

SPECIAL SECTION
Weekend getaways, mountains to coast



PANTHERS AT BUCS, 1 P.M.
Can Jared Allen pump up Panthers' pass rush? 1B



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

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Windy with rain
65°/58° See 20B

The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTEOBSERVER.COM



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A tree ripped through this house on Long Grass Court in northwest Charlotte on Saturday.

STORM

RAIN, WIND TO PERSIST ALL WEEKEND

President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency in South Carolina and ordered federal aid after rain and flooding on the coast Saturday. More than a dozen people were rescued from flooding in Myrtle Beach, and parts of Charleston were closed. Parts of the Charlotte region were hit with 6 inches of rain. Expect another 1 1/2 inches through Sunday. Flash flooding and high winds remain threats. **9A, 10A**



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Emily Troutman, 16, of Raleigh maneuvers a car through the course at BRAKES driving school, preparing for the unexpected on the road.

FORMER DRAG RACING CHAMPION DOUG HERBERT

Using his loss to reach, teach teens



Doug Herbert teaches teens to drive responsibly.

COMMENTARY BY SCOTT FOWLER



Two sons of former drag racer were killed in high-speed crash in Cornelius in 2008

Herbert's BRAKES organization has trained 17,000 teen drivers in hands-on crisis situations since

Class 'way more exciting than I thought it would be,' one teen says

He is 16 years old. He got his driver's license last month. And he is driving way too fast: 50 mph in a parking lot. Three other people are in the car, talking and laughing. An obstacle looms directly in front of him. Still, the teenager keeps his right foot smashed onto the gas pedal, accelerating to 60, then to 65 mph. Closer. Closer. "NOW!" the man in the passenger seat screams. The boy suddenly slams on the brakes, yanks the wheel hard to the right and misses the obstacle by inches. The people in the car cheer wildly.

SEE FOWLER, 8A

ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF TEENAGERS ARE KILLED IN CAR CRASHES EACH YEAR IN AMERICA AS THE NUMBER OF TEENAGE DEATHS FROM EVERY DISEASE AND ILLNESS COMBINED.



INSIGHT

5 CHANGES WHEN US AIRWAYS LEAVES

Ely Portillo: Though most of the work has been done behind the scenes, travelers will see a few changes when American Airlines retires US Airways on Oct. 17. **29A**

INVESTIGATION

Associates: Pittenger still involved in land business

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WASHINGTON

U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger has continued to play a role in the property-buying business he founded 30 years ago, although House Ethics Committee rules bar members of Congress from engaging in certain professions while in office.

Two investors told The Charlotte Observer that Pittenger has talked with them and others

about land deals, finding buyers for properties, and shaping the company's future. One investor said Pittenger told him that he can't lead the company but can serve as an adviser.

Pittenger confirmed in August that his former company is under investigation by the FBI but has denied any wrongdoing. The Charlotte Republican — like all House members — is subject to a separate set of ethics rules.

These rules prohibit House members from practicing fiduciary professions that involve managing others' assets, such as

law and real estate, because of potential conflicts of interest. Pittenger's undivided focus is supposed to be on the 800,000 constituents in the 9th Congressional District — not his private clients.

House ethics rules are complex, ambiguous and riddled with exceptions. The House ethics manual is more than 400 pages of rules and appendices. Tom Rust, staff director for the House Ethics Committee, declined to comment about Pittenger's case.



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U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger continues to play a role in Pittenger Land Investments, raising questions about House Ethics Committee rules.

SEE PITTENGER, 2A

TOP STORIES
STAY CONNECTED

LOCAL

North Iredell High roof collapse injures 25.

6A

BUSINESS

BofA customers love their drive-thru lanes.

13A

CAROLINA LIVING

Symphony trumpeter John Parker shines, at 23.

1C

STYLE

Evoke your creative identity.

6C

Books 12C
Business 13A
Classified 15B
Editorial 38A
Horoscope 11C

Insight 29A
Lottery 20B
Obituaries 25A
Sports 1B
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