

ACCENT

True fan-atics

Take a look at some wild and crazy ACC fans in photos by Peter Schumacher.



REGION Rally for a cure
Elon students take AIDS fight to Washington.

SPORTS

Defending champs fall

Defending Class 2-A state boys' basketball champ Cummings loses in the west regional final.



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Details/Page D8

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'HARDROCK'

Alamance County's legendary runner set world records



Paul "Hardrock" Simpson, right, on one of his many runs which took him around the world.



Photos submitted

"Hardrock", above, and the pony that lost the race when it dropped dead three miles east of Goldsboro.

On a March day 77 years ago, an Alamance County man stood in the California sun, along with 198 other young men, awaiting the start of a foot race that would occupy his days and nights for nearly three months and cover a continent.

He and the other young athletes had hitchhiked or caught trains or walked from cities, towns, farms and villages to take part in this ambitious cross-country competition, officially called the Transcontinental Foot Race, but dubbed the "Bunion Derby" by newspapers. The event was the brainchild of a flamboyant promoter, Charles C. "Cash and Carry" Pyle, and it promised \$25,000 in prize money.

It would take four days longer than it took the fictional Phileas Fogg to go around the world for the field of runners to cover the 3,422 miles from the Ascot Speedway in Los Angeles to Madison Square Garden in New York City. They would run through sun and blistering heat, night and freezing cold, flat land, deserts and mountains, and through every pain

imaginable. At night they slept on cots in tents under smelly blankets. They averaged running 40 miles a day in a kind of sports event and traveling vaudeville carnival show through California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. The race traveled through every little town that Pyle could get to chip in some money for promotion.



Jay Ashley

The race began March 4, 1928, at 3:30 in the afternoon, and ended May 26, with only 55 men crossing the finish line. The race was won by 19-year-old Cherokee Indian, Andy Payne, the son of an Oklahoma farmer.

Coming in 36th place was the Alamance County man, known to folks around here as "Hardrock."

See **HARDROCK**/Page A5

Senate to debate minimum wage

Parties differ on amount of increase

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate is gearing up for a vote on whether to raise the minimum wage for the first time in eight years as Democrats and Republicans offer competing proposals they want to add to bankruptcy legislation.

Looking ahead to the expected votes Monday evening, the Democratic plan would increase the current \$5.15 hourly minimum by more than \$2. The GOP proposal couples a more modest raise with a change to the 40-hour work week.

The plan from Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., also includes tax and regulatory breaks for small businesses.

His amendment would lift the minimum wage by \$1.10 over 18 months, in two steps of 55 cents.

The rival proposal from Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., would boost the wage to \$7.25 in three increments over 26 months.

The bankruptcy bill, long a priority for Republicans, is intended to make it more difficult for people to eliminate personal debts by declaring bankruptcy.

The minimum wage amendments will need 60 votes to survive; it is not clear if either one has that support.

A minimum wage increase faces a tougher road in the more conservative House. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, and the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said late last week that the House was ready to quickly pass the Senate's bankruptcy bill under the

See **SENATE**/Page A2

N.C. man falsely tied to killings

The Associated Press

STONEVILLE — Flipping through television channels as he sat on his couch, Gary Bowman paused as he heard a reporter mention Jennifer Short.

He learned through that news report Friday that a federal grand jury in Virginia had indicted two North Carolina men for falsely telling investigators that Bowman was the killer of Michael and Mary Short and their 9-year-old daughter, Jennifer.

The two men lied to pocket reward money in the 2002 killings, the grand jury in Charlottesville, Va., alleged. A third North Carolina man was indicted on similar charges.

"It don't change a thing," Bowman said from his Rockingham County home. "I sure would like to have this over with, but I don't think it'll happen very soon, if it ever does."

Bowman, 68, was the only "person of interest" named in

connection with the execution-style deaths of Michael and Mary Short in their Bassett, Va., home on Aug. 15, 2002.

Jennifer was kidnapped, and some of her remains were found about six weeks later in Rockingham County.

Bowman was never charged. He has denied involvement in the slayings.

He had lived in a trailer that was about a mile from where Jennifer's remains were found. Bowman's landlord, Gary Lemons, said Bowman had told him that an unnamed mobile-home mover in Virginia promised to move Bowman's mobile home but reneged. Lemons said Bowman had threatened to kill the man.

Michael Short was a mobile-home mover.

The day after the killings, Bowman left his home for the Northwest Territories in Canada. Investigators found a map in his home that included an "X" in the approximate

See **FALSELY**/Page A6

A game worth waiting for

By Bob Sutton
Times-News

CHAPEL HILL — This is Stephanie Wrenn's Senior Day, too.

Wrenn, bound and determined to attend today's Duke-North Carolina men's basketball game, said she would do about anything to obtain a ticket.

While a few miles away and across a county line, Duke has the Cameron Crazies, North Carolina will have Wrenn courtside at the Smith Center. She might just be a tad bit crazy, too.

Wrenn, a University of North Carolina senior from Burlington, spent nearly 2½ days in a ticket marathon last weekend for the right to attend the Atlantic Coast Conference finale. If North Carolina wins, it is the outright regular-season champion.

"I've been to plenty of games



Peter Schumacher / Times-News

University of North Carolina senior Stephanie Wrenn, from Burlington, won a ticket to today's UNC-Duke men's basketball game at the Dean Dome in Chapel Hill.

all four years, but never the Duke game," Wrenn said. "I go to any game I can. Duke tickets are pretty much impossible to get."

After Wrenn, 22, missed a

chance for a ticket in a senior lottery system because she briefly left the line (after standing for hours) the day of distribution, she said she near-

See **GAME**/Page A2

Serial killers an elusive group

Total number in U.S. is still unknown

By ALLEN G. BREED
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — The allegations that a churchgoing, married father of two was Kansas' infamous BTK murderer have shaken the Hollywood image of the serial killer as disenfranchised loner. And it has people wondering just how many of their mild-mannered colleagues, spouses and fellow par-

tioners might secretly be monsters.

Estimates of how many serial killers are operating in the United States at any given time are, like the killers themselves, all over the map.

Jack Levin, who studies violence at Boston's Northeastern University, estimates conservatively that there are about 20 serial killers operating nationwide, accounting for about 200 victims a year. Ann Rule, a true-crime author and serial killer expert from Seattle, figures there are about

See **GROUP**/Page A2

FREEDOM COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Inside **today**

AccentB1
BusinessD6
ClassifiedsE1

CrosswordB7
EditorialA4-5
HoroscopeB7

MoviesB7
NamesA2
ObituariesD2

RegionD1
SportsC1
TelevisionB6