



WINNING WAYS

Morton clinches M-I girls soccer title as Notre Dame wraps up MS-6. PAGES D1, D3



FROZEN TREAT

Mooberry frozen yogurt proving to be a hit at Peoria restaurant. TASTE, PAGE C1

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Democrats carry on fight

Obama wins North Carolina as Clinton clings to lead in Indiana



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at a primary election night rally on Tuesday in Raleigh, N.C.

BY DAVID ESPO AND LIZ SIDOTI
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Barack Obama swept to victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton clung to a narrow Indiana lead, struggling 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 and Obama both said the former first lady would win Indiana. Yet thousands of votes were yet to be counted, principally in Lake County, a heavily African-American area not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

She told cheering supporters in Indianapolis, "Thanks to you, it's full speed on to the White House," signaling her determination to fight on in a campaign already waged across more than 15 months and nearly all 50 states.

Returns from 92 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 African-American populations.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern contest for the former first lady, who was hoping to counter Obama's persistent delegate advantage with a strong run through the late primaries. Returns from 85 percent of the state's

Please see **ELECTION**, Page A9

Doty will become leader of UAW 974

30-year Cat employee wins election by large margin, takes over for David Chapman

BY PAUL GORDON
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

EAST PEORIA — Rick Doty was elected president of United Auto Workers Local 974 on Tuesday, defeating Terry DeFrates handily.

Doty led the Union Builders Team to several victories in Tuesday's election, even though voter turnout was lower than expected.

Doty, executive vice president of the local the last six years, defeated DeFrates by a vote of 925, or 61.9 percent, to 570, or 38.1 percent, according to Local 974 election officials. Voting, which was done at the UAW hall in East Peoria, was open from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Doty will serve a three-year term, beginning when he is sworn in June 8. He will replace David Chapman, who chose not to run for president again after three terms in that position. Chapman instead was elected second vice president of the local.

DeFrates, a Caterpillar Inc. employee for more than 30 years, was running for president for the first time.

In other contested races, Danny Miller of the Union Builders Team and the current recording secretary was elected executive vice president, replacing Doty. He defeated Steve Golden by a vote of 935, or 64.4 percent of the vote, to 517, or 35.6 percent.

John Arnold was elected recording secretary without opposition.

Please see **UAW**, Page A10



RICK DOTY

22-YEAR-OLD PREPARES TO GRADUATE FROM ICC SIX YEARS AFTER SERIOUS ACCIDENT

Katie Fisher visits with classmate Kevin Cassidy of Bartonville over coffee Saturday morning at Illinois Central College North during a break from psychology class. Cassidy, who suffered a serious workplace injury many years ago that left him in a coma, said he relates to the struggles Fisher faces. "It's inspiring to be with someone that determined," he said.



STAYING STRONG

Crash victim determined to prove doubters wrong, regain her life

Doctors said she would be a vegetable after a car accident left her with traumatic brain injuries and in a coma. They said she should be institutionalized.

"Hope for the best, expect the worst," the victim's mother, Phyllis Fisher, recalls being told.

Six years later, Katie Fisher, 22, will be graduating from Illinois Central College on Saturday — with honors. She's walking without assistance, she's talking and she says:

"Nobody believed I could do it, but I proved all of them wrong."

In addition to the brain injury, Katie Fisher suffered a broken rib, collarbone and

nose and a punctured lung on May 5, 2002, while coming back from mushroom hunting to celebrate her grandfather's birthday. The car she was riding in — one that was driven by her cousin — pulled in front of a pickup truck just a mile from their rural Woodford County home in Cazenovia. Her cousin and the driver of the truck sustained minor injuries.

Phyllis Fisher saw the accident occur in the rearview mirror. Katie Fisher doesn't remember it.

After 13 days in a coma, she was unable to walk, talk or do many everyday activities by herself.

Please see **FISHER**, Page A7

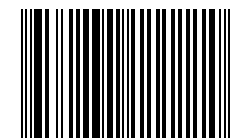


Katie Fisher plays with Joshua Cloyd, 4, during her shift in the pre-K class at PALS — Praise and Leadership School. Fisher, a "floater" who helps out twice a week, said Joshua has taken a liking to her. "From day one, we've had a connection," she said. "He knows I have something wrong with me."

Story by **KAREN McDONALD** ♦ Photographs by **ADAM GERIK** ♦ of the Journal Star

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