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The Gadsden Times

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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Delegates make Obama official choice

Senator from Illinois becomes
first African-American nominee

BY DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

DENVER — Barack Obama, claiming a prize never held by a black American, swept to the Democratic presidential nomination on Wednesday as thousands of national convention delegates stood and cheered his improbable triumph.

Former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked the convention delegates to make it unanimous "in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory."

And they did, with a roar. Competing chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can" floated up from the convention floor as Obama's victory was sealed.

Obama was across town as the delegates he won in the primaries of winter and spring cast their votes.

Aides left open the possibility that he would briefly visit the Pepsi Center to thank his supporters, a routine event at recent national conventions.

'No matter where we stood at the beginning of this campaign, Democrats stand together today. We believe passionately in Barack Obama's message of changing the direction of our country.'

— REP. DEBBIE
WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
D-Fla.

His formal acceptance speech tonight was expected to draw a crowd of 75,000 at a nearby football stadium where an elaborate backdrop was under construction.

Clinton's call for Obama to be approved by acclamation — midway through the traditional roll call of the states — was the culmination of a painstaking agreement worked out between the two camps to present a unified front.

PLEASE SEE OBAMA | A12



ASSOCIATED PRESS | CHARLES DHARAPAK

The New York delegation celebrates after Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., was officially nominated as the Democratic presidential candidate during the Democratic National Convention in Denver Wednesday.

Biden receives vice presidential nomination

Clinton forcefully
endorses Obama

TIMES WIRE REPORTS

DENVER — Sen. Joe Biden was nominated by Democratic convention delegates to take the second spot on the party's 2008 presidential ticket with trailblazing Sen. Barack Obama.

Biden said in an acceptance speech that the challenges America faces require "more than a good soldier" in the White House.

And he called Obama a wise leader who can deliver the change the nation needs.

Obama traveled to the Democratic National Convention arena, making an unscheduled and unscripted appearance late Wednesday to join the party in celebrating his historic presidential nomination.

Obama joined the newly-nominated vice presidential candidate Biden on the platform and they hugged and applauded each other and the convention dele-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., applaud at the end of the convention.

gates. Obama told the roaring crowd that he wants people to understand why he is proud to have "the whole Biden family on this journey with me to take America back."

Earlier in the night, former President Clinton gave his full-throated endorsement to Obama's bid for the White House on Wednesday, telling delegates to the Democratic convention that Obama is "ready to

lead America and restore American leadership in the world."

Clinton pushed back against attacks that Obama is ill-prepared for the White House, especially on matters of national defense.

He also suggested that on such weighty issues, Obama would be leaning on his seasoned vice president, six-term Biden.

"With Joe Biden's experience and wisdom, supporting Barack Obama's proven understanding, insight and good instincts, America will have the national security leadership we need," Clinton said.

Clinton, ever mindful of himself, likened Obama's presidential quest to his own bid for the presidency in 1992, when "Republicans said I was too young and too inexperienced to be commander in chief."

"Sound familiar?" Clinton said. "It didn't work in 1992, because we were on the right side of history. And it won't work in 2008, because Barack Obama is on the right side of history."

Obama will make his acceptance speech tonight at Invesco Field in Denver.

ELECTION

Outcome remains in doubt in Attalla

BY ANDY POWELL
Times Staff Writer

With only three votes separating the second- and third-place finishers in the Attalla mayor's race, 13 provisional ballots cast Tuesday and not yet counted could determine whether

Mayor Charles O'Rear faces Jane Phillips, the council president pro tem, or Harvey Martin in the Oct. 7 runoff.

O'Rear received 585 votes, or 31.88 percent, with Phillips receiving 449 votes, or 24.4 percent, and Martin 446 votes.

Steve Gray received 337 votes and Danny Vaughn received 18 votes.

City Clerk Sharon Jones said the city has about 4,200 registered voters, which would mean there was a turnout of about 43 percent.

Jones said 13 provisional ballots were cast, including five absentee votes in which the voters did not include a copy of identification with their ballots.

She said the other eight ballots could have been people whose names were not on the voters' list or who went to the wrong district, perhaps after moving, and would not go to the district where they were registered. Those ballots were taken Wednesday to the Etowah County Board of Registrars, which will rule on the validity of the votes. Chairman Harry Butler said the board will determine if the people are registered voters. He said cities are responsible for determining where their city limits are.

PLEASE SEE ATTALLA | A5



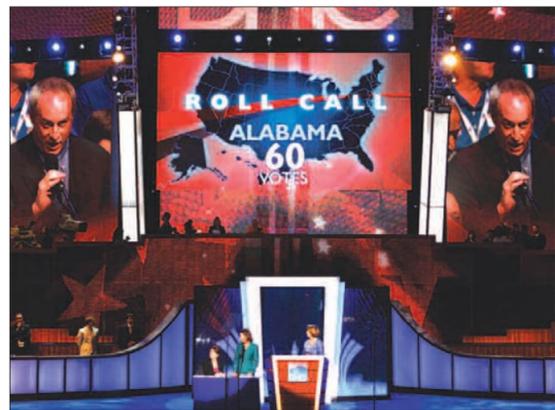
O'Rear



Phillips



Martin



ASSOCIATED PRESS | RON EDMONDS

Alabama casts the first votes at the Democratic National Convention Wednesday.

WEATHER

Alabama residents urged to prepare for Tropical Storm Gustav

BY DANA BEYERLE
Times Montgomery Bureau

MONTGOMERY — Gov. Bob Riley on Wednesday joined Gulf state counterparts in advising residents to prepare for the possibility of a hurricane early next week that could send evacuees into Alabama.

Riley and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency urged preparation for Tropical Storm Gustav that was downgraded Wednesday from a hurricane but was expected to regain hurricane status.

"This storm is another important reminder of everyone's re-

'This storm is another important reminder of everyone's responsibility to prepare for emergencies.'

— GOV. BOB RILEY

sponsibility to prepare for emergencies," Riley said. "State agencies are monitoring Gustav and will be ready to take action, but I encourage residents to use this time to review and update their personal emergency plans."

Those plans include an emergency kit, a family communications plan, a plan to evacuate if necessary and a plan for pet care.

Louisiana and Mississippi officials, remembering hurricane-plagued 2005 including deadly Katrina, also advised residents to prepare. Officials were making plans to evacuate people, pets and hospitals from New Orleans to avoid a Katrina-style chaos, the Associated Press reported.

Katrina hit land three years ago Friday, devastating New Orleans and Mississippi and delivering Alabama a glancing but significant blow.

Gustav could be in the central Gulf of Mexico near Alabama on Monday morning, the end of the three-day Labor Day weekend.

Travel and tourism officials say a hurricane could complicate Monday travel for Alabamians leaving their last fling at a time storm refugees may be seeking hotel shelter as they did three years ago.

"You don't try to second guess a storm," said Mike Foster, vice president of marketing at the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau.

AAA Alabama spokesman Clay Ingram said the AAA expects less vacation travel this weekend anyway but a hurricane could complicate everything.

PLEASE SEE PREPARE | A12



Source: National Weather Service

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TREASURE HUNTERS

Yard sales, estate sales
best places to find
bargains, unique items.

A6

TODAY'S WEATHER



Partial sunshine
and light wind for
a seasonable afternoon.
High 90 Low 61
For details, see A12

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