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WEATHER PAGE, BACK OF SPORTS

The Palm Beach Post

Sunday, January 29, 2012

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Final edition | Two dollars

IN THE NEWS

Greece near deal with bondholders

Key concessions reportedly were made on bond rates by creditors at talks. **3A**

First lawsuit filed in cruise ship case

Six passengers on the Costa Concordia seek millions in damages in federal court. **2A**

Imprisoned doctor aided in bin Laden raid

He worked with the CIA to help gain access, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta says. **2A**



Panetta

Taliban leaders in Qatar to pave way for talks

Their negotiators have met with U.S. officials on trust-building measures. **3A**

Arab League suspends monitoring in Syria

The crisis deepens as deaths mount and the U.N. considers a call for Assad to quit. **3A**

GPS tracking devices growing in popularity

Americans are monitoring elderly parents, teen drivers — and potential philanderers. **5A**


LOCAL

Survivors embrace life, each other at Komen 5K

The bustling Race for the Cure draws several generations touched by breast cancer. **1B**

Mayor's arrest followed decade of controversy

Jose Rodriguez has dealt with troubles linked to his business dealings and personality. **1B**



Rodriguez

Stakes high if Marx runs for state attorney

The judge, still weighing a bid, could become the area's first female top prosecutor. **1B**

Superintendent finalists used to different rules

Two candidates are from Lee County, which gives kids more leeway in picking schools. **1B**

REAL MONEY

State investigating firm that promises tax help

Florida's attorney general has received 20 complaints about Texas-based TaxMasters. **1F**

Bonus days: Because of an obscure holiday, tax returns aren't due until April 17. **2F**

Small vs. big: Apple iPads are popular, but don't count on them for heavy workloads. **5F**

SPORTS

Flynn a 'slam dunk' in Dolphins offense?

Green Bay's backup QB would fit in well with new coach Joe Philbin, an ex-Packer says. **1C**

Rematch: For the first time since the Eastern finals, the Heat and Bulls vie today. **1C**

Tied at the top: Tiger Woods shoots a 66 to grab a share of the lead in Abu Dhabi. **9C**

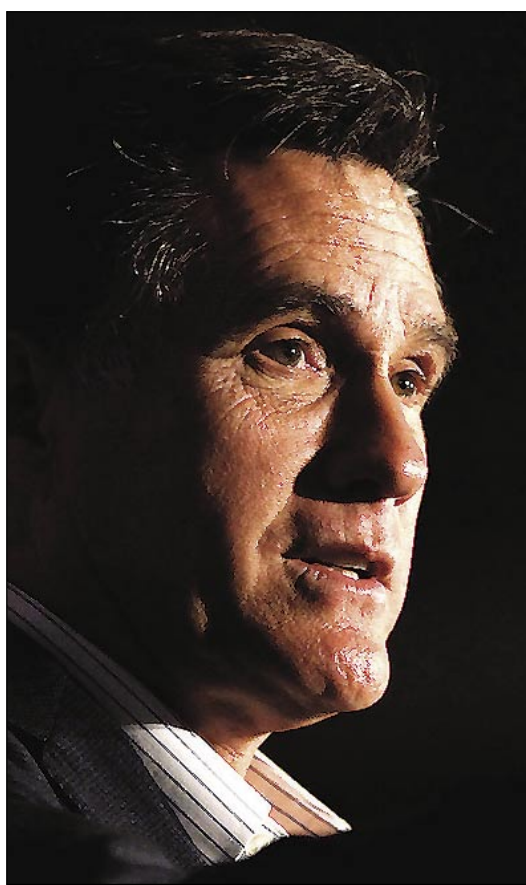
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POST COVERAGE Florida GOP primary

WILL STATE GOP TOSS ANOTHER CURVEBALL TUESDAY? OUTSIDERS MAKING INROADS



CHARLES DHARAPAK/The Associated Press

ESTABLISHMENT FAVORITE

Romney: John McCain, Bob Dole and many other D.C. veterans support him. But he's quick to point out: 'I'm not part of the culture of Washington.'

See GOP, 13A ▶

By GEORGE BENNETT
 Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

JACKSONVILLE — Florida Republicans have shown a fondness for anti-establishment candidates in recent elections.

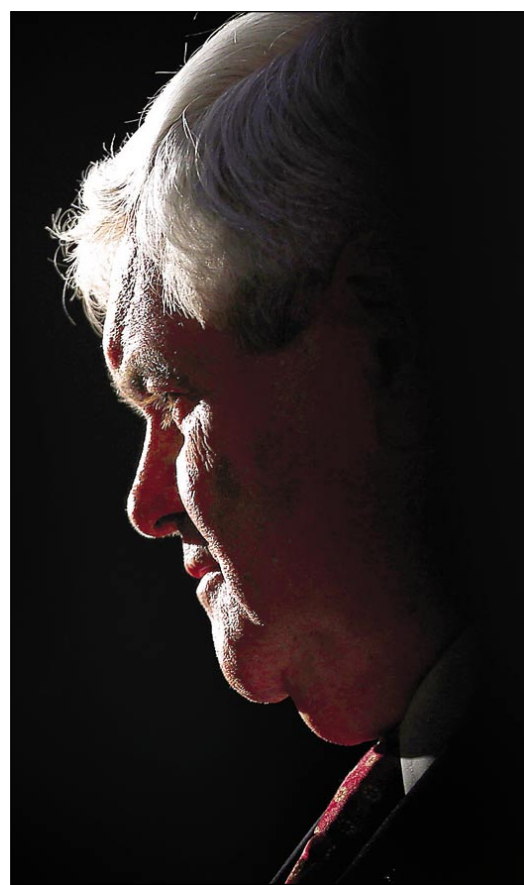
And the establishment has taken note as Tuesday's Republican presidential primary approaches.

Sunshine State Republicans swooned for underdog Senate hopeful Marco Rubio in 2010 and chased once-invincible Gov. Charlie Crist from the party. Then they elevated wealthy non-politician Rick Scott over establishment-backed GOP stalwart Bill McCollum in the governor's primary.

Florida has scrambled the 2012 presidential race once, giving long shot Herman Cain a GOP straw poll victory Sept. 24 in Orlando while sending then-front-runner Rick Perry into a tailspin from which he never recovered.

Now comes the volatile Sunshine State's biggest Republican showdown of the tea party era.

Tuesday's results could give establishment favorite Mitt Romney the inside track for the GOP nomination or throw more uncertainty into a race that has seen three winners in three contests.



MATT ROURKE/The Associated Press

ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT STRATEGY

Gingrich: Despite decades of Beltway work, he casts himself as a GOP insurgent — and is drawing tea partiers and late-deciding voters.

More from the trail

Cain endorses Gingrich: Fellow Georgian makes announcement at Kravis. **13A**

Paul vows not to quit: He puts focus on Maine caucuses. **13A**

Early voting ends: 13,210 Republicans hit polls in county. **Local, 3B**

Ad war not for faint of heart — or wallet

Court-empowered super PACS spend millions on brutal messages statewide.

By CHARLES ELMORE
 Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

They are the kind of ads that splash "blood money" on Mitt Romney's record or whip out Newt Gingrich's ethics "baggage" without forcing a rival candidate to take responsibility for the message.

One station manager called "shocking" the surge of hundreds of thousands of dollars of ad buys in the last six days in the West Palm Beach area alone, on pace for \$1.5 mil-

lion for the month.

That's double what local broadcasters expected just weeks ago, in a state where the central Interstate 4 corridor and Miami's Cuban-American community tend to grab lots of love from GOP candidates, and nearly all the pro-Gingrich spending is coming in the final, furious long weekend.

Welcome to a brutal air war fought in all 10 of the state's media markets ahead of Tuesday's GOP primary, where adding up the spending estimates by and for each candidate is a dizzy-

See ADS, 12A ▶

Analyzing the attacks in super PAC ads. 12A



POST COVERAGE Foreclosure crisis

As aid access eases, barriers foil homeowners

By KIMBERLY MILLER
 Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Three months after the Obama administration announced a revolutionary refinance plan for severely underwater homeowners, most borrowers are still unable to apply.

Technological barriers, as

well as lingering questions about the new Home Affordable Refinance Program, have left many optimistic homeowners in a holding pattern as they watch interest rates bump around near record lows. Last week's 3.98 percent for a 30-year fixed-rate loan marked the eighth consecu-

tive week that the average was below 4 percent.

But a mid-March update to automated loan approval systems at federal mortgage backers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should start things flowing, mortgage brokers said.

The automated systems are

set to reject refinances on loans where the borrower owes more than 25 percent on the loan over what the home is worth — the limit under the old federal Home Affordable Refinance Program.

HARP 2.0, as the new pro-

See HARP, 6A ▶

POST IN WASHINGTON Affordable Care Act

GOP plans alternate health law

With the overhaul under scrutiny, foes see a 'window of opportunity.'



Obama's plan assailed

Florida's challenge will be heard by the high court in March.

By LAURA GREEN
 Palm Beach Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Less than two months before the Supreme Court begins hearing arguments in the landmark health care overhaul case, Republicans are formulating a new law to replace the Affordable Care Act.

In the first coordinated attack since their failed effort to repeal President Obama's signature health plan, Republicans announced last week that they will be ready with new health care legislation regardless of whether the court strikes down the law.

"We'll have a window of op-

portunity with everyone looking to explain the Affordable Care Act," said Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., who chairs the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee. "It's not fully implemented yet. ... We'll use this opportunity, this window, to discuss the full ramifications of the ACA and what we would replace it with."

More than 120,000 South Florida seniors have free access to such preventive services as mammograms, colonoscopies and wellness visits through the Affordable Care Act, said Rep.

See HEALTH, 16A ▶

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