete text online, click the link in this story.



Associated Press

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer speaks on energy issues.

State GOP boss calls Schweitzer an attack dog, 13A

Classified	7C	Health	1C
Comics	9C, 3D	Markets	14A
Deaths	8B	Opinion	4A
Food	6C	TV	4D

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▲ High 80° It may rain
▼ Low 54° Breezy, chance of showers. 10B



COMING THURSDAY

Climber witnessed devilish day when 11 died on Pakistani mountain.

Outdoors