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**SUNDAY**

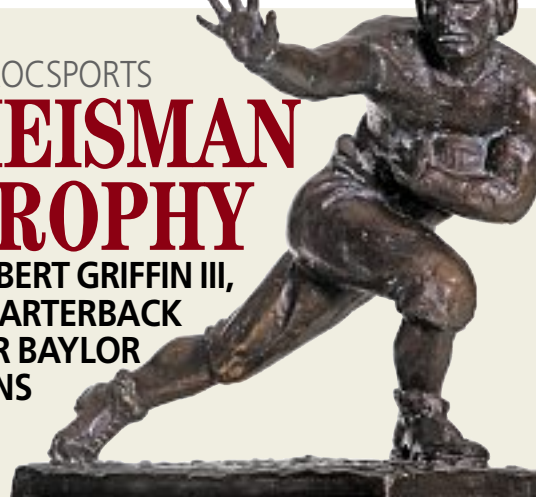

UP TO  
**\$125**  
IN COUPONS AND SAVINGS INSIDE

**ROCWEATHER**



**39° 25°**  
EXPANDED WEATHER 10B

IN ROCSPORTS  
**HEISMAN TROPHY**  
ROBERT GRIFFIN III,  
QUARTERBACK  
FOR BAYLOR  
WINS

**MCC CHOOSES KODAK SITE FOR DOWNTOWN CAMPUS** IN ROCNEWS

WATCHDOG » CONSTRUCTION

# Control of \$40B in road work spotty

Feds don't track overruns for most highway projects

**SARAH CHACKO and STEVE WATKINS**  
Federal Times

**JORGE FITZ-GIBBON**  
The Westchester Journal News

WASHINGTON — The federal government spends about \$40 billion a year on highway construction, yet for the vast majority of projects does not track how many are over budget, how much goes toward cost overruns, or whether the record is getting better or worse.

The result is a patchwork pattern of planning lapses and design errors that sends some states back for more money again and again, a Gannett investigation shows.

The government stepped up scrutiny of "major projects," defined as greater than \$500 million, after Boston's disastrous Big Dig. That road and tunnel project, completed in 2007 after almost two decades, ran more than \$12 billion over budget.

But most projects aren't subject to the tighter rules. In 2011, just 87 of 136,000 federal highway projects qualified as "major," according to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). They accounted for \$1.6 billion in allocated funds, or less

See **HIGHWAYS**, Page 16A

**FINDINGS**

- » Federal funding of highway projects is a patchwork of planning lapses and design errors.
- » In 2011, just 87 of 136,000 federal highway projects qualified as "major" and thus subject to greater scrutiny.
- » A review of hundreds of change orders found that nearly all were approved.

**MORE INSIDE**

N.Y. hasn't complied with a related Democrat and Chronicle request, **16A**

# THE BOXER AND THE BRINKS HEIST

Human remains may lead to discovery of who killed Joseph Gibbons

GARY CRAIG | Staff writer

Twelve years ago some hikers made a grisly discovery on the Lake Ontario shoreline — a foot still clad in a sock and a New Balance sneaker. That discovery and subsequent information has now led to one missing piece of the puzzle surrounding the 1993 robbery of \$7.4 million from the Brinks Co. depot in Rochester.

The foot was found in June 1999 in the Jefferson County village of Cape Vincent, which sits at the juncture of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Just over a year later a physician stumbled upon what looked, from a distance, like an unusual chunk of debris that had washed ashore at Grenadier Island at Cape Vincent.

To this day, police wonder whether most beachcombers would have ignored the

See **GIBBONS**, Page 10A

Joseph Gibbons was a moderately successful boxer in the 1970s and '80s. FILE PHOTO



CONTINUE THE STORY ONLINE @ DEMOCRATANDCHRONICLE.COM

**VIDEO 1**  
A history of the 1993 Rochester Brinks Co. robbery.

**VIDEO 2**  
An account of Gibbons' disappearance from Rochester.

**VIDEO 3**  
Remains wash up at Cape Vincent in Jefferson County.

**VIDEO 4**  
Remains are exhumed and determined to be Gibbons'.

**ALSO ONLINE**

- » Click on this story to see a timeline and documents related to the Gibbons and Brinks robbery cases.
- » See a gallery of Rochester police evidence photos from inside the Brinks depot.
- » Visit the watchdog blog through the coming months to read Gary Craig's tale of how he has tracked the Gibbons disappearance over the past 15 years.



Scan this code with your smart phone to access videos.

TOP STORIES

## A LOOK BACK AT IRAQ CONFLICT

Toppling Saddam was the easy part. Now, at a cost of nearly 4,500 American and more than 100,000 Iraqi lives, American troops are preparing to depart by Dec. 31 and leave behind a country in which democracy has at least a chance to survive.  
Page 19A



## KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE AT THE HOLIDAYS

Local community from the Karen enclaves of Burma keeps its holiday heritage traditions and dances alive by passing them on to a new generation. **Page 1C**

## UNPLUG, DRIVE

With gas prices creeping ever higher, electric cars are enticing a growing number of Rochester-area consumers to plug in and pass on the gas station. **Page 1E**

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**Dinner with Santa!** and **The Balloon Lady**

Location	Date	Time
Seabreeze	Sat, 12/17	5pm-7pm
Penfield	Mon, 12/19	5:30-7:30
Greece	Tues, 12/20	5pm-7pm
Chili	Wed, 12/21	5:30-7:30
Webster	Thurs, 12/22	5pm-7pm
Perinton	Fri, 12/23	5:30-7:30

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