

STYLE FOR SUMMER

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The Charlotte Observer

SATURDAY ■ JUNE 16, 2012 ■ 75¢

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C D E F G H

Obama acts to halt deportations

Policy change affects young immigrants, but in effect only under this president

BY FRANCO ORDOÑEZ
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration announced plans Friday to prevent the deportations of hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children.

The policy change, embraced by Hispanics and blasted by Republicans, allows young illegal immigrants who were raised in the country to remain for two years under a deferred deportation.

The decision came in the form of a directive by the Department of Homeland Security. It bypassed Congress, where legislation with a similar intent has been stalled for more than a

decade. In reality, the action likely will last only as long as President Barack Obama remains president.

"These are young people who studied in our schools," Obama said. "They play in our neighborhoods. They're friends with our kids. They pledge allegiance to our flag. They're Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way, but one: on paper."

The announcement comes in an election year as the president and

INSIDE

Does Obama's executive power cover his immigration policy? **8A**

GOP nominee Mitt Romney maneuver for the hearts and minds of the nation's nearly 20 million Latino voters.

Just one month after he announced his support of gay marriage, Obama looks to be shoring up a liberal base that had become frustrated with his lack of



HARAZ N. GHANBARI - AP

"They're Americans ... in every single way, but one: on paper."

SEE DEPORTATIONS, 8A

FROM MINICAMP TO KIDS' CAMP



ADAM JENNINGS - adamjennings@charlotteobserver.com

MORE ONLINE
See photos from Steve Smith's football camp for kids at charlotteobserver.com.

A day after Carolina Panthers minicamp ended, quarterback Cam Newton works with Alden Archdeacon, 8, on his game face Friday at teammate Steve Smith's annual football camp at Ardrey Kell High School. "They bring the kid out of you," Smith said of the 500 campers, who range in age from 7 to 14. "Yeah, they want a few autographs, but they just want to play ball." Story, **1C**.

Proposed driver's ed fees face scrutiny

BY BRUCE SICELOFF
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RALEIGH — Thousands of teenagers decided to skip driver education class last year, after roughly half of North Carolina's local schools started charging a fee to make up for a cut in state funding.

Now the General Assembly is considering a statewide plan to collect \$45 from every teen who takes driver education, but not until after they complete the course and apply for their permit to drive.

Educators worry that a decline in instruction will lead to an increase in accidents involving young drivers. They say the statewide approach might actually send more teens back into the classroom.

The \$45 state fee is proposed in the budget approved Thursday by the Senate. It will be subject to negotiation when House and Senate members work out their budget differences.

Last year the General Assembly cut \$5.2 million from state spending for classroom and behind-the-wheel driver education, which previously had been offered free of charge in North Carolina schools. Legislators said local schools and families should share in the cost. They gave local

SEE DRIVER ED, 6A

Interpol porn probe leads to Burke County

Hildebran third-grade teacher's charges include sex offense with a child

BY DAVID PERLMUTT
AND CHELSEY DULANEY
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HILDEBRAN — At Hildebran Elementary School in Burke County, students called him "Mr. A."

The FBI and N.C. agents are calling third-grade teacher Michael Alexander of Morganton something different: a child pornographer with ties to a global sex investigation.

Alexander, 54, was arrested earlier this week after agents with Interpol, the French-based international police organization, found photos of young girls wearing "Hildebran" T-shirts during an anti-pornography investigation called "Operation Filipo."

Suddenly, the unsavory news of a teacher who students found "nerdy" but "cool" brought an unwanted glare to Hildebran, population 2,023, with the town slogan: "We brag a little ... it's

SEE ARREST, 7A



Alexander

Think you can sing? Take a number.

'American Idol' to welcome thousands to first-ever Charlotte auditions

BY THÉODEN JANES
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In the coming months, Time Warner Cable Arena in uptown Charlotte will play host to a few of the country's most famous singers: Carrie Underwood. Madonna. Justin Bieber.

But first, in the coming days, that same venue will welcome thousands of singers you wouldn't know from Adam.

Many will be average. Some will be awful. A few will be great. And maybe, just maybe, one will be a superstar.

Beginning Sunday, wannabes will fill the sidewalks outside the arena to register to audition for "American Idol," the singing competition that has been one of Fox's highest-

Watch out for traffic

Charlotte transportation officials will implement a traffic-management plan for events at Time Warner Cable Arena starting Saturday evening, according to a memo sent earlier this week to the Charlotte City Council. That could mean temporary lane closures on Fifth and Caldwell streets, officials said.

City officials asked drivers to avoid using Fifth Street if possible. Motorists and pedestrians also are asked to be on alert at all times. — APRIL BETHEA

INSIDE

What you need to know about 'Idol' auditions, **6A**.

rated television shows for more than a decade. On Tuesday, they'll be ushered inside to perform, a couple songs up their sleeves and visions of fortune (or maybe just 15

SEE IDOL, 6A

NEW SUPERINTENDENT TO FILL TOP CMS POSTS

Heath Morrison to interview and hire chiefs during four-day trip. **1B**

Lawyer faces bankruptcy fraud charges
Victoria Sprouse pleaded not guilty to eight charges. **Business, 10A**

Wallenda walks across Niagara Falls
Daredevil Nik Wallenda has become the first person to walk on a tightrope 1,800 feet across the mist-fogged brink of roaring Niagara Falls. **9A**



FRANK GUNN - ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S MUST-READS

Military: U-2 pilot captured by Soviets honored. **5A**

TV: Documentary explores frightening picture about drowning in debt. **1E**

84° 59°

Forecast: Mostly sunny. **8B**

Ask Amy	5E
Business	10A
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Comics	4-5E
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Vol. 143, No. 168



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