

NO. 7 UNC 86, N.C. STATE 74

# TAR HEELS MAKE IT 12 WINS IN A ROW AGAINST THE WOLFPACK

SPORTS



# THE NEWS & OBSERVER

NEWS UPDATES AT WWW.NEWSOBSERVER.COM • FINAL EDITION, 75 CENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

©2012 THE NEWS AND OBSERVER PUBLISHING COMPANY • RALEIGH, N.C.

## MORE NEWS

UPDATES ALL DAY AT NEWSOBSERVER.COM



Williford during a pre-trial hearing in a Wake County courtroom Monday.

SHAWN ROCCO - srocco@newsobserver.com

### TAFT KILLING TRIAL DELAYED A MONTH

The trial is set for April 9 during a hearing in which Jason K. Williford pleads not guilty to charges he raped and killed state school board member Kathy Taft in 2010. **1B**

### U.S. APOLOGIZES FOR QURAN BURNING

U.S. officials respond swiftly to outrage at reports that American troops at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan had accidentally burned hundreds of copies of the Islamic holy book. **3A**

### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON COURT'S AGENDA

The Supreme Court agrees to hear a case resulting from a challenge to the University of Texas' use of race in university admissions. **4A**

### WADE AVENUE STRETCH CLOSED

Morning commuters will face detours while the section of Wade Avenue between Dixie Trail and Brooks Avenue is closed for sewer work until noon today. **1B**

### DALTON KICKS OFF RACE FOR GOVERNOR

The lieutenant governor calls himself a "battle-tested" political veteran best suited to be the Democrats' nominee. **1B**

### WEATHER

**Today:** Partly cloudy and warmer. High 67; low 49.  
**Thursday:** Partly cloudy, chance of rain. High 72; low 56. **8B**

### INDEX

Business .....4-5B Editorials .....8A  
Classified .....6-9D Films, puzzles .5D  
Comics .....6-7D Food .....1-4D, 10D  
Deaths .....6-7B TV .....2A



A B ● ● ●

# Tata raises school board ethics concern



Wake County schools Superintendent Tony Tata, right, has clashed with two school board members over their involvement with an advocacy group that has been critical of Tata and the student assignment plan.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK LIDDY - cliddy@newsobserver.com

## Two board members deny they are improperly swayed by interest group.

By T. KEUNG HUI AND THOMAS GOLDSMITH khui@newsobserver.com tgoldsmith@newsobserver.com

Wake County schools Superintendent Tony Tata's criticism of two school board members escalated Tuesday as he charged them with potential "serious code of ethics violations" because of their links to an advocacy group critical of him and the new student assignment plan.

Tata said in an email that the nonprofit group Great Schools in Wake Coalition



Board member Susan Evans disputes Tata's criticism of her and says she hopes to meet with him privately.

"has a stranglehold" on Susan Evans and Christine Kushner, both Democrats elected to the board in October. Later Tuesday, Tata said

he spoke with the goal of getting special interests out of board decision-making and preserving good governance. Both members denied the claims.

### IN TRIANGLE & CO.

**Schedules:** Complaints could lessen schedule changes. **►1B**

### PHOTOS AND BLOG

**Tata:** See more photos from the school board meeting at [newsobserver.com/localpics](http://newsobserver.com/localpics), and find more news about Wake County schools at our Wake Ed blog at [blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed](http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed).

"I'm focused on serving as a board member and living up to the code of ethics," Kushner said. "I take it very seriously."

Evans said she has no role in press releases sent by Great Schools and doesn't al-

SEE ETHICS, PAGE 6A

# Markets to blame for gas prices

## Speculation drives up cost

By KEVIN G. HALL  
McClatchy Newspapers

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. demand for oil and refined products — including gasoline — is down sharply from last year, so much that the United States has actually become a net exporter of gasoline, unable to consume all that it makes.

Yet oil and gasoline prices are surging.

On Tuesday, oil rose past \$106 a barrel, and gasoline nationwide averaged \$3.57 a gallon — thanks again in no small part to rampant financial speculation on top of fears of supply disruptions. The average gasoline price in the Triangle is \$3.64 a gallon.

The ostensible reason for the climb of crude prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange, where contracts for future delivery of oil are traded, is growing fear of a military confrontation with Iran in the Persian Gulf's Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of the world's oil passes.

While tension over Iran has ratcheted up over the last few months, the price of oil and gasoline has leaped far beyond conventional supply and demand variables. Financial speculators are piling into the market, torquing the Iranian fear factor into ever-higher prices.

"Speculation is now part of the DNA of oil prices. You cannot separate the two anymore," said Fadel Gheit, a 30-year veteran of energy markets and an analyst at Oppenheimer & Co.

SEE OIL, PAGE 6A

### STOCKS SOAR

**Milestone:** Dow Jones industrial average crosses 13,000. **►4B**

# Civil rights museums booming

By KIM SEVERSON  
New York Times

**ATLANTA** — Drive through any state in the Deep South and you will find a monument or a museum dedicated to civil rights.

A visitor can peer into the motel room in Memphis where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was staying when he was shot or stand near the lunch counter in Greensboro where four young men began a sit-in that helped end segregation.

Other institutions are less dramatic, such as the Tubman African American Museum in Macon, Ga., where Jim Crow-era toilet fixtures are on display alongside folk art.

But now, a second generation of bigger, bolder museums is about to emerge in a handful of major cities.

Atlanta; Jackson, Miss.; and Charleston all have projects in the works. Coupled with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African



The International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro has had 160,000 visitors. Story, 6A.

COURTESY OF DAN ROUTH

### INSIDE

**In Washington:** Durham architect Phil Freelon helped design the Smithsonian museum. **►1D**

American History and Culture, which breaks ground in Washington today, they re-

resent nearly \$750 million worth of plans.

Collectively, they also mark an emerging era of scholarship and interest in the history of both civil rights and African-Ameri-

SEE MUSEUMS, PAGE 6A

# N.C. takes stage in gay rights fight

By LYNN BONNER  
lbonner@newsobserver.com

States across the country in the last three weeks started moving toward allowing same-sex couples to marry, while North Carolina is looking to catch a wave that crested eight years ago by asking voters to approve a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and civil unions.

Six states and Washington, D.C., now allow same-sex marriage. The Washington state legislature passed a law earlier this month making it the seventh state. The Maryland legislature is expected to send a bill allowing same-sex marriage to the governor by the end of this week. In both states, opponents have said they will push for a voter referendum. Now the focus is on North

### ONLINE

**Politics:** Get the latest political news on our Under the Dome blog at [projects.newsobserver.com/dome](http://projects.newsobserver.com/dome).

Carolina with supporters looking for another victory for a constitutional ban. Opponents are hoping that North Carolina will be the first Southern state to say no to a ban.

"The movement toward securing rights for same-sex couples has been flying ahead at breakneck speed," said Roger Hartley, an associate professor of political science at Western Carolina University. But that change is also facing strong resistance, he said.

SEE MARRIAGE, PAGE 7A



Wake Forest

# \$15 for \$30

Worth of Food & Drink

Thai Cafe Wake Forest

Not a coupon. Visit [triangle.dealsaver.com](http://triangle.dealsaver.com) to purchase this deal.



newsobserver.com  
**dealsaver**  
[triangle.dealsaver.com](http://triangle.dealsaver.com)