

May 29, 1985

Delinquent Tax Listings
—Pages 5, 6

Community
Calendar

WEDNESDAY, May 29, 1985

25¢

THE NEWS RECORD

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Madison High School will hold graduation ceremonies Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in O.E. Roberts Stadium

Walnut-Brush Creek CD To Meet

The Walnut and Brush Creek Community Development Clubs will have their meeting on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Walnut Missionary Baptist Church. All residents are urged to attend.

Hot Springs Board Meets Saturday

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet on Saturday, June 1 at 8 a.m. in the Town Hall.

County Commissioners To Meet

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet on June 3 at 1 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Mars Hill Board Meets Monday

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet on June 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

School Board To Meet June 5

The Madison County Board of Education will meet on June 5 in the Madison County Court House.

Phone Customers To See
\$1 Rate Hike For Long
Distance Service

Local telephone customers will see a small increase in their monthly bills next week when the second stage of increased access charges for long distance service go into effect. The latest increase will apply to residential customers only.

The access charge was instituted by the Federal Communications Commission following the break-up of the Bell System in 1984. The charges apply to all telephone customers throughout the country.

Turner Rogers, vice president of the Continental Telephone Co. of North Carolina (Contel) said that the charges were designed to pay for the

costs of maintaining the national telephone network. "Included in that cost are wires, cables, telephone poles, and the point in the phone company's central office where a customer's individual line is linked with the switching equipment. Before the breakup of the Bell System, much of the cost was included in long distance rates."

Rogers said that Contel customers will see their new \$1 fee on a separate line of their phone bill noted as an "Interstate Access" charge. June's access charge, Rogers noted, will be calculated retroactive to the first of the month.

Child Restraint
Law Is Passed

BY JOHN DRESCHER, JR.
News and Observer

Beginning July 1, all North Carolina children younger than 3 will have to be secured in a safety seat when they're taken for a ride in a car, and children at least 3 but younger than 6 will have to wear a seat belt if they're not using a safety seat.

The state House gave final approval Tuesday to a bill requiring the safety restraints for children. It voted unanimously to go along with Senate changes to a bill that already had passed both houses.

As originally approved by the House, the bill called for a \$10 fine for drivers found in violation of the law. But by a 105-0 vote, the House concurred with a Senate amendment that will allow a judge to fine violators up to \$25.

The new law will not apply to vehicles registered in another state. Children also can ride free of their restraints when their "personal needs" are being attended to.

Other exceptions are allowed if all seating positions equipped with child safety seats or seat belts are occupied, or if the vehicle does not have to be equipped with seat belts under federal law.

The law also will allow a driver charged with a violation for not having a child safety seat to escape conviction if he purchases a seat before his case goes to court.

The bill was passed a day after the House gave final approval to a bill requiring that all vehicles in which children are seated be equipped with

Rep. George W. Miller, Jr., D-Durham, the child restraint bill's sponsor, told the House that passage would show "a strong concern for the babies and children of our state...the most precious cargo of all."

Sen. Charles W. Hippy, D-Haywood, who sponsored a similar bill, worked with Miller to toughen the penalty. Hippy said in an interview he wanted to make sure that the penalty was "more than just a slap on the hand." The \$10 fine "was nothing more than a fancy parking ticket," he said.

But the House and Senate also agreed that a judge should be allowed to waive the penalty. "We're really trying to get people to get these restraint systems rather than paying a fine," Hippy said. "We're not trying to collect money. That's not the idea."

The current law, which went into effect on July 1, 1982, requires that children less than one year old be secured in a safety seat. Children at least one but less than two must either ride in a safety seat or have their seat belt buckled.

The law, which carries a \$10 fine for violations, was scheduled to expire on June 30.

Hippy said the law has been "very effective." The age limits were increased when the law came up for renewal in an attempt "to really do something with child safety," he said.

Statistics show that 85 percent of North Carolina children less than two years of age are involved in car accidents. Most accidents involving children are caused by seat belt violations.

Paroled Killer Found
Dead In Motel Room

By ROBERT KOENIG

A nationwide manhunt for a Madison County resident recently paroled from prison ended in the early morning hours last Thursday in Myrtle Beach. Karl DeGregory, 39, of Ivy Hill Rd. was found dead in a motel room alongside the body of a longtime friend he'd kidnapped on Wednesday from her home in nearby Conway, S.C.

Both DeGregory and the kidnap victim, Judy Collins, were dead from single gunshot wounds when their bodies were found in the Indigo Inn in Myrtle Beach.

Police report that DeGregory had burst into the Collins' Conway home on Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m., asking to use the telephone. After making a call, DeGregory shot Thomas Collins, 38, in the stomach and abducted Mrs. Collins. The couple's teenaged daughter was home at the time of the incident, but was unharmed.

Mrs. Collins' uncle had adopted DeGregory when the convicted killer was a child, police said.

DeGregory was convicted in 1973 for the March, 1972 double murder of Clovis and Mae Powell of Charlotte. A jury hearing the trial rejected DeGregory's plea of insanity and sentenced him to serve two consecutive life terms.

At the time of the 1973 trial, newspaper reports indicate

DeGregory had confessed to two earlier murders in Florida.

DeGregory was denied parole at hearings held in 1981 and 1982. In late 1982, however, the state Department of Corrections recommended that DeGregory be admitted into a work release program. At that time, he was transferred from a Mecklenburg state prison unit to Graggy Prison. He was later sent to the Madison County jail and was employed on the Zeno Ponder farm. He continued to work for Ponder following his release from prison for a time. At the time of his death, DeGregory was employed as a helper by Marshall painter Larry Chandler.

DeGregory called his landlady on Tuesday, telling her that he was going to move to the Wolf Laurel area, where he had found a new job. The terms of his parole ordered DeGregory to remain in Madison County. He apparently left the county sometime Tuesday before embarking on his spree of kidnap and murder.

News of the apparent murder-suicide brought a stern reaction from Mecklenburg District Attorney Peter Gilchrist, who as an assistant DA in 1973 prosecuted DeGregory on the double murder charges. Gilchrist asked for a State Bureau of Investigation probe of circumstances which lead to the convicted murderer's parole.

Cigarette Firms Offer
Tobacco Plan

BY A. L. MAY
News and Observer

A new cigarette industry proposal that would tie federal price supports and tobacco marketing quotas directly to the market has emerged in a meeting of tobacco companies, tobacco-state politicians and farm groups.

The plan, offered in the private meeting Tuesday by Lorillard, apparently has the backing of a majority of the companies, sources said.

The Lorillard plan would tie the federal price support formula to market prices starting in 1987 in such a way that the support level would remain 10 percent below the average prices for the preceding five years. According to tobacco experts, the formula initially would reduce the support price to \$1.36 per pound. Estimates show the support level would then rise to \$1.39 in 1988 and to \$1.42 in 1989.

The current support level is \$1.70 per pound. Under most plans for changing the tobacco program, the support level would be reduced to \$1.40 before a new price support formula would take effect.

The Lorillard plan also would establish tobacco quotas according to buying plans of the companies for the upcoming year and limit the discretion of the secretary of agriculture in establishing the quotas.

Meanwhile, Rep. Charles G. Rose III, D-N.C., who has not been involved in the negotiations for a legislative buy-out, is expected to introduce today a measure to fund the tobacco program with 2 cents of the existing 16 cents per pack federal excise tax on cigarettes. Rose is to be joined at an afternoon news conference by Sen. Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn.

Participants said that the Tuesday meeting, attended by all the major domestic cigarette manufacturers except Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co., was a step toward agreement on proposed legislation that would implement a company buy-out of the huge tobacco surplus that now drains the grower-financed program. Also attending were leaf dealers, representatives of burley and flue-cured cooperatives, representatives

of grower organizations in North Carolina and Kentucky and Sens. Jesse A. Helms, R-N.C., and Wendell H. Ford, D-Ky.

Most termed the meeting constructive and said the group agreed to meet again next week to continue negotiations.

Helms, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, played a major role in organizing the meeting. He said he was unsure when an agree-



UNCLE SAM AND THE STARS AND STRIPES lead the Memorial Day parade down Main Street on Saturday afternoon.

Changes In Store For Fall
Burley Sales

By GILBERT SOESBEE
The Newport Plain Talk

Changes may be in store for the Newport and Asheville burley tobacco markets when sales open this fall.

The major tobacco companies are cutting back on the numbers of buyers in the burley belt, forcing government officials to realign the assignments of buyers to the various markets. But officials say farmers need not worry about the change and it should not cause any problems in getting local burley sold.

"This is going to cause a lot of questions, if not complaints," said Bill Myers, at the Burley Stabilization Corporation office in Knoxville.

The proposals are already causing some complaints in Newport and other burley marketing centers. Local warehouse managers are reportedly opposed to the plan, as is the Newport-Cocke County Chamber of Commerce, which has written letters to federal officials asking them to reconsider their plans.

Next year, due to a reduction in the burley tobacco quota, the major tobacco companies led by R.J. Reynolds and Universal Leaf Tobacco Co. have been forced to reduce the number of buyers and graders assigned to the burley belt. The companies had assigned 73 sets of buyers to the burley market, but are reducing their staff to 60 sets.

Lionel Edwards, chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Tobacco Inspection Services in Washington, D.C., said the federal government was here to help growers deal with the surplus by the tobacco companies.

"If we do nothing, there will be 13 markets that will not have enough buyers to conduct a bona fide auction sale," Edwards said Friday.

The committee has been reviewing its options in recent weeks and has come up with a plan to regroup burley tobacco markets, which will share sets of buyers based on past sales history.

Newport and Asheville are grouped in the same market and will share three sets of buyers. This means that, based on past sales records, Newport will share one set of buyers with the Asheville market.

The immediate effect on the Newport market will be a reduction in the number of sale days per week, Edwards said. In the past, the Newport market has held four sale days each week during auction season, but that number would be reduced under the current proposal.

Some local people had understood that the sales week in Newport would be reduced to two days. They feared that would cause long delays in moving local burley from the warehouse floor if the current limit of 1,300 "picks" of tobacco were retained.

But Edwards said that is unlikely to happen. He said that the committee and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, who must approve the plan, will not accept such a proposal.

"I don't think the secretary will approve anything that would allow only two days of sales in Newport," Edwards said. "It would probably not have that effect, and we would increase the number of picks a market is allowed to sell."