

National and World News



Know more on today's top story:

► Read the Federal Eye blog on the initial reactions to the components of the 2012 federal budget: <http://wapo.st/dSvKdb> (via Washington Post)

► Check out a description of the U.S. federal budget for 2012 and also explore the interactive graphic designed for the 2011 federal budget: <http://nyti.ms/byC4Xp> (via The New York Times)

► Read the health care spending perspective: <http://bit.ly/dUy16N> (via Kaiser Health News)

Go to <http://www.dailytarheel.com/index.php/section/state> to discuss the 2012 U.S. federal budget.

Obama proposes 2012 federal budget that will add \$7 trillion to nation's debt

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — President Barack Obama on Monday proposed a federal budget for fiscal 2012 that would pare back record budget deficits, but still add nearly \$7 trillion to the nation's debt over the next decade.

Obama stressed that his plan would slash the federal budget deficit by \$544 billion in one year, from \$1.6 trillion this year, fiscal 2011, to \$1.1 trillion in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. He also emphasized that his budget for fiscal 2012 and the following decade would cut the red ink by \$1.1 trillion from what it would total if current policies were left unchanged. He'd do it with a combination of spending cuts and tax increases.

But that falls far short of the recommendations from his own bipartisan budget deficit commis-

sion, which in November urged cutting deficits over the coming decade by \$4 trillion.

Republicans won't even wait for the next fiscal year to start before cutting spending. They plan to start cutting current year spending, with votes in the GOP-led House of Representatives this week, though final terms must be set through negotiations with the Democratic-led Senate and Obama.

"He's going to present a budget ... that will continue to destroy jobs by spending too much, borrowing too much and taxing too much," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Obama proposed that the government spend \$3.7 trillion next year, down \$100 billion from this year's \$3.8 trillion.

Smoking ban in NC has concrete effects

Tied to air quality, QuitlineNC calls

BY LAUREN RUSSELL
SENIOR WRITER

Several years ago Fran Gallagher responded to a house call while working as an emergency medical technician in Hartford, Conn. The patient was having trouble breathing.

When Gallagher arrived, she saw a bare- and barrel-chested man with his oxygen mask dangling from his neck. His house reeked and the walls were yellow.

The man was also puffing on a cigarette.

"People with problems keep coming in until they go into respiratory arrest, and then they'll die," she said, recalling her parents' last years battling with the common lung disease emphysema.

Having seen smoking's fatal potential become reality both at home and at work, Gallagher is encouraged by data showing that the efforts against smoking in the state are discouraging smokers and reducing exposure to smoke.

Since North Carolina's restaurant and bar smoking ban went into effect last January, air quality in restaurants and bars around the state improved by 89 percent, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

QuitlineNC has also seen a 35 percent jump in the number of participants as a direct result of the smoking ban, said Joyce Swetlick, the director of cessation in the department's Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch.

QuitlineNC is a free call service

for the state's tobacco users to talk to quit coaches for encouragement and tips.

There were 9,840 callers in 2010, Swetlick said, a significant increase from the 5,860 callers in 2009.

More advertisement about QuitlineNC, as well as a new health plan for state employees sponsoring and supporting the organization, also contributed to the increase in call volume, Swetlick said.

She said the policies that limit where people can smoke have proven to help people quit smoking.

"The workers who were smoking stop, individuals who are restricted are more likely to seek help and people who aren't smoking have safer places to eat and drink," she said.

Gallagher said her son had been a sporadic smoker until he quit this past year, and now he appreciates the extra breathing room at the bars.

"When he would go into the bars when he was trying to quit smoking, it'd make it really hard for him to quit," she said. "It's made it a lot easier."

In 2008, 7.8 percent of N.C. adults said they had been exposed to secondhand smoke at work every day during the past week, according to the N.C. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

For the first nine months of 2010, preliminary data showed that only 4.3 percent of adults are now exposed to secondhand smoke

Smoking statistics

- An 89 percent improvement in air quality was seen in N.C. restaurants and bars since January 2010.
- Only 4.3 percent of adults are exposed to secondhand smoke daily at work, according to data from the first nine months of 2010.
- There were 3,980 more callers to QuitlineNC in 2010 compared to 2009.
- There were 1,381 complaints about business violations between January 2010 and January 2011.

daily at work.

Between January 2010 and January 2011, there were 1,381 complaints about businesses violating the law in 618 facilities in North Carolina, according to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch.

There were fewer complaints as the year progressed.

Connie Pixley, Orange County's environmental health supervisor, said businesses were generally compliant, and she can't recall making a visit for a violation since last March.

Following the state trend, Orange County had a high number of complaints at the beginning of the year — at one point there were 18 in one week — and the complaints dropped off later in the year, Pixley said.

"It has made our job much easier," she said.

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

Street clashes in Persian Gulf region

TEHRAN and AMMAN, Jordan (MCT) — Street clashes broke out across the Persian Gulf region on Monday as demonstrators in Iran, Bahrain and Yemen sought to capitalize on the recent uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia and swept into the streets, where they were met by riot police.

The tumult in a region normally kept tranquil under the heavy-handed security of conservative Gulf regimes underscored the widening reverberations of new pro-democracy movements in the Middle East, though the protesters' numbers have been small in comparison with the demonstrations that brought down the government of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt last week. In Iran, thousands of people turned out for Monday's street march, which marked the

first major reformist demonstration since security forces put down widespread protests in December 2009, leaving eight people dead.

The smell of tear gas was in the air in central Tehran from reported clashes near Tehran and Amirkabir universities. Meanwhile, thousands more people who turned out for the main scheduled march were walking quietly along the sidewalks toward Azadi Square as thousands of police looked on.

Those who shouted out slogans such as "Death to the Dictator!" were grabbed by police or plainclothes militia, triggering clashes that in some cases involved young demonstrators beating security personnel. Despite massive police attempts to block access, hundreds of demonstrators made it into Azadi Square by midafternoon.

Criticism doesn't stop the contracts

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — A U.S. contractor who is continued to receive government contracts despite criticism of its work in Afghanistan got low ratings for its performance on two more high-profile projects in the war-torn country than had been disclosed previously.

It turns out that the U.S. Agency for International Development gave the company "unsatisfactory" ratings in 2008 and 2009 on the quality of work, its management and its adherence to a schedule on the gas study. The agency also gave the company a "poor" rating for the quality of its service on the power plant and an "unsatisfactory" rating for its construction schedule for the plant.

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James A. Hutchins Lecture Series

Spring 2011


February 15:

**"WHO NEEDS CEREMONIES OF MEMORY?:
THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY"**

Michael Kreyling will be speaking about his research around his new book that explores the cultural politics of memory in representations of the South through an examination of re-enacted memory in latter-day versions of the Civil War, the construction of white liberal southern-ness in post-Civil Rights fiction and works by authors such as Robert Penn Warren and W.E.B. Dubois.



March 1:




Marc Campbell
HEALTH AND WEALTH: ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF POOR HEALTH IN EASTERN NC THROUGH ASSETS DEVELOPMENT

Marc will speak about her work in eastern NC with recognizing and intervening creatively to address root causes of poor health. She will also talk about the evolution and current status of HOPE projects, which blend health promotion with social and economic empowerment strategies.

ALL TALKS BEGIN AT 4PM IN THE ROYALL ROOM OF THE G.W. HILL ALUMNI CENTER.
(at the corner of stadium dr.& ridge rd.)

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH

COMPLETE A MINOR IN SUMMER SCHOOL

The first summer cohort is being recruited for the Minor in Spanish for the Professions (medical track) in summer 2011.

Twenty students will be accepted into this separate summer program that will not be available to students who are participating in the Academic Year minor program in Spanish for the Professions.

Students must complete all three core courses during the 2011 summer term: SPAN 265 (prerequisite SPAN 204), SPAN 321+293 and SPAN 335.

SPAN 265, "Spanish for the Professions," will be offered in first session, and SPAN 321, "Medical Spanish," (with the accompanying service-learning course SPAN 293) and SPAN 335, "La comunidad hispana," will be offered in second session. Students have the option of taking their allied course in first session.

Students can get a pre-registration form from program director Darcy Lear at lear@email.unc.edu.

Additional information is available at romlcourses.unc.edu/Spanish/professions.



UNC
SUMMER SCHOOL

Jeopardy! Game of the Century: Humans vs Machine - The Last Match



You're invited to attend a special viewing party of Jeopardy! as the IBM computer, Watson, battles contestants.

Kyle Brown, IBM distinguished engineer, master inventor and enterprise architect, will be on hand to provide a description of how Watson works against humans.

When: 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 16, 2011
Where: Manning Hall, room 307

Pizza and refreshments will be served.
RSVP to: aedwards@unc.edu

Register early to reserve your spot!

- This event is sponsored by Informaton Science Student Undergraduate Empowered (ISSUE), IBM, ibiblio.org and the School of Information and Library Science.

Information about North Carolina's only Bachelor of Science in Information Science program will be available at the party, and SILS faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about the program. Application deadline is March 1, 2011.

sils.unc.edu/programs/undergraduate/

Be part of one of the fastest growing fields in the nation!