



Ben Piggott thanks Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church's Tim Byer for helping the Sims Center and Happy Hill Reunion honor Rev. William Brown.

Happy Hill reunion planned for weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Former residents from near and far are expected to turn out this weekend for the Ninth Annual Happy Hill Reunion, which will take place at the William C. Sims Recreation Center on Friday, July 12, and Saturday, July 13.

The main speaker for this year's reunion is Sam Davis. The Chronicle's sports editor and former Happy Hill Gardens resident, who will speak at the weekend's kickoff function on Friday at 7 p.m. The honorees for this year's reunion are Beverly Funches Williams, Rev. William Brown and the Happy Hill Community Association.

Donté Lemon will be the youth singer for Friday's event. The HAWS Ensemble will also provide entertainment on Friday night.

Robert Cunningham, Happy Hill assistant director, will address the residents and bring them up to date on the changes and viewpoints of the community.

On Saturday, there will be a peace parade, peace balloon lift-off as a community vigil and motivational words from youth leader Stuart Eaton of Union Baptist Church. There will also be a softball game, bingo games, balloon game, swimming at the community pool and prizes. Various vendors will also sell their wares.

Ben Piggott and Rock Biting, the event organizers, said they are very excited about other activities scheduled for the day. An outstanding lineup of entertainment is scheduled. That lineup will include Joe Robinson, the New Jerusalem Male Chorus, Fantasia, Gerald "The Pearl" Robinson, The Inspiration of Faith Choir, Pastor Dawkins, Peace of Mind Choir, Bless the Children & New Life, the Precision Ensemble, the Boss Drummers, Sonja Nicole Winestaff, Shirley Mosley, Code Red, the Second Calvary Praise Team and the Happy Hill Talent Show. Thankful Heritage will have its portable museum on display.

"There is just so much that we

have lined up for this year's reunion," Piggott said. "We think this is going to be one of the most memorable ones that we have had. We look forward to having the speakers and the entertainers coming. Everyone is invited to attend."

Sam Davis was born and raised in Happy Hill Gardens and attended the community schools, Diggs Elementary and Anderson Junior High. From there he accepted an academic scholarship to attend Masconomet Regional School in Boxford, Mass. After his graduation in 1976, he attended Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pa., on an academic scholarship.

He returned to Winston-Salem in 1981 and began a brief career in the concert promotion business. He later studied mass communications at Winston-Salem State and was editor-in-chief of the New Argus. That led him to pursue a career in journalism, first with the Winston-Salem Chronicle and then the Winston-Salem Journal. After several years in private business he returned to the Winston-Salem Chronicle as sports editor in 1995 and still serves in that capacity.

Davis has also been active in youth and high school sports for more than two decades. He began his coaching career with the Tiny Indians organization before becoming an assistant at R.J. Reynolds High School. He has also served as an assistant coach at Parkland and Carver high schools.

In 1999 he became head coach and athletic director at LIFT Academy and successfully started the school's athletic program. His teams at LIFT compiled a 15-9 record in 2 1/2 seasons before the school closed. That includes an 8-2 mark in his first season.

Davis is also an ordained minister and chairs two national committees with the United Church of Jesus Apostolic.

Davis has won numerous awards in the print media. He earned second place for sports writing in the N.C. Press Association's 1999 contest and earned third place in the news category during the 2000 contest. His sports section has been named Best Sports Page by the National Newspaper Publishers Association in five of the past seven years, including the most recent one held last month in Miami.

NAACP: Congress failing on civil rights

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
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WASHINGTON — As Republicans and Democrats heat up their battle for control of the House and Senate, an NAACP report card shows that nearly half of members of the U.S. Congress have still failed on civil rights issues, with only one Republican receiving a grade higher than an F.

Six months after the organization's midterm report card for the 107th Congress, 217 of the 435-member House and 50 of the 100-member Senate received F's on a special "Convention Edition" report card issued recently during the NAACP's 93rd Annual Convention in Houston.

The overall report shows a razor-thin improvement over the one issued in January. It reveals that more than half the members of Congress, including 52 senators and 226 representatives, were given F's. The final NAACP Report Card for the 107th Congress will be issued in



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December.

The NAACP, a nonpartisan organization, grades on issues related to education, foreign affairs, discrimination, economic justice, health care, civil liberties, criminal justice and election reform.

The grading scale, based on the percentage of votes cast in agreement with the NAACP, is as follows: A, 100-90 percent; B, 89-80 percent; C, 79-70 percent; D, 69-60 percent; F, 59-0 percent; and I for incomplete.

The new report card comes as lawmakers engage in races across the country in a struggle for control of both houses. The election will be Nov. 5. Democrats hold a 50-49 majority in the Senate with one independent. House Republicans hold a 222-211 majority with two independents.

Despite the Bush administration's aim to reach out to black voters in its attempt to help Republicans win in the fall, the report card will likely bolster the black vote for Democrats. The grades show that Democrats overwhelmingly vote in support of civil rights issues while Republicans appear to be anti-civil rights. Rep. Connie Morella of Maryland is the only Republican in the entire U.S. Congress who earned a grade above an F, while 76 Democrats earned A's. Morella got a D with 61 percent.

Senate and House leadership grades also show stark contrasts. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and Majority Whip Harry Reid (D-Nev.) both got A's while Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Assistant Minority Leader Don Nickles (R-Okla.) both got F's.

In the House, Majority Leader Richard Arney (R-Texas) and Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) both got F's. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) got an A and Minority Whip Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) got a B.

"It's so important that NAACP members see for themselves how our senators and representatives are doing on those bread-and-butter civil rights issues of the NAACP," said Hilary Shelton, director of the organization's Washington bureau and its primary lobbyist on Capitol Hill. "Very clearly, so much more work needs to be done for the overall Congress to understand the importance of civil rights issues and concerns of (the) African-American community."

who hopes to encourage citizens from becoming discouraged over the current redistricting dilemma.

McGee, a Democrat, will square off against Jim Bob Campbell, Clarence Moody and John Polite.

Ada Fisher, a Republican trying to replace Jesse Helms in the U.S. Senate, has been campaigning full speed ahead and says that she was not bothered at all that the election was postponed. Fisher said that she takes every chance to "shake hands and hold babies" at any Republican function she can attend.

"I am going to campaign day in and day out until the election," said Fisher, who also expressed her disappointment with the election process, calling it "undemocratic and open to the highest bidder."

Fisher believes the election process should be put in the hands of the people because "North Carolina has to decide what it wants."

Until that time arrives, Fisher says, she will continue to do what she is supposed to do: campaign.

Fisher will have to beat Republicans Vinkat Chaffa, Timothy Cook, Elizabeth Dole, Jim Parker, Douglas Sellers and Jim Snyder in the primary.

Cooper said that a decision on a primary date could come as soon as July 8.



Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.), a former actor, received one of the lowest grades from the NAACP, as did many other of his Republican colleagues.

Only one Senate Democrat and seven House Democrats got F's. The F Democrat in the Senate is Zell Miller of Georgia with 61 percent. His counterpart, Max Cleland, got an A. The F Democrats in the House are Collin Peterson (Minnesota); Ronnie Shows and Gene Taylor, both of Mississippi; Bill Lipinski (Illinois); Bud Cramer (Alabama); Ken Lucas (Kentucky); and Ralph Hall (Texas).

Also as usual, House Republican Conference Chairman J.C. Watts, the only black Republican in Congress, was among those with F's. He voted with the NAACP 22 percent of the time, a slight improvement over his midterm 21 percent. Watts has announced that he will not run for re-election, causing Republicans to work extra hard to maintain their House majority.

Another who showed improvement is Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont, who won accolades from many liberal organizations when he switched his party allegiance from

Republican to independent in the spring of 2001, tipping Senate power to Democrats. Jeffords, who got an F after he voted correctly 55 percent of the time, went up to a D this time with a score of 67 percent.

Not surprising, a strong majority of the 38-member Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) got A's. They got 22 A's, 10 B's and three C's. The three C's are Sanford Bishop (Georgia), Carrie Meek (Florida) and Juanita Millender-McDonald (California).

Ironically, Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who received this year's NAACP Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest award for civil rights, got a B with 89 percent, the first time he has ever received lower than an A in his 16 years in Congress. That's mainly because Lewis, a pioneer civil rights veteran, voted against the NAACP once and missed another key civil rights vote.

"In the instance where he voted against us, final passage of election reform legislation, only 63 members supported the NAACP position and opposed the final legislation," the report card notes. The report card says the missed vote was on a motion for acceptance of Senate language creating a permanent Violence Against Women Office. The vote was 416 to 3.

Two CBC members — Dels. Donna Christ-

ian-Christensen and Eleanor Holmes Norton — are non-voting. Rep. Dianne Watson (D-Calif.) received an I for incomplete because her term began in June of 2001 after the 107th Congress had begun. She replaced Julian Dixon, who died of a heart attack on Dec. 8, 2000.

Only 10 senators and 20 representatives received grades of 100 percent, including seven CBC members.

Receiving 100 percent in the Senate were Maria Cantwell (Wash.), Hillary Clinton (N.Y.), Jon Corzine (N.J.), Richard Durbin (Ill.), John Kerry (Mass.), Patrick Leahy (Vt.), Patty Murry (Wash.), Jack Reed (R.I.), Paul Sarbanes (Md.), and Paul Wellstone (Minn.).

Scoring 100 percent in the House: Tammy Baldwin (Wis.), Xavier Becerra (Calif.), Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Michael Capuano (Mass.), Barney Frank (Mass.), Gerry Kleczka (Wis.), Jim McDermott (Wash.), James McGovern (Mass.), Grace Napolitano (Calif.), John Olver (Mass.), Ed Pastor (Ariz.), Lucille Roybal-Allard (Calif.) and Hilda Solis (Calif.); also, CBC members John Conyers (Mich.), Danny Davis (Ill.), Earl Hilliard (Ala.), Donald Payne (N.J.), Bobby Scott (Va.), Maxine Waters (Calif.), and Mel Watt (N.C.).

Sen. Corzine, in the second year of his first six-year term, said his 100 percent A rating is a reflection of his commitment to justice. He said although he has not intentionally sought out the NAACP's positions, "I do believe what the NAACP stands for and what I stand for are the same."

Citing the need to eliminate racial profiling, predatory lending and the need for access to capital for African Americans, Corzine said he recognizes that such things don't come easily. "It has taken patience and perseverance to be able to accomplish those things that are of importance to our country," he said.

With two senators from each state, there were nine instances in which one senator got an A and the other an F.

The lowest scorers in the House and Senate are all Republicans: James Inhofe (Okla.), Trent Lott (Miss.), Fred Thompson (Tenn.) and Strom Thurmond (S.C.), all of whom voted with the NAACP only 12 percent of the time or less. In the House, they were Dave Camp (Mich.), Chris Cannon (Utah), Michael Collins (Ga.), Phil Crane (Ill.), Barbara Cubin (Wyo.), Vito Fosella (N.Y.), Wally Herger (Calif.), Duncan Hunter (Calif.), Jim McCrery (La.), Charlie Norwood (Ga.), Charles Taylor (N.C.), and Don Young (Alaska), all of whom voted with the NAACP only 17 percent or less of the time.

Primary

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Parmon, have also been expressing their desires to have questions answered and issues addressed regarding the state budgetary crisis.

"People want to get some stability and certainty overall. People look at me more than a candidate and expect me to have more answers...I don't have any more definite answers than anyone else," Parmon said.

Parmon will face Democrats Annette Beatty, Mische Binkley and George Bryan in the primary.

Apparently the candidates aren't the only people feeling like sitting ducks over the postponed primary. Officials at the Forsyth County Board of Elections office are waiting for the green light from the Justice Department, which will make the final judgment concerning district lines, to proceed with election preparations.

Kathie Chastain Cooper, director of elections for the Board of Elections, says that, like the candidates, the Board of Elections is just as frustrated over the matter. Cooper, who has been with the board since 1974, said she has never worked an election under these conditions before.

"(Board of Elections) has never had this situation before.

(The situation) is unknown to all of us and we will have to figure out what we're going to do once we get the primary date. We're going to have to shorten some of the time schedules for the election...I know the candidates are out there waiting, but we're just frustrated as everybody else."

Charles McGee's sheriff campaign committee has been hard at work on his behalf while he served duty in the Naval Reserve in Florida for much of the first half of this year. McGee says he stayed abreast of events back home via e-mails and the Internet, but was still shocked by the court's decision to postpone the primaries.

McGee, who has been back since the early part of June, has been actively campaigning since his return from Reserve duty and, like Parmon, intends to boost the morale of the voters by reminding them every chance he gets that an election race is in progress.

Recently, his position as assistant sheriff for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department was eliminated as a result of state budgetary cutbacks. McGee says he has even more time and energy to focus on encouraging people to vote for him.

"I've got to give people a reason to vote...We still have (a) race to run," said McGee,

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