

### ARCA Driver Killed In Lowe's Crash CONCORD

Blaise Alexander, the 25-year-old ARCA driver who also competed on NASCAR's Busch Series, was killed Thursday night in a wreck at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

Alexander had just passed Kerry Earnhardt for the lead with four laps to go in the EasyCare 100 when his car pulled in too close in front of Earnhardt's after the pass. Earnhardt caught Alexander's rear bumper, sending both cars into a spin coming out of Turn 4. Alexander's car, already running close to the outside wall, cut right and the Pontiac slammed into the concrete at an almost head-first angle. His car then hit Earnhardt's again, flipping it and sending Earnhardt's Chevrolet hurtling down the track on its roof with flames shooting out from under the hood. Alexander's car came to a rest on the infield grass.

The 1996 ARCA rookie of the year had to be cut out of the car, was placed on a stretcher and rushed to the infield car center. He was pronounced dead from severe head injuries at 10:20 p.m.

According to medical personnel, Alexander suffered from a severe head injury. Emergency technicians went to the car and found him unconscious, unresponsive and with no vital signs. They worked on him for 25 minutes and got no response.

Alexander's father, Blaise Sr., and brother were in the pits at the time of the accident. Alexander's death is the 14th at Lowe's, the seventh involving a stock car driver.

Alexander, from Montoursville, PA., had three career ARCA wins, including one this year at Michigan Speedway. He was also running a limited schedule on the Busch Grand National Series, with a best finish of 11th at the same track. Earnhardt, eldest son of the late Dale Earnhardt, was not injured in the wreck.

His car came to a stop near the start/finish line and he was able to climb out and run from it as the flames intensified. The race was called four laps short of the 67-lap

completion, with Earnhardt declared the winner. There was no Victory Lane celebration.

### Two People Killed In Mobile Home Fire FORSYTH COUNTY

Two people were killed after fire raced through a Forsyth County mobile home, authorities said.

Neighbors on Mountain Brook Trail called 911 Thursday morning and reported hearing a loud explosion. When fire fighters arrived on the scene, the mobile home was engulfed in flames.

Shirley Robinson and Walter Nixon were killed. There is no word on what caused the fire, but officials said that the home didn't have a smoke detector.

### Giraffe at NC Zoo dies after fall Asheboro

The last giraffe born at the North Carolina Zoological Park died from muscle damage and other internal injuries after falling in its stall.

The 5-year-old male giraffe died Sunday. Keepers found the animal down in the zoo's Forest Edge Exhibit holding barn when they arrived at work early Sunday.

They speculate he may have splayed his legs while tussling overnight with one of the other three giraffes housed there.

An animal autopsy found the giraffe died from muscle damage and other attendant injuries, zoo associate veterinarian Dr. Barbara Wolfe said.

Another male and two females, including the 26-year-old mother of the deceased male, remain in good health and on exhibit at the zoo. There are no plans to replace the giraffe that died, zoo mammals curator Lorraine Smith said.

### Man Charged In Deadly Alleged D.W.I. Accident Rockingham Co.

A piedmont man is accused of causing an accident that killed

three people, including his brother.

It happened around 5:30 p.m. Sunday evening on Highway 220, just south of Stoneville in Rockingham County.

Troopers said the driver of a '95 Chrysler was speeding when he crossed the median, and hit a motorcycle.

David Lee Brown and his wife, Anita were on the bike and died at the scene. A third victim, Moses Wilson, who was riding in the car, was also killed. Investigators say his brother, Travis Delano Wilson was speeding and driving drunk. He's charged with 3 counts of felony death by vehicle and driving while impaired. Wilson's half brother, Randy Jones is in critical condition Moses Cone hospital.

The fire marshal said that this is the time of year when people need to make sure that their homes are equipped with smoke detectors that work properly.

### Travel Industry Reassures Travelers GREENSBORO

Travel experts say that traveling right now has never been safer.

Industry leaders held a town meeting Thursday night in Greensboro. The meeting was called Freedom to Travel.

The industry says that it hopes to reassure people that it is safe to take planned vacations or business trips.

Representatives from the airline industry, cruise ships and AAA attended the meeting and answered questions from the public.

A representative from AAA said it's important for people to find their comfort zone.

### Midway Employees To Get Back Pay MORRISVILLE

A bankruptcy judge has allowed Midway Airlines employees to receive \$380,000 for back pay and unpaid medical bills.

The decision came Thursday after secured creditors of the bankrupt airline said that they would let the employee claims be paid ahead of their own.

Midway also may profit from the decision by getting a share of the \$15 billion dollar airline indus-

try bailout from the federal government.

Midway laid off 1,700 employees and stopped flying Sept. 12, a day after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington shut down United States air travel.

### Gun Sales In Piedmont Increase GREENSBORO

Since the terrorist attacks, authorities in Guilford have said that the number of people requesting gun permits has doubled from this time last year.

The owner of a local gun range also said that the number of classes for carrying a concealed weapon is up.

Authorities said that if you go through the process of registering for a permit, you will receive a handbook with information about the use of deadly force, child safety and how to handle a firearm.

The handbooks will be available at the sheriff's office beginning Monday.

*News Briefs are compiled by:  
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# Jesus

*Have you met the One  
Who conquered,  
not with sword, but through  
His own death, burial and resurrection?*

*Celebration! meets with Him every Sunday  
in a nondenominational worship service*

*10:30 a.m., McEwen Dining Hall  
sponsored by Antioch Community Church, J. Mark Fox (421-6532)*