

CAROLINAS
WATCHToddler killed
when he runs
into path of car

MARION — A McDowell County toddler died after being struck by a car backing out of a parking space.

Eighteen-month-old Grayson Tanner McGuire of Marion died Monday at Asheville's Memorial Mission Hospital.

The child was struck about 7:45 p.m. Monday in the First United Methodist Church parking lot on Roberts Street. Witnesses told police the child ran from behind some bushes into the car's path, said Marion police Officer Dean Allen.

Thomas Andrew Harrison, 31, who was looking over his right shoulder, did not see the child, who ran from the left, Allen said. No charges will be filed.

Grayson's memorial service is 3 p.m. Thursday at First United Methodist Church.

NORTH CAROLINA

Longtime inmate fasting as protest

RALEIGH — Frank Wetzel, in prison since 1958 for the killings of two Highway Patrol troopers, has been on a fast since Saturday, authorities said.

Correction: Department spokesman Bill Poston said the staff at Odom Correctional Institution in Jackson learned of the fast from other inmates. Wetzel, 70, was moved to a single-cell area, where he could be monitored more closely, Poston said. He is receiving attention from medical and mental health staff, Poston said.

The fast appears to be connected with his frustration over not being released from prison, Poston said.

The state Parole Commission earlier this year rejected Wetzel for release.

Wetzel is being monitored, but if his medical condition becomes serious "appropriate medical action will be taken," Poston said.

Wetzel was imprisoned March 22, 1958, on life sentences from courts in Lee and Richmond counties for the deaths of two troopers.

Man answering door at home is slain

STATESVILLE — An East Iredell man was shot to death early Tuesday when he answered a knock at his front door, said Iredell County Sheriff Clyde Lloyd.

Tommy Chambers, 36, of East Cloaninger Street opened his front door about midnight and was shot several times with a pistol, said Lloyd.

There have been no arrests. It was the third homicide in Iredell County this year.

Chambers' three roommates, Keith Knox, Joe Strickland and Ernest Strickland, told deputies they didn't see the person who fired at Chambers. Some of the roommates may have been asleep at the time of the shooting, Lloyd said.

Driver charged in bike rider's death

KANNAPOLIS — A Kannapolis motorist was charged Tuesday with misdemeanor death by vehicle in the traffic death of a bicyclist Sunday, a Kannapolis police spokesman said.

Larry Eugene Nance, 32, of 410 Triec St., Kannapolis, also was charged with failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, said Lt. Terry Fortson of the Kannapolis Police Department.

Steven James Niblick, 33, of 203 Oakdale Ave. was killed Sunday when his bicycle swerved into the path of Nance's car on N.C. 136 near University Drive in Kannapolis.

Nance was issued a criminal summons and released until a court appearance, which is likely to be scheduled for later this month or early in June, Fortson said.

If convicted, Nance could be sentenced to up to



DEIDRA LAIRD/STAFF

On the road

Jimmy Jones and his son, Jimmy, 2, take an afternoon ride in Columbia, N.C., on a warm Monday afternoon.

two years in prison on the misdemeanor death by vehicle charge and fined up to \$100 on the charge of failure to reduce speed, said District Attorney Bill Kenery.

Judge weighs rejection of evidence

A Mecklenburg judge will decide today whether to throw out prosecution evidence in the capital murder trial of a Huntersville man accused of raping and killing his mother last May.

Defense lawyers claim the evidence — clothes and credit cards found in a suitcase and toolbox — was illegally seized because police did not first obtain a search warrant.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against 35-year-old Timothy Fisher, who is accused of stabbing his mother to death and raping her.

Dorinda Fisher, 59, was stabbed once in the neck. Her body was discovered May 11, 1991, in the Huntersville home she shared with her son.

Also in North Carolina ...

The jury in the corruption trial of three black Winston-Salem leaders began deliberating the evidence in the case Tuesday.

Since the trial began in March, the government has tried to prove that political consultant Rodney Sumler, former Alderman Pat Hairston and Alderman Larry Womble were part of a network that plotted to extort money from businessmen who had contracts or zoning cases before the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen.

CHARLOTTE

Vinroot heads pit crew for 600 opener

The kickoff celebration for the 600 Festival, which leads up to the Coca-Cola 600 on May 24, is today starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Adam's Mark hotel in uptown Charlotte.

Race drivers Davey Allison and Dale Jarrett will attend the kickoff party, as well as driver Derrike Cope, Charlotte Motor Speedway Chairman Bruton Smith, Speedway President and General Manager H.A. "Humpy" Wheeler and Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot.

Highlight of the party, sponsored by First Union and WSOC-FM 103, is a pit crew competition between Jarrett's crew and a team headed by Vinroot. Tickets are \$25 each. For information, call (704) 377-0600.

SEE CORRECTION — Edited by Crystal Dempsey

Date 5/16/92 Page 2C

YOUR VOTE IN '92

NEWS NOTES

GOP avoids runoff
for lieutenant governor

Instead of seeking a runoff, Doris Huffman of Newton said Tuesday she'll support Art Pope in the Republican campaign for lieutenant governor.

"I am a competitor. I don't give up easily," said Huffman, a state representative. "My heart and my head kept beating."

Tuesday was the deadline to call for a runoff.

Huffman said she decided late Monday to back Pope, a state representative from Raleigh. Her overriding goal was "to assure that in November Jim Gardner would become governor of North Carolina," she said.

Pope and Gardner thanked Huffman during her news conference at Republican Party headquarters in Raleigh. Frank "Trip" Sizemore III of Greensboro, a former state legislator who finished third in the GOP primary behind Pope and Huffman, also said he would back Pope.

Pope finished with just less than 40% of the vote in the May 5 primary. Huffman had 31% and was eligible to call for a runoff.

Pope will face Rep. Dennis Wicker, D-Lee, in November. "We must stop the cycle of tax and spend, spend and tax," Pope said.

Runoff called in GOP superintendent's race

Vernon Robinson, a Winston-Salem State University business professor, called for a runoff against Teena Little for the Republican nomination for state superintendent of public instruction.

Robinson said he wanted to challenge Little, a member of the state Board of Education from

Southern Pines, to "debate school choice and the direction of the Republican Party of North Carolina."

Robinson has proposed slashing the central state office from 800 to 250 employees and has supported local textbook selection and allowing parents to choose their child's school.

Little has emphasized her contacts with educators across the state and said education would be improved with smaller classes, more local decisions and greater accountability.

The winner will challenge Bob Etheridge, the Democratic nominee and current state superintendent. In the GOP primary, Little won 35%, Robinson 33% and Tom Rogers 32%.

The runoff is June 2.

Jones, Washington in runoff in 12th District

George Jones of Raleigh will challenge Barbara Gore Washington of Greensboro for the GOP nomination in the new 12th Congressional District, which runs from Gastonia to Durham. Washington had 33% of the vote and Jones had 21%.

Jones said last week he would resign his state job to pursue the runoff. The winner will face Democrat Mel Watt.

In other runoff elections:

■ Republicans Don Davis of Erwin and Bill Israel of Wilson will square off for the 2nd Congressional District nomination. Each won 24%. The winner will face Democratic incumbent Tim Valentine of Nashville.

■ Democrat Eva Clayton of Warrenton will challenge Walter Jones, a state representative from Farmville, for the nomination in the new 1st Congressional District. Jones had 38% and Clayton 31%.

■ Republicans Charles Buchanan of Green Mountain and Gregg Thompson of Spruce Pine in state House District 46 will face each other in a runoff. Each won 20% vote. The district has two members and the other seat was won by incumbent David Flaherty Jr. of Lenoir with 29%. There are no Democrats running in the district.

Refocused doctor training backed

By KAREN GARLOCK
Staff Writer

U.S. medical schools need to put less emphasis on "high-tech" medical care and more emphasis on improving the health of all Americans, according to a proposal by leaders of 17 top academic health centers.

The challenge to medical schools is to "get back to some of the basics," said Dr. Alan Cross, director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Cross and his colleagues at Chapel Hill were among those participating in the five-year study, "Health of the Public," published in today's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The study was paid for by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Medical schools should ensure that doctors are trained in "population medicine," the article says.

That means training doctors to consider patients' social, cultural and economic situations when treating their medical problems.

"As more is understood about how a patient's lifestyle contributes to health or disease, it becomes clear that a physician's role is no longer simply to treat illness, preventing illness before it occurs is not a mandate of the profession," the authors wrote.

Cross said the idea is to get doctors thinking not just about the patients they see each day in their offices, but about the ones who fail to make appointments.

"My challenge would be that the physician should know what's going on with all those people that make up his practice," Cross said.

"He should be worried about the diabetic who isn't coming in for a visit and whose diabetes is out of control. ... He should ask how many people in his files have high blood pressure and don't know it."

Cross said doctors could put those files on computer and send postcards to each person over age 50 who hasn't been in for a checkup for more than three years.

Such a doctor would be "more oriented toward preventing diseases and less towards cure," Cross said.

Each of the 17 medical schools represented in the study has adopted new approaches toward teaching "population medicine."

At Chapel Hill, for example, starting in July all fourth-year medical students will spend a month away from the university working with a community-based doctor or in outpatient clinics in North Carolina.

Instead of concentrating on unusual diseases in patients who are referred to the university hospital, students will get a realistic perspective on more common health problems, such as high blood pressure, Cross said.

Agencies get IRS grant for aiding probe

By TED MELLNIK
Staff Writer

The Internal Revenue Service has given its largest-ever N.C. grant — more than \$300,000 — to recognize two Charlotte-area law enforcement agencies for their help in a video poker investigation.

The checks changed hands Tuesday. One for \$20,000 went to Mecklenburg ABC law enforcement. Another, for \$290,242, was for the state Alcoholic Law Enforcement (ALE) division.

Both agencies provided people and equipment in an October roundup of 178 video poker machines known as Operation Royal Flush.

Charles Beard, chief enforcement agent for the Mecklenburg ABC Enforcement Division, said it was his agency's first IRS grant.

"We designated it to be used for undercover vehicles," Beard said.

George Basnett, ALE district supervisor in Charlotte, said his

agency would use the money for radio equipment and undercover surveillance equipment.

The money is part of almost \$900,000 in property, equipment and cash the IRS seized in its probe of a Gaston County-based \$1 million-a-year video poker operation.

The investigation started last year after authorities concluded that the machines violated gambling laws. Three Gaston County men were charged.



GARY O'BRIEN/STAFF

Pomp and circumstance: The Rev. George Maize (right) of Jersey City, N.J., congratulates his son, Ezra Maize, who got a bachelor's degree in social work from Livingstone College.

64 graduate from seminary, Livingstone

Pastors

From preceding page

receive their degrees — as they did in 1989, when they graduated magna cum laude from Livingstone with sociology degrees.

Calvin Miller, pastor of Southern City Tabernacle A.M.E. Zion Church in East Spencer, first enrolled in Livingstone College in 1970 but quit to get married. Karen Miller is pastor at Davis Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Vale.

As they stood outside Varick Auditorium on Tuesday afternoon, the Millers were congratulated by

their daughters Jacqueline, 22, a social work major who just completed her junior year at Livingstone, and Pamela Mack, 24, who also attended Livingstone.

"I'm very happy for them," Mack said of her parents. "They've done a really good job and stuck it out."

JCSU honors publisher

Johnson C. Smith University bestowed an honorary doctorate degree of humane letters upon Rolfe Neill, chairman and publisher of *The Charlotte Observer*, during its commencement Sunday. JCSU President Robert Albright wrote in a letter to the nominating committee: "Rolfe Neill is a

staunch supporter and friend of JCSU. ... Further Rolfe is one of Charlotte's leading and most influential citizens."

Neill, who is serving as the chair of the Advanced Gifts Division of JCSU's Capital Campaign for the 1990s, also helped the university secure a \$100,000 Knight Foundation grant, which led to the construction of its Faculty Center.

Make It a Quick Sale.
377-5555

Observer Home
SECTION

Meet The Team
That Cares For You.

Caring for subscribers. That's what the folks on The Charlotte Observer's Customer Service team do best.

Wet paper? They'll send a dry one promptly. Going out of town? Delivery will stop and start on the days you request.

Every day of the year, people on our Customer Service team care for you. They're dedicated to providing the best service available.

Do you have a question or comment? Call 358-6000 or toll-free 1-800-532-5350.



The Charlotte Observer
Putting People In Touch