



RAIN DELAYS DAYTONA; NASCAR SEASON BEGINS TODAY

SPORTS

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012

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THIS WEEK

UPDATES ALL DAY AT NEWSOBSERVER.COM

THE MOBILE FUTURE

The Mobile World Congress will begin today in Barcelona, Spain. It will feature exhibitions of the latest devices, apps and concepts in mobile information and communication. Industry leaders from such mobile tech giants as Twitter, Google, Cisco and Microsoft also will meet.

AS GOES MICHIGAN ...

So goes the GOP presidential nomination? Pundits say Mitt Romney must win his native Michigan in Tuesday's primary or his campaign's wheels could start to fall off. Voters will also go to the polls in Arizona. Story, 6A



GERALD HERBERT - AP

REFORMING BIG-TIME COLLEGE SPORTS

"Big-Time College Sports: What Needs to Change?" will be discussed Tuesday by a panel featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and historian Taylor Branch, UNC President Emeritus William C. Friday and Charles T. Clotfelter, author and professor at Duke University. Author Will Blythe will moderate. The free public program begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center Theater at UNC-Chapel Hill.

THIS HUMP DAY IS A LEAP DAY

Wednesday brings a rare Feb. 29, a leap day added to the calendar every four years. It has to do with a gap between the time it takes Earth to circle the sun and the standard calendar year of 365 days. Fortunately, Julius Caesar commissioned a fix in 46 B.C., and Pope Gregory XIII ordered another refinement in 1582. Otherwise, it might be freezing in July. Explanation of leap years, 4B.

EUROPEAN LEADERS GATHER

European Union nations begin a two-day summit Thursday in Brussels. Leaders will discuss the debt crisis in Greece and other nations. They are also expected to debate ways to respond to Syria's violent crackdown on protestors.

TAR HEELS VS. BLUE DEVILS: THE REMATCH

The Tar Heels cried themselves a Rivers after Duke's Austin Rivers beat them with a last-second three-pointer Feb. 8 in Chapel Hill. On Saturday, UNC is on the road and out for revenge in Durham at 7 p.m. If Duke and UNC win their next games against Wake Forest and Maryland, respectively, they will play Saturday for the ACC regular season title.



CHUCK LIDDY - cliddy@newsobserver.com

HOT TICKET

Simone Dinnerstein may be one of the finest pianists in classical music, but she still gets sick just like anyone else. She was to have played at Duke in January, a show that was postponed when she took ill. The makeup date is 8 p.m. Friday at Reynolds Industries Theater. Tickets are \$5-\$30. See dukeperformances.duke.edu for details.

5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
H: 54 L: 40	H: 63 L: 47	H: 68 L: 54	H: 67 L: 40	H: 63 L: 52



Connect1D
ThumbsUp8D
Comics.....4-5D
Deaths6B
Editorials9A
Films.....3D
Puzzles3D
Science.....4-5B
Sports.....1C
TV.....2A

Meth lab busts soar in N.C.

2006 law dried up big labs, but new 'one pot' method is key to 57% rise.

By PAUL A. SPECHT AND COLIN CAMPBELL
aspect@newsobserver.com, ccampbell@newsobserver.com

Methamphetamine busts reached a record high last year in the state because of new methods of cooking the drug and more organized efforts to access it, according to N.C.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and county sheriffs.



Cooper

Meth lab busts totaled 344 in 2011 — a 57 percent increase from 2006, when new state laws restricted the purchase of pseudoephedrine, meth's key ingredient.

Cooper said the laws are working because the number of large-scale meth operations

is down, but busts have risen with the popularity of the simpler and cheaper "one pot," or "shake and bake" method.

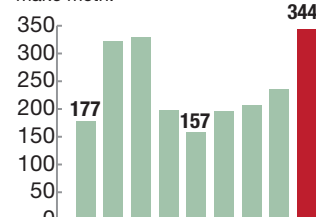
"It has escalated to the point where it accounts for about half of the labs we bust," Cooper said, noting that the state's first one-pot lab bust occurred in 2009.

The one-pot method requires fewer ingredients, which are mixed in two-liter soda bottles instead of the traditional, unsealed makeshift

N.C. meth lab busts

Number of drug labs found in North Carolina.

*N.C. law limiting access to key chemical ingredient need to make meth.



SOURCE: N.C. Department of Justice
The News & Observer

SEE METH LABS, PAGE 8A



Octavia Spencer cries as she accepts the Oscar for best actress in a supporting role for "The Help" during the 84th Academy Awards Sunday in Los Angeles.

MARK J. TERRILL - AP

'The Artist' wins best picture

First silent film to win Oscar

By DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The silent film "The Artist" raked in three Academy Awards Sunday night, including best picture, best director for Michel Hazanavicius and best actor for star, Jean Dujardin.

Dujardin became the first Frenchman to win the best actor Oscar and the only performer to earn an Oscar for a silent-film role since the first year of the awards 83 years ago.

Meryl Streep took the best actress award for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady," her first best actress win since 1983.

Claiming Hollywood's top-filmmaking honor Sunday com-

MORE AT THE OSCARS

Gallery: Additional photos from the red carpet and awards show are at newsobserver.com/entertainmentpics.

ever at Sunday's Academy Awards for his supporting performance in "Beginners," while veteran bit player Octavia Spencer earned the supporting-actress prize for her breakout role in "The Help."

The 82-year-old Plummer won for his role as an elderly widower who comes out as gay in "Beginners."

"You're only two years older

pletes Hazanavicius' sudden rise from popular movie-maker back home in France to internationally celebrated director.

Christopher Plummer became the oldest acting winner

SEE OSCARS, PAGE 8A

Apology is 2 years in the making

RALEIGH — Two years ago, Kurt Benrud got a full-body pat-down from the Raleigh police while standing spread-eagled against his car at night.



Josh Shaffer

One of the officers who stopped him put his hands down Benrud's pockets, pulled out his wallet and looked through it, then threw the rest of Benrud's things on the ground.

The other combed through the car, collected everything inside and piled it in the driv-

er's seat. Benrud hadn't given permission or been asked.

His offense that night was a busted headlight and an expired tag. Later, he said, police told him he'd been driving around Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at night, a part of town that justified taking precautions. Also, he had an empty Diet Pepsi can in the car, which an officer suspected might be alcohol.

When the search was finished, police told Benrud they'd cut him a break. They called him "boss," and drove away. But as Benrud collected himself on the side of the road,

SEE SHAFFER, PAGE 8A



Kurt Benrud wants an apology from police for treatment he received two years ago in a traffic stop.

JOSH SHAFFER

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