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The Primaries

Who won what -- and why -- in the aldermanic races.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

VOL. XII NO. 5

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, September 26, 1985

35 cents

30 Pages This Week

"I'm a grassroots worker. They're like my extended family. I love my ward."
-- Alderman Vivian Burke

Vivian Burke: It's no surprise

By ALLEN H. JOHNSON
Chronicle Executive Editor

An analysis:

Every red hair on Vivian Burke's head lay dutifully in place.

She smiled broadly, held her head back regally, and enunciated like a linguist while holding court, stressing each syllable when she spoke.

The syllables flowed Tuesday night during the celebration of her third term as Northeast Ward alderman.

"Y'all will have to wait for the queen," one of Mrs. Burke's campaign staffers, Theldora Small, had said as a crowd of reporters gathered outside and a crowd of supporters waited inside for the victor's entrance at the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge on 14th Street.

When she finally arrived, the reporters rushed to her car and Mrs. Burke, fashionably late and resplendent in a blue dress with white stripes and two white carnations, accepted her landslide victory in stride. More syllables flowed.

"I'm not surprised," she said of her 1,572-567



She knew she'd win all along, Mrs. Burke said following her victory (photo by James Parker).



Johnson: Win or lose, he gave it his best, and the constituents benefited (photo by James Parker).

victory in what was supposed to be the closest of the aldermanic races. "I knew more than they (the skeptics) knew."

Inwardly, however, only one word with one syllable probably came to Mrs. Burke's mind, and it is pronounced "Whew!"

The incumbent had been in a fight, and she probably knew it.

Challenger Victor Johnson Jr. forced Mrs. Burke to battle him sign for sign, radio commercial for radio commercial.

More than \$4,000 was spent by both sides in one of the most expensive aldermanic campaigns in Winston-Salem's history.

Mrs. Burke said her campaign had raised so

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The incumbents survive in aldermanic primaries

Burke, Hairston, Womble among winners

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The incumbents held their ground in Tuesday's aldermanic primaries, among them Vivian H. Burke, who decisively topped challenger Victor Johnson Jr. in the Northeast Ward.

In the Northeast Ward, where no incumbent seeks re-election, Patrick L. Hairston swept aside all comers.

"There won't be many changes this year," said Mayor Wayne Corpening as he watched the results at the Board of Elections. Corpening, who will serve a third term barring a successful write-in challenge in November, faced no Democratic or Republican opposition in the primary.

In the Northeast Ward, incumbent Mrs. Burke scored a surprising landslide victory over Johnson. Mrs. Burke, who will run unopposed in the general election in November, won a third term with 1,572 votes to Johnson's 567, beating Johnson even in his home precinct.

In the North Ward, NAACP President Patrick L. Hairston garnered 77 percent of the vote to handily win the Democratic nomination. James Knox beat Diana Williams-Henry 51 votes to 21 to earn the Republican nomination.

In the Southeast Ward, Alderman Larry W. Womble won his second term, winning 81 percent of the vote.

Incumbent Martha Wood in the Northwest Ward beat her Democratic competitor, Thomas Brame, winning 88 percent of the vote. Mrs. Wood faces Republican Brian Miller in November.

In the race for South Ward alderman, every vote was counted before a winner could be determined. But, because incumbent Ernestine Wilson could not garner 51 percent of the vote, she faces a second primary with Frank Frye. Mrs. Wilson totaled 45 percent of the vote to Frye's 40 percent. James Kennedy, the third can-



Hairston: A victory hug (photo by James Parker).

didate in the South Ward Democratic primary, won 14 percent of the vote.

The Democratic turnout in Tuesday's primary ranged from 29 percent in the Northeast Ward to 13 percent in the South Ward. Only 6 percent of the registered Republicans voted in the predominantly black and Democratic North Ward. Citywide, only 8.4 percent of the total registered voters voted.

As expected, the heaviest voter turnout was in the Northeast Ward, as Mrs. Burke overwhelmingly won every precinct in the ward. Mrs. Burke's largest margin of victory came at the St. Stephen's precinct, where she won 382 votes to Johnson's 120. The closest precinct battle was in Mineral Springs, where she totaled 222 votes to Johnson's 145.

The victory came as no surprise, Mrs. Burke told reporters en route to her victory celebration.

"I am the alderman, and I have the pulse of the people," she said. "I was talking to

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New YMCA: Dramatic increase in members, but more are needed

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The Winston Lake Family YMCA has enjoyed a dramatic increase in membership, say YMCA officials, but it still needs more members to offset higher operating costs.

"We're getting there," says Brian Cormier, general director of the Metropolitan YMCA, which governs Forsyth County's YMCAs.

In five months of operation, the new Waterworks Road YMCA has increased its membership from fewer than 100 to more than 1,000.

However, Cormier and Norman Joyner,

the Winston Lake YMCA's new executive director, say approximately 2,000 members will be needed to defray higher expenses.

"It will take that many members to give us the kind of support needed to operate a facility of that size and magnitude," said Cormier. "We aren't there yet, but that's not unusual."

According to a member of the Winston Lake Y Board of Management, the facility is operating \$30,000 in the red. Cormier confirmed that there is a deficit, but said it can be erased in time.

"The original projections (membership figures) and budget anticipations were too

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Little says Tisdale cares little about black-on-black crime (photo by James Parker).

Hunt Defense Committee: Tisdale has made deals

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The district attorney made deals with the perpetrators of two black-on-black crimes in exchange for their testimony against Darryl Eugene Hunt, said members of the Hunt Defense Committee at a press conference last Friday afternoon.

Hunt, 20, was found guilty of the murder and rape of former newspaper copy editor Deborah Sykes and sentenced to life in prison in June.

District Attorney Donald K.

Tisdale last week dismissed common law robbery charges against Johnny Gray (also known as Johnny McConnell), a key state witness in the Hunt trial. Gray was charged with robbing Robert Latham Davis, 85, of \$480 on Feb. 5.

The week before, Cary Hall, charged with assault with a deadly weapon for shooting Sammy Lee Mitchell, Hunt's best friend, was released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond. Hall was a potential state witness in the

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The primaries' aftermath: Exultation and bitterness, joy and pain

By DAVID R. RANKIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Patrick Hairston doesn't wear his patented warmup suits that much these days.

The local NAACP president turned candidate for North Ward alderman sported a gray suit Tuesday night, tastefully coordinated with gray shoes, a conservative blue-and-gray tie and a blue shirt.

Equally low-key was his entrance into his campaign headquarters on Patterson Avenue. Flanked by supporters Walter Marshall and Bill Tatum, as well as present North Ward Alderman Larry D. Little, Hairston looked sullen, even downcast.

Then he erupted, "I won!" and the place erupted.

Hairston had turned back a crowded slate of opponents to win

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the Democratic nomination for the seat Little has chosen not to seek again this year in favor of law school.

In most of the other races in which the incumbents chose to stay, however, newcomers were treated rudely.

Only 8.4 percent, 6,633, of the 78,145 registered voters in the city went to the polls Tuesday. Many of the challengers said the low tur-

nout helped spell their defeat.

In the North Ward, where he had been endorsed by incumbent Little, Hairston took a landslide victory with 77 percent of the vote.

"We carried our fight to the people, and they responded," Hairston said. "I'd like to thank the people who had the faith to vote for me."

But Hairston said the race isn't over yet. He faces North Ward Republican nominee James Knox in November's general election.

Knox defeated North Ward Republican candidate Diana Williams-Henry 51 votes to 21, while Hairston received 1,016 of the 1,389 Democratic votes cast in the ward.

Little said he was happy that Hairston won and that Hairston

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