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plans to target Romney's Massachusetts record, with advisers noting that the state's economy lagged in job creation and saw an increase in debt while he was governor. The critique builds upon a line of attack this month of Romney's record at private equity firm Bain Capital, which Obama's team contends led to job losses and bankrupt companies even while Bain profited.

"Whether companies succeeded or failed, Romney Economics netted huge profits for him and his investors, but sometimes proved devastating for the middle-class workers whose jobs, benefits and pensions were put at risk," Axelrod wrote in the memo released Wednesday.

Axelrod sought to link Romney's Bain record with his Massachusetts experience by noting that Romney ran for governor on the basis of his private-sector background. "Under Gov. Romney, the Massachusetts economy was not at the top or even in the middle, but close to the bottom of all the states," he wrote.

Republicans contend that Obama's critique of the Bain record will backfire because it will give voters the impression that he is anti-business. The focus on Obama's green energy record, including Energy Department funding for companies like Solyndra, gives Romney a chance to rebut Bain because Republicans say Obama essentially played the role of venture capitalist by investing government money in green energy companies.

On Tuesday, Romney raised money in Las Vegas with Donald Trump, the real estate mogul who has stoked doubts about whether Obama was born in America. It was the start of a weeklong push to raise millions of dollars during a West Coast trip designed to help Romney bring in as much cash as possible ahead of a ramped-up campaign schedule later this summer.

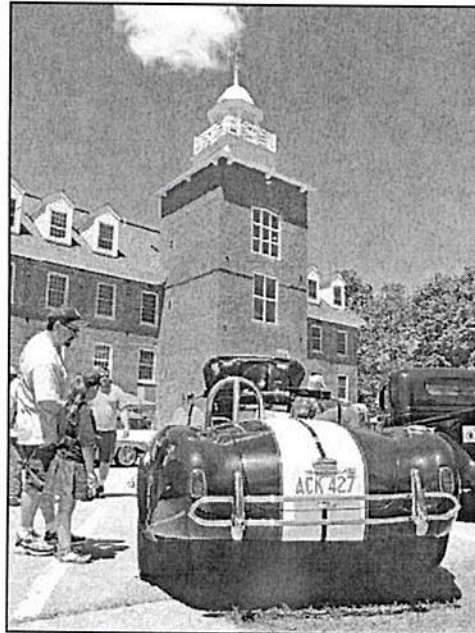
The former Massachusetts governor was looking to take advantage of his official claiming of the nomination, a triumph of endurance for a candidate who came up short four years ago and had to fight hard this year as voters flirted with a carousel of GOP rivals. According to the Associated Press count, Romney surpassed the 1,144 delegates needed to win the nomination by winning 105 delegates in the Texas primary, pushing his total to 1,191 delegates.

Romney must now fire up conservatives who still

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Inn & Suites in Gilford, who presented a \$1,000 check to the board of directors at a meeting held at the arena Wednesday afternoon to announce the capital campaign.

Merrill Fay, who was inducted into the New Hampshire Legends of Hockey in 2006, was instrumental in helping build the Laconia Ice Arena. He has long been involved with the Lakes Region Youth Hockey Association and worked to have what is now the Arthur Tilton Ice Rink built at Varney Point in



Classic car show at Belmont Mill on Saturday from 9 to 1

The second annual classic car show at the Belmont Mill is Saturday, June 2 in the mill parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The band, King Chrome, specialize in 1950's and 1960's rock begin playing at 10 a.m. The event is free to all spectators and last year organizer Ron Cormier said about 300 to 400 people came for the show. The classic car show raises money for the Belmont/Gilford High School hockey team and the Heritage Commission and car entries cost \$20 each. There are trophies for seven different classes of classic cars. (Laconia Daily Sun photo/Ed Engler)

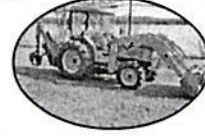
doubt him while persuading swing voters that he can do a better job fixing the nation's struggling economy than Obama. In Obama, he faces a well-funded candidate with a proven campaign team in an election that will be heavily influenced by the economy.

Gilford in the 1980s.

He later helped form the non-profit Winnepesaukee Skating Club, which purchased seven acres of land off Province Road and did a considerable amount of fund raising towards the \$1.5-million goal. When the doors opened in 1994 as the Laconia Ice Arena, it was virtually debt free.

For more information contact Will Fay at 581-7008. Checks can be mailed to: Winnepesaukee Skating Club, 468 Province Road, Laconia, NH 03246. To donate on line visit www.LaconiaIceArena.com.

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Sunday

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