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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Rescue Efforts Under Way

MOSCOW - An effort to evacuate the 116 sailors from a sunken Russian submarine in the Barents Sea is under way thanks to easing weather conditions, according to a report by CNN. Russian ships will attempt to lower a submersible sphere, capable of transporting 12 people at a time, that will attach to the sub at its entry hole. The submarine is trapped at a depth of 354 feet.

Problem Tires Were Made During Strike

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Many of the 6.5 million Firestone tires being recalled were made during a strike at the company's Decatur, Ill., plant, Ford Motor said. Of the recalled tires, the number of complaints was 10 times higher for the 15-inch ATX tires made in Decatur than for the Wilderness tires. Whereas few problems were reported with the ATX tires in 1991, the number of reported problems with tread separation spiked on tires made in Decatur in 1994. *The Washington Post* reported that six former Decatur plant workers claim questionable quality control procedures were used at the plant in the mid-1990s.

Gas Prices Fall an Average of 7 1/2 Cents

CAMARILLO, Calif. - The average price for a gallon of gas fell 7 1/2 cents over the past three weeks to \$1.53, continuing a decline from record levels reaching in June, says the latest Lundberg survey of 10,000 gas stations. Prices were down 17 cents in Chicago, 13 cents in Cincinnati and 31 cents in Detroit since the last survey, released several weeks ago. The national average has fallen 18 cents since June 23, when it reached \$1.71.

Patients Pay for Growing Drug Costs

Maybe you've seen your co-payment for prescription drugs rise in the past year, from, say \$5 to \$15 - or even up to \$25 per prescription. Get ready, because you soon may pay even more. Faced with rapidly rising spending on prescription drugs, employers and insurers are increasingly shifting the cost to patients: More employers are offering so-called "three-tier" insurance plans, which charge patients higher co-payments for expensive, brand-name drugs.

Man in Hockey Fight Case Indicted

WOBURN, Mass. - A man whose fatal fight with another parent at their sons' youth hockey game has been indicted on a manslaughter charge. Thomas Junta, 42, was indicted for the July 5 incident in which Junta and Michael Costin fought over rough play between their sons. Costin, the 40-year-old father of four later died at an area hospital. The death has become a national symbol of parental rage at youth sporting events.

NASA to Send Two

Landers to Mars in 2003
WASHINGTON - NASA, still recovering from back-to-back Mars mission failures, plans to double up on a 2003 landing expedition by sending a pair of wheeled robots to search for evidence of water on the Red Planet. Two spacecraft, each carrying identical roving robots, will be launched in 2003 and then bounce, 18 days apart in January 2004, to beach ball-like landings on Mars, agency officials said.

Margaret Carter selected to head Urban League



CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Margaret Carter has been selected to be Executive Director of the Urban League of Portland, according to an announcement today from Daniel Bernstine, Chair of League's Board of Directors. He said the Board's decision to appoint Carter was unanimous. "Margaret has done a truly outstanding job as interim directors for the League over the past 9 months," said Bernstine. "Her enthusiasm and energy continue to inspire all of us involved with the Leagues." Bernstine said that Carter and the board "Have been working hard over the last year toward several goals. We are excited about what has been accomplished and where we are headed." Two goals, which have recently been accomplished, according to Bernstine, are resuming control of the League's financial affairs and gaining approval from Multnomah County as a qualified vendor. "When the League ran into financial troubles last year, the Volunteers of America Stepped up to the plate and took over our financial accounting," Bernstine said. Bernstine said the League "... can now look to the future and focus on our mission of encouraging equal opportunity for African Americans and other in our city." Prior to heading the Urban League, Margaret Carter served in the Oregon House of Representatives for seven terms and was a counselor at Portland Community College where she established the Skills Center at PCC's Cascade Campus. Carter is currently a Democratic candidate for the State Senate from District #8. For further information, contact Margaret Carter at The Urban League of Portland (503) 280-2525

62 deaths said linked to tires

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has raised the number of deaths it believes are linked to Firestone tires under recall to 62.

NHTSA spokeswoman Liz Neblett said Tuesday the agency knew of 100 injuries related to the failures and has received more than 750 complaints. Last week, the agency said it was investigating 46 fatalities and 80 injuries related to the tires and had received about 270 complaints. Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. announced a recall last week of all P235/75R15 size radial ATX and ATX II tires, and Wilderness AT tires of the same size made in Decatur, Ill. Most of the 6.5 million 15-inch tires in question were installed on Ford trucks, notably the Ford Explorer sport utility vehicle.

Most of the reports of tire failure have involved tread separating from the tire, sometimes at high speed, causing blowouts and rollovers. Ford and Bridgestone/Firestone have not offered a theory for the failures, but have said hot weather plays a role.

John Lampe, executive vice president of Bridgestone/Firestone, said he couldn't comment on the numbers until he received more information about their makeup. He did say he was not surprised that NHTSA had recorded a growing number of claims. "Obviously as more media attention has been played on this more claims will become known," he said.

Lampe said the company was still investigating the cause of the complaints. Bridgestone/Firestone said Tuesday it would reimburse customers who had their tires replaced at Firestone dealers before the recall was announced, going back to Jan. 1.

The company also will reimburse customers up to \$100 per tire for customers who had tires replaced at retailers other than Firestone dealers between Aug. 9 and Aug. 16.

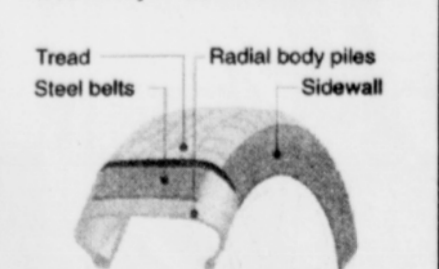
"We believe this is a simple and fair way to make things right for our customers," John Lampe, Bridgestone/Firestone's executive vice president, said in a statement.

The company also is running ads Wednesday in more than 40 major newspapers nationwide.

Safety advocates and attorneys on Monday urged Ford and Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. to broaden the tire recall, saying the same problems that have been reported with the 15-inch tires affect all versions of the three tire models.

Ford and Bridgestone/Firestone said their analysis of claims data showed the recall was sufficient.

As the government begins an investigation of complaints about falling Firestone truck tires, the company announced a recall on Wednesday of about 6.5 million tires.



Reports allege that the treads of some Firestone tires, similar in build to the one drawn above, peel away from the tire's body.

Called back

- 3.8 million Firestone radial ATX and radial ATXII size P235/75R15 produced in North America
- 2.7 million Wilderness AT size P235/75R15 produced at the company's Decatur, Ill., plant

Portland loses an old friend



Henry Weinhard and staff in the inaugural year of operation.

BY LORRAINE-MICHELLE FAUST
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

German-born, Henry Weinhard moved to the Portland-Vancouver area in 1856. Blitz-Weinhard began brewing in the northwest on April 1, 1856. It was the West's longest continuously operating brewery, until the Blitz-Weinhard brand was sold to the Miller Brewing Company in 1999. Miller will continue to produce Henry's, but they have moved production from downtown Portland to the Olympia brewery in Tumwater, Wash. Henry Weinhard's family ran the business until 1979, when it was sold to the Pabst Brewing Company. The Weinhard and Wessingers, Henry's son-in-law's family name, were very important businessmen and philanthropists in the Portland area. Their beers were most famous in the northwest. During prohibition business was hurt, but did not stop. It was then that they began brewing non-alcoholic beverages, including near beer and their famous root beer and cream soda.

The building complex were Blitz-Weinhard was located was purchased by Gerding/Edlen, the Portland development firm, in January 2000.

Gerding Edlen is about to take on the largest development project in Portland's history, including all five of the city blocks once owned by Blitz-Weinhard. The complex will

be redeveloped into office, retail and residential buildings. The Weinhard Brewhouse (12th and Burnside) and the malt and hop building (12th and Couch) will be preserved and renovated as historic buildings, along with the Portland Armory (11th) and the Automotive Garage (12th and Burnside).



The administrative office building the day before demolition was scheduled to occur.

PHOTOS BY LARRY JACKSON FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER