

HOOPS RIVALS UNC AND DUKE AT IT AGAIN TONIGHT IN CHAPEL HILL

SPORTS

# THE NEWS & OBSERVER

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MORE NEWS

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DAN BLUE MAY JOIN GOVERNOR'S RACE

**Blue**  
The state senator from Raleigh and former state House speaker says he is considering joining the competition to become the Democratic nominee. **1B**

2 STATE WINS GIVE SANTORUM A BOOST

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum wins the Minnesota Republican caucuses and the nonbinding Missouri primary. **3A**



Meredith Fisher, sister of Michelle Young, tears up as she testifies Tuesday.

VICTIM'S SISTER ON STAND MOST OF DAY

The sister who found the body of Michelle Young is the main witness in the first full day of testimony in the retrial of Jason Young, accused of killing his wife. **1B**

GOP'S SUE MYRICK LEAVING CONGRESS

U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick won't seek re-election in the Charlotte-area district she has represented since 1995. **3B**

U.S. CUTTING STAFF AT EMBASSY IN IRAQ

The State Department is preparing to slash by as much as half the enormous diplomatic presence it had planned for Iraq. **3A**

WEATHER

**Today:** Partly cloudy with chance of rain. High 54; low 32.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny. High 54; low 31. **8B**

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AB ● ● ●

## Raleigh puts 911 center first

**Council puts off plan to house all public safety services in a \$175 million tower.**

By MATT GARFIELD  
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**RALEIGH** – The grand vision for a high-rise public safety center gave way to political reality Tuesday when the City Council embraced a less

costly approach that would break the project into phases, starting with a 911 center northeast of downtown.

The scenario outlined by City Manager Russell Allen marks a retreat from earlier plans for the Lightner Center, a 17-story tower bordering downtown's Nash Square that would have housed the city's police, fire and 911 headquarters.

Unable to reach accord on



Allen

communications center, considered a critical need.

The center would be built on city-owned land off Ra-

leigh Boulevard just outside the Beltline. The vacant property was formerly part of the Westinghouse industrial site.

The initial phase also would include space for an emergency operations center, an information-technology data center and a police field office or district station.

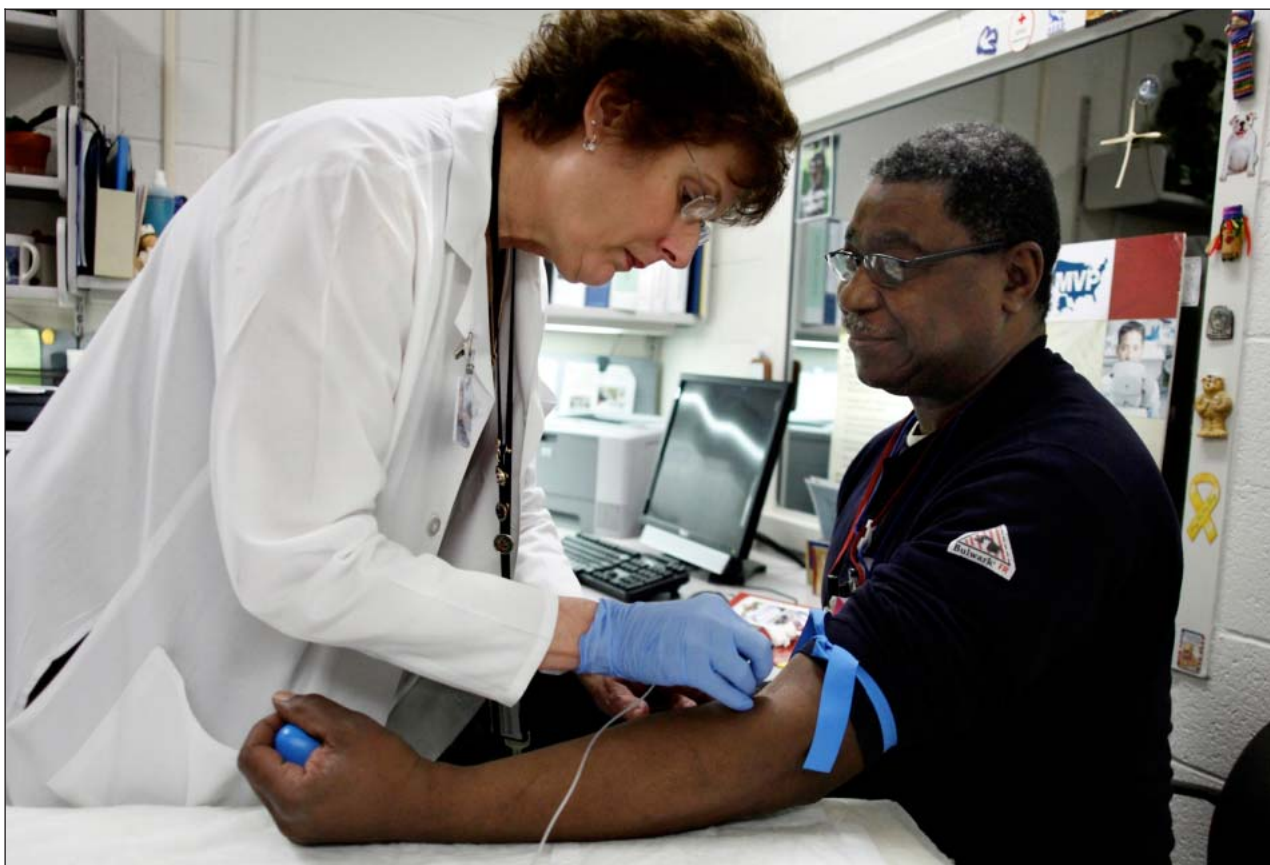
Although it's not the glassy, state-of-the-art tower envisioned by Lightner Center supporters, the facility could

be expanded to accommodate police and fire personnel, Allen said.

Allen would not give a price for the new approach, saying the city must first do an environmental review and determine security needs at the six-acre site. But he's confident the first phase can be completed without a tax increase – a major hang-up in

SEE 911, PAGE 6A

## Veterans give even more



Durham VA Medical Center Nurse Rose Smith draws blood from Army Master Sgt. Clarence Gray, 59, on Friday. The Durham hospital is one of the sites participating in the Million Veteran Program.

PHOTOS BY SHAWN ROCCO - srocco@newsobserver.com

### 1 million sought for DNA data

By JAY PRICE  
jprice@newsobserver.com

**DURHAM** – The procedure that could, in a way, make Master Sgt. Clarence Gray immortal was quick, simple and mundane.

The 59-year-old Sanford resident walked into a small, windowless room in the Durham VA Medical Center, filled out a survey, signed consent forms and held out his arm for the needle.

In minutes, it was done. Gray plans to retire from the Army in September after



Nurse Nancy Steward scans a blood sample from a veteran at the Durham VA Medical Center.

more than 32 years of serving his country. But the two teaspoons of blood he gave last week will continue to serve indefinitely as part of a vast collection of genetic ma-

terial that the Veterans Administration is building for research.

The Million Veteran Program could help transform healthcare for veterans – and

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everyone else – by leading to new ways of predicting, preventing and treating illness.

The goal is to find 1 million veterans who agree to allow their genetic material, medical records and information about their lifestyle and military service to be used for research.

This broad combination of different kinds of data will let researchers study complex interactions between

SEE DNA, PAGE 6A

## Court strikes Calif.'s Prop. 8

By LISA LEFF  
Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** – A federal appeals court on Tuesday declared California's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional but agreed to give sponsors of the bitterly contested, voter-approved law time to appeal the ruling before ordering the state to resume allowing gay couples to wed.

The three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that a lower court judge correctly interpreted the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedents when he declared in 2010 that Proposition 8 – a response to an earlier state court decision that legalized gay marriage – was a violation of the civil rights of gays and lesbians.

"Proposition 8 serves no purpose, and has no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples," states the opinion written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt, one of the court's most liberal judges.

However, the appeals panel took pains to note that its decision applies only to California, even though the court has jurisdiction in nine western states. California is the only one of those states where the ability for gays to marry was

SEE PROP. 8, PAGE 6A

## House agrees: 60 wild horses aren't enough



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service had wanted to trim the herd of wild mustangs to 60 from its current level of 140.

2010 AP FILE PHOTO

By CAITLIN BAKER  
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The U.S. House has unanimously passed a bill that would allow a bigger herd of free-roaming Corolla horses in Currituck County in an effort to create more genetic diversity in the herd.

The Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act sponsored by U.S. Rep. Walter Jones would provide a new management plan that would more than double the maximum number of horses in the Corolla herd, from 60 to 130. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which controls much of the land where the horses live, had wanted the herd to be limited to 60.

But Jones, a Republican from Farmville, cited research done by Gus Cothran, a professor of animal genetics at Texas A&M, which shows that

SEE MORE HORSES

**& Gallery:** For additional photos of wild horses in the Outer Banks, go to [newsobserver.com/localpics](http://newsobserver.com/localpics).

at least 110 horses are necessary to ensure that there is enough genetic variation in each generation of offspring to sustain a healthy herd. Jones said his bill aims to ensure the herd in Currituck County never drops below 110 and is capped at 130 to avoid overpopulation.

The wild horses at Corolla are believed to be descendants of Spanish Mustangs and have roamed North Carolina's coast for more than 400 years. They have endured hurricanes, storms, scorching summers and harsh

SEE HORSES, PAGE 6A

**TODAY'S DEAL**

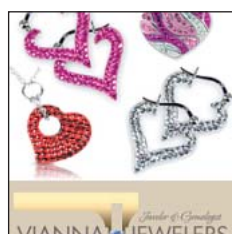


**\$10**  
for \$20 of food and drink  
Tropical Picken Chicken  
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Wake Forest, NC 27587

**SIDE DEALS**



**\$20**  
for 3 hour acrylic painting class.  
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Raleigh, NC 27615



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