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# The Charlotte Observer

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TUESDAY ■ JUNE 19, 2012 ■ 75¢

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## Bobcats pull coach out of the 'who?' file

The NBA's worst team last season stakes its future on college assistant

Mike Dunlap, who Monday agreed to become the fifth coach of the Charlotte Bobcats, is recognized at coaching conventions, coaching clinics and almost nowhere else.

IN MY OPINION



TOM SORENSEN

He was head basketball coach at Metro State, which is in Denver, and at California Lutheran, which is in Thousand Oaks. He led a team to the final four. The team was the Adelaide, Australia, 36ers, and he twice took it to the Australian National Basketball League's final four.



Dunlap

**INSIDE**  
More on the Bobcats' new head coach, IC.

Dunlap, 54, has mostly made his living helping other head coaches win. He was an assistant at Southern California and Loyola Marymount, for the NBA's Denver Nuggets, at Oregon and Arizona and, for the past two seasons, at St. John's.

And now he's a head coach in the NBA. There are only two reasons to hire Dunlap. The first is that he came cheap. Charlotte doesn't have to pay him what it would have to pay candidates such as former NBA coach Jerry Sloan or NBA assistant and head-coach-in-waiting Brian Shaw.

But this can't be about money, not now. The Bobcats won seven games in 2011-12 and had the

SEE SORENSEN, 7A

## Veterinarians' vision helps save elephant's sight

Cataract surgeries helped, but now C'sar is awaiting size XXL contacts

BY JAY PRICE  
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ASHEBORO — Only after the second cataract operation on C'sar the elephant's gargantuan eyes did the veterinarians at the N.C. Zoo decide that maybe, just maybe, the idea wasn't so crazy after all: contact lenses for an elephant.

Big ones, of course. After all, C'sar, a 38-year-old African bull elephant, weighs about 12,000 pounds and sports a pair of peepers nearly as big around as racquetballs. He was the zoo's first elephant, and his hulking form has been a mainstay there since 1978.

It was in 2010 that zookeepers first noticed something white in his eyes. Experts from N.C. State University's College of Veterinary Medicine were called in. Yep, cataracts, they said.

At first, the thickening clouds in his eyes didn't seem to bother C'sar, even when those in his right eye grew dense enough to block most of the light, said Dr. Ryan DeVoe, the zoo's senior veterinarian.

SEE ELEPHANT, 7A



N.C. STATE UNIVERSITY

C'sar was depressed and wasting away until having cataracts removed from both eyes.

## Perdue staffers altered letters on road projects

Changes seek money for highway and bridge that N.C. DOT says aren't ready for funding

BY J. ANDREW CURLISS  
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RALEIGH — Gov. Bev Perdue's staff drafted a pair of false letters last week in an effort to start the flow of money for two major toll road projects that transportation officials say won't be ready for state funding until 2014, according to documents obtained by The (Raleigh) News & Observer.

The documents indicate that Perdue herself was involved in the issue, which concerns a budget debate over \$63 million in start-up money for the Garden Parkway, a highway project near Charlotte, and a planned bridge to the northern Outer Banks known as the Mid-Currituck Bridge.

The letters were rushed to legislators Thursday morning over the signature of Jim Trogdon, chief operating officer of the state Department of Transportation. Trogdon disavowed the letters and retracted them Thursday afternoon.

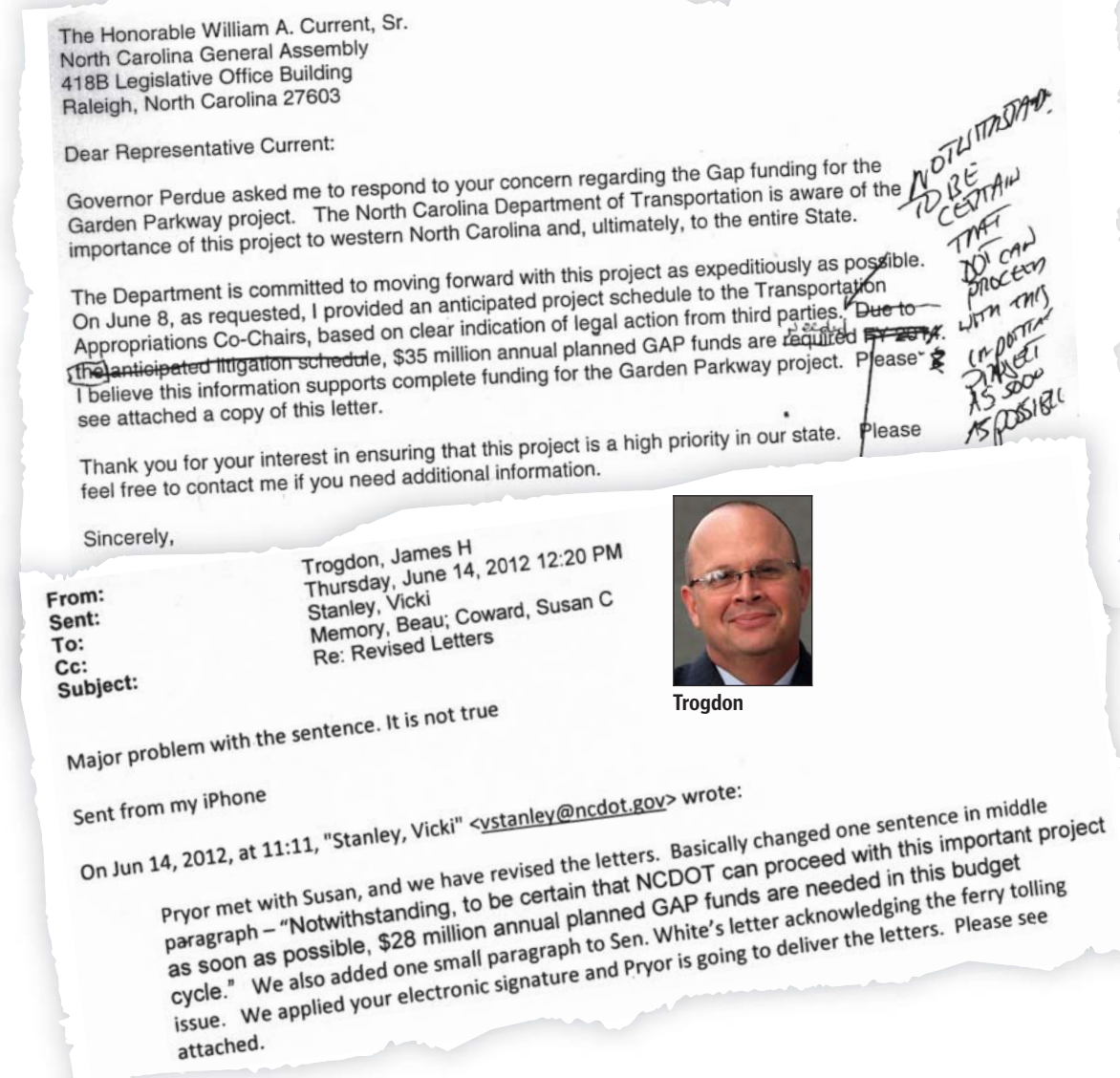
"Funds are needed in this budget cycle" for the bridge and the parkway, according to a key line in both erroneous letters. That sentence had been inserted into letters Trogdon drafted with the intent to send the opposite message — that DOT didn't need the money.

Two high-level Perdue staff members had added the new language, according to officials from DOT and Perdue's office.

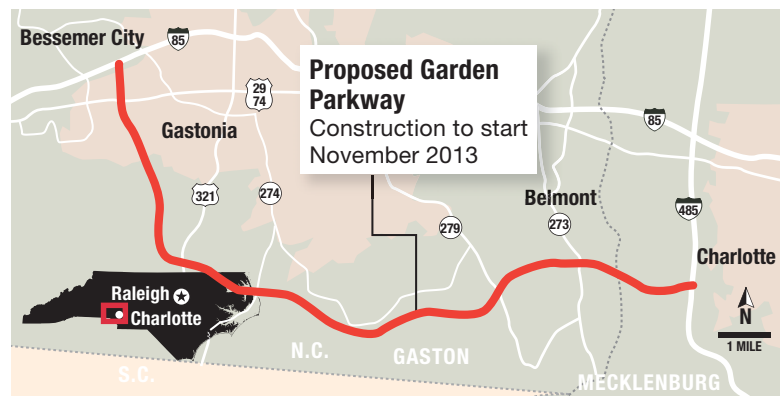
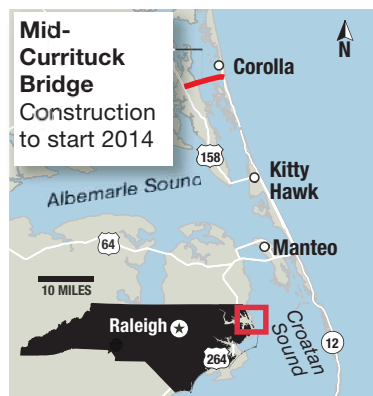
When Trogdon learned about the new language from his secretary Thursday, he sent a message to her from his mobile phone.

"Major problem with the sen-

SEE LETTERS, 4A



Letters traded about two proposed DOT projects and the funding requests for them.



### SUBSIDY FOR I-77 TOLL LANES COULD HIT \$110M

Taxpayers could end up paying \$25 million to \$110 million for the lanes from Charlotte to Mooresville. **1B**

### Clemens found not guilty

Pitching great Roger Clemens was acquitted Monday of charges that he lied to Congress in 2008. **4C**

### TODAY'S MUST-READ

**Young Achievers:** Student moves from football to footlights. **4-5D**

89° 68°

Forecast: Slight chance of storms. **6C**

Ask Amy.....	<b>7D</b>	Sports.....	<b>1C</b>
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Vol. 143, No. 171



## HARRY JONES: 'I FEEL HEALED'

Mecklenburg county manager's faith restored during his battle with cancer

BY APRIL BETHEA  
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Harry Jones was keeping a secret. Just before Christmas, Mecklenburg's longtime county manager learned he had cancer.

But outside of family, few knew all he was facing. Publicly, Jones, 62, said only that he would soon get intensive treatment for a medical condition.

In the weeks that followed, buoyed in part by renewed spirituality, Jones contemplated sharing more.

In February, he reached out to U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick of Charlotte, who had survived breast cancer more than a decade earlier. She took his 10 p.m. call and, after praying with him, encouraged him to be more open.

The next day, in an email to colleagues, he named his condition: pancreatic cancer.

The response, Jones said, was overwhelming. County employees sent cards and letters. People who were once strangers became friends. And six months after his diagnosis, Jones, a man usually reserved about his personal life, is contemplating going on a speaking tour with Cynthia



JEFF WILLHELM - jwillhelm@charlotteobserver.com

County Manager Harry Jones was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on Dec. 22. Since then, he's chosen to "step out on faith, not fear."

Marshall. Marshall, AT&T's top executive in North Carolina, recently battled colon cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is often aggressive and fatal. But even though Jones has been told his type of pancreatic cancer is incurable, he says his faith and the support he has received has him feeling great. His oncologist says Jones has done exceedingly well so far in his treatment.

"I want you to understand that I sincerely understand the severity of my diagnosis," Jones said.

SEE JONES, 4A



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