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Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Choice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1994

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle"

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75 CENTS

Family Mourns Death of 6-Year-Old

▲ Police search for black sport-utility vehicle in hit-and-run accident on Thurmond Street.

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

Little 6-year-old Rhashard Armod Scott dreamed of one day playing football. He would have gotten his chance this summer as a member of the Tiny Indians, his father, Thomas "June" Warren, said.

But yesterday Warren sat numbly in the living room of his wife's apartment at Happy Hill Gardens trying to make sense of why Rhashard had been run down a day earlier by

a hit-and-run driver.

"Sometimes when something bad happens," he said, "it's really something good that comes from it. It's another test that Satan is taking me through. He's trying to destroy my family and my faith. But I'm going to keep on fighting for the Lord. I can't give up. I know I'll see him again one day."

Sgt. J.R. Moser of the Winston-Salem Police Department said Rhashard was struck by a small, black sport-utility vehicle, probably a Suzuki or Chevrolet Geo, in the 1600

block of Thurmond Street about 3:30 Tuesday.

"He literally ran out in front of the suspect's vehicle," Moser said. "We really need everybody's help in solving this thing. It's a tragedy for that 6-year-old boy to be struck like that and the person not even stop."

Moser said the driver definitely knew that he hit the child. He said the truck, which had silver wheels and a silver wheel in the rear, suffered extensive damage.

Warren said his nephew called him at his

job, a Liberty Street barbershop, and told him that Rhashard had been hit by a car.

"I had to leave a customer in the chair," he said. "I told him he had to find someone else to finish him. I had to go."

He said his nephew told him that Rhashard "was laying in the street with a hole in his head."

Rhashard would have been a second-grader at Old Town Elementary School. War-

see FAMILY page 3



Rhashard Armod Scott

DSS Case Workload Exceeds Guidelines

▲ Department to add six new case workers

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The six new employees that will be added to the staff of the child-support enforcement office at the Department of Social Services will put a minor dent in the child-support enforcement officer's case overload.

That case load in Forsyth County is the highest among the state's largest counties and is currently almost five times what the federal government recommends.

"We are happy to get the six, but it's not going to be nearly enough to provide the level of service

see DSS page 3



The Penn family — Jayne, Casaundria, Lawandria, Waddell and Anthony — have been writing for years and they often complement each other when looking for subjects about which to write.

The Writing Penns

▲ Writing comes easily to the Penn family

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Writing has always come easy for Jayne Penn.

For that matter, the same is true for her daughters, son, sister, nieces and nephews.

Her twin daughters, Casaundria and Lawandria, are award-winning speech writers; oldest son, Waddell, is an aspiring songwriter.

The 16-year-old twins, who attend Forsyth Country Day, said speech writing comes easy for them because of their method.

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Salisbury NAACP Issues Caution About New Superintendent

▲ Says although Martin worked well with the African-American community, blacks should not get lax

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

A community activist in Salisbury said Winston-Salem's new city/county school Superintendent Donald Martin is sensitive to the black community, but warned African Americans not to become complacent.

Tommy Hairston, president of the Salisbury branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said Martin has had a good relationship with the NAACP, but that the group has had to push for equality.

"I think you will find him willing to put

forth an effort to be fair, but that doesn't mean the black community should sit back on the laurels and hope for something to happen," Hairston said. "You've got to get out there and make sure it happens."

Hairston said the Rowan-Salisbury school system has few minorities in administrative positions and throughout the entire school system. He said the school system has been slow in eliminating the disparity, but Martin shows willingness to work with black students and putting minorities in the system.

"To my knowledge nothing new has



Donald Martin (l), new superintendent,

been added to the curriculum, but some high schools have black-history clubs," Hairston said. "He has a lot of innovative ideas and

has become more involved and sensitive to the black community."

Rowan-Salisbury school system has 17,500 students, of which 24 percent are minority. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system has 38,000 students and nearly 38 percent are minority.

The school board chose Martin on Friday and signed him to a four-year contract worth \$95,000 a year. He begins working Aug. 8. Martin replaces Bob Coble who left the school system in February for a position with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Coble's salary was a minimum

of \$121,000 and could have reached \$150,000 with extra incentives.

Martin said he plans to take the first six months to meet with community leaders and visit all 57 schools in the system. He said he wanted to understand the different concerns of the school board and the African-American community and bring them to an accord.

"I want to understand the dynamics better," he said. "I think it's important to listen to the school board and their priorities, which might be different from the priorities of the African-American community. I

see NAACP page 3

GOP Commissioners Oppose Program for At-Risk Kids

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Forsyth County Republican Commissioners Peter Brunstetter and Richard Linville voted against the county budget last week because they opposed setting aside \$650,000 for a program to help "at-risk" 4-year-olds prepare for kindergarten.

Commissioner John Holleman Jr., a Democrat who proposed the program, said it will help these youth prepare for kindergarten and give them a better chance to succeed in the school system and not enter behind their classmates.

"By third grade it's too late," Holleman

said. "By then you can usually identify who's going to drop out of school and who's going to be a problem in society."

He said many youth who enter school unprepared usually drop out, and many of them end up in the criminal-justice system.

"I see it all the time," Commissioner Earline Parmon said.

Parmon is executive director of LIFT Academy, a program that attempts to educate students who have been suspended from the regular school system.

"If children are not dealt with early, by the time they get to LIFT it's too late," she said. "Sometimes leadership must take a stand and implement things that are better for the

community."

The proposal initially called for \$1.1 million to support the program from January to June. Holleman suggested taking \$350,000 from the school system's appropriations and the rest from certain items within the budget.

Brunstetter said he supported the concept, but didn't feel comfortable approving it because all of the pros and cons had not been viewed, and it had not been thoroughly "shaken out in the public process."

In a presentation to commissioners during budget hearings last week, Holleman cited three pilot projects in Winston-Salem and other statistics that showed students who enter early-education programs fare better in the

school system. One project he cited was a program at Latham Elementary School. Scores of the 16 students at the beginning of the program showed a significant increase by the program's end.

Holleman said there are more than 800 children in Forsyth County who could be labeled "at risk" and could benefit from this type program. Children who enter these type programs have a better chance to emerge from poverty-stricken environments.

"The educational system is the pipeline to help break the cycle of poverty," he said.

Linville said his biggest problem with the

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This Week In Black History

June 24, 1968
Resurrection City closed.
More than 100 residents
were arrested when they
refused to leave.



WHERE TO FIND IT