

RALEIGH TO CLEAN UP

RALEIGH (AP) — The Legislature has enacted the biggest tax cut in North Carolina history, a \$124.4 million package combining relief for individual taxpayers with business incentives that Gov. Jim Martin says are inadequate.

"All we're doing is nitpicking and trying to please everyone, and I think we didn't please anyone," said Sen. Cass Ballenger, R-Catawba, after the bill received final approval Monday.

But Democrats said their plan was

fairer than Martin's, which called for elimination of the intangibles and inventory taxes and the state sales tax on food and non-prescription medicines at a cost of \$258.1 million in 1986-87 and \$489.1 million by 1988-89.

Under the compromise bill, the cut will reduce state revenues by about 3 percent, costing \$124.4 million in fiscal 1986-87, \$163.3 million in 1987-88

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Safe, With Father

HILLSVILLE, Va.—A child presumed kidnapped from his mother a week ago has been found with his father in Mount Airy, according to police here.

Jason Alexander Austin, the 3-year-old son of Debra Austin, disappeared from the Hickory Hills Shopping Center on U.S. 58 July 1. Mrs. Austin reported that the child had been kidnapped, and witnesses

described a couple in a black four-wheel drive vehicle who had taken the boy.

Hillsville police received word during the weekend that the child has been with his father, Nallie Austin, in Mount Airy.

Austin said that he was with the couple who took the child, and that

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...not airo by an Iraqi missile today in the Persian Gulf, shipping sources said. Lloyd's of London said the 392,799-ton M. Vatan was the largest ship ever attacked in the Iran-Iraq war "and possibly the largest marine casualty ever in tonnage."

Reports of the attack came shortly after Iraq announced that its warplanes raided a "very large maritime target" near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

The vessel, classified as a very large crude oil carrier, put out a distress signal at about 7 a.m. and reported that it was "on fire".

blacks in clashes in a black township east of Johannesburg today on the day of a funeral for four other blacks killed in previous rioting, authorities said.

The violence broke out in Kwa-Thema, about 30 miles east of Johannesburg, police headquarters in the capital of Pretoria said.

Chuckle

The quickest way to find a lost item is to buy another one just like it.



Participants in TCN sweep up near basketball courts.

Local Youths Taking Active Role In Improving Virginia St. Neighborhood

By JENI GRAY
News Staff Writer

The basketball court at the Madoc Center on Virginia Street here is the last thing youths in that neighborhood say they have to enjoy.

But after a local project is completed, the youths should have not only a better place to play ball, but a sense of pride in their community.

Work that began last week to rejuvenate the neighborhood surrounding Virginia Street is part of a state and federally funded Total Child Network (TCN) program.

"The program is called TCN because as well as recreation, we work with the children on verbal

input, attitude, self-image, cooperation and demonstrate how to go about working out their differences," said Paula Larke, who was instrumental in getting the program started.

The letters also stand for "Taking Charge of the Neighborhood," the main thrust of the project.

Larke, who recently completed a year with Surry Community College as its artist-in-residence, said she had become concerned since her arrival here of the disrepair of some neighborhoods.

Her work began with a plea to older residents to support a clean-up campaign. But she wasn't having much luck until one youth stepped

forward and said that the neighborhood basketball court is the one thing the youths had, though it was not in good condition.

Larke said the kids agreed to clean up the area and maintain it if the city would provide new backboards and repave the court.

They signed a petition that was taken to city officials, who have since agreed to provide those services, and neighborhood kids began work last week with shovels, brooms and anything else that could be used to clean up their community.

"I'm trying to tell them to write, not fight," commented Larke.

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accesses along the property, noting that there are no outlets in the city property.

"There will be fifty more units to burden the road with traffic,"

Youths

The Madoc community center is located in a predominantly black community, but problems that have resulted in the area's deteriorated state around Virginia Street were not black-white problems, according to Larke.

"The problems that have developed stem from people not respecting themselves and taking their frustration out on someone else," she stated.

Larke said problems that continue have been linked to a group of adults and older teens who gather around the basketball court in the evenings, drinking and breaking bottles. Litter also is a major problem, she said.

"But we're not going to give up — we're going to continue to ask people to cooperate with the kids," she commented.

"It's going to be a slow process, but I hope that by personal communication between the neighbors and me and the (Mount Airy) Housing Authority, even if it means calling a city council meeting, we can promote a feeling of pride in the community."

Positive Reinforcement

Larke said she is using a point system to promote the program with the youths — they will be awarded a different number of points for acts of cooperation, consideration and voluntary work.

At the end of the summer, the five

said.

"The best and highest use (of the property) will be industrial purposes."

Simpson contended Monday that

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with the most points will be taken to the Water Country amusement park in Greensboro.

Funds for the program were provided by the county Juvenile Justice Task Force for a two-month period. But the organization agreed that as more funds come in, TCN will continue throughout the school year, according to Larke.

She said Virginia Street was chosen because "there is still a sense of history, tradition and community spirit — which is how the Madoc center was built in the first place."

"But perhaps we can do it in some neighborhoods where people don't get along with each other," she added.

Larke noted that she got word in May that the funds were being awarded, and several organizations and individuals have taken part in the project. The Surry Arts Council, Reeves Community Center, Surry County Extension Service and the Mount Airy Public Library sponsor activities for the youths one day a week.

Larke said that Mount Airy Mayor Maynard Bearer, Dobson Town Manager Bob Comer and the Dobson and Pilot Mountain recreation departments also played a part in getting the program going.

"I especially want to say that Polly and David Long (two local residents) are largely responsible for helping me stick to my idea and

show also raised a question of the safety of mobile home parks in industrial areas, which are their prime locations, and asked Thompson to look into a zoning

push it through — it sometimes seemed real easy to just give up," she said.

But Larke did not give up, and neither have the kids who are participating in the TCN program.

As one youngster, working in 80-degree heat near the basketball court said last week, "We're going to get this fixed back up nice for a place for the kids to play — it's hot, and it's hard work, but we can do it."

"We can do anything we set our minds to do."

Larke said that volunteers to help in crafts, work in other activities and make donations are still needed for the ongoing success of the program.

Tax

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and \$171.5 million in 1988-89.

The Senate passed the bill 39-7 without debate. Minutes later, the House gave the bill final approval 90-0.

The bill slashes the inheritance and gift taxes drastically, while the intangibles and inventory taxes will undergo more modest reductions. Everyone earning \$15,000 or less gets an income tax cut. There are small tax breaks for working parents, farmers and the elderly.

The votes culminated months of debate sparked by the election of

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him.

"I've got to get insurance, go to Dobson, get my tags, explain why I let my insurance go dead and find some way to get to work this afternoon," he said Monday.

"It's the biggest mess I've ever seen," Tolbert added.

There was no answer at Gordon's office this morning when efforts were made to reach him by telephone.

Boy

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the youth had not been "abducted," according to Hillsville authorities.

The incident reportedly has left Hillsville police confused about who to believe in the matter because the parents, who are separated, are giving conflicting reports about the incident.

No charges have been filed and the child remains in the custody of his father.

Gordon has been in the insurance business since 1957, and opened his own agency in 1974.

The agency offered a complete line of insurance coverage including life, casualty and fire protection.

Shultz

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during the recent dry season offensive.

Vietnam invaded its neighbor Cambodia in 1978, ousted the Khmer Rouge Communist regime and set up a pro-Vietnamese government headed by Prime Minister Heng Samrin.

The United Nations refuses to recognize the Heng Samrin and instead views the Cambodian resistance groups, headed by former Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as the legitimate government of Cambodia. The Sihanouk-led coalition includes the Khmer Rouge, the non-communist Khmer Peoples' Liberation Front and Sihanouk's forces.

Moving against the resistance this year, the Vietnamese have destroyed

Weich said he asked the FBI for assistance and police settled in for a long wait. Eventually more than 75 law enforcement officers from five towns in Rockingham County, the sheriff's department, the State Bureau of Investigation and a tactical strike team from the Greensboro Police Department were on the scene.

every border guerrilla camp and driven some 230,000 Cambodians into Thailand.

The residents of Site 7 are not considered refugees eligible for resettlement in third countries, but instead are "displaced persons" who Thailand said it would send back to Cambodia when it is safer.

Cambodian camp chief Thou Thon told Shultz a bill before the U.S. Congress that would provide \$5 million in aid to two non-communist Cambodian groups fighting the Vietnamese gave the refugees great hope. The residents of Site 7 are followers of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Pork

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that has helped sustain the Jewish people in a centuries-old struggle against assimilation and persecution by anti-Semites from the Roman Empire to Nazi Germany.

Secular Israelis regard the measure as one more example of religious coercion and an infringement on civil liberties that threatens the fragile status quo between the religious minority and the secular majority.

"It contradicts the very basis of individual freedom," said Avishai Ya'ar, a philosophy student who was

interviewed while eating a pork steak in a Tel Aviv restaurant. "If the religious want to make symbols out of everything — then not at my expense."

On this issue the Orthodox have won the backing of leading politicians. The reason: small religious parties have the power to tip the balance between the two major political blocs, Prime Minister Shimon Peres' left-leaning Labor party and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's conservative Likud bloc.

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