

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011

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SPORTS



ERIC STAAL POSTER PAGE INSIDE

SPORTS

Ariz. congresswoman shot

GUNMAN HITS 19 PEOPLE, KILLING A FEDERAL JUDGE AND FIVE OTHERS



After being in a Duke clinical trial based on faulty research, Joyce Shoffner has new health problems.

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Flawed research appalls patient

Duke trial based on bad science

By SARAH AVERY STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — A string of what-ifs nags at Joyce Shoffner.

Two years ago, when she was 61, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and agreed to participate in a clinical trial at Duke University that was based on now-discredited science by a now-disgraced scientist.

Although Shoffner received standard chemotherapy, she was steered to the treatment using what was supposed to be a genetic predictor for its success. But the treatment did nothing to stem the tumor's growth, and instead led to blood clots and other problems that complicated her care.

"I can't say how much would be different if I had been on a different chemo," said Shoffner, who lives in Raleigh. "I have nothing but questions and no answers."

Her biggest question is how flawed research advanced to being tested on cancer patients. Many others are asking the same thing in a case that reveals the downside of high-stakes, vastly complicated science.

Shoffner was one of 110 Duke patients enrolled in three clinical trials based on the research of Dr. Anil Potti, who resigned in November as an associate professor at

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INSIDE

Fraud: Convictions and arrests are piling up in coastal mortgage scam. **PAGE 1B**

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Emergency personnel work at the scene where Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., and 18 others were shot. Six people were killed when a gunman opened fire at a meeting Giffords was holding with constituents.

MATT YORK - AP

REP. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

Age: 40

Career: Before entering public office, Giffords took over her family's tire and automotive business. She was first elected to Congress in 2006 after several years in the Arizona state Senate and is a Blue Dog Democrat who has emphasized border security, but has also opposed hard-line anti-illegal-immigrant measures, favoring comprehensive reform.

Family: Married to Mark E. Kelly, 46, a pilot and astronaut, who was commander of the space shuttle Endeavour. They have no children.

SOURCES: LOS ANGELES TIMES, GIFFORDS.HOUSE.GOV

MORE ONLINE

Go to newsobserver.com for the latest updates and photos from the scene and reaction around the country.



Kish Finnegan participates in a vigil for Gabrielle Giffords at University Medical Center in Tucson.

LAURA SEGALL - GETTY

By TERRY TANG, AMANDA LEE MYERS AND DAVID ESPO ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUCSON, Ariz. — Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona was shot in the head Saturday by a gunman who opened fire outside a grocery store during a meeting with voters, killing a federal judge and five others in a rampage that rattled the country and left Americans questioning whether divisive politics had pushed the suspect over the edge.



Giffords was shot in the head.

Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik said Giffords was the target of a gunman whom he described as mentally unstable and possibly acting along with an accomplice. He said Giffords was among 13 people wounded in the melee that killed six people, including Arizona's chief federal judge, a 9-year-old girl and an aide for the Democratic lawmaker. He said the rampage ended only after two people tackled the gunman.



Loughner is suspected as shooter.

Doctors were optimistic about Giffords surviving as she was responding to commands from doctors despite having a bullet go through her head. "With guarded optimism, I hope she will survive, but this is a very devastating wound," said Dr. Richard Carmona, the former surgeon general who lives in Tucson.

The sheriff pointed to the

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State braces for boomers

In North Carolina alone, 84,000 will turn 65 this year

By MANDY LOCKE AND THOMAS GOLDSMITH STAFF WRITERS

Baby boomers are doing it again: insisting the world change as they push through it. This time, they are shaping the most unwieldy institution of all: North Carolina's government.

The first of the boomers turned 65 last week. Every day for the next 19 years, 10,000 boomers in the United States will pass that milestone. This year in North Carolina, more than 84,000 are expected to do so.

It was an inevitable transformation as the population explosion — brought by World War II soldiers coming home in 1945, and subsiding with the proliferation of birth control in 1964 — shifted into its senior years. The change in North Carolina will be dramatic: By 2030, 71 counties will have greater populations

of those 60 and older than those 17 and younger.

To cope, just about every piece of North Carolina's government is reinventing itself. About 50 agencies have designated senior citizen experts — people who will help their agencies find ways to cater to the boomer population. Many community colleges have created programs for the graying student; this spring, Wake Tech is offering 32 classes solely for the 50-plus crowd. The library system has trained a consultant to help local libraries serve baby boomers, including finding ways to make use of them as volunteers. Senior centers are trading bingo and bridge nights for kickboxing classes and Wii tournaments, and have extended hours to serve those still juggling day jobs. Some centers are even

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Barbara Norris of Broadway practices yoga at The Enrichment Center of Lee County in Sanford. Born in 1948, she is at the very beginning of the baby boomers.

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Opportunity knocks, hard, for Perdue

By ROB CHRISTENSEN STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — For Democratic Gov. Bev Perdue, the next six months could tell the tale of her administration.

Faced with a gaping \$3.7 billion budget shortfall and a new Republican legislature, Perdue will find her political, budgetary and administrative skills tested as never before.

During the first half of her term — the midpoint is Monday — Perdue has been buffeted by a deep recession, an ongoing fiscal crisis, a raft of budget cuts, state employee furloughs, salary freezes, a tax increase, and state and federal investigations that have left her among the nation's most unpopular governors.

Now comes the hard part. Starting Jan. 26, when the first GOP-controlled legislature in more than a century

PROMISES KEPT?

Inside: How is Perdue doing on campaign pledges? **▶10A**




Perdue must work with GOP.

comes to town, Perdue faces the prospect of far deeper cuts than have been seen in state government since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

How she negotiates the political terrain over the next six months could determine not only her prospects for re-election in 2012, but also her legacy.

"It's what people will remember," said Gary Pearce, a veteran Democratic strate-

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