



NOW OR NEVER: WHAT THE CANES MUST DO TO WIN GAME 4 **SPORTS**

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**MORE NEWS**

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**THE TRIANGLE MARKS MEMORIAL DAY**



Marines await the start of a Memorial Day remembrance on the Capitol grounds  
STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN ROTTET

With a ceremony at the Capitol and lessons in year-round schools, residents salute soldiers who gave their lives. **1B**

A group gathers in Mount Airy to remember a Guardsman who died in Baghdad on Thursday. **3B**

Obama lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. **3A**

**JAYSON WILLIAMS CHARGED IN ASSAULT**



Williams  
The former NBA player, who has been in trouble with the law, was at the downtown Raleigh nightclub Ugly Monkey when a fight erupted. Witnesses said he slugged a man in the face. **1B**

**CHEVROLET'S VOLT HEADED OUR WAY**

The nation's first extended-range plug-in hybrid won't be on the market for a year. But you can get an early peek Wednesday during a conference on electric cars. **5B**

**GOP SETS SIGHTS ON GOVERNOR'S SEATS**

The party hopes to win in Virginia and New Jersey, states that Democrats control. The elections are seen as key to a comeback. **5A**

**AMERICANS STOCK UP FOR THE APOCALYPSE**

Emergency supply retailers and surplus stores have seen business boom as economy-spooked people rush in for gear that was once the domain of survivalists. Do you have your backup generator, water filter and grain mill? **3A**

**WEATHER**

**Today:** Isolated thunderstorms. High 79, low 67.  
**Wednesday:** Rain and scattered storms. High 81, low 67. **8B**

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A B

## Test ignites proliferation fears

**Could unpredictable North Korea sell nukes to terrorists?**

By ROBERT BURNS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — North Korea's nuclear test makes it no likelier that the regime will actually launch a nuclear attack, but it adds a scary dimension to another threat: the defiant North as a facilitator of the atomic ambi-

tions of others, possibly even terrorists.

It presents another major security crisis for President Barack Obama, already saddled with wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and a nuclear problem with Iran. He said Monday the U.S. and its allies must "stand up" to the North Koreans, but it's far from clear what diplomatic or other action the world community will take.

So far, nothing has worked. At an earlier juncture of the long-running struggle to put a lid on North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the administration of President Bill Clinton in the mid-1990s discussed with urgency the possibility of taking military action. That seems less likely now, with the North evidently nuclear armed and the international community focused first on continuing the search for a nonmilitary solution.

The North's announcement

that it conducted its second underground test of a nuclear device drew quick condemnation across the globe, including from its big neighbor and traditional ally, China. The Obama administration, which said the North's action invited stronger, unspecified international pressure, has consistently called for Korean denuclearization but seemed not to have anticipated a deepening nuclear crisis.

SEE **NUCLEAR**, PAGE 8A

**PROVOCATIONS**

Sunday's nuclear test was the latest of a series of actions North Korea has taken since late last year to reject the international effort to end its nuclear weapons program. The regime has:

- Declared that it was withdrawing from six-country disarmament talks.
- Tested a long-range rocket.
- Expelled international nuclear inspectors.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Ten-year-old Katherine Fritsch sings the national anthem before Saturday's playoff game at the RBC Center.  
STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS SEWARD

## GIRL BRINGS CANES BIG VOICE, LUCKY SOCKS

By MATT EHLERS  
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Katherine Fritsch knows that with a loss tonight, the Carolina Hurricanes' season would be over. That's why, when she steps onto the ice to sing the national anthem before the game, she'll pack a secret weapon in her pink cowboy boots: lucky socks.

Katherine, 10, has been the main anthem singer for the Canes during this year's deep run in the playoffs. But even after singing the anthem about 80 times in her Canes career, Katherine still fights nervousness before every performance.

She worries that she'll forget the words or that her voice will crack in front of



Underneath her pink cowboy boots, Fritsch wears the socks she hopes will propel the Canes to a win.

18,000 fans. So far, neither has happened. Members of the Canes' front-office staff saw Katherine sing the anthem at a fundraiser several years ago, said her father, Tom Fritsch. They asked her to sing at a game, and the appearance evolved into a regular gig. This year, she performed at more than 30 games, and for every home playoff game.

"This is basically my second home," she said of the RBC Center.

During the school year, the Fritsch family has rules and a routine for making sure everything runs smoothly. Katherine and her big brother, Evan, 13, get home from school and finish their homework. The entire family — Katherine, Evan, father Tom and mother Suzanne — generally go to the games together.

As long as they bring home good report cards and they get up in the morning without complaint, Katherine and Evan are allowed to stay for the game, Tom said.

Katherine, whose nickname "KK" comes from her then-toddler brother's attempts to say her name, takes her singing responsibility seriously. Dad remembers her calling in sick one time, but she almost always toughs it out. When she fractured her heel while playing soccer this season, she didn't let it keep her from singing. With her foot fitted in a Canes-appropriate black cast with a red stripe, Katherine used crutches to hobble onto the ice.

SEE **SINGER**, PAGE 4A

## Have a Long Leaf award?

Want one? It's not that tough

By RYAN TEAGUE BECKWITH  
STAFF WRITER

John Hagler has always treasured his Order of the Long Leaf Pine certificate.

On the wall of his Raleigh home, the retired Army officer has a framed photograph of then-Gov. Terry Sanford giving him one of the state's highest civilian honors in February 1964.

Lately he's begun to wonder if it means as much as he thought.

**WINNERS**

In recent years, membership in the order has surged. The two most recent governors, Jim Hunt and Mike Easley, together gave out roughly half of the more than 13,600 citations since the award was created by Sanford in the mid 1960s.

During two terms, Easley gave out 4,034 citations — a rate of more than one a day. Gov. Beverly Perdue is keeping a similar pace.

"It's obviously become something like the prize out of a Cracker Jack box," Hagler said.

Franklin Freeman, who was an

SEE **LONG LEAF**, PAGE 4A



John Hagler, 77, shows his Order of the Long Leaf Pine.  
STAFF PHOTO BY TAKAAKI IWABU

## Corrosive goop mystifies RDU

Gunk rains on cars at airport garage, ruining paint jobs

By BRUCE SICELOFF  
STAFF WRITER

MORRISVILLE — It was a silver Nissan Altima, brand new. Ronald J. Dunn bought it in December 2007, parked it the next day in the Raleigh-Durham International Airport garage and caught a flight to Ohio.

He flew home from a four-day business trip to find his new car covered from hood to taillights with a strange, corrosive, white gunk.

"It looked like bird manure, but like 500 birds, it was so much,"

said Dunn, 51, of Kinston.

"It ate through the paint on my 1-day-old car. I had to have the windows replaced, because it took the laminate off the glass."

Dunn still doesn't know what it was that made such a mess of his car. Airport officials don't know either, but they paid him \$1,807 for new glass and new silver paint.

The mystery goop has been splattering cars at RDU since the parking deck was finished in 2003. It strikes a tiny fraction of the nearly 2 million cars that park

there every year. Now RDU has hired an engineering consultant to explain, once and for all, just what the yucky stuff is.

The problem crops up sporadically, during stretches of wet weather. Travelers report milky or chalky stains that are hard to wash away. The airport authority reimburses them for car washes or expensive detailings, and sometimes for paint jobs and new windshields.

In all, RDU has paid more than

SEE **AIRPORT**, PAGE 4A



RDU Airport has paid more than \$20,000 since 2004 to parking patrons who returned to find cars splattered.  
PHOTO FROM RALEIGH-DURHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT