

Say anything to win, matter to those you offend

By Hamm

Never in my lifetime have I witness a political campaign as the one being conducted by Donald Trump and Ted Cruz. It appears to be an all-out effort to demean the character of one another while at the same time reaching out to bring into the political arena attack and serious criticism of people who do not have the political platform or funds to respond in like manner.

For example, Donald Trump has labeled our Mexican neighbors as people with no moral capital who want to enter the United States illegally; ignoring the fact or mentioning that it was the American farmers looking for cheap farm labor who silently encourage illegal immigration.

Visit San Joaquin Valley that runs from Bakersfield south to northern California along

Route 5, where they grow, cotton, lettuce, walnuts, tomatoes, garlic, potatoes and many, many more farm products including cattle and a huge stockyard loaded with animals.

California is the number 1 farming state in the nation.

These farms are worked by Mexicans. He also turned on our Muslim neighbor threatening to bar their admission to the United States causing a 85% world religious population to perhaps consider or rethink (many of them) whether to join us in riding the world of radicals within their midst who has resorted to Terror assaults in Paris, America, Belgium, England, India, Africa and many other countries too numerous to mention here.

Ted Cruz espoused similar views wants

police to patrol communities with Muslim populations...what that would achieve or how to carry it out he has not come forth with an explanation or strategy to implement such an effort.

The African continent is reported to be 75% Muslim religion.

Majority of the countries are friendly to the United States. We have military bases in some of them and operate from those bases in attacks upon radical Muslim like Isis who threaten the security of the United States. Yet Donald Trump and Ted Cruz would toss these friendships aside to gain a political advantage. I predict if Donald Trump or Ted Cruz become the president of the United States we will be at war within a years time.

We are powerful nation without total vic-

tory in Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq or Afghanistan.

I saw America's power in WWII, it was massive and effective. The Atomic Bomb brought victory over Japan.

However, we must realize our radical Muslim enemies do not want our land but instead want to kill Americans regardless of race creed or color wherever they find us and is determine to do so even though they know they will die as well.

They are working tirelessly to get the material to create a small dirty suit case atomic bomb made with some of the component of the atomic bomb but not as powerful.

We suggest Trump and Cruz take heed of the words of Robert Oppenheimer the maker of the Atomic Bomb who reportedly said after the (Continued on page 11A)

Tamir Rice shooting: Cleveland to pay \$6 million to settle family's lawsuit

By Michael Pearson



The city of Cleveland will pay \$6 million to settle the federal lawsuit filed by the family of Tamir Rice, the 12-year-old boy killed by police gunfire in November 2014, according to a settlement announced Monday in U.S. District Court.

According to terms of the settlement, the city acknowledges no fault in Tamir's death, which came after a 911 caller told of someone in a city park brandishing what appeared to be a toy gun.

Officer Timothy Loehmann, a trainee, shot Tamir moments after arriving in response to the call. Police said the boy was pulling out what was later found to be a toy gun when he was shot.

In December, a grand

jury declined to indict Loehmann or his trainer, Officer Frank Garmback, in Tamir's death. The grand jury concluded the shooting was a "perfect storm of human error, mistakes and communications" but not a criminal act, prosecutor Tim McGinty said at the time.

The family's January 2015 wrongful death lawsuit argued the city was negligent in Tamir's death.

The family said dispatchers should have told officers about a 911 caller's statements that the gun Tamir had was likely a toy, that officers approached the scene too aggressively and Loehmann fired too quickly, and that they failed to help the boy (Continued on page 11A)

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Alabama politicians: If it ain't broke, break it

By John Archibald



The \$11.8 million Lyric Theater restoration used about \$3 million in state and federal tax credits.



Senate Pres. Pro Tempore Del Marsh, R-Anniston, (right), debates ethics legislation at the Alabama Statehouse in Montgomery, Ala., Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010.

It's like the state motto of Alabama has become...

If it's broke, don't fix it. And if it ain't broke, break it.

It's hard, sometimes, to believe what they do to us in Montgomery is accidental. This kind of ridiculousness has to be on purpose.

The head of the Alabama Senate - let's face it, the only real leader of the state not currently embroiled in humiliating personal scandal - is now blocking the very economic incentive tool that has allowed cities like

Birmingham and Mobile to claw back from the brink.

Sen. Del Marsh will hold up the legislation to extend the state's historic tax credit. So the credit that made it possible to restore the Lyric Theater and the Pizitz Building in Birmingham will disappear. The credit that helped bring the Admiral Semmes Hotel and the Turner-Todd Motor Co. in Mobile back to life will be gone.

The Redmont Hotel? Check.

The Florentine Building? Yep?

They wouldn't have

happened without this tax credit. And now Marsh - an anti-tax Republican - wants to take that credit away.

Which is the same thing as imposing a tax increase.

It is a tax increase on any cities with historic buildings that need repair, and on the communities and businesses that would benefit from their restoration. Not just Birmingham and Mobile, but Dothan, which used the credit to repair its Howell School.

It is a tax on any community that wants to rebuild and to preserve.

Last year the Alabama Historical Commission commissioned a study by the consulting firm Novogradac & Company to assess the success of the tax credit program.

It found the tax credits spurred \$384 million in investment in the state that has lagged in that area.

It found that for every state dollar spent on tax credits \$3.90 is returned in state and local tax collections in the next 20 years.

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Prince tributes:

Birmingham City Hall goes purple, theaters across Alabama showing 'Purple Rain'

By Jonathan Grass

Birmingham City Hall will glow purple the rest of the month in remembrance of music icon Prince.

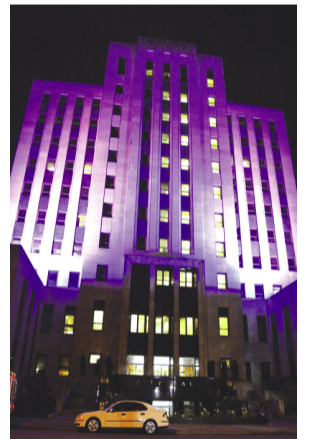
The 57-year-old musician was found dead in his Paisley Park home outside Minneapolis Thursday morning. His unexpected death was a shock to his legions of fans across the world.

"Throughout the day around the office, everyone was sharing their favorite Prince song or memory. Everything from the first time they saw 'Purple Rain' to how the lyrics of 'Adore' helped them express feelings for a first love. Few artists have that sort of universal appeal, few leave such a lasting impression. This is

our small way to pay tribute and say thank you for touching lives and showing us once again that music is a great unifier and that all of us have more in common than we sometimes realize. We all love, we all cry and we all imagine what it would be like to drive that little red corvette." Birmingham Mayor William Bell said after Prince's death became public.

City Hall will be lit in purple the rest of the month. Citizens can share their Prince memories using #BHAMPurple.

The city of Birmingham has also announced a Prince tribute block party will be held Monday. It will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at Linn Park.



Birmingham City Hall was lit purple the day after Prince's death.

Carmike Cinemas is paying tribute to Prince via screenings of his 1984 film "Purple Rain." Eight Alabama cities are among the selected locations showing it between Saturday and Thursday. Showtimes vary so check local listings.

New report finds that in 2015 only one of 87 new CEO's hired was a woman

By Charles J. Dean

If Hillary Clinton wins the presidency in November she will have reached a place no woman ever has.

In the world of business the job of CEO of a top company might be seen as the equivalent of Clinton winning the presidency and like the top job at the White House, the chair of the CEO is still a place few women reach.

The Washington Post Saturday reports that of the 87 new CEOs named to lead the largest public companies in the United States or Canada in 2015 only one was a woman.



The post drew its story from the results of a study released Tuesday by Strategy&, the consulting division of PwC. It examined the 2,500 largest global companies and found that among the 359

permanent or interim CEOs named in 2015, only 10 of them - worldwide! - were female. At 2.8 percent of all new CEOs, that's the lowest rate since 2011, according to the study.

In the United States or Canada, PwC said, the rate of new female CEOs declined for the third year, and dipped to its lowest point since 2004, when PwC began tracking the number. Just 1.1 percent of the new CEOs named to the job last year were women in PwC's analysis of North (Continued on page 2A)