



SPORTS | C1

### HATCHELL OUT AT UNC

Veteran women's basketball coach resigns amid probe into allegations



NATION | A3

### SEEKING ANSWERS

Powerful committee chairman issues subpoena for unredacted Mueller report

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# Heavy weather pounds Carolinas

Downpours, tornado warnings linger in Piedmont much of Friday

By Michael D. Abernethy and Kate Croxton  
Times-News

Heavy rain and strong storms continued to pound the area into Friday evening, April 19, but early reports suggested that Alamance County escaped the weather largely unscathed.

That was despite several rounds of tornado warnings that blanketed Alamance, Orange and Randolph counties Friday morning and afternoon.

Police and fire departments said late Friday afternoon that damage was mostly contained to isolated flooding and small tree limbs down. Haw River police said a tree fell across West Main Street and Lang Street.

Agencies were on standby most of Friday afternoon and evening in anticipation of destructive weather.

A tornado watch covered Alamance and surrounding counties most of the day and

See WEATHER, A2



A downspout overflows with rainwater at the May Hosiery building in Burlington on Friday morning, April 19. [WOODY MARSHALL / TIMES-NEWS]



The leveled house of Delores Anderson is viewed Friday, April 19, after a tornado touched down in Franklin County, Virginia. [HEATHER ROUSSEAU/THE ROANOKE TIMES VIA AP]

## Storms kill at least 1 in Deep South

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A strong storm system barreling through the South on Friday killed an 8-year-old girl in Florida and threatened to bring tornadoes to large parts of the Carolinas and southern Virginia.

A tree fell onto a house in Woodville, Florida, south of Tallahassee, killing the girl and injuring a 12-year-old

boy, according to the Leon County Sheriff's Office. The office said in a statement that the girl died at a hospital while the boy suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Their names weren't immediately released.

The same storm system was blamed for the deaths a day earlier of three people in Mississippi and a woman in

See STORMS, A2

# Center disputes television report

Intern Alex Black died in December after being mauled by a lion

Times-News

The Conservators Center responded Friday, April 19, to a TV news report claiming the December lion attack that killed intern Alexandra "Alex" Black began in an open area of the park, not inside the lion's enclosure.

In the WRAL-TV report which aired Thursday, Black's aunt, Virginia Black, says her niece was working outside the enclosure, preparing a deer carcass to feed to the lion, when 14-year-old Matthai escaped and walked towards her.

"Supposedly, there was a witness who saw Alex calmly facing the lion, trying to keep his attention on her, trying to offer the deer, and obviously that didn't work," Black said.



Black

"By not running away and screaming, she may have saved other people's lives."

That contradicts the center's previous statements and other reports, which claim Black was cleaning Matthai's enclosure with two other people when the lion escaped the lock-out section and entered the main enclosure area.

Animal Trainer Ashley Watts told Caswell County detectives she saw a "large play ball" obstructing the gate to the lock-out pen, which allowed Matthai leave that area, according to the medical examiner's report in February.

The center — which is just over the Alamance-Caswell line but has a Burlington

address — issued a statement Feb. 19 through attorney Patrick Kane, saying Watts' account was inaccurate. Kane told the Times-News it would have been obvious the gate wasn't properly closed if the 28-inch play ball had been obstructing it.

While Kane did not offer an alternative version of events, he added that the center agrees the gate "could not have been properly closed and locked" for Matthai to have escaped.

Virginia Black told WRAL the family does not blame the facility for her niece's death but still has questions about whether it could have been prevented.

In a statement Friday, April 19, Conservators Center Director Mindy Stinner emphasized that the center has reviewed all safety measures and retrained staff since

the incident. While she has not spoken to Virginia Black, she added, staff members keep in regular contact with Alex Black's parents and siblings.

"We will continue working with her family to ensure Alex is honored and remembered in accordance with her family's wishes," Stinner wrote. "In the wake of the tragedy on December 30, 2018, the Conservators Center thoroughly reviewed all of its safety policies and procedures and retrained its staff on those policies and procedures. The Center is confident that if all of its policies and procedures are followed, its guests, staff, and animals are safe."

"As for the events of December 30, 2018, the Center does not see any value in further discussing the details of these tragic events publicly with the media."



WEATHER | D2

## LOOK INSIDE FOR A COMPLETE FORECAST

Artwork by: Sarah Younger, Grade 5, Altamahaw-Ossipee Elementary School

OBITUARIES | A7

Benjamin Charles III  
Dr. Harold Zane Daniel Jr.  
Pastor William Gindlesperger  
Sylvia S. Rogers  
Tomas Serano Mendoza  
Judy Kay Wyrick

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Classifieds .....B4  
Comics .....D5  
Homes .....D1

Opinion ..... A4  
Puzzles ..... D4  
Religion ..... B2

TODAY  
Some sun  
62° / 44°

SUNDAY  
A shower  
66° / 47°

MONDAY  
Sunny; warmer  
78° / 53°



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