



# WILL N.C. STATE BREAK LOSING STREAK AT WAKE FOREST?

KICKOFF

# THE NEWS & OBSERVER

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## MORE NEWS

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### UNC FUND TO KEEP STAR FACULTY LOW

The UNC system wants the legislature to replenish a \$10 million fund that was created to keep star faculty from leaving North Carolina. **1B**

### DOT HAS A NEW IDEA FOR FAST TRAINS

An idea for routing high-speed passenger trains through downtown Raleigh includes a bridge to take trains over traffic on Capital Boulevard near Wade Avenue. **1B**

### WRIGHT BROTHERS GUN ENTHUSIASTS

An East Carolina University professor is displaying paraphernalia the brothers used for target practice while working on their plane at Kitty Hawk. **1B**

### FIDELITY WANTS TO BUY NORTEL SPACE

Fidelity Investments, which had said it would build a new campus in Research Triangle Park, is now seeking to buy an office park previously occupied by Nortel Networks. **1B**



### EUROPE DEBT, U.S. WOES SINK DOW

The plunge erased the week's gains for stocks and sent the Dow below 11,000. It had not closed below that level since Aug. 22. **4B**

### SECURITY TIGHT IN WASHINGTON, N.Y.

A tip about a possible terrorist attack on the Sept. 11 anniversary has officials using bomb sniffing dogs on subways and searching vehicles. **3A**



A New York City police officer checks traffic. SCOTT EELLS - BLOOMBERG

## WEATHER

**Today:** Mostly sunny. High 85; low 61.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny. High 86; low 61. **8B**

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# Will Obama's plan work?

**Economists say it would create jobs but would bring only short-term fix.**

By KEVIN G. HALL  
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Could it work? That's the question being asked about President Barack Obama's big new jobs plan.

Independent experts answered Friday with a qualified yes.

The American Jobs Act would create jobs and help keep a struggling economy moving forward, said a number of economists. But they cautioned that it wouldn't shift the nation's business gears into overdrive, and it offers only modest benefits, given the headwinds the economy faces from a moribund housing sector and growing financial turmoil in Europe.

As only a short-term stimulus plan, the American Jobs

Act wouldn't address structural and external problems holding back the U.S. economy. And since the proposals' very design is transitory, it makes them difficult to compare against the broad economic plans being proposed by GOP presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Jon Huntsman, who hope to replace Obama.

Macroeconomic Advisers, a leading economic forecast group, projected that Obama's plan "would give a sig-

nificant boost to (the gross domestic product) and employment over the near term."

There's the rub. Obama's plan aims to deliver only a short-term fix to keep the economy moving forward and avoid falling back into recession.

Then there's the price tag, \$447 billion. That would add to the sum that must be covered by a special congressional deficit-reduction committee aiming to cut \$1.5 trillion

from federal spending over a decade. Obama's plan counts on this committee to find almost \$2 trillion in cuts.

"It is a political question. Is there a worthwhile political tradeoff? The economics of it are not worrisome," said Chris Varvares, president of St. Louis-based Macroeconomic Advisers. He favors raising the deficit short term as long as there is a clear path to bringing it down over

SEE PLAN, PAGE 6A

# Irene leaves Aurora sodden in mold, misery



Annie Grimes, 69, assesses what she has left to salvage from her home in Aurora. Hurricane Irene caused the Pamlico Sound to flood the town, located about 25 miles southeast of Washington.

PHOTOS BY SHAWN ROCCO - srocco@newsobserver.com

## Pamlico River flooded a town where many live in poverty

By MANDY LOCKE  
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — Annie Grimes coughed softly into a mask as she sifted through a container of soaked papers anchoring her and three generations to this Beaufort County town on the Pamlico River.

Her daughter's birth certificate. A wedding certificate for another child. And the deed for the house on Railroad Street that she and her husband bought as new-llyeds in 1978.

"I been pulling and tugging since Sunday," said Grimes, 69. "I'm wore out."

Hurricane Irene flooded much of this town of 550 people 14 days ago. About one of five families have



Grimes' papers like her daughter's birth certificate and the deed to her home are laid out to dry.

been uprooted since, bunking with family and friends by night while they sort through the wreckage by

day. They are tired and confused and sick about the storm they thought was too weak to rival any they had

## ONLINE

**Aurora cleanup:** See photos of the effort at [newsobserver.com/stormpics](http://newsobserver.com/stormpics).

survived in decades past. "We underestimated her," said Terry Groome, Aurora's public works director and the local coordinator for storm cleanup.

The 14 days since Irene have brought mold, mosquitoes, looters, insurance adjusters, federal emergency workers with volumes of paperwork and kindly American Red Cross workers with containers of hot meals.

In the middle of town, piles of waterlogged furni-

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# Magnet busing may be cut back

Wake looks to cut cost, time

By T. KEUNG HUI  
STAFF WRITER

CARY — Wake County magnet school students could lose door-to-door bus service under a proposal to save money and reduce long bus rides that sometimes reach two hours each way.

Superintendent Tony Tata said Friday that students might have to travel on their own to the nearest high school, then get on a school bus to go to their magnet school.

"We've got to find a way to decrease the time a student is on a bus," Tata said. "Being on a bus two hours is ridiculous."

The potential change, which would start in the 2012-13 school year, is already drawing mixed reactions.

Vickie Adamson, president of the PTA at Ligon Middle School, a magnet in downtown Raleigh, said the proposal would inconvenience some families. The practice, called express busing, is now used on a limited basis to serve some magnet schools.

"Express busing may stop some parents from applying for the magnet program," Adamson said.

But school board Vice Chairman John Tedesco said magnet school parents need to help out more with transportation costs in exchange for the unique academic programs their children receive.

"They've got to help out and participate," Tedesco said of magnet parents. "Transportation for magnet schools is not cost-effective."

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# Specialists aid post-9/11 world

By JAY PRICE  
STAFF WRITER

APEX — Few Americans have a clearer view of how the world changed after Sept. 11, 2001, for the U.S. military, private companies operating overseas and

law enforcement agencies than James Reese and Brian Searcy.

They retired in 2007 from Delta Force, the Ar-



Reese

my's secretive counterterrorism unit, after years of pursuing al-Qaida. After leaving the Army, they

started a new company out of Searcy's kitchen.

Now Apex-based TigerSwan Inc. employs 225 people who perform specialized military and law-enforcement training and sensitive overseas construc-

tion work, provide security details and advise major companies on security, among other roles. It operates a 1,000-acre training facility near Fort Bragg, and has offices in half a dozen foreign countries.

TigerSwan's work relies heavily on the former soldiers' familiarity with the world of terrorism, their high-level military training, and knowledge of how to work in low-key fashion amidst other cultures. It's a

SEE AID, PAGE 7A

# Registers' perks are public expense

By DAN KANE  
STAFF WRITER

This weekend's registers of deeds from across the state will head to Boone for an annual association conference that is largely underwritten by vendors seeking business and the fee-paying public that's on the hook for association dues and travel expenses.

Last year alone, the registers' offices were required to chip in an additional

\$20,000 in public money to the N.C. Association of Registers of Deeds in the form of higher dues that for small counties nearly doubled what they previously paid. The \$20,000 is expected to provide a fifth of the association's estimated \$100,000 in annual income for this fiscal year.

Here's where some of that money gets spent:

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