



Yankees fall further behind Red Sox in wild-card race with an 11-3 setback.

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Cava Restaurant has a steady stream of customers since opening last week.

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Kool!
Live music and good food are regular fare at C.J. Sparrow.

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MERIDEN ★ WALLINGFORD ★ SOUTHINGTON ★ CHESHIRE

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Historic milestone for U.S.

Black man is major party's presidential nominee

By Jesse J. Holland and Calvin Woodward
Associated Press

DENVER — When this campaign ends, after future presidents have come and gone, and when today's young people are grown old, history will remember Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, as the day a black man became the presidential nominee of a major party.

This is history with the ink still wet; transcendent, yet in your face now.

It's a history that belongs to the red states and the blue states and

the United States, to borrow the phrase that made people first sit up and listen to Barack Obama only four years ago.

Americans who don't like him, who will never vote for him, own it, too.

The roll call of states Wednesday night at the Democratic convention means Denver joins Springfield, Ill., and Washington, D.C. in an arc that spans centuries which saw slavery, emancipation, lynchings, Jim Crow, lunch counter bigotry, voting rights,

integration, oratory, intermarriage, black pride, assassination, riots, marches — so many marches — and now a nomination.

The arc traces Abraham Lincoln's legacy of freeing the slaves to Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech at the Lincoln Memorial 45 years ago today, to the convention center in Denver.

And on next to Invesco Field, where Obama will speak on the anniversary of King's "I have a dream" speech.

"This is a monumental moment in our nation's history," Martin Luther King III, the civil rights icon's oldest son, told AP on Wednesday. "And it becomes obviously an even greater moment in November if he's elected."

Democrats have danced around race for much of their convention, to a point where the marker that will enter the history books is al-

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Blogs from the Democratic Convention:

► **Visit to Coors Field:** Chris Donovan has lunch with Christopher Dodd, then takes an early seat at the convention.

► **Volunteer perks:** Sam Carmody catches the Goo Goo Dolls and has cocktails with Howard Dean.

► **Short of breath:** Meriden City Councilor Hilda Santiago adjusts to the thin air.

► **Rocky Mountain high:** Mia Lilienthal is impressed by her surroundings.

INSIDE

► **Sen. Joseph Lieberman** will speak at Monday's opening of the Republican National Convention. **Page 3**

► **Obama's nomination** is unanimous as Democratic delegates fulfill Hillary Clinton's request. **Page 4**

► **Bill Clinton** tells the convention Obama "is ready to lead America and restore American leadership in the world." **Page 4**

First day

Meriden's public schools opened

Wednesday and Gov. Rell visited Hanover School.

Story and photos, page 7.

Coming Friday

A look at today's openings in Cheshire, Southington and Wallingford.



School days are here again

MERIDEN — Not yet weighed down by books and homework, students returned to school Wednesday citing many of the same emotions: at least a slight nervousness about the year to come, the excitement of seeing friends after a long vacation and the hope that this year, whether their first or last at the school, would be a good one.



Principal Miguel Cardona accompanies Caitlyn Hart, 6, left and Bridget Ruiz, 5, Wednesday as they head for their opening day in first grade at Hanover School in Meriden.

Johnathon Henninger / Record-Journal

Community leaders believe in Obama

By Amanda Falcone
Record-Journal staff

Ever since he turned 18, Miguel Cardona had been an unaffiliated voter, but that changed this year when the Hanover School principal decided to become a registered Democrat.

What was his reason? He wanted to vote for presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., in the Democratic primary.

"What I like about him is that he's a regular person," he adds. "He's exactly what we need."

Cardona said he aligns with the beliefs that Obama is promoting, such as universal health care.

"I've always voted on what the person stands for," Cardona said, noting that he also believes Obama has the ability to cross partisan lines to restore the integrity of the presidency.

Maria Gonzalez, a community activist and a member of the Meriden Democratic Town Committee, is voting for Obama because she feels connected to him.

They both attended the Gamaliel Foundation, which offers faith-based programs to help community leaders impact the political, social, economic and environmental decisions that affect their lives.

Gonzalez attended a program offered by the foundation about a year ago and learned that Obama was trained there as well. One of the instructors was a personal friend of Obama and told program participants then that Obama would be president, Gonzalez said.

Since then, Gonzalez has believed in Obama and said her research on the Democratic candidate shows he is maximizing what he was trained to do.

Gonzalez said she likes that Obama is straightforward and positive.

For Roland Cockfield, first vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the draw is that Obama transcends color or race. He is an educated man who has the



Gonzalez



Fritz

Please see **Community / 5**

Merchants see retail center as a business opportunity

By Leslie Hutchison
Record-Journal staff

SOUTHINGTON — Merchants in the Milldale and Marion areas want to take advantage of the proposed 639,000-square-foot retail center that may be built just over the border in Cheshire.

The center is expected to offer upscale stores, dining and entertainment that Southington merchants hope would complement their businesses on the Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike, also called Route 322.

"The challenge is to capitalize on that," said James

Garstang, who owns Ameriprise Financial at 1783 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike. He is the chairman of the Milldale/Marion Business Alliance, which is organized through the Southington Chamber of Commerce.

"We want to leverage the traffic that comes through," Garstang said. If the center, known as The Shoppes at Cheshire, is built, that traffic could be substantial based on engineering reports. Documents filed in Cheshire show that traffic would grow by more

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Dave Zajac / Record-Journal

Nancy Manning, a fifth-grade teacher at Highland School in Wallingford, has traveled to every state in the country. Her favorite was Hawaii, and North Dakota ranks at the bottom of her list.

Geography's her niche

Highland teacher has visited all 50 states

By Dave Moran
Record-Journal staff

WALLINGFORD — Hawaii was by far the best; North Dakota, definitely the worst.

That's the opinion of Nancy Manning, a fifth-grade teacher at Highland School, and she should know — she's been to all 50 states.

"Fifty by 60," was Manning's motto, and she and her husband, Chris, visited their 50th and final state, Oregon, last summer by rafting down the Snake River from Idaho. They

camped on the riverbed that night to celebrate.

"We had to do it last summer because I turned 60 in May and we wouldn't have made it otherwise," Manning said.

Visiting all 50 states is a rare accomplishment in itself, but rarer still is how Manning came to the goal in the first place.

Manning's youngest son, Rory, 25, has a rare chromosomal disorder, so unusual that only a few hundred people in the world suffer from it.

About 15 years ago, a woman in California who had a child that suffered from the same disorder contacted Manning. She

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Outside:

Mostly sunny with the high around 80. Tonight, cloudy and cool, low 55 to 60.

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