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**DUKE FIRED UP IN 75-60 WIN OVER VIRGINIA TECH** SPORTS

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**MORE NEWS**

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**ETHERIDGE IN RACE, BOWLES SAYS NO**

Former U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge says he will run for governor after former UNC system President Erskine Bowles declines to be drafted for the Democratic primary. **1B**

**N.C. DRIVERS GET AUTO RATE RESPITE**

The state's automobile insurers are not seeking a rate increase for the second year in a row. **1B**

**CANES COMPLETE SWEEP OF BRUINS**

With the 3-0 win in Boston, the Hurricanes have bested the defending Stanley Cup champions in all four meetings this season, a first for the franchise. **1C**

**HUD SECRETARY PROMOTES PLAN**

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan comes to the Triangle to tout President Obama's latest plan to help struggling homeowners and boost the housing sector. **4B**

**DMV WORKER CLAIMS GPS DEVICE PLANTED**

He files suit, claiming a violation of his rights when his Division of Motor Vehicles boss planted a hidden tracking device in his state-issued car to discredit him. **1B**



Donald Trump announces his support in Las Vegas as Romney, center, and wife, Ann, listen. **GERALD HERBERT - AP**

**MITT ROMNEY GETS TRUMP'S BACKING**

The high profile endorsement for the Republican presidential nomination may not have a positive impact on voters, according to a survey. **4A**

**WEATHER**

**Today:** Cooler but still mostly sunny. High 58; low 34.

**Saturday:** More clouds. High 58; low 40. **8B**

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A B ● ● ●

## Exodus from legislature grows

**Longtime state Rep. Joe Hackney latest in surge of turnover tied to redistricting.**

By JOHN FRANK  
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State Rep. Joe Hackney, a 32-year veteran lawmaker and former speaker, said Thursday he would not seek another term, becoming the latest in a string of top Democrats to announce retire-

ments in the past week. The Democratic departures are not coordinated. But lawmakers say the moves signal deep frustrations with the new GOP legislative leadership and a desire to avoid bruising re-election battles in unfavorable districts newly drawn by Republicans.

The lawmakers join a growing list of endangered Democrats in North Carolina who aren't seeking re-election, including Gov. Bev Perdue and U.S. Reps. Brad Miller and



Hackney

Heath Shuler. "I think what it tells us is that we are experiencing a sea change within the party," said state

Rep. Alice Bordsen, a Mebane Democrat who is retiring after 10 years. "Change is scary - you see people who are very talented leaving." Like Bordsen, the majority

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**SHULER BOWS OUT**  
**Congress:** Democratic Rep. Heath Shuler won't run again. **▶ 3B**

of state lawmakers retiring served more than a decade and three are members of the House Democratic leader-

ship team. One Democratic state senator and 10 state representatives are not seeking another term, with nine retiring and two pursuing higher office. The bulk of the departures are in competitive legislative districts, and more farewells are expected in the next two weeks before lawmakers file official candidacy papers starting Feb. 13.

Among them, the departure of Hackney, a consensus

SEE **RETIRING**, PAGE 8A



Soldiers get a high-five from their commander near the end of a four-mile run. More than 14,000 ran in the "Return Run" Thursday at Fort Bragg to celebrate the return of the 18th Airborne Corps Headquarters.

PHOTOS BY TAKA AKI IWABU - tiwabu@newsobserver.com

## War over for 18th Airborne

Fort Bragg corps' troops are out of Iraq

By MARTHA QUILLIN  
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**FORT BRAGG** - Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick closed the book on the 18th Airborne Corps Headquarters' involvement in Iraq with a ceremony Thursday where he said it's harder to end a war than to start one.

Helmick, commander of the corps and Fort Bragg, was among the first troops into Iraq in 2003 and was among the last out in December. Corps personnel were constantly deployed to Iraq during the nearly nine-years-long conflict, and it was 18th Airborne Corps Headquarters staff that oversaw the

last year of combat; the handing over of security responsibilities to U.S. contractors and the Iraqi government, its police and military forces; and the return home of hundreds of thousands of pieces of military equipment from 80 bases across the still-violent country.

By last Thanksgiving, a month before they were to be gone completely, Helmick visited troops at the remaining bases in Iraq and found them back to the basics. No Internet, no dining facilities. They were having bologna sandwiches for the holiday, and they were fine.

SEE **CORPS**, PAGE 6A



Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, left, and Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice motivate soldiers finishing a four-mile run.

**SEE MORE**  
**Gallery:** View more photos from the 14,000-soldier run at Fort Bragg at [newsobserver.com/localpics](http://newsobserver.com/localpics).

## Cancer charity confronts backlash

Komen's cuts spark outrage

By DAVID CRARY  
 Associated Press

**NEW YORK** - Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the renowned breast-cancer charity, faced an escalating backlash Thursday over its decision to cut breast-screening grants to Planned Parenthood.

Some of Komen's local affiliates are openly upset, and at least one top official has quit. Komen has been deluged with negative emails and

Facebook postings that accuse it of knuckling under to pressure from anti-abortion groups after reports said it was halting grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates.

Planned Parenthood used the grants, which totaled \$680,000 last year, to pay for breast exams and related services.

Planned Parenthood has been heartened by support in response to the cutoff. In addition to \$400,000 in smaller donations from 6,000 people, it is receiving \$250,000 from a family foundation in Dallas and a \$250,000 pledge announced Thursday by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg to match future donations.

SEE **KOMEN**, PAGE 8A

## Feral felines spared; future policy unclear

Discussions set within next 60 days

By BROOKE CAIN  
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Two stray cats scheduled to be euthanized by Wake County won their freedom Thursday after local and national feline advocacy groups took the county to court.

But the settlement between Wake Animal Services and the nonprofit group Operation Catnip leaves a bigger issue unresolved - will the county allow animal advocates to trap, neuter and then release cats into the wild?

In a complaint filed in Wake County Superior Court, Operation Catnip maintains it had a verbal agreement with Wake Animal Services officials to conduct a trap-neuter-return



Above is one of the trapped cats. Both will be released to Operation Catnip today. **WAKE COUNTY**

(TNR) program at the Apex Mobile Estates mobile home park in 2011. Under such a program, feral cats are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated for rabies, then returned to their original location.

TNR is endorsed by national ani-

SEE **CATS**, PAGE 8A

## Egyptian protesters blame police for deaths

Some say they failed to stop soccer riot

By MAGGIE MICHAEL AND SARAH EL DEEB  
 Associated Press

**CAIRO** - Security forces clashed Thursday with stone-throwing protesters enraged by the failure of police to prevent a soccer riot that killed 74 people, as sports violence spiraled into a new political crisis for Egypt.

The deaths Wednesday in a post-match stadium riot in the Mediterranean city of Port Said fueled anger at Egypt's ruling military and the already widely distrusted police forces. Many in the public and in the newly elected parliament blamed the leadership for letting it happen - whether from a lack of control or, as some alleged, on purpose.

Survivors of the riot described a nightmarish scene in the stadium. Police stood by doing nothing, they

**GALLERY**

**EGYPT:** See more photos from the soccer stadium tragedy in Egypt at [newsobserver.com/worldpics](http://newsobserver.com/worldpics)

said, as fans of the winning home team, Al-Masry, attacked supporters of the top Cairo club, Al-Ahly, stabbing them and throwing them off bleachers.

A narrow exit corridor turned into a death trap as crowds of fans fled into it, only to be crushed against a locked gate as their rivals attacked them from behind.

A network of zealous Al-Ahly soccer fans known as Ultras vowed vengeance, accusing the police of intentionally letting rivals attack them be-

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