

The Daily Reflector

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FEARLESS FORECAST

The Daily Reflector is offering a new feature this year in its prep football coverage on reflector.com. Online each Thursday will be the Fearless Football Forecast preview show.



STAYING IN SCHOOL

Greenville police have added new tools to their crime prevention toolbox in coordination with the City Council and Pitt schools. **LOCAL, B1**

Democrats choose Obama

Delegate passes on passion for politics

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Reflector

Greenville resident Ann Huggins believes in the Democratic Party and believes in Barack Obama.

Huggins, one of 153 North Carolina delegates and alternates at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, is a civil rights activist and former Pitt County commissioner. She proudly tells you her children became politically active in junior high school and that legacy has passed to a third generation.

When Illinois Sen. Barack Obama accepts the Democratic Party's presidential nomination tonight at Invesco Field, Huggins' granddaughter, Emerson Kirby, 6, and her parents will be guests at the history-making event; the first time a black man has been named the presidential candidate for a major American political party.

Emerson's first foray into
See DELEGATE, A7



RICK MCKAY/COX NEWS SERVICE

DELEGATE ANN HUGGINS brought her granddaughter Emerson Kirby with her to the Democratic National Convention in hopes of sharing a first-hand look at the event. Emerson and her mom and dad are not at the nightly convention events, but the whole family will be at Invesco Field tonight to watch Obama accept the nomination.

Remnants of TS Fay soak region

■ Earlier Wednesday there were reports of tornado activity in Onslow and Jones counties.

The Daily Reflector

The worst of a low pressure system has passed and Pitt County residents have a 50 percent chance of rain this morning, according to the National Weather Service.

The county escaped Wednesday's stormy weather, which produced a hazardous weather outlook and tornado watches for most of the east.

"I don't think we are going to see too much of a severe threat in the morning, especially in Pitt County," said Casey Dail, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Newport.

Unofficial data shows a half-inch of rain fell in Pitt County on Tuesday. Wednesday's data won't be available until later today.

The low pressure system is part of the remnants of Tropical Storm Fay.

Earlier Wednesday there were reports of tornado activity in Onslow and Jones counties but there was no evidence of a touchdown or damage, Dail said.

There also was a report of a funnel cloud spotted in Duplin County. No damage was reported, but a tornado warning was issued for Duplin and Lenoir counties until 9:45 p.m.

The rain overwhelmed storm drains and flooded streams throughout a wide swath of central North Carolina, The Associated Press reported.

Officials in Charlotte said flooding there was the worst in decades and numbers from the National Weather Service backed up that contention. In the 48 hours ending at 8 p.m. Wednesday, North Carolina's largest city had received 8.39 inches of rain.

There had been no reports of injury or deaths from the storm by Wednesday afternoon, said Julia Jarema, spokeswoman for the state

See WEATHER, A7

Nominee makes surprise visit to DNC Wednesday

BY DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE Barack Obama joined his running mate, Joe Biden, on stage Wednesday night.

DENVER — Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.

"I think the convention's gone pretty well so far, what do you think," called out the

HISTORY: Obama makes history as first black nominee. **A3**

Democrats' man of the hour in a surprise late-night visit to the hall. The crowd thundered its approval, and he and running mate Joe Biden basked in the cheers.

Obama implored the delegates to help him "take back America" in the fall campaign against Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Earlier, former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked the convention to interrupt its roll call of the states and make its verdict unanimous "in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory." And they did, with a roar.

Competing chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can" surged up from the convention floor as the out-

come was announced.

Obama, the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother, is now one victory from becoming president of a nation where, just decades ago, many blacks were denied the vote.

But even as he won the nomination, there was open talk in the convention city that Obama's race remained a stumbling block to winning the White House.

"A lot of white workers ... and quite frankly a lot of union members believe he's the wrong race," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka told a breakfast meeting of Michigan delegates.

Obama will face McCain, who will accept the Republican nom-

See OBAMA, A7

Victim's two brothers testify in innocence hearing

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

Two brothers of the victim of a sexual offense testified in a Pitt County courtroom Wednesday, both denying she had ever been abused or assaulted.

Donald Reeves, 17, is the first family member to take the stand during an innocence hearing for his father, who was convicted in 2001 of taking indecent liberties with his then-6-

year-old sister.

Henry A. Reeves III served the sentenced 20 months in prison, but has continued to register as a sex offender. His case was picked up by the N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission, a non-advocacy group that considers claims of innocence based on evidence not presented during original trials.

A panel of three superior court judges overseeing this week's proceedings must agree unanimously at

the close of evidence to dismiss the charge, or the conviction stands.

Donald Reeves was questioned at length by defense attorney Ernest L. Conner Jr. and gave consistent answers throughout. Nothing ever happened sexually between his sister and their father, he said multiple times.

He also said the victim never mentioned anything sexual on the

See HEARING, A7

East Carolina student assaulted in dorm

The Daily Reflector

A Tennessee man remained jailed Wednesday after being arrested and charged with assaulting an East Carolina University student.

Michael Mewborn, 27, of 184 Sugar Plum Lane, Telford, Tenn., is accused of assaulting a female student in the lobby area of Fletcher Residence Hall, located on the west end of main campus off East Fifth Street, according to the ECU Police Department.

Police say Mewborn was stopped by three students who heard a commotion and came to the victim's aid. The students physically subdued the suspect and held him for police. The victim was treated for injuries received during the assault.

Mewborn was charged with one court each of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, assault by strangulation, kidnapping and trespassing. He is in the Pitt County Detention Center on a \$750,000 bond.

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N.C. Lottery numbers on Page A7

STORMY

Highs about 87; chance of a storm



STOCK MARKET

Dow, up 89.64
Nasdaq, up 20.49
S&P, up 10.15

TODAY ON reflector.com

HER MAGAZINE

Check out the new edition of Her magazine on reflector.com/her and on newsstands around Pitt County.



FROM THE PAST

Check out photos that ECU's Joyner Library has digitized from the Reflector collection. Click the link at reflector.com/news



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