

IOWA from Page A1

and believe me this momentum is going to continue and this movement is going to continue and we are going to keep scoring," he told supporters.

The Texas lawmaker didn't say so, but the other campaign already built for a long campaign was Romney's. The former Massachusetts governor was closeted with aides and his family as he sweated out the caucus count in a state that humbled him four years ago.

This time, win or lose, he appeared destined to draw a smaller share of the vote than the 25.2 percent he did then.

Each of the three in the top tier strove to create a distinct identity and brought a different style to the race.

Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, ran the old-fashioned way, spending parts or all of 250 days campaigning in the state in hopes of emerging — as he did in the campaign's final week — as the preferred conservative alternative to Romney.

Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, brought organization and money to the table, and was aided by deep-pocketed allies who ran television commercials attacking former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and others. That allowed Romney to take the high road in person, running as a former businessman who knew how to create jobs and defeat Obama.

Paul, the Texas congressman, was

something of a blend of the two approaches, with money and organization. He drew on the support of younger caucus-goers with a libertarian-leaning approach that included a call to legalize marijuana and bring home U.S. troops from overseas.

Whichever among the three eventually finished ahead, it appeared likely the winner's share of the vote would be a record low for GOP caucuses in the state. Former Sen. Bob Dole had 26.3 percent support in 1996, when he won.

This time, the economy and the federal budget deficit were top issues, judged more important than abortion or health care, according to a survey of early caucus-goers.

Almost a third of those surveyed said they most wanted a candidate who could defeat Obama, and those favored Romney as a group. Paul and Santorum split the votes of the one in four who called the selection of a true conservative their top priority, and the former Pennsylvania senator also made a strong showing among those who said their top priority was a candidate with a strong moral character as well as among late deciders.

Paul had an edge among younger and first-time caucus goers.

The survey by Edison Media Research for The Associated Press and television networks was based on interviews with 1,737 people arriving at 40 precincts.



ROBERT COOPER | The News Herald

Jacqui Coughlin, right, was visibly stirred during Tuesday's sentencing of her granddaughter, Courtney Coughlin. Jacqui Coughlin is seated next to her husband, Bob.

COUGHLIN from Page A1

Boyette read a letter Coughlin. His granddaughter from Bob Coughlin, the deserved punishment, grandfather who raised he said, but she is "not

an evil person." He asked Overstreet "to be fair and merciful."

But Sombathy called Coughlin a "menace," saying because she had not meant to kill anyone does not mean she should not have understood her actions made it a likelihood.

"The state's position is sometimes making a reckless act is equivalent to making an intentional act," he said.

Overstreet, who also sentenced Coughlin after she failed rehab in 2005, noted Coughlin had squandered every opportunity she had been given. The maximum sentence he could have given Coughlin would have amounted to a life sentence, he said.

"This is not an act of negligence. I don't see it that way," Overstreet said. "It may not be the same as putting a gun to someone's head and pulling the trigger, but it's pretty close."

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LOOPHOLE from Page A1

been applied about four times in the past two years, twice to large projects and twice to smaller supply contracts. Recently Phoenix Construction was awarded a \$2.7 million contract for the expansion of Steelfield Landfill. Phoenix Construction's bid was about \$55,000 higher than the low bid from an out-of-county company called Southeast Environmental Contracting Inc.

The local preference policy was the first of several purchasing policy items that will come before commissioners over the next six months as the administration attempts to make its policies part of the procurement code through public discussion and votes. The move comes at the request of the First District Court of Appeal after hearing Emerald Correctional Management's challenge to Bay County awarding a \$117 million contract for the design, construction and management of the Star Avenue jail to a competitor.

In other business commissioners:

- Accepted a \$60,000 grant from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to deploy two new artificial reefs.

- Approved several property cleanups for code enforcement violators and liens to be placed on the properties for the cost of the cleanup.

- Approved new water service agreements with Arizona Chemical and Rock-Tenn.

- Approved contracts for the transportation of human remains and beach cleanup.

- Approved the purchase of two motor graders.

Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council

Help Restore the Gulf

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Trustees want to hear from you! A draft plan of proposed early restoration projects is available for public review and comment. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment describes eight projects, two in each of these states: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi. The projects are intended to benefit injured marshes, coastal dune and nearshore habitats, oysters, and human uses (on water recreation).

The trustees will conduct two public meetings in Florida where you can learn more about the draft restoration plan and comment on it.

FLORIDA PUBLIC MEETINGS

Jan. 11, 2012	6:00 – 7:00 PM 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Open House Meeting	Emerald Coast Convention Center 1250 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Jan. 12, 2012	6:00 – 7:00 PM 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Open House Meeting	Univ. of W. FL Conference Center 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514

To learn more about Early Restoration, review and comment on the draft plan, visit www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov or www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon. For more information by phone, please contact, Kristin Lock, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 850.245.2112, or Nanciann Regalado, Dept. of the Interior, 678.296.6805.

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