

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

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50 CENTS

SYDNEY OLYMPICS SUMMER 2000



SPRINTING Dominique Dawes, above, and the U.S. women finish fourth behind Ukraine, Russia and China. The coaches and competitors followed up by leaving out of Baltimore. **A-1C**

SWIMMING The rivalry continues between the United States and Australia. Then there's Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband. **A-1C**

PITTSBURGH Antonio Pettigrew, former St. Augustine sprinter, turns a negative into a positive going into the 400m race. **A-1C**

HARVEST Our columnist explores Marion Jones vs. Cathy Freeman, both as athletes and as marketing vehicles for Nike and women's tracks. **A-1C**

HOMER'S RACE Former St. Pauli Lorne Foy takes Michelle Adams' place in the U.S. House. **A-1C**

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ONLINE Up-to-date coverage of www.newsobserver.com/sports

EVENTS SCHEDULE • **HEADLINES** PAGE 1C

18 new N.C. fire complaints

Continental General recall announced

By Chris Adams
STAFF WRITER

The government has received 15 additional reports of fatalities blamed on defective Firestone tires, federal regulators said Tuesday, the same day that another brand of tires was recalled.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that it has now received 220 complaints about defective Firestone tires, involving more than 400 injuries and 101 fatalities. Most of the problems reported were on Ford Explorers.

None of the fatalities occurred in North Carolina. One injury, which had not been previously reported, was among the 40 complaints filed by drivers in this state, a News & Observer analysis of the data shows.

Also Tuesday, about 100,000 Continental tires used as standard equipment on the Lincoln Navigator sport-utility vehicle were recalled because of reports that some lost parts of their tread.

Germany-based Continental General Tire Inc. has its U.S. headquarters and a plant in Charlotte. The recall affects 18-inch ContiTrac AS3 CQ tires, manufactured at Continental's Mayfield, Ky. plant between January 1997 and March 1998.

The number of North Carolina complaints arising from Firestone tire failures rose by 18 from the last time the NHTSA released figures, on Aug. 31, and

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[THE POHLMAN FAMILY] Kathryn Pohlman, 10, watches television with her father, Tom, and mother, Sarah. The Pohlmans relocated from Tarboro to Greenville after flooding destroyed their home. **STAFF PHOTOS**

WEATHERING THE STORM

A year after Hurricane Floyd's floodwaters took away everything they had worked a lifetime to build, these Floyd survivors tell of hardship, hope and inspiration.

By Bonnie Rocman
STAFF WRITER

Everyone whose home or business was lost to the flood after Hurricane Floyd, and anyone who has labored to help them recover, has had moments when it all seemed like more than they could handle. No matter how hard they worked, at the end of the day they still faced too much devastation, too many costs, too much pain.

Volunteers could take a break from it, but those whose roots were in the flood zone and whose names were on the rusted-out mailboxes had few choices, and none of them were ideal.

While many lost everything to the hurricane's high waters, they look back in amazement at how well they have personally weathered the storm. And they marvel at how life — good or bad, but at least comforting in its familiarity — can change so suddenly.



[PASTOR CAROLYN SLADE] Carolyn Slade preaches inside her church's temporary home in Rocky Mount until a new one is built. **STAFF PHOTOS BY ANDREW WELLS**

At the worst of the flooding, all you could see of St. Steven's Holiness Church was its spire, reaching upward from the water. Members, rescued from their homes, motored by in boats. Then they called Pastor Carolyn Slade, who lived in Rocky Mount, to let her know what had happened.

The church building was ruined. And when time came for the membership to vote on whether to rebuild in the 100-year flood plain, Slade said, the flood almost killed its spirit. Six more than half of St. Steven's' 70 members left, many of them upset at the decision to build a new church in Rocky Mount that will be paid for with loans from the Small Business Administration.

Despite the hardships, or maybe

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High fuel prices could make for colder, poorer winter

By Kean Soehnle, Rova
STAFF WRITER

"Unfortunately, the situation is getting worse, not better," said Roger Schrum, a spokesman for PSC Energy, which with natural gas to 20,000 customers in the Triangle and Western North Carolina. "We're going to do our best to try to get the information out to customers in advance, but we realize it takes the first bill

to get people's attention."

Schrum's advice: Put on an extra sweater and warm socks and turn down the thermostat. Living in a 68-degree home can make a big difference: turning the heat down a single degree can reduce a bill by as much as 5 percent.

The federal Department of Energy expects heating oil to cost consumers an average of \$1.31 a gallon nationally at the start of the winter, about 21 percent more than a year ago. Based on current prices, that means North Carolina homes that use heating oil could see

See **HEATING**, PAGE 12A

China trade bill passes

Sen. John Edwards votes to expand trade with China despite potential job losses in North Carolina's textile industry.

By JOHN WAGNER
MEMPHIS CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — Citing different priorities, North Carolina's two senators parted ways Tuesday as the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a landmark bill liberalizing trade with China.

Sen. John Edwards, a Raleigh Democrat, sided with an 83-15 majority in favor of the business-backed legislation, which grants permanent normal trading status to China.

Sen. Jesse Helms, a Raleigh Republican, said his colleagues had been misled by promises of greater profits for U.S. companies and turned a blind eye toward the comment that the bill would harm human rights abuses.

The bill, which cleared the House 227-197 in May, paves the way for the world's most populous nation to enter the World Trade Organization. It goes to President Clinton for his signature.

In an afternoon news conference, Clinton hailed the measure, saying it would "extend economic prosperity at home and promote economic freedom in China."

The legislation has been closely watched in North Carolina because of the potential benefits and pitfalls it offers for different sectors of the state's economy.

With WTO entry, China's tariffs on U.S. made manufactured goods would fall from an overall average of 25 percent to 9 percent by 2005. Duties on U.S. food products would drop from 31 percent to 14 percent.

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Cuban group rescued at sea

10 reportedly were trying to reach Mexico in a Russian-built biplane

By LISA PEARL, SASKIA MARQUEZ GARCIA
AND PAUL BRADLEY-RODGERS
REPORTERS

Miami — Ten Cubans apparently trying to flee western Cuba for Mexico's Yucatan on Tuesday in an aging Soviet-era crop-duster were picked up by a freighter when their plane ran out of fuel and ditched in the sea.

A U.S. Coast Guard spokesman in Miami said Capt. Konstantinos Kalaitzoglou of the Panamanian freighter Chio Dream radioed at 1:45 p.m. to say that one of the Cubans was dead and that a man had lost his head in the crash.

The group consisted of four men, three women and three children. The pilot was identified.

He died in an Agence France Press report from Havana as Angel Luis Iglesias Hernandez, 38, from Los Palacios. It quoted a friend of the pilot as saying he

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ON THE TRAIL
Vice President Al Gore can thank women for a large part of his post-convention surge in the polls. He has picked up 13 points among women since late July.
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METRO
The Raleigh City Council offers a parcel of land downtown for \$500,000 to Wake County, which wants the property for an IMAX theater. The asking price is \$25,000 more than the county had offered.
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TODAY
Today: Sunny with a few clouds. High 64, low 62.
Thursday: Cloudy; rain possible. High 66, low 63.
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BUSINESS
Duke Medical Center will supply tissue left over from surgery patients to a company that will sell it to genetic researchers.
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FOOD
Sweet potatoes, the state vegetable, are showing up on tables outside the South and in all seasons. They're not just for the holidays anymore.
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