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32 Pages This Week

Thursday, June 1, 1989

Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XV, No. 40

A jail is a jail?

Commissioners plan to present site proposal to Task Force, Goler Church

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Opinions are mixed among East Winston residents concerning a county jail to be built on 6.5 acres in that community. Some community members, led by Alderman Virginia K. Newell, held a "mass meeting" Wednesday night to outline a plan of strategy in opposition to the jail site.

However, Clark S. Brown, owner of a funeral home and neighbor to the proposed new jail, summed up the community's sentiments.

"No one, of course, wants a jail right in the backyard of where they live or work," said the owner of Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home at 727 Patterson Avenue. "Several people have come and talked to me about it, but you're at a disadvantage, I mean how can I

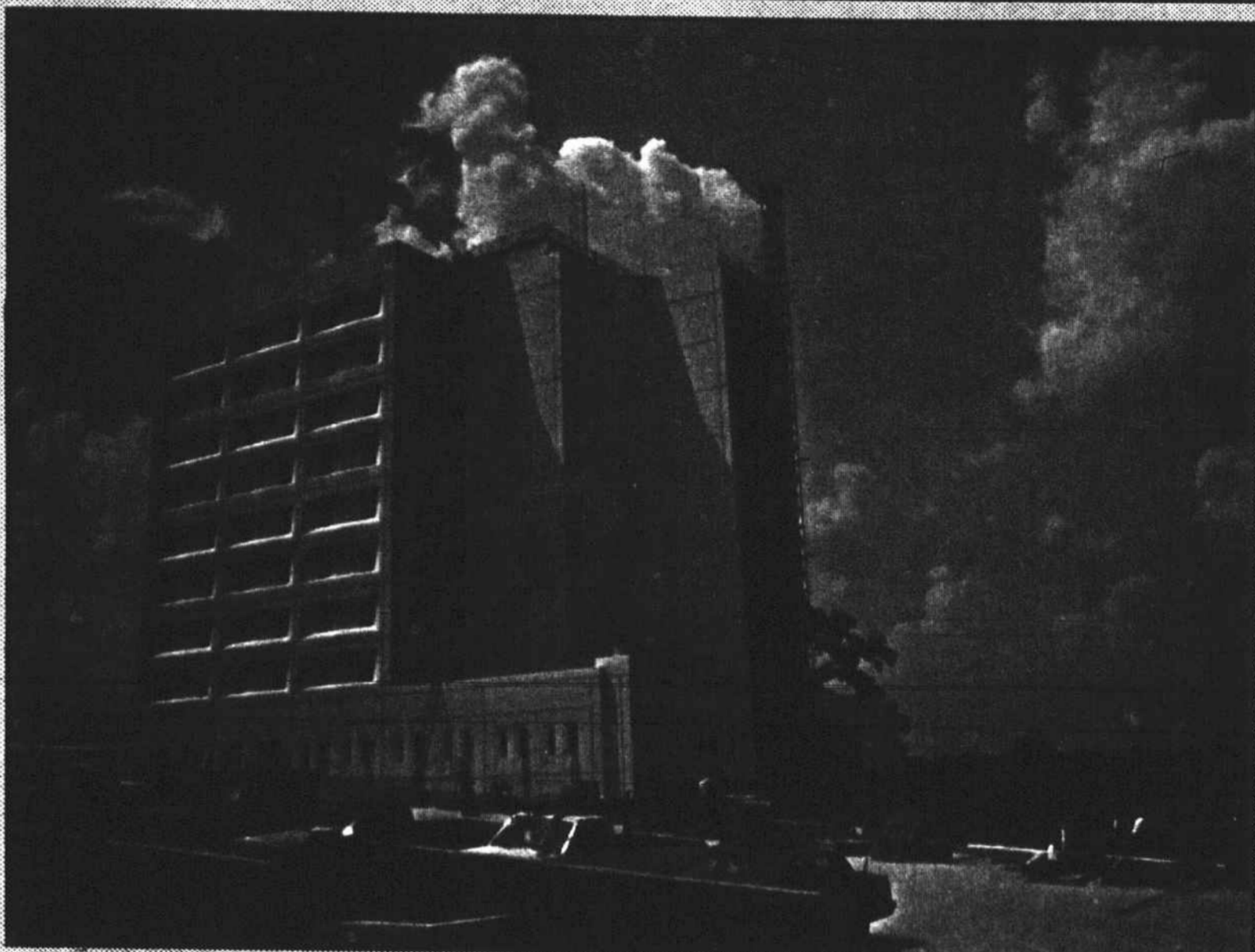
say, how can I tell someone else what to do with their own property."

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. announced May 12 that it will donate the land off Patterson Avenue to the county for a new jail and sheriff's department complex. The land is bounded by Eighth Street on the north, Seventh Street on the south and the Norfolk and Southern Railway on the east.

Alderman Newell has opposed the jail's new location since the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners first considered the land in East Winston. She opposes the location for a number of reasons, she said.

"Number one, a jail has no business being in a residential community," Mrs. Newell said. "A jail either ought to be downtown, for security reasons, or out

Please see page A3



Above is a portion of the \$31 million jail/court complex under construction in High Point. Photo Courtesy of the Forsyth County Managers

Versell Fuller files Chapter 7

From Chronicle Staff Reports

Faced with civil lawsuits totalling \$170,000, attorneys for Versell McDaniel Fuller filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition Tuesday.

Mrs. Fuller, of 6635 El Rancho Road in Rural Hall, was charged last year with four counts each of larceny and forgery. She had been accused by four former employers of stealing more than \$200,000 worth of personal property from them.

Mrs. Fuller's trial on the charges in April 1988 resulted in a hung jury and was declared a mistrial by presiding Judge Thomas Seay.

In August 1988 Mrs. Fuller's attorney, Douglas Miller, and District Attorney Warren Sparrow agreed to a plea bargain. Mrs. Fuller was allowed to plead "no contest" to four misdemeanor charges.

Mrs. Fuller was ordered to pay restitution to her accusers, Mrs.

Please see page A9

Helms wants Jackson to repay Fayetteville businessman

RALEIGH (AP) -- A Fayetteville businessman who chaired Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign in North Carolina has turned to Sen. Jesse Helms for help in getting Jackson to repay a \$25,000 debt.

Marion Rex Harris, a black businessman, said his main complaint is with Jackson's staff.

"Jesse has given directions to his staff many times to pay me," Harris said, but the loan never has been repaid.

Helms, R-N.C., a critic of Jackson, urged him in a letter last week to "work out this situation"

with Harris.

"I am exploring whether a private relief bill is appropriate," Helms told Jackson in his letter.

The senator's staff released the letter to The News and Observer on Tuesday.

Harris said in an interview Tuesday that he and his wife had loaned \$25,000 to a Jackson-related group in 1984, when Jackson returned from Syria, where he had secured the release of Navy Lt. Robert O. Goodman Jr.

Goodman's jet was hit during a bombing attack on Syrian anti-aircraft positions in Lebanon's central

mountains. He was captured by Syria and held as a prisoner of war for a month.

Harris said that Jackson aides had sought the funds to pay hotel expenses in Syria. The Syrian government had covered the hotel costs, but Jackson insisted on reimbursing the Syrians.

Harris said he wanted to help Jackson and the Goodman rescue effort, and was told by Jackson aides that he would be repaid within 10 days. The loan, which he and his wife made from their savings account, "was stupidity," he said.

Jackson and his spokesman

could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

In a 1987 letter to Jackson, marked "personal and confidential," Harris again asked for repayment and said, "I am writing this letter with a great deal of hurt and feel a great deal of disrespect from you and your staff."

Harris sent a copy of the letter to Helms May 8.

Two months ago, Harris wrote to Navy Secretary William Ball, asking the Navy to hold a fund-raiser to repay his \$25,000. A Navy official wrote back, suggesting that Harris ask his senator or

representative to offer "a private relief bill" in Congress. That's when Harris wrote to Helms.

Harris has switched his voter registration back-and-forth between the Democratic and Republican parties. A former Democrat, he became a Republican and was named to the N.C. Board of Transportation under GOP Gov. James Hofsousher. He said Tuesday that he now is a Democrat.

Harris said he is not a major supporter of Helms, but added, "I have a deep respect for Senator Helms."



Marion Rex Harris

Ohio Congressman Lukens convicted of sex charge

By BETH GRACE
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- U.S. Rep. Donald Lukens was convicted Friday of having sex with a 16-year-old girl whose mother accused the congressman of offering a government job to buy her silence.

Hours after the verdict, one Ohio congressman called for Lukens' resignation, but an aide predicted he would seek re-election next year.

"I think he should do the gentlemanly thing and resign," said Rep. Chalmers Wylie, the senior Republican among Ohio's congressional delegation. Lukens also is a Republican.

A jury deliberated for 1 1/2 hours before finding Lukens guilty of contributing to the delinquency and unruliness of a minor, stemming from an incident last Nov. 6. The misdemeanor carries a maximum sentence of 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Lukens stood still, his hands pressed on the defense table and his mouth slightly open, as Franklin County Domestic Relations Judge Ronald Solove read the verdict.

The 58-year-old divorced congressman from Middletown was indicted Feb. 23, about three weeks after Columbus television station WSYX broadcast a secretly recorded videotape that

appeared to show Lukens offering to find the girl's mother, Anna Coffman, a job. She had gone to the station to get help and agreed to the secret taping.

On the tape, the woman asked Lukens why he was "messing around" with her daughter, Rosie. Lukens replied, "Well, first of all, I didn't really know she was a teen-ager."

Toward the end of the tape, Lukens said, "Let me go back (to Washington) and see what there is part-time and ... (inaudible). ... I don't know what, uh, the government has, but I can check and find out."

Mrs. Coffman testified that the offer was to try to buy her silence,

while Lukens called it an extortion attempt.

Rosie Coffman told reporters she was pleased with the verdict.

"I'm happy to see justice is done," she said. Asked if she hated Lukens, said said, "No, I don't hate him. I don't hate anybody."

A misdemeanor conviction does not automatically trigger an Ethics Committee investigation or bar a member from sitting in Congress. The committee does have the option of investigating such cases and recommending action such as censure.

Solove delayed sentencing pending the completion of a presentence investigation.

Lukens declined to comment on the verdict before he left the courthouse through a private hallway and elevator. His chief of staff, William Jarrell, said he planned to make a statement next week about his personal and political future.

"The congressman will be spending some quiet time, speaking to family and friends to get a lot of opinion and advice," Jarrell said. "But I'll say this, we will be running."

Lukens was first elected to the House in 1966, serving two terms before dropping out to make an unsuccessful bid for the Ohio gov-

Please see page A9

2nd plaza planned for E. Winston Charlotte businessman to aid local effort

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A proposed two-story, \$3.1 million facility slated for East Winston would feature the community's first sit-down cafeteria, a meeting center, professional office and retail space according to William T. Brandon, developer of the Eastway Plaza.

In addition, Mr. Brandon said, the facility would increase the city's tax base by some \$2 million annually and provide about 140 new jobs.

Mr. Brandon has solicited the help of Charlotte entrepreneur John William McDonald to lend his business expertise to the project and to open a

McDonald's Cafeteria in the plaza. The Afro-American-owned cafeteria is known throughout Charlotte and surrounding areas as one of the best places to eat in the state, Mr. Brandon said.

Eastway Plaza will be located on approximately 9.27 acres of land behind Wachovia Bank & Trust's East Winston branch and is bounded by Mt. Zion Place, Graham Avenue and New Walkertown Road. It will be similar, in concept, to Coliseum Park Plaza located at the corner of Pilgrim Court and Coliseum Drive. That plaza features a K&W Cafeteria, a video rental store and several specialty boutiques.

Please see page A9

