

DeLay indicted in Texas probe

House majority leader forced from post

By Larry Margasak
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted by a Texas grand jury Wednesday on a charge of conspiring to violate political fundraising laws, forcing him to temporarily step aside from his GOP post. He is the highest-ranking member of Congress to face criminal prosecution.

A defiant DeLay said he had done nothing wrong and denounced the Democratic prosecutor who pursued the case as a "partisan fanatic." He said, "This is one of the weakest, most baseless indictments in American history. It's a sham."

Nonetheless, DeLay's temporary departure and the prospect of a criminal trial for one of the Republicans' most visible leaders reverberated throughout the GOP-run Congress, which was already struggling with ethics questions surrounding its Senate leader.

Republicans quickly moved to fill the void, while voicing polite support for DeLay. Speaker Dennis Hastert named Missouri Rep. Roy Blunt to take over most of DeLay's leadership duties.

Ronnie Earle, the Democratic prosecutor in Austin who led the investigation, denied politics was involved. "Our job is to prosecute abuses of power and to bring those abuses to the public," he said. He has noted previously that he has prosecuted many Democrats in the past.

DeLay, 58, was indicted on a single felony count of conspiring with two political associates. The two previously had been charged with the

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DeLay



Earle



COMING SOON ...

Approximate parameters of Alamance Crossing

No tenants announced yet, but plans continue to take shape

By James Moffat ■ Times-News

The county's largest approved shopping center is taking shape, but the company behind the mammoth project still has yet to announce what national retailers will call its center home.

On Wednesday, Tennessee-based CBL and Associates submitted even more detailed plans for the 840,000-square-foot development to Burlington's planning department.

Alamance East, which is what the company is calling its first phase of the project, would include nearly 650,000 square feet of space for national retailers, smaller stores, restaurants and a movie theater.

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Photo by Julie Basile / Times-News

Red Cross drawing donations, complaints

Aid organization has received nearly \$1 billion in contributions

By David Cray
 The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As its hurricane relief donations near the \$1 billion mark, more than double all other charities combined, the American Red Cross is encountering sharp criticism of its efforts and mounting pressure to share funds with smaller groups.

The complaints — that Red Cross operations were chaotic in some places, inequitable in others — have stung deeply within an organization that is proud of its overall response to Hurricane Katrina, by far the most devastating natural disaster it has confronted on U.S. soil.

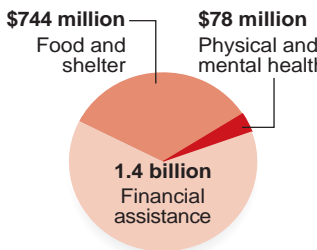
"It's frustrating to our thousands of volunteers out there every day, away their families, helping people," said spokeswoman Deborah Goldberg. "We never said we were perfect —

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Red Cross focuses on immediate aid

Red Cross officials said they will use Hurricane Katrina funds for emergency aid, not longer-term relief. The organization was assailed when donors learned \$200 million of Sept. 11 funds were earmarked for future crises.

Proposed spending
 Red Cross estimates Hurricane Katrina relief efforts will exceed \$2 billion



Recent donation totals

In millions	American Red Cross
\$977	American Red Cross
\$185	Salvation Army
\$100	Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund
\$50 (food products)	America's Second Harvest
\$18.6	

SOURCE: The American Red Cross

AP

Heat, crowd cause relief center to close

By Juan A. Lozano
 The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Saying they were caught off-guard by the number of people in need, FEMA officials closed a relief center early on Wednesday after some of the hundreds of hurricane victims in line began fainting in triple-digit heat.

The midway closing of the Houston disaster relief center came as officials in areas hit hardest by Hurricane Rita criticized

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Golf tourney facing an uncertain future

Move to the fall has hurt the area event

By Bob Sutton
 Times-News

GREENSBORO — Professional golf in the fall doesn't quite have the grip on the public that tournaments earlier in the year enjoy.

That makes it tougher for the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro, a PGA Tour stop that's in survival mode.

The tournament's future is in an uncertain stage as 132 men's golfers tee off today.

Tournament director Mark Brazil, who's in charge of the Greensboro operations, is careful when discussing the issue. He said the best thing his group can do is put on a stellar event this week so that golfers and fans will want to keep coming to Forest Oaks Country Club.

This is the third year that the tournament is being contested in the fall.

"It would be nice to keep everybody in the fold, to keep



everybody happy," PGA Tour veteran Tom Lehman said about the possibility of some tournaments dropping off the tour's schedule.

The PGA Tour is tinkering with several schedule models. Already, many fall tournaments have trouble attracting elite golfers.

"It seems to me there are a lot of good tournaments in the fall," said Brent Geiberger, the tournament's defending champion this week. "There are so many good, quality tournaments and areas we go to in the fall."

But the most prestigious dates come in the spring and summer, when there are fewer conflicts and golf tends to receive more visibility.

Lehman, who'll be the U.S. captain for the 2006 Ryder Cup, said some tournaments might have to reassess their missions. Are they set up with an emphasis on supporting community charities or are they determined to lure the world's top golfers with few other considerations?

"I think things are in flux right now," Lehman said. "I do

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Deputies nab man on the lam

Samuel Brown Jr. accused of sexual assault on minor

By Kadi Hodges
 Times-News

After nearly 24 hours of searching, the sheriff's department on Wednesday arrested a man investigators believe sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl.

Neighbors who saw the man in the



Brown

woods held him until deputies arrived.

Samuel Albright Brown Jr., 40, of Hardwood Drive, had been on the lam since Tuesday night, when deputies tried to serve warrants against him for first-degree kidnapping and statutory rape.

Maj. Ron Parrish said that around 8 p.m. on Tuesday deputies were called to Alamance Regional Medical Center, where a 13-year-old girl

was treated for an alleged sexual assault. Parrish declined to give details about the assault but said the girl and Brown knew each other. The girl was treated, although Parrish did not know to what extent.

Deputies took out a search warrant against Brown. Deputies say when they got to his house he slipped out of a window and into the woods.

Officers and dogs searching the area surrounding his home non-stop beginning Tuesday night.

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Greenback gets a color makeover

By Martin Crutsinger
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hooray for the red, yellow and orange! Those are the colors featured on the newly redesigned \$10 bill, the third currency denomination to add splashes of color to the traditional green of U.S. currency.

Some 800 million of the new bills will be put into circulation starting early next year in the government's latest effort to stay ahead of tech-savvy counterfeiters.

"The craftsmanship that goes into See **COLOR**/Page A2



The Associated Press

The newly designed \$10 bill note became the third bill denomination to be given colors as part of the government's effort to thwart counterfeiters.