

Car damages dry cleaners



A two-car collision on South Broad Street in Mooresville during the rain last Friday caused minor damage to the front door (above) of Gene Brannon's Dry Cleaners, when one of the cars careened into the building. One of the two Mooresville drivers, Gertrude Curtis, 83, was unharmed, and the other driver, James Shafer, 32, was treated and released at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center. Police said Curtis was driving through the intersection of Mills Street and Broad Street and apparently didn't see the oncoming car driven by Shafer. Shafer struck Curtis' car and shoved it across the road (below) into the dry cleaning business. (Photos by Mitze Bender)



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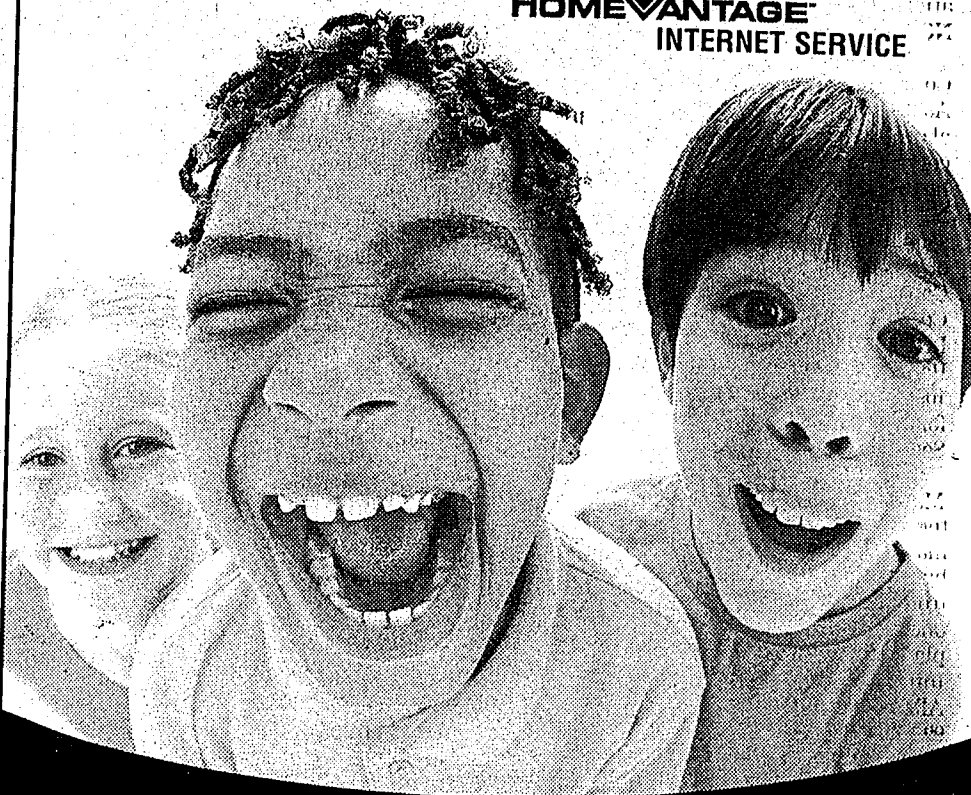


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Capital roll call

A look at how our area's state legislators voted in Raleigh during the past week.

N.C. House

HB553 — Military and War-time Veteran License Plates: Authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special license plate for U.S. wartime military veterans and for veterans of the armed services. Introduced by Rep. Cary Allred, R-Alamance. Adopted 109-4. Sent to the Senate for consideration. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

HB759 — Harley Owners License Plates: Authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a Harley Owners' Group special license plate. Introduced by Rep. Jennifer Weiss, D-Wake. Adopted 94-19. Sent to the Senate for consideration. YES: Mitchell Setzer, NO: Frank Mitchell.

SB137 — Private Correctional Officers: Authorizes private correctional officers who work at private correctional facilities that house federal prisoners in North Carolina to have the same powers of arrest and use of force consistent with North Carolina Department of Correction regulations. Introduced by Sen. Frank Ballance, D-Warren. Adopted 109-5. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

SB302 — Fishery Management Plan: Amends the process by which fishery management plans are revised by extending the time limit from once every three years to once every five years that the plans have to be reviewed. Introduced by Sen. Charlie Albertson, D-Duplin. Adopted 99-1. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

SB259 — Bond Dealer Restriction: Abolishes the restriction on dealers specializing in securities issued by churches within this state to be registered as a dealer only of church securities. Introduced by Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, R-Cabarrus. Adopted 108-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

SB277 — Community Development Exemption: Clarifies that the exemption for the offer and sale of stock of a community development corporation is allowed only for corporations that are organized and that operate to create a public benefit. Introduced by Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, R-Cabarrus. Adopted 101-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

SB299 — Workers' Compensation for Pickup Firefighters: Provides that pickup firefighters of the Division of Forest Resources are eligible for compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act. Introduced by Sen. Dan Robinson, D-Jackson. Adopted 110-0. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

SB397 — GED and Other Credit for Inmates: Permits a prisoner housed in a local confinement facility who attends classes toward a general education degree or any other education, rehabilitation or training programming to receive a

reduction in sentence of four days for each 30 days of classes attended up to the maximum credit already allowed under state law. Introduced by Sen. Frank Ballance, D-Warren. Adopted 74-36. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. NO: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

SB774 — Public Enterprise Customer Billing Privacy: Provides that billing information compiled and maintained by a city or county in connection with the ownership or operation of a public enterprise is not a public record. Introduced by Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland. Adopted 102-0. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

SJR1101 — Confirmation of Appointments: Provides for the confirmation of the appointments of James Yancey Kerr II and Michael Satterfield Wilkins to membership on the North Carolina Utilities Commission and the appointment of Robert P. Gruber as executive director of the public staff of the N.C. Utilities Commission. Introduced by Sen. R.C. Soles, D-Columbus. Adopted 99-0. YES: Mitchell Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

N.C. Senate

SB144 — Streamlines Sales and Use Tax: Enables North Carolina to enter the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax agreement in order to establish uniform sales tax definitions and to collect sales tax from out-of-state merchants who sell products to citizens of North Carolina. Introduced by Sen. John Kerr, D-Wayne. Adopted 33-14. Sent to the House for consideration. YES: Cal Cunningham, NO: Jim Forrester.

SB628 — Out-of-State CPAs: Requires out-of-state certified public accountants to notify the State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners when they perform work in this state and authorizes the Board to increase the fee for initial certification of qualification to a limit not to exceed \$150 and for renewal certification to a limit not to exceed \$100. Introduced by Sen. Dan Clodfelter, D-Mecklenburg. Adopted 46-2. Sent to the House for consideration. YES: Cal Cunningham, Jim Forrester.

SB1005 — Appropriations Act of 2001: Makes base budget appropriations for current operations of the state departments, institutions and agencies, and for other purposes. Introduced by Sen. Aaron Plyler, D-Union. Adopted 33-15. Sent to the House for consideration. YES: Cal Cunningham, NO: Jim Forrester.

HB78 — Grandparents as Supervising Drivers: Provides that grandparents may act as supervising drivers for drivers holding limited learner's permits. Introduced by Rep. Russell Tucker, D-Lenoir. Adopted 48-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cal Cunningham, Jim Forrester.

HB453 — Regulation of Emergency Medical Services: Establishes definitions for various emergency medical services personnel and creates credentialing requirements for those personnel. Introduced by Rep. Thomas Wright, D-New

Hanover. Adopted 48-0. Sent back to the House for concurrence. YES: Cal Cunningham, Jim Forrester.

HB436 — Electrolysis Board Fees: Authorizes the North Carolina Board of Electrolysis Examiners to establish new fees and to increase current fees. Introduced by Rep. Jennifer Weiss, D-Wake. Adopted 44-2. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cal Cunningham, Jim Forrester.

HB665 — Extend Limitations on Intentional Torts: Extends the statute of limitations for assault, battery and false imprisonment to three years in order so that the period of limitations of these intentional torts is as long as the period of limitations for unintentional torts. Introduced by Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange. Adopted 47-1. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cal Cunningham, Jim Forrester.

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State's safety drive Kicks off for summer

The N.C. Department of Transportation kicked off its annual "100 SAFE Days of Summer" program to increase safety awareness among employees. The program uses the acronym SAFE — Safety Awareness For Everyone — to help employees across the state become more aware and involved in safety issues — both on and off the job.

"Safety is our top priority all year, but especially during the summer months when more favorable weather means more activity for our employees," said Transportation Secretary T. R. Bickett. "The program encourages employees to practice safety on the job and to help employees with hazard recognition and steps to remove hazards from the work environment."

Safety bulletins and posters with on-and-off-the-job safety tips:

- Reemphasizing the department's workplace safety program;
- Encouraging employees to practice safety on and off the job;
- Items to assist employees with hazard recognition and steps to remove hazards from the work environment.

Highway safety issues. The program continues through Sept. 1. Tippet reminds motorists that highway safety during construction and maintenance work is a partnership between the traveling public and DOT employees. For more information, contact Bob Andrews at 919-250-4200.