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Rob Christensen of the Raleigh News & Observer joins host Donna Martinez to give a firsthand account of the N.C. Democratic Party's Jefferson/Jackson dinner, at which Gov. Beverly Perdue ratcheted up the rhetoric against Republicans who now control the General Assembly. Christensen assesses Perdue's political strength, use of the veto, and polling numbers as she rallies the party faithful heading into the 2012 election cycle as well as the reaction of Republicans. Then Asheville City Councilman Cecil Bothwell talks about his decision to challenge his fellow Democrat, Rep. Heath Shuler, for the Democratic nomination for the 11th District seat in Congress. Bothwell, a progressive, tells Martinez about the progressive and libertarian leanings of the area. Then SGRToday.com's capital reporter Josh Ellis gives Martinez the latest behind-the-scenes news at the legislature, including how the five Democrats who crossed over to support the Republican House budget are faring with their colleagues. That's followed by news about John Edwards' testimony in a lawsuit filed by his former mistress Rielle Hunter against former aide Andrew Young, and comments from state Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson about the debate electing or appointing the state's top education leader.