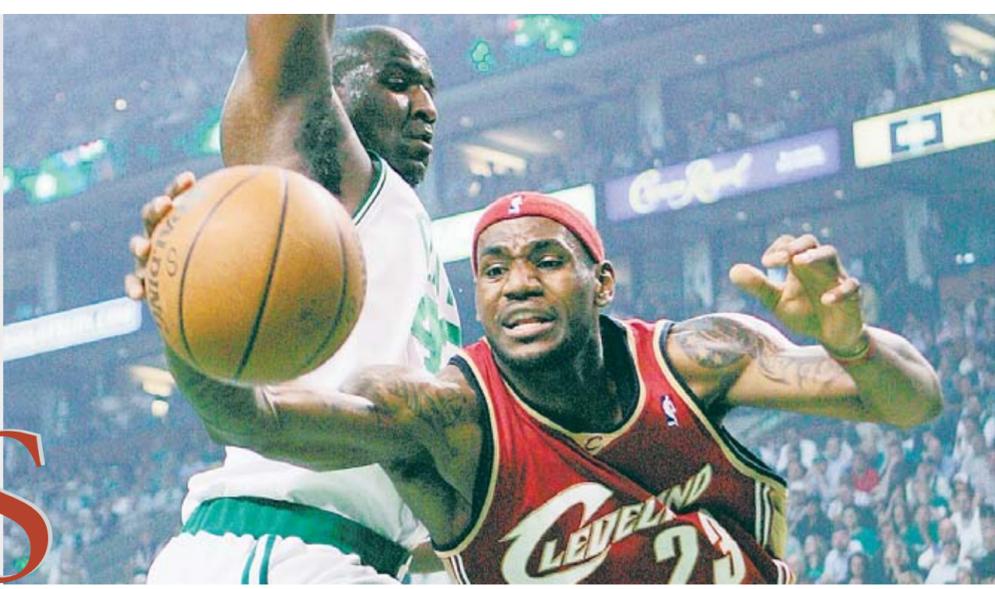


NBA PLAYOFFS

CELTICS 76
CAVS 72

Boston leads series 1-0

CAVS



Start Mom's day right with waffles for brunch
FOOD, D1

Officers' dogs on patrol for kids in need of a hug
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WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2008 A B C

Firetruck, van collide; 2 die



PAUL TOPLE/Akron Beacon Journal

A Massillon firetruck and the van that collided with it came to rest about 110 yards from the point of impact. A man, 72, and his grandson, 4, were killed.

Massillon man, 72, and grandson, 4, killed when vehicles driven by distant cousins crash

By Phil Trexler and Katie Byard
Beacon Journal staff writers

MASSILLON: The coincidences are many and tragic.

A hard-working custodian driving his grandson to school in his van collided with a Massillon firetruck driven by a distant cousin that was responding to a car fire.

Ronald Anderson, 72, died at the scene Tuesday morning along with Javarre Tate, 4. They were just a block from the child's school and the home of relatives.

Anderson's distant cousin, Susan Toles, was driving the ladder truck that struck Anderson's van and was one of four firefighters who suffered minor injuries in the crash.

Marva Robinson, 70, said she broke the news to Toles at Affinity Medical Center, Doctors Campus in Perry Township, where Toles, 47, was being treated. Robinson is Ronald Anderson's sister.

"When I came into the room, no one was saying anything. So I spoke up and I said, 'Sue, do you know why I'm here?' She said no. I said it was because it was Ronnie who you hit and she just fell apart," Robinson said. "It's sad. It isn't that she's hurt physically. She is hurting mentally."

Robinson and her brother, Victor Anderson, were waiting inside their Walnut Road home for Ronald Anderson to arrive after dropping off Javarre.

She heard the commotion from inside her home, about a block from where her brother died.

"Victor ran outside and he came back and said Ronnie ain't coming. I think he's dead," Robinson said.

Investigators said the fire vehicle sirens and lights were activated. Rick Walters, a Stark

Please see **Vote, A5**



Akron Beacon Journal

VICTIMS



Javarre Tate, 4



Ronald Anderson, 72

ELECTION

Clinton unable to catch Obama in N.C.

Indiana outcome may keep race going until convention. Unsure superdelegate says candidates 'traded baskets'

By Nedra Pickler
Associated Press

WASHINGTON: Hillary Rodham Clinton lost her last best chance to score an upset on Barack Obama's turf Tuesday, putting the Democratic Illinois senator a step closer to becoming the country's first black presidential nominee.

But Clinton was on track to win Indiana's primary, keeping alive her hopes of claiming the nomination at the party's August convention with help from unpledged superdelegates and perhaps a decision on how to resolve the controversy over Michigan and Florida's unseated delegations.

While pundits said a sweep of both states Tuesday would all but ensure Obama the nomination or, if both went to Clinton, give her ammunition to argue to superdelegates that she is more electable in a race against Republican John McCain, a split virtually guaranteed the contest would move on to the smaller states remaining - beginning next Tuesday in West Virginia, where Clinton is heavily favored.

Obama was the long-standing favorite in North Carolina, and he won there with the overwhelming support of black voters, despite an intense effort by Clinton to turn the state around.

"Senator Clinton did not get out of

Please see **Vote, A5**

Opium-poppy growers, Marines exist side by side

Unit promises villagers in Afghanistan it will not destroy their livelihood

By Jason Straziuso
Associated Press

GARMSER, AFGHANISTAN: The Marines of Bravo Company's 1st Platoon sleep beside a grove of poppies. Troops in the 2nd Platoon playfully swat at the heavy opium bulbs while walking through the fields. Afghan laborers scraping the plant's gooey resin smile and wave.

Last week, the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit moved into southern Helmand province, the world's largest opium poppy-growing region, and now find themselves surrounded by green

fields of the illegal plants that produce the main ingredient of heroin.

The Taliban, whose fighters are exchanging daily fire with the Marines in Garmsar, derive up to \$100 million a year from the poppy harvest by taxing farmers and charging safe passage fees - money that will buy weapons to be used against U.S., NATO and Afghan troops.

Yet the Marines are not destroying the plants. In fact, they are reassuring villagers the poppies won't be touched. U.S. commanders say the Marines would only alienate people and drive them to take up arms if they eliminate the impoverished Afghans' only source of income.

Please see **Marines, A4**

Today's weather

Mostly cloudy with a couple of thunderstorms

74° High 53° Low

Forecast, Page B8

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Mario

Mario eliminated from 'Dancing'

Dancing With the Stars bid goodbye to R&B singer Mario on Tuesday night, as he received the lowest score from a combination of judges' marks and viewer votes.

That leaves a final four of University of Akron graduate Jason Taylor, Kristi Yamaguchi, Marissa Jaret Winokur and Cristian de la Fuente.

Hospitals, schools push Akron medical project

Together, they're going after public, private funding to develop business plan for academic health center

By Cheryl Powell
Beacon Journal medical writer

The Akron area's major hospitals, university and medical school are taking another step toward joining forces for research and education.

The University of Akron Foundation is securing \$881,200 in public and private funds to create a business plan to develop a regional partnership known as the Akron Academic Health Center.

Summit County and Akron are being asked to contribute \$50,000 each toward the plan. County Council could vote on

the proposal as early as Monday.

County Executive Russ Pry said the taxpayer investment is worthwhile because it could lead to a \$300 million project in Akron.

The academic health center concept calls for UA to team up with Summa Health System, Akron General Medical Center, Akron Children's Hospital and the Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy to boost medical research and education in the region and ultimately improve health services, Summa spokesman Mike

Please see **Center, A4**

23¢

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