Daytona preview



Meet Tony Stewart, all-business owner

How the famously hotheaded driver keeps his cool as a NASCAR team owner is eagerly awaited in racing circles, 1-2C

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Newsline



2 satellites slam into each other

"'Dramatic' collision creates huge debris field but doesn't affect space station, 9A

Dazed tornado victims dig out

At least eight die in Oklahoma twisters; two tor nadoes strike Texas, and one hits in Missouri. 3A.

- Money: CEO smiles in GM's storm
- Rick Wagoner: Carmaker poised for rebound.

 Contrite bankers scolded on bonuses. 1B.
- Sports: Brett Favre retires. For real? "It's time," says NFL's prolific passer. 1, 9C.

 LPGA season preview. Pullout, 5-8C.
- Life: New Pixar movie's a tear-jerker Ed Asner voices the alienated character Carl, 78, who uses balloons in Up to float out of misery. 1D.

Stimulus agreement settles market

Index	Close		Change
Dow, Jones industrial average	7939.53	È	50.65
Nasdag composite	1530.50	-	5.77
Treasury note, 10-year yield	2.76%	#	0,06
USA TODAY Internet 50	91.39	*	0.39
Source: LISATODAY research, MarkerWatch	rom	Dell'id	NORTH PROPERTY.



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who was robbed: Join the discussion Which teams are close to making the

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Who's new in the NL

What to watch and key issues for your team this spring, 4C



NO. 1 IN THE USA



Two for the Nick and Nora room?

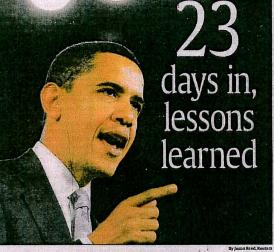
Famous fictional couples inspire the romantic decor at author's hotel, 1D

Obama wins deal on stimulus plan

House, Senate leaders agree, hope







Back to campaign tactics: President Obama, calling on members of Congress to approve the mas economic stimulus package, makes a point during a town-hall meeting Tuesday in Fort Myers, Fla.

Campaign tactics and flexibility help Obama

By Susan Page USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — When the first big priority of his presidency was at risk of unraveling last week, Barack Obama went back to the fundamentals that enabled him to win a historic victory in the presidential election. Under fire in Washington, he scheduled campaign-style town-hall meetings to make the case for his huge economic stimulus bill to folks in Elkhart, Ind., and Fort Myers, Fla. He dismissed the Republican opposition as the business-as-usual crowd. He relied on his rhetorical skills and popularity.

And on Wednesday, congressional negotiators announced a deal on a \$789 billion stimulus bill that is poised to be passed before the Presidents Day deadline Obama had set—although its likely to get less Republican Support than he initially hoped.

Frouter to will clook to be the first major victory of his presidency, Obama had some stumbles. His earn allowed congressional Republicans to cast the stimulus bill as laden with wasteful spending, and faced distracting questions over why some Cabinet nominees hadn't paid all their taxes. But in his three weeks in the White House, Obama and his team have shown a willingness to cut their losses and revise their taxtics when things seem to be going astray.

"I think he is learning the ups and downs of story

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

Candy? Flowers? Spyware? Check.

Valentine's Day is a busy time for suspicious minds

Flowers and chocolate aren't the only big sellers

Flowers and chocolate aren't the only big sellers for Valentine's Day. There's also spyware.

The use of tracking devices and hiring of private investigators surge around this holiday — an opportune time to eath a cheating spouse.

"If there's anything going on, a spouse will more than likely make contact with a lover on Valentine's Day, the day before or the day after," says Ruth Houston, author of the book, is He Cheating on You? 829 Tellinle Signs.

Houston, author of the book, is He Cheating on Your 292 Tellinale Signs.
Private investigators agree. "Valentine's Day is a day of lovers, and sometimes the lover is not a spouse," says Jimmie Mesis, editor of Pi magazine. That's why, he says, investigators are often busy this

That's why, he says, investigators are often busy trus time of year.

Mesis says suspicious spouses are also turning to spyware, which costs less than a detective.

"They do their own CSI work," he says.

His website's sales of GPS trackers are more than 20% higher in the three weeks before Valentine's Day than at other times of the year.

Todd Morris, CDO of Brickflouse Security, says sales of spyware to track spouses — his customer service representatives talk with buyers about how they'll use the items — were 141% higher in the past four weeks than the monthly average for the preceding six months.

Such devices, retailing for \$50 to \$400, include cameras hidden in alarm clocks, light scanners to

cameras hidden in alarm clocks, light scanners to detect evidence of sexual activity and devices to monitor e-mail.

Morris says he expected more people to stay home with their spouses in a weak economy, but sales suggest otherwise. "Apparently," he says, "money troubles don't stop the philandering." The dismal economy is making it more difficult, though, for people to alford a private livestigator. David Hill, an investigator in Tuscaloosa, Ala, says he has had lots of inquiries in recent weeks, but often callers cannot afford his \$1,500 retainer. This Valentine's Day is one of the few in the past two decades that has not triggered a surge in clients, says Kelly Riddle, owner of Kelmar & Associates in San Antonio, a firm of 39 private investigators.

vestigators.
It's the economy, Riddle says: "If they have a cheating spouse with a job, now is not the time to rock the boat."
How often spouses are unfaithful is unclear, because studies report varying results. In a 2006 save yor 3 3,00 adults by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, 22% of men and 13% of women admitted to infidelity.
The hearthreak is ough to watch, especially after a spouse sees proof of the infidelity on video, Riddle says.

says.

He recalls a Valentine's Day case of a man who had lunch with his wife and dinner with his lover of nine years, with whom he had a child. The man basically had two wives, Riddle says. "He brought a dozen roses to each of them."

A-Rod suspension, Hank crown eyed

Commissioner Bud Selig, right, points to memo banning steroids for possible action vs. Rodriguez, may reinstate Aaron as home run king, 1, 3C



Poll: Bush methods deserve inquiries

Focus on wiretaps, torture allegations

By Jill Lawrence USA TODAY

lated U.S. and international bans on torture and the constitutional right to privacy. House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers and his Senate counterpart, Patrick Leahy, have proposed commissions to investigate. Asked Monday about Leahy's plan, President Obama said he would look at it. He added, "my genaral orientation is to say left's self it inchir moning for a contraction of the contraction

WASHINGTON — Even as Americans struggle with two wars and an economy in tatters, a USA TODAY/Gallup Poll finds majorities in favor of investigating some of the thorniest unfinished business from the Bush administration: Whether its tacties in the "war on terror" broke the law. Close to two-thirds of those surveyed said there should be investigations into allegations that the Bush team used torture to insterngate terrorism suspects and its program of wiretapping U.S. citizens without getting warrants. Almost four in 10 favor and about a quarter want investigations without criminal charges. One-third said they want nothing to be done.

Even more people want action on alleged attempts by the Bush team to use the Justice Department for political purposes. Four in 10 favored a criminal probe, three in 10 an independent panel, and 25% neither.

The ACLU and other groups are pressing for induced used in the propose of the propose

Obama said he would look at it. He added, "my gen-eral orientation is to say, let's gelt it right moving for-ward." Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have declined to rule out prosecutions. Leon Panel-te, named no head the CIA. said this month that CIA officers would not be prosecuted for harsh in-terrogations authorized by the Bush White House. Leahy, D-VL, this week proposed a "truth com-mission" to assemble facts. He said the panel could office immunity from prosecution for exerciting that

mission" to assemble facts; He said the panel could offer immunity from prosecution for everything but perjury. "We need to get to the bottom of what happened and why," he said. Conyers, D-Mich, has called for a panel that would gather facts and make recommendations, and could possibly lead to prosecutions. "This is not papaket," he said. "We are getting things straightened out for the future." The Republican viewpoint was summed up recently by Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter. "If every administration did, there would be no end to it," he said. "This is not Latin America."

The politics of any investigation would be delicate. "You'd need people with baven't made up their minds," said Tom Kean, a Republican who cochaired the 9/11 Commission.

Madoff's wife got funds before his arrest

Firm he co-owned wired her \$15.5M

A firm co-owned by accused Ponzi scheme ar-chitect Bernard Madoff wired \$10 million to the disgraced financier's wife one day before his Dec. 11 arrest, Massachusetts investigators disclosed

banks, hedge funds, charities, celebrities and investors word/wide.

"I'm not going to draw any factual inferences
from the timing of Mrs. Madoff's wine transfers, but
I certainly think it's of interest to those that are investigating Mr. Madoff's claim," said Galvin, referring to the criminal case pursued by federal
prosecutors.
In Sorkin, the defense attorney for both Madoffs,
defined to comment, as did acting U.S. Attorney
Lev Dassin in New York.

Calvin disclosed the ternsfers as attorneys on
both sides of the federal case agreed to a 30-day
wife in a complaint that asks Massachusetts reg-

Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin.

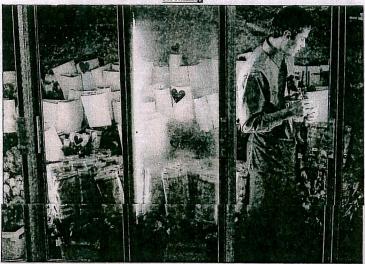
He said the transfers could raise questions about Madoffs claim to the FBI that he acted alone in allegedly tunning a \$50 billion seam that victimized banks, hedge funds, chariles, celebrities and investors worldwide.

"Tim not poig to draw any factual inferences from the timing of Min. Madoffs wire transfers, but it care with Sorkin, and "plan to continue" the suspect, the compaint case white Sorkin, declined to comment. But legal experts from the timing of Min. Madoffs wire transfers, but it is comment to timing of Min. Madoff swire transfers, but it is the state in vestigating Min. Madoffs wire transfers, but it is the state in vestigating Min. Madoffs wire transfers, but it is the state in vestigating Min. Madoffs wire transfers, but it is the decision of the claim of the state in vestigating Min. Madoffs wire transfers, but it is the decision of the state in vestigating Min. Madoffs subject as a partial civil judgment against him this week, will be seek a pict bargain in the criminal case.

"It would be alianvial facts." The clied records that showed more than 876 millowing a state of the state in vestigating Min. The clied records that showed more than 876 millowing a state of the support of a suspect.

Nonetheese of the firm, which lists Madoff as owner of as made and the suspect, the complain of the state. Of the suspect, the support of the suspect, the suspect, the suspect, the suspect, the suspect, the suspect the suspect, the suspect the suspect, the suspect that the suspect the suspect that suspect the suspect that suspect the sus

Retailing



I love you about \$20 less this year

Economy puts a crimp on Valentine's Day spending

Valentine's Day has been a day to shower your loved one with expensive dinners, gourmet chocolates, flowers and gifts galore, But this year, it seems even love cannot completely conquer a

chocolates, flowers and gifts galore, But this year, it seems even hove cannot completely conquer a weak economy.

Cupid-struck couples are expected to spend 520 less on each other this year, according to a survey conducted by BiCressenth for the National Retail Federation. On average, they'll spend 510.50 each, a 15.6% decrease from a year agn. "Valentine's Day will be the first major holiday of 2009 to felt be economic pinch," says Robert Passisoff, president of New York-based Brand Keys, a consumer- and brand-focused research consulancy.

This year, \$14.7 billion will be spent on Valenciancy.

This year, \$14.7 billion will be spent on Valencianch, and were \$67.27, on their significant other, with other namily members such as children setting about one-fifth of the budget, \$20.95, A few dollars will be spent on: fireds, \$4.74; children's classmales and teachers, \$3.59; co-workers, \$1.94, and pets, \$2.17.

And disappoint rulin Mapie over the final days by not giving for a city joint disappoint of the couple spent the weekend horseback ridge in the hearing about it every day for a long ing, taking a helicopter tour, people-watching and deals," Tornatore says.

More cards, fewer jewels How people responded when asked which gifts they planned to give for Valentine's Day:

	2007	2008	2009
Candy	48.4%	47.7%	45.8
Flowers	36.7%	35.9%	35.7
Jeweiry	17.9%	16.6%	16.0
Card	62.8%	56.8%	58.0
An evening out	45.3%	48.2% ·	47.0
Clothing	11.5%	11.8%	10.2
Gift card/gift certificate	11.3%	12.3%	11.0
Other	10.0%	10.1%	10.4
Note: Sum of percentage totals or spondents could select more than Source: BIGresearch coding surve Margin of error is +/-1 percentage	one answer	1 - projects	nd:

Spouses also spend to catch cheaters on Valentine's Day, 1A

"pigging out." Norman wrote in an interview by e-mail. "This year, we will drive to Charlesm, S.C., for the long weekend." He says he has budgeted less this year, 3000, but he is happy to spend the money for time with his pitfirlend of three years." It's worth it because she is the best."

Despite people's plans to spend less, the NRF does not expect people to drastically change where they shop. More than a third of poople, 35.7%, will buy flowers, close to last year's 35.9%, and 16% will bring home jewelry, down only slightly from 16.6% in 2008. More people's however, will express their love with a greeting card, up from 56.8% in 2008 to 58%.

Presidents Day adds to the fun

With Valentine's Day falling on Presidents Day weekend, some people also are finding more reasons to travel.

The phones are traging, says Jon Makhmathul, vice president of sales for small Lucury Hotels of the World. And while it is too early to determine if Valentine's Day travel on the whole will be up, people are finding reasons to go away, he says.

spouses also spend to catch cheaters and the spending patch the most, an average \$57.22, on their significant other error on Valentine's Day, 1A

"It shall be spen on: fired, \$4.74; this direct, \$4.74; this

Housing's good news: **Foreclosures down 10%**

But we're far from out of the woods, experts say

By Stephanie Armour USA TODAY

Foreclosures dropped in January, a possible sign that efforts to slow foreclosures through moratori-ums and mortgage modifications are having some effect. Foreclosure filings — default notices, auction sale

foreclosure lungs — eleant notices, auction sale notices and bank repossessions — were reported on 274,399 properties during January, a 108 decrease from Devember but still up 188 from january 2008, according to Reallylfac. The report also shown out in every 466 U.S. homes received a forestilling in January.

The last time foreclosures dropped was in November time foreclosures dropped was in November 188 from 188

closure filing in January.

The last time foreclosures dropped was in November.

"Everybody is slowing the process down with moratoriums and workouts, There's foreclosure rates in January Joel Narolf, with Narolf Economic Advisors.

"But if doesn't change the reality There will still be a lot more foreclosure to come"

On Wednesday, the deed of Office of Thrift Supervision urged the more drawn 300 savings and Jona associations it regulates to suspend foreclosures until the home Joan modification program outlined in Tressury Secretary Timothy Ceithner's financial recover last financial conditions of the process of

will earmant \$50 billion to prevent avoidable foreclosures by reducing monthly payments for homemany and some and Freddie Mac extended their momany and some states have taken set limit steps. In December, Florida put in place a voluntary 45-day
mercer and lanew foreclosure actions and scheduling of foreclosure sales. The result Overall foreclosure activity in Florida was concerns that foreclosure activity in Florida was down 20% in January
from the previous month, according to RealtyTirac.
We are coming off an abnormally high month in
December, so from a peak like that, having some
drop is normal. Plus Fannie and Freddie extended
their moratorium," says Rick Sharga, with RealtyTirac. "A90-439 moratorium looks good on paper,
but if you don't manage; ib better, it doesn't cure the
problem."

States with the top foreclosure rates were Nevada, Calliomia and Arizona. Nevada foreclosure activity in January decreased 4% from December, but
the state still had the nation's No. I foreclosure rate.
One in every 76 homes was in some stage of foreclosure during the month.
Still, few economists say the rumaway pace of
foreclosure;
when the state still had the nation's No. I foreclosure to
an annual rate of 4.74 million properties from
a manual rate of

Bad economy seems to be putting people in the mood for condoms

By Charisse Jones
USA TODAY

With a crippled economy forcing millions of cashstrapped Americans to entertain themselves at home, its
not surprising that one particular product is seeing a sales
increase—condoms.

While car purchases plummeted and
Marketing
While car purchases plummeted and
designer clothes mostly stayed on the
racks, sales of condoms in the US, rose 8% in the fourth
of the previous year, The Nielsen Co. reports
The sales bump squares solidly with one of the nations
The sales bump squares solidly with one of the nations
most common trends during any recession: nesting. At
the same time, condoms make for a relatively invegensive
form of birth control at a time many cash-strapped famlies are heistant to grow.

"If people don't have the noney to go out to a fancy din"If people don't have the noney to go out to a fancy din-



More condom sales

Piligian says that in a nod to the poor economy, Durex placed coupons last weekend in newspapers and is making more coupon offers on its website, trydurex.com.

Carol Caroza, vice president of marketing for Ansell Healthcare, maker of LifeStyles condoms, says that her company may incorporate the idea of nesting into future campaigns, along with a ficus on new products.

"We're molling both ... and trying to determine what kind of products and marketing strategies we can come out with that will help people during these recessionary times." she says.

Trojan says the message that it's good to cocoon is already part of its promotions, and it will spend more on advertising this year than last as it launches a multimedia campaign to promote two new products.

Trojan ZGo, a thin plastic case with a condom inside his store shekes this month while a new condom, Trojan Ecstaxy, is schedukt for sale in the spring.