

NO 5. DUKE AT NO. 15 FSU, 7 P.M.

DUKE SEEKS REDEMPTION AGAINST FLORIDA STATE TONIGHT

SPORTS



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MORE NEWS

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STATE POKES HOLES IN YOUNG'S STORY

Prosecutors in the retrial of Jason Young point to inconsistencies in the testimony he gave at his first trial denying that he killed his pregnant wife. **1B**

DUKE, PROGRESS FILE NEW MERGER PLAN

In another bid to win regulators' approval of their proposed merger, the utilities propose investing to make it easier for competing utilities to sell wholesale electricity in this state. **4B**



Ruutu, left, takes a hit from Ottawa Senator Colin Greening in November.

PHILLIP MACCALLUM - GETTY

CANES EXTEND RUUTU'S CONTRACT

The Hurricanes and forward Tuomo Ruutu, who was due to become an unrestricted free agent in July, agree to a four-year contract extension. **1C**

DRUG BILL GETTING RECONSIDERATION

Bills to protect drugmakers from lawsuits over drugs that have been approved by federal regulators are revived for the spring legislative session. **3B**

AFGHANS RIOT OVER QURAN BURNING

At least seven people are dead and several injured after protesters, angry that holy books were burned at a U.S. base, clash with Afghan troops. **3A**

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy and warmer. High 76; low 56.

Friday: Chance of rain. High 70; low 36. **8B**

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A B ● ● ●

Perdue finds funding for more pre-K classes



Gov. Bev Perdue, second from right, joins an exercise at Happy Face Preschool and Childcare, where she made the announcement. With her are teacher Sabrena Robinson and owner/director Joyce Robinson, right.

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GOP LEGISLATOR CALLS USE OF \$9.3 MILLION 'A POLITICAL STUNT'

By JANE STANCILL
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RALEIGH — Gov. Bev Perdue announced an additional 2,000 spots for children in the state's pre-kindergarten program Wednesday — the latest move in her confrontation with the legislature over preparing at-risk 4-year-olds for school.

"I'm sure there will be a gnashing and grinding of teeth, but at the end of the day, regardless of what (legislators') reaction is, there will be 2,000 children who by Aug. 15 will have the preparation they need to start kindergarten prepared," the governor said, speaking at Happy Face Preschool in Raleigh. "That's a fight worth having."

POLITICS ONLINE

Gallery: See more photos from the day care at newsobserver.com/localpics. Get the latest on state politics at dome.newsobserver.com.

Perdue will create the slots using \$9.3 million in federal child care subsidy money that has so far gone unused this year.

She spoke from an empty classroom at the five-star preschool, which has space for 82 but now enrolls 51. The school has a certified teacher ready to start and could add slots within a couple of weeks. Children will begin to be enrolled across the state in mid-March

and will attend the program until they start kindergarten in August.

Republicans in the GOP-led legislature were quick to balk at Perdue's action. Rep. Justin Burr, an Albemarle Republican, called it "a political stunt." He said the federal subsidy money was already in the budget and that moving it into pre-K programs is merely a shell game.

"I guess I'm glad that she finally read the budget and realized that this money has been sitting there," said Burr, who co-chairs a House committee on early childhood.

He said Perdue's administration had

SEE CHILDREN, PAGE 8A

Duke debuts \$235 million cancer center

By JAY PRICE
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DURHAM — A flickering gas fireplace welcomes you at the entrance. Around the corner from the front desk is a boutique with dark wood floors and low lighting calibrated to flatter.

And if the weather's nice, a staff member might discretely murmur that perhaps you would rather have your chemotherapy al fresco on the upper-floor terrace, amidst the decorative plantings, rather than in your room with the flat-screen television.

It could nearly pass for a high-end hotel, but Duke's new \$235 million cancer center, which will be dedicated today, is really the latest and flashiest of a wave of makeovers among the state's three comprehensive cancer centers, which are expanding to accommodate a growing and aging population.

The American Institute of Cancer Research predicts that the number of cancer cases nationwide will grow 55 percent by 2030. And North Carolina is unusually well-positioned to handle its share: It's one of just five states with at least three "comprehensive cancer cen-



Radiation technician Robyn Walker shows off a new linear accelerator to visitors in the cancer center's radiation oncology department.

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SEE MORE

Gallery: View additional photos of the cancer center at newsobserver.com/localpics.

Obama unveils tax changes

Plan overhauls corporate code

By KEVIN G. HALL
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration unveiled its framework for overhauling the corporate tax code Wednesday, offering an election-year proposal that would pay for a sharp reduction in the broad rate — from 35 percent to 28 percent — by taking away tax breaks enjoyed by the energy sector and big corporations.

TAX CUT

Romney: Proposes 20 percent income tax cut. **▶ 5A**

Because prospects are slim for any comprehensive tax legislation before November's presidential election, the plan put forth by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was as much about political choices as policy ones.

"The last time we fundamentally reformed the business tax code was more than 25 years ago. That was before the Internet, before cell-phones, before the rise of China and other emerging markets ... and before a global trend to lower the corporate tax rates around the world,"

SEE TAX, PAGE 8A

New study backs worth of colon test

By DENISE GRADY
New York Times

A new study provides what independent researchers call the best evidence yet that colonoscopy — perhaps the most unloved cancer screening test — prevents deaths. Although many people have assumed colonoscopy must save lives because it is so often recommended, strong evidence has been lacking until now.

In patients tracked for as long as 20 years, the death rate from colorectal cancer was cut by 53 percent in those who had the test and whose doctors removed precancerous growths, known as adenomatous polyps, researchers reported Wednesday in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The test examines the inside of the intestine with a camera-tipped tube.

"For any cancer screening test, reduction of cancer-related mortality is the holy grail," said Dr. Gina Vaccaro, a gastrointestinal oncologist at the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health and Science University who was not involved

SEE CANCER, PAGE 8A



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