

College football

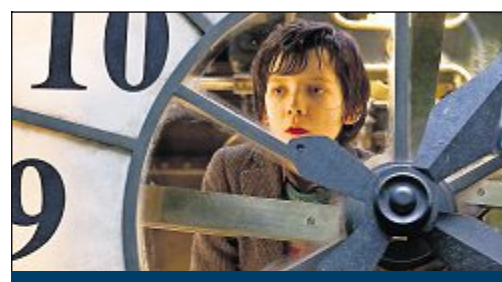
SEC West takes 1, 2, 3

High-ranked teams upset over weekend, leaving LSU, Alabama and Arkansas at top. 1, 3-5, 11C

Trent Richardson: Alabama running back
US Presswire



A GANNETT COMPANY



Scorsese in 3-D

Hugo is director's first family film and one that is very personal. Interview, 1D

By Jaap Buitendijk, Paramount Pictures

Asa Butterfield: Stars in fanciful film. Review, 2D

Newsline

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011



By Emilio Morenatti, AP

Spanish voters oust Socialist leadership

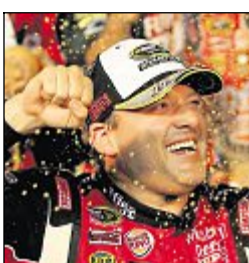
Conservatives sweep into power. Spanish government latest to be tossed out over debt, jobless crisis, 8A

Terrorist who planned to use pipe bombs arrested in NYC

Jose Pimentel, a U.S. citizen, was a "lone wolf" who wanted to target police, post offices and returning servicemembers, city officials say. 3A

Tony Stewart outduels Carl Edwards to win race, title

Victory is Stewart's fifth in 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup; ties with Edwards in points but wins championship. 1-2C.



Getty Images for NASCAR

Stimulus helps some health, energy and tech stocks soar

Some companies and new technologies that received stimulus funds thrive. Others, such as Solyndra, file for bankruptcy. Best, worst, 1, 2B.

Calls grow louder for Thomas, Kagan to sit out health case

Impartiality of two justices questioned as high court agrees to hear constitutionality of law. 6A.

Springsteen's 2012 tour

Bruce Springsteen and E Street Band will embark on first tour without Clarence Clemons. 1D.



See news photos of the day on your smartphone

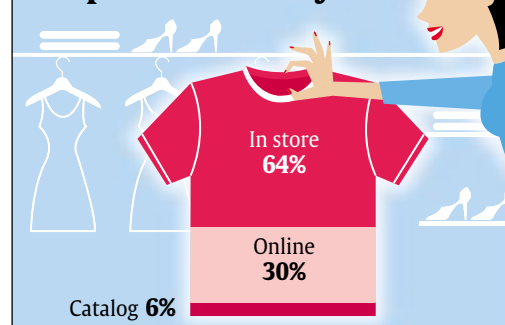
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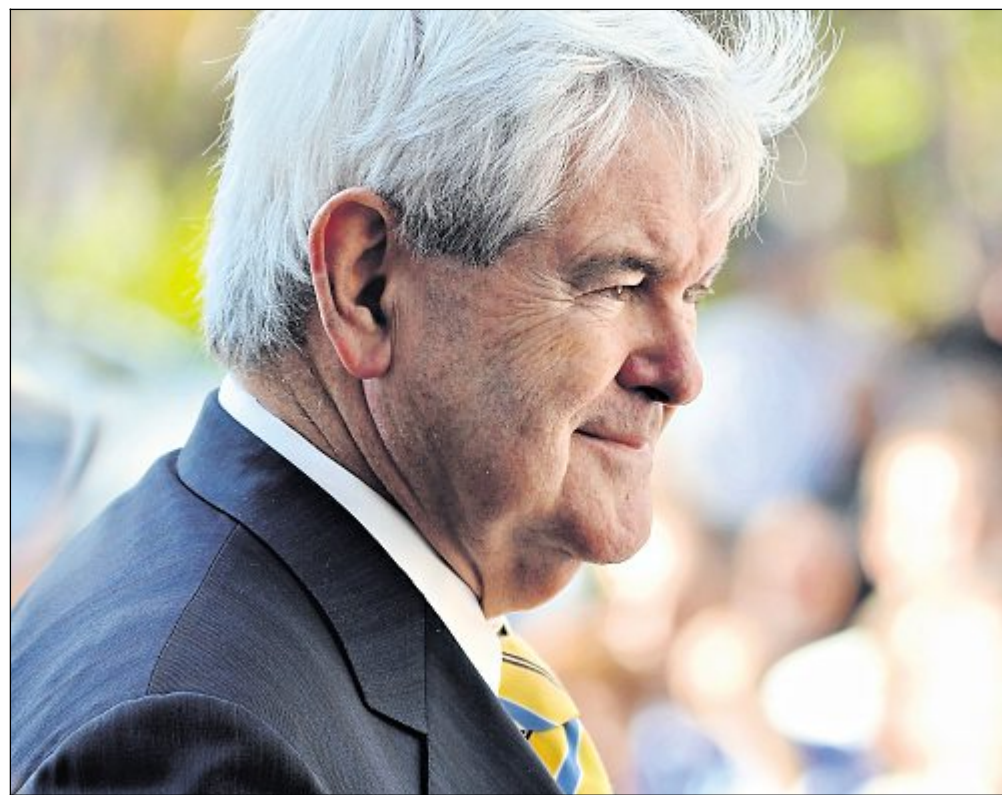
USA TODAY Snapshots®

How do you plan to shop for the holidays?



Source: The NPD Group Holiday Spending Survey of 3,681 consumers.
By Rachel Huggins and Veronica Bravo, USA TODAY

USA TODAY INTERVIEW | Newt Gingrich



By Rick Wilson for USA TODAY

Town hall in Jacksonville: "When you go from also-ran to one of the two front-runners... you're inevitably going to get a huge amount of scrutiny," Republican hopeful Newt Gingrich says.

Rising from the pack, Gingrich invites scrutiny

Debates help boost former House speaker

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

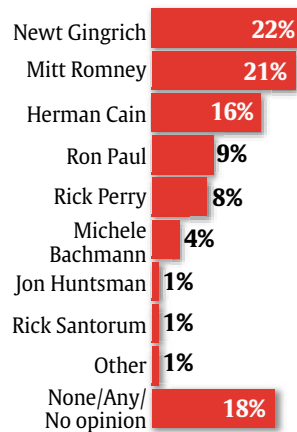
JACKSONVILLE — Newt Gingrich is not abashed.

The fact he was paid close to \$2 million as a consultant by Freddie Mac, the quasi-government housing agency he has blasted? He calls it a reflection of the agency's good judgment, given his long interest in housing policy. That his think tank raked in more than \$35 million from the health industry? The power of the big ideas he's developed in the field, he says.

What about those who see hypocrisy, crony capitalism or worse in his financial success? "You start with people with a socialist bias that you shouldn't earn money," the former House speaker tells USA TODAY. If you do, he says, "you're automatically suspicious of having done something bad." He promises to

USA TODAY Gallup Poll

Which candidate are you most likely to support for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012?



Note: Does not add up to 100% because of rounding.
Source: USA TODAY/Gallup Poll of 946 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters Nov. 13-17. Margin of error: ±4 percentage points.

By Julie Snider, USA TODAY

respond "cheerfully" to inquiries and predicts reporters will move on within weeks.

That would be just in time. Six weeks before the opening Iowa caucuses, Gingrich has come from nowhere — he was at 3% in summertime surveys — to the top of the GOP presidential field. In a new USA TODAY/Gallup Poll, he is ahead of former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney by a single, statistically insignificant percentage point.

That has not been a comfortable perch, however. Gingrich is the sixth candidate or potential candidate to lead the field this year, as some Republicans have sought an alternative to Romney, whose support has stayed steady at about 20%, give or take.

Former corporate CEO Herman Cain is the latest to see his standing slide after the scrutiny accorded front-runners

turned his way. In less than two weeks, he has

Please see COVER STORY page 5A ▶

COVER STORY

Doctors pressed to rein in costs

Treatment choices could be curtailed

By Emily Bazar
CHCF Center for Health Reporting

Efforts to rein in health care costs are putting pressure on doctors to abandon outmoded or unnecessary practices and choose less expensive treatments, actions cost-control advocates say also can improve care.

Health care systems, insurers and government agencies are using sophisticated data to identify doctors and hospitals operating outside medical norms. The goal: to wean doctors off procedures that don't necessarily benefit patients.

The result is a narrowing of doctors' treatment choices, but advocates say that's a necessary step.

"The old thinking that each clinician gets to determine his or her own standards is really one we have to rethink," says Carmela Coyle, president of the Maryland Hospital Association. The aim "is to avoid unnecessary and potentially harmful care when and where we can," she says.

In one case, gynecologists in Sacramento are being trained to perform less-invasive hysterectomies or risk losing their patients to doctors who know how.

"A minimally invasive procedure, when appropriate, is much safer for the patient. There's a much quicker return to work, less chance of infection, a shorter length of stay and it's less costly," says Rosaleen Derington of Hill Physicians Medical Group in Northern California.

Vast amounts of money are at stake. The Banner Health system, which has hospitals in seven states, has instructed doctors they can no longer use a certain product designed to prevent abnormal scarring during cesarean sections, saying it does not improve patient care. The effort has saved more than \$1 million so far.

Many physicians adamantly oppose the idea of having their decision-making curtailed.

Doctors are acutely aware of the need to save money, "but the question is how that decision is made," says Peter Carmel, a pediatric neurosurgeon and president of the American Medical Association, which represents doctors. Treatment guidelines should come from doctors who have studied the evidence, he says, not insurers, suppliers or others with a financial interest.

"If there are two treatments out there in play for a given condition, most commercial interests will choose the cheaper," he says. "That doesn't necessarily mean it is the better."

Coyle and others insist they don't want to withhold treatment or forbid doctors from exercising judgment.

The California HealthCare Foundation Center for Health Reporting, based at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, is funded by the non-partisan California HealthCare Foundation.

Green Bay still unbeaten, 8C



By Dan Powers, The (Appleton, Wis.) Post-Crescent

10-0: Tom Crabtree celebrates his touchdown reception with fans. NFL coverage, 1, 3, 6, 8, 10C

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