

Scott Fowler
Good Jake, bad Jake: Both showed up Sunday. [Sports](#)

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[Details on 2A](#)

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Today in SciTech

GIFTS FOR THE SCIENCE WHIZ



DIEDRA LAIRD - dlaird@charlotteobserver.com

Our SciTech gift guide wants to tempt your inner geek. We have gadgets for kids to grown-ups that all offer both fun and knowledge. You'll have a blast, without feeling guilty. **6-7A**

Looking Ahead

5-DAY FORECAST MORE ON PAGE 10B

Today 50/43
Mostly cloudy, with some drizzle or a light shower.
Chance of rain: 20%

Tuesday 64/51 Rain likely and a few strong storms possible. Chance of rain: 80%	Wednesday 54/27 Scattered showers. Chance of rain: 60%	Thursday 50/30 Mostly sunny and dry. Chance of rain: 0%	Friday 53/31 Partly cloudy. Chance of rain: 0%

HIGHER LIBRARY FEES ON THE WAY IN WAKE OF BUDGET CUTS

Starting Jan. 1, it will cost more if you return library books or CDs late. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library officials recently announced the service fees, which come after deep county budget cuts. **LOCAL**

Enter cool Observer contests

Share your stories, photos and your child's artistic abilities in a variety of Observer reader contests now under way. **2B**

United Way more than halfway to goal

United Way's 2010 campaign has reached the halfway point, and officials say it's running \$400,000 ahead of this time last year. The campaign has raised more than 50 percent of its goal. **LOCAL**

Fire set at Islamic center in Oregon

Someone set fire to an Islamic center on Sunday, two days after a man who worshipped there was accused of trying to blow up a van full of explosives in Portland. Other Muslims fear it could be the first volley of misplaced retribution. **2A**



Leslie Nielsen dead at 84

Leslie Nielsen, who traded in his dramatic persona for inspired bumbling as a hapless doctor in "Airplane!" and the accident-prone detective Frank Drebin in "The Naked Gun" comedies, died Sunday. **3B**

COMING TUESDAY

The gift of fitness: Our get-healthy holiday gift guide. **CAROLINA LIVING**

COMING WEDNESDAY

N.C. food gift ideas: Our delicious down-home food guide. **CAROLINA LIVING**

Ask Amy.....	9B	Sports.....	1C
Business.....	3A	TV.....	2B
Classified.....	5B	Delivery assistance or to subscribe.....	
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Editorial.....	12-13A		
Horoscope.....	8B		
Lottery.....	2A		
Obituaries.....	4B		



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Secrets pour from leaked documents

Diplomatic communications reveal international deals and intrigue between the United States and its allies

Bargaining over Guantanamo



2010 GETTY FILE PHOTO - JOHN MOORE

U.S. diplomats were wheeling and dealing to get other nations to accept Guantanamo detainees. Slovenia was told it had to take a prisoner if it wanted to meet with President Barack Obama.

China behind Google hacking



2010 AFP/GETTY FILE PHOTO - FREDERIC J. BROWN

The Chinese directed the computer hacking effort against Google in that country, one cable said. The sabotage effort also included hacking into U.S. government computers.

Diplomats collect intelligence



2010 AFP/GETTY FILE PHOTO - LOUAI BESHARA

The U.S. has expanded the role of U.S. diplomats in collecting intelligence overseas, ordering State Department personnel to gather personal information on foreign dignitaries.

Wooing China over North Korea



DAVID GUTTENFELDER - AP

As officials worked out scenarios of a collapse of North Korea, a South Korean diplomat told the U.S. that the right business deals with China might ease concerns about reunification.

Government decries massive disclosure by WikiLeaks

BY SCOTT SHANE AND ANDREW W. LEHREN
New York Times

WASHINGTON — A cache of a quarter-million confidential U.S. diplomatic cables, most of them from the past three years, provides an unprecedented look at backroom bargaining by embassies around the world, brutally candid views of foreign leaders and frank assessments of nuclear and terrorist threats.

Some of the cables, made available to The New York Times and several other news organizations, were written as recently as late February, revealing the Obama administration's exchanges over crises and conflicts. The material was originally obtained by WikiLeaks, an organization devoted to revealing secret documents. WikiLeaks posted the first installment of the archive on its website Sunday.

The disclosure of the cables is sending shudders through the diplomatic establishment, and could strain relations with some countries, influencing international affairs in ways that are impossible to predict.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. ambassadors around the world have been contacting foreign officials in recent days to alert them to the expected disclosures. A statement from the White House on Sunday said: "We condemn in the strongest terms the unauthorized disclosure of classified documents and sensitive national security information."

A range of revelations

The cables, a huge sampling of the daily traffic between the State Department and about 270 embassies, are expected to be released over the next several weeks. **SEE LEAKS, 9A**

MORE INSIDE, 9A

- The New York Times on its decision to publish.
- Blurring the line between spy and diplomat.

Charlotte looking to go long with ACC

Saturday's football title game is city's tryout to become the permanent host of the event.

BY DAVID PERLMUTT AND DAVID SCOTT
dperlmutt@charlotteobserver.com

With a payoff in the millions, organizers of Saturday's ACC Championship football game are auditioning Charlotte and its amenities in an effort to keep the game here permanently.

So far, they're happy with the results. And why not? You've got a contest between conference stalwarts Virginia Tech (champs of the Coastal Division) and Florida State (winner of the Atlantic Division), each drawing rabid fans.

The prime-time game is set to showcase the city at an all but sold-out Bank of America Stadium — just a walk away from 46,000 uptown Charlotte hotel rooms and 150 restaurants.

That comes after the event struggled last year. **SEE ACC GAME, 11A**

Changing times to end live Nativity

This is last year for Park Road Baptist's tableau, a tradition for more than half a century.

BY TIM FUNK
tfunk@charlotteobserver.com

A Charlotte Christmas tradition for almost 60 years, the live Nativity tableau at Park Road Baptist Church will bow out after this year.

The reason: Changing times have pulled the church in new directions, made it harder to sign up volunteers, and turned what started as the grandest holiday show in town into one of many activities competing for people's time during the hectic Christmas season.

"It's been a great ride ... but it's a different day," said the Rev. Amy Jacks Dean, who co-pastors Park Road Baptist with her husband, the Rev. Russ Dean. **SEE NATIVITY, 5A**



2006 OBSERVER FILE PHOTO

David Jackson is one of the many members of Park Road Baptist Church who have volunteered their time to present the annual live Nativity tableau for 59 years.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

REFUGE FOR ABUSED WOMEN NEEDS SPACE

Downturn's ripple effects: It adds to pressure on troubled families and shrinks available donations.

BY MEGHAN COOKE
maccooke@charlotteobserver.com

Sitting in the common area of a Charlotte shelter, a young woman watches television. The woman, who said she ended up in a coma because of her abuse, can relax for the first time in years at the shelter for battered women. She can take deep breaths.

"This is my refuge," said the woman, who asked not to be identified for safety reasons. "I've decided to take control of my own life." To provide that refuge, United Family Services, which runs Mecklenburg County's only emergency domestic violence shelter, depends heavily on donations from the public.

Last year, the century-old family counseling and crisis intervention agency admitted 617 women into the shelter, which can house about 30 women and children at a time. **SEE GIFT OF GIVING, 5A**

Make the season brighter

Through December, the Observer will be highlighting local charities, like United Family Services. More ways you can help:

- The Observer's Giving Guide is a searchable list of what more than 300 nonprofits have told us they need, from volunteers to donated goods. Go to charlotteobserver.com/giving.
- Every holiday season, the Observer asks readers to donate to the Empty Stocking Fund, which provides gifts to needy families. Send checks to The Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 37269, Charlotte NC 28237-7269 or donate online through PayPal at charlotteobserver.com/emptystockingfund.

NATIVITY

■ from 1A

"Judean Hills," an outdoor pageant that has treated generations of sightseers in cars to nightly showings of rooftop angels, shepherds tending real sheep, the holy family and lots of lights, debuted in December 1951.

Back then, the brand-new church was in the country, Park Road was just two lanes, and Charlotte was a smaller place with far fewer things to do at Christmastime. The first of its kind locally, and high-tech for its time, the church's re-creation of Bethlehem went on nightly for two full weeks.

"We did it in rain, sleet and snow," said Mary McGowan, who joined Park Road Baptist in 1951 and played an angel, climbing stairs to the roof and wearing huge wings.

"Deeply impressive" is how The Charlotte News described the still-novel tableau in 1956, when 350 church members participated, each taking shifts to play teams of shepherds, angels, Mary or Joseph.

Generations cherished tradition

Though it shrank over the years – to nine days, then six, now four – "Judean Hills" continued to draw hundreds of carloads each night. Many people who first saw it as children returned with their own kids – or grandkids.

"A lot of them have told me how thankful they were for us having done it," said Mark Cramer, a church member who has been in charge of the parking – and greeting those in their cars – for more than a decade.



1956 OBSERVER FILE PHOTO

In 1956, church members dressed as shepherds behold the angels on high – also church members in costume – at Park Road Baptist Church.

But as cherished as the Nativity tableau tradition is, Cramer concurs with the church's recent decision to end it after this Christmas Eve. In recent years, he said, it's become harder to get the 50 volunteers needed each night – he and five or six others direct the nightly parking, for example.

"People seem to be busier and have more family commitments. And (the church) is involved in so many other activities," he said. "The hardest thing to do is stop something. But it's probably time to move on."

While "Judean Hills" once helped Park Road Baptist stand out, other

churches have since started their own live Nativity scenes.

Park Road Baptist is more focused now on its commitments to help the hungry, the homeless and others.

It participates in the Room in the Inn and Family Promise ministries, has a mission to a church in Cuba, helps students and teachers at Sedgefield Elementary and offers office space and support to Crisis Assistance Ministry and Mecklenburg Ministries.

The church also asks members to sign up for one or more of 42 teams in charge of everything from providing

About 'Judean Hills'

■ The church still uses the original soundtrack. The voice of the head angel belongs to the late Wilma Morrison, once the church organist and secretary. In her deep Southern accent, she announces to the shepherds: "Fee-ah not!"

■ In 1956, dogs broke into a pen at the church and killed two sheep. One year, a donkey tried to break for Park Road. Church member David Jackson held on to the rope, even after falling down. Baby lambs have been born. — TIM FUNK

Want to go?

See the tableau Dec. 21-24, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at Park Road Baptist Church, 3900 Park Road.

longtime shepherd in the tableau.

"I disagree with (the decision to end it). I think the church will lose a piece of its identity. But in the evolving world, there comes a time for the next generation to take over," he said.

Wendy Watson, 46, a lifelong Park Road Baptist member whose parents played Mary and Joseph in the 1970s, tears up whenever she recalls memories of "Judean Hills."

But as the chair of this year's tableau, she is determined to make it a grand finale rather than just an end.

'I want this to go out with joy'

Church members will gather Dec. 19 – two nights before the last Christmas week run – to reflect on and celebrate its 59 years.

And in hopes of including past members of Park Road Baptist – and their kids – Watson plans to bend what had been stringent rules on who can play a part in a Christmas drama designed to be reverent.

"On Facebook, I've hooked up with a lot of Park Road Baptist (alumni), and I've said, 'Bring your kids. We'll find a little headress for them to wear. Let them create that memory. Just come – even to do one show.' I'm not turning anybody away."

Watson, who on Christmas Eve will play the angel who turns the lights on and off, also wants people in Charlotte to help the church celebrate.

"This is not just our tradition, it's a tradition for a lot of people in our community. And 59 years of anything in this world is rocking," she said. "So please come. Videotape it ... I really want this to go out with joy."

GIFT OF GIVING

■ from 1A

they were forced to turn away more than 2,000.

Now UFS is trying to raise \$10 million in a weak economy to build a new shelter that will house up to 80 battered women and their children.

UFS provides a wide range of crisis services, including family and marital counseling, support groups for victims of sexual assault and debt management programs in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union counties, as well as the Lake Norman area.

The organization's domestic violence services, which are in growing demand, include a 24-hour hotline and a network of volunteers who accompany victims to emergency rooms and court hearings.

Seven of the 65 domestic-violence related homicides in North Carolina in 2009 occurred in Mecklenburg County, according to a report from the county's Domestic Violence Advisory Board. UFS reports that Charlotte-Mecklenburg police respond to more than 30,000 domestic violence calls each year.

The UFS shelter for battered women opened in 1979 in Charlotte with 25 beds at a location undisclosed to the public for safety reasons. Although the region's population has since more than doubled, only four beds have been added.

It's become routine lately to put abused women and their children in motel rooms, said Libby McLaughlin, UFS' chief development officer.

Charlotte has significantly less domestic violence emergency shelter space than similar-sized U.S. cities, according to a 2005 Mecklenburg County study.

The economy has not only affected UFS's fundraising campaign, but it's also putting an additional burden on domestic violence victims.

Unemployment is a risk factor that can make abuse more violent, said Jane Taylor, UFS's coordinator of shelter services.

And with sparse employment opportunities, many victims struggle to obtain the financial independence that would allow them to leave their abusers, she said.

"If she can't find a job, she

How you can help

United Family Services is seeking donations for its campaign to build a new shelter. Donations can be made online at www.charlottedvshelter.org. For more information, call 704-367-2705.

The shelter also needs large diapers, new towels and twin-sized sheets, cleaning products, laundry detergent, new and unused car seats, art supplies, healthy snacks, sugar, coffee and toiletries such as deodorant, shampoo and ethnic hair products.

UFS will host its 16th annual Jingle Bell Ball from 8 p.m. to midnight Dec. 10 at Grand Central in Charlotte. The semiformal or black tie event raises money for the organization's shelter for battered women. Tickets are \$65 before Dec. 8 and \$75 at the door. Buy tickets online at www.unitedfamilyservices.org/jinglebellball.

can't leave," Taylor said.

UFS works with some women – and occasionally men – for months, providing counseling and assembling safety plans, before they're able to leave their abuser. Counselors also work with children to prevent them from imitating what they call the cycle of violence.

Taylor said she's had women arrive at the shelter and tell her they remember staying there with their mother when they were young.

"That says the cycle wasn't broken," Taylor said.

The demand for space at their current shelter means they can merely offer a temporary rescue, McLaughlin said. Women and their children can only stay for 30 days at a time.

UFS leaders say the new shelter will allow women to stay three months to a year, providing a stable environment and access to counseling, job training, as well as legal and educational services.

Launched in 2008, the campaign for a new shelter has raised about half of its \$10 million goal; \$8 million is needed before construction can begin at the 11-acre property in west Charlotte shared by the Charlotte Rescue Mission.

The UFS shelter will have 20 beds designated for emergency housing and 60 for its transitional program. The shelter will also include play areas for children and a nonemergency clinic. And because the site will be more visible, the new

facility will have increased security.

UFS leaders say they hope improved shelter services will help women bruised by abuse – both physically and emotionally – find a new future.

"We're trying to take them from victims to survivors," McLaughlin said.

The woman who took refuge at the shelter after recovering from 16 days in a coma said she had been in an abusive relationship for years. She'd leave and come back again, then leave and come back again. Then the abuse escalated.

After the coma, she was in a wheelchair for three months. Now her abuser will serve time in prison, and she's looking for a job and a home.

"You reach the point when you say, 'I'm better than this,'" she said. "I want to live."

Type II Diabetes?

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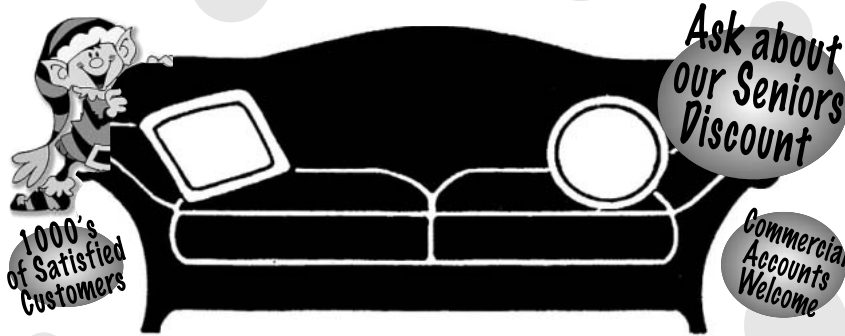
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