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## State News Briefs

Posted: Wednesday, July 05, 2000

Man charged with felony for 'citizen's arrest'

McDONOUGH - A Henry County man faces felony charges for making a "citizen's arrest" of four teen-agers the man suspected had broken into his house.

Robert Bradley Meadows, 30, says he came home from work at 3:30 a.m. after his wife called and found his front door pried open and cash and jewelry missing. When he saw boys at the end of his driveway suddenly take off running, Meadows chased them in his Jeep.

The boys, all 14, told police Meadows was waving a gun when he forced them into his Jeep and drove them back to his house, where he made them sit on the lawn while he called police.

Meadows denies having a gun. His attorney, Barry Hazen, says he was only trying to protect his wife and two small children.

"He was making a citizen's arrest," said Meadows' wife, Tanya.

Meadows has been charged with four counts of false imprisonment, a felony, in the June 24 chase. He was freed from jail on \$15,000 bond.

- Associated Press

Carpet mill fire called suspicious

ETON - Investigators said a fire that damaged part of a northwest Georgia carpet mill Tuesday appears to be "very suspicious," although it has not been ruled an arson.

The fire, reported by a 911 call about 7 a.m., damaged the northeast corner of a Mohawk Industries carpet mill in Eton, a small town in northern Murray County.

The fire apparently started in a storage area of the mill, said Glenn Allen, a spokesman for the state fire safety commissioner's office, which is helping Murray County firefighters investigate.

"This fire is very suspicious," Allen said.

Smoke and water damage to the building and its contents was estimated at \$25,000. Calhoun-based Mohawk is one of the country's largest carpet manufacturers.

- Associated Press

#### Judge dismisses driving school's lawsuit

MARIETTA - A judge has dismissed a lawsuit by a private driving school that sued the Cobb County school system because it offers driver's education at a cheaper rate.

Barry Schrenk, president of Taggart's Driving School, had argued that the school system's ability to offer low-cost driver training through a non-profit program amounted to unfair competition.

Superior Court Judge Mary Staley rejected Schrenk's claim. In her ruling June 29, the judge noted that parents requested the school driver courses after several local teen-agers died in wrecks.

The school system's one-week program, which includes six hours behind the wheel, costs students \$195. Taggart's charges \$379 for the same amount of instruction.

- Associated Press

#### Wheeler commissioners reject recycling plant

ALAMO - Wheeler County commissioners have rejected an Atlanta-area company's plans to build a huge recycling plant near the Little Ocmulgee River as inconsistent with the county's solid waste management plan.

The vote Monday was the first official action taken on the proposal submitted two years ago by the Tucker-based ENRE Corp., which wants to build a \$750 million facility it says can process 6,000 tons of raw garbage each day.

Despite the promise of hundreds of jobs, critics say the plant will lose money and pollute the nearby river. Jeff Davis County said no to ENRE in 1988, and Johnson County rejected the idea eight years later.

ENRE needs Wheeler County commissioners to send a letter of compliance to state environmental officials before it can get a permit, but the commissioners have refused.

In response, the company filed suit in Superior Court to force the commissioners to approve the proposal.

However, county officials concede that Monday's vote is likely to do little to discourage ENRE. County Attorney Tom Everett told the commissioners to be prepared for a long fight, no matter which way the court rules.

- Associated Press

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