



The Rev. Kelly Carpenter speaks at a news conference on Monday.

# CHANGE touts nonpartisan school races as a big win

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

An initiative started by CHANGE (Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment) two years ago, has received the OK from the N.C. General Assembly.

Lawmakers voted this week to make school board elections in Forsyth County non-partisan, meaning candidates will not be identified as Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Independent. The county is one of the last in the state that still holds partisan elections for its school board.

Democratic members of the Forsyth County Delegation spearheaded the move in the General Assembly. On the House side, Reps. Larry Womble and Earline Parmon sponsored the bill, while Linda Garrou pushed it in the Senate.

"Children should not be subject to political decisions when it comes to education," declared Womble at a celebratory news conference held by CHANGE on Monday. "It's more fair, it's more equitable, and it speaks to the issues in front of us."

The first nonpartisan school board elections will be next year. Although CHANGE had won support for its nonpartisan push from residents (the group collected more than 10,000 signatures) and Democratic lawmakers, members of the Republican-heavy school board have not been fans of the idea. At a CHANGE forum two years ago, Republican school board members Marilyn Parker and



Brown

Jill Tackabery would not give solid commitments to the group to push for nonpartisan races. Even Vic Johnson, one of the three Democrats on the nine-member board, isn't happy about the change. Nonpartisan races, he says, will hurt African-Americans' chances of getting elected.

"I'm concerned about the blacks that come after me. What chance will they have?" he questioned. "I just don't see what we (African Americans) are getting out of it."

Johnson, a member of the school board for the past 12 years, says he and his fellow members have always run based on the issues that the school system faces, not their party affiliation.

"That's what we've done all along," he declared. "If you've been in politics, you've been running on issues."

The board's only other African-American member, Geneva Brown, a former educator, supports the change.

"Over the years, it's been easier for people to run because they're in certain parties. This kind of opens it



Johnson

up for all people," said Brown, who has served on the board since 1992. "I really think we will get a lot more (high) caliber of people running for the board (now)."

CHANGE has maintained that partisan school board races have allowed candidates to run based on their party, since many vote a straight-party ticket, and not the issues that they plan to address within the school system.

"I, for one look forward to some issue based campaigns instead of incumbent silence," declared Walt Joyce, co-chair of CHANGE's School Board Election Reform team.

Sandra Mikush, the other co-chair of the team, ran unsuccessfully as an unaffiliated school board candidate in 2006. She says the change will make all those running for the board better, stronger candidates.

"We don't want school board campaigns ... that don't take the time to engage with us as citizens and talk about what's important for our schools," she said.

"The music by Wallingford Riegger is so dramatic and sweeping. Just listening to it without the dance you get taken up by the music. Giving the dancers in our department the opportunity to work with such theatrically rich music I know will pull them along with their movement."

This summer, Cyrus will research the dance, including attending classes at the Martha Graham Center in New York City. During the fall, he will teach Graham's technique and history

to dance majors and hold auditions for the cast. In the spring, he will guide rehearsals, performances and outreach, including presentations to dance appreciation and dance history students about "Steps" and Graham. Crockett plans to spend more than two weeks in Greensboro during the spring semester, leading



Graham

## Cyrus

from page A8

Cyrus picked "Steps" after consulting with Katherine Crockett, a principal dancer with the Graham Company who will visit the campus in the spring. A landmark work by a pioneer of modern dance, it is inspired by devastation, homelessness and exile, themes readily grasped by dancers and audiences alike. That accessibility is critical, Cyrus said.

"Maybe you've not seen dance before. We want you to be able to come see it and not be alienated," said Cyrus, a dancer in the Graham Company from 1990-93. "Sometimes dance in its more intellectual form can be too distanced from the general populace. Graham, particularly 'Steps in the Street,' is accessible."

The driving music was another factor in his choice.

intensive rehearsals. Next summer, Cyrus will complete a DVD and other summary materials about the project.

Cyrus is the founder and director of Cyrus Art Production - www.cyrusartproduction.com - an organization that presents dance and theater in unique and thought-provoking cultural events. As well as Martha Graham Dance Company, he has performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, "The Lion King" (original London cast), "Carousel" (U.S. tour) as well as directing domestic and international tours with Cyrus Art Production.

UNCG is offering additional opportunities to appreciate Graham's legacy in the coming year. The Graham Company will perform in Aycock Auditorium Oct. 24 as part of the University Concert and Lecture Series. That same week, the Department of Dance has scheduled Janet Eilber, Graham Company artistic director, to present the annual Lawther Lecture.

## Credit

from page A4

"A credit score can help provide a much clearer picture about where you stand," Butterfield said. "And when your personal information

has been compromised, it's only fair that you should have as clear and complete a picture as possible."

The bill that will be debated by the full House Committee on Energy and Commerce does not include the credit score provision.

Butterfield plans to revisit the issue when all members take up the issue. He has already won the support of U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), the chairman of the subcommittee, who has pledged to work with Butterfield to include the requirement.

## Pregnancy

from page A7

your body.

**Dad's health** - It is important for your partner to take care of himself as well. Exercising, eating right, stopping smoking and drinking, eliminating exposure to hazardous substances, and having a physical exam that includes testing for STDs are some of the health-related issues he should consider.

### Getting Pregnant

Knowing when you are ovulating (when the ovary releases an egg to be fertilized) is key to getting pregnant. According to the American Pregnancy Association, most women who have regular menstrual cycles (28-32 days; Day 1 is when you start your menstrual period) are fertile for about 3 days between days 11 and 21 of their cycle. This is usually around Day 14. There are ways of knowing when you are most fertile by using a basal body thermometer or looking at your cervical mucus. Your basal body temperature will go up when you ovulate, so if you track your temperature each day during your cycle, this can help you know when you ovulate. When you ovulate, your cervical mucus will become abundant, slippery, clear, and very stretchy, like egg whites. Track your cervical mucus

each day, by gathering some with your finger, and this can help you know when you are ovulating. Most women have about a 25 percent chance of getting pregnant each month. The American Society of Reproductive Medicine recommends women consult their health care provider if she is: 1) under 35 years old and has been trying to conceive for more than 12 months, or 2) over 35 years old and has been trying to conceive for over 6 months.

### Signs of Pregnancy

The most common sign of pregnancy is missing one or more consecutive periods; missed periods can also be caused by other health issues, however, so it is important to see your health care provider to diagnose the cause. Other signs and symptoms of pregnancy may include:

- Nausea or vomiting (morning sickness)
- Sore breasts or nipples
- Fatigue
- Headaches, dizziness
- Food cravings or aversions
- Mood swings
- Frequent urination

As soon as you think you are pregnant, you should see your health care provider to begin prenatal care, to give you and your baby the best chance for a healthy pregnancy.

### First Trimester

According to the National

Institute of Child Health and Human Development, during the first month of pregnancy, your baby's brain, spinal cord, heart, digestive system, and other organs begin to form and by week five, baby's heart will begin to beat. As the trimester moves forward, baby's umbilical cord will form, as well as fingers, toes, nails, and nerves. Towards the end of the first trimester, the gender of the baby will become apparent.

For the mother, you may continue to notice many of the symptoms listed above, though it is important to remember that every woman experiences pregnancy differently. You may have many of the symptoms or none at all. It is also important to remember with regard to nausea and vomiting, if you are unable to eat or drink for 24 hours, you should call your health care provider.

- Contribution by the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity

Do you need further information or have questions or comments about this article? Please call toll-free 1-877-530-1824. Or for more information about the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, please visit our website: <http://www.wfbmc.edu/minorityhealth>.

## TEAM UP

from page A1

embark on a barrage of outings.

"It's gonna be amazing; I can't wait," Sanders declared. "I think it's pretty nice for somebody to give me the opportunity to learn something new that I can share with other people."

TEAM UP participants hail from five counties in the area. All have participated in the Department of Social Services' LINKS program, which helps them prepare for independence when they turn 18 and are emancipated from state custody.

Visits to government offices in Raleigh; the North Carolina Museum of Art; and tours of WSSU, UNC-Chapel Hill and North Carolina A&T State University are among the activities scheduled for the week of June 12-19. The youth will also shop for business attire at Concord Mills with money from the program; dine at the Piedmont Club; and spend time in Paramount's Carowinds as part of TEAM UP, which is supported by grants from a handful of local entities, including the school's Center for Entrepreneurship.

Local LINKS Coordinator Carmelita Burrell has worked closely with Pagiavlas on the planning of the TEAM UP program. She praised TEAM UP for the wealth of learning experiences it affords its participants.

"I cannot even begin to describe to you what this means to our kids," she declared. "In my eight years of being employed here, this door has never been opened... for the youth to have this opportunity, it leaves me speechless."

A game show Pagiavlas designed, called "Guess What I Do for a Living" will round out the program, allowing the youngsters to



Dr. Novis Pagiavlas and Carmelita Burrell.

interface with professionals in various fields and learn about what each occupation requires.

"The kernel of original thought was about providing career options to youth in a funny way," Pagiavlas said of his motivation to create the game show from which everything else sprouted. "Our original thinking of making it creative and not making it look like an adult program has permeated everything we've done. All of this is designed to show them what's possible and what's available in a way that's not (intimidating)."

While TEAM UP might sound like it's all fun and games, Burrell says the contrary is true.

"It's all an intentional, providing educational opportunity," she asserted.

Life skills like negotiating the public transportation system and cooking are also incorporated in the week's activities.

"All of the activities are designed to give them (experience with) some of those small, tiny things that they may have to do someday," Pagiavlas remarked. "...It's fun and educational, without being boring."

Burrell says she saw TEAM UP as a golden opportunity for kids who oftentimes haven't had many breaks in life.

"These are not all honor roll students who come from natural support systems. These are typical kids in foster care, and that's why this program is so great," she commented. "They're going to be involved in something positive that they're going to want to continue to be a part of, and that's going to help them in so many ways."

TEAM UP participants will have opportunities to continue the program, by participating in a special project that will extend into the 2009-10 school year. Pagiavlas and Burrell are hopeful that they will be able to take a new crop of kids on a similar outing again next summer.

For Sanders, who has spent the past seven years in foster care, it's enough just to be a part of something that was so thoughtfully crafted.

"At least I know somebody out there's looking out for me," he said.

TEAM UP organizers are in need of a bus to provide transportation for the students on several days. For more information, or to donate, volunteer or get involved, contact Pagiavlas, at (336) 692-5272, or [pagiavlasno@wssu.edu](mailto:pagiavlasno@wssu.edu); or Burrell, at (336) 703-3668 or [burrellcc@forsyth.cc](mailto:burrellcc@forsyth.cc).

COMMUTING  
MADE EASY.

GOVERNMENT  
MADE EASY.

1 (800) FED-INFO  
Your official source for federal, state and local government info.