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Cents



Pair of Rams earn CIAA tennis accolades

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Volunteers tidy-up around the city

-See Page B1



THE CHRONICLE

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Backyard pick-up debate reignited

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The City Council will consider later this year whether to take measures to reduce the remaining number of backyard trash collections.

The city moved to do away with backyard collection in 2005 when it implemented a voluntary policy that asked residents to place their trash on curbs; in 2010, that policy became mandatory for all residents except for those with medical exemptions or who live in some multifamily complexes.



McLaurin

According to Assistant City Manager Greg Turner, who oversees Sanitation, out of 77,000 households serviced, 2,700 still receive backyard collection, accounting for five percent of collections. But the Citizens' Organizational Efficiency Review Committee, which was appointed by the City Council to find ways to save the City money, wants to reduce backyard collections even further. It is recommending that residents receive a doctor's note in order to be exempt from taking their trash to the curb; the existing policy only requires residents to submit a form stating that no one in the household is able to bring the trash cart to the curb. The stricter requirement is already used in cities like Greensboro, which has only one percent backyard collection. It would save the city an estimated \$114,000.

Sanitation workers are all in favor of reducing backyard collections. They say hauling trash from backyards is backbreaking work and can lead to uncomfortable confrontations with homeowners. Angelia Byrd, a former sanitation truck driver, said that going into a person's yard, sometimes before the sun rises, can lead to confusion and hostility from residents.

"If it can be done without (backyard collection) it'd be great for the protection of customers and employees as well," said Byrd. "Because you got customers who don't want people fumbling around their house."

Byrd was fired after a conflict with a resident who receives backyard collection. Byrd said her three-person crew was struggling to collect the woman's garbage because it was far in excess of what the 96-gallon carts sanitation workers use could hold. Byrd said she told a co-worker that the resident's trash was more than they were supposed to collect, which, according to Byrd, led the woman to direct racial slurs at her.

Byrd was axed after the Sanitation Department found faults in her actions. She maintains she did nothing wrong and recently brought her wrongful termination claim before the City Council.

See Backyard on A7

Black ministers' group still divided over gay marriage

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

The church of the president of the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity made national headlines, announcing that it would not perform any more heterosexual marriage ceremonies until same-sex marriages are also honored by the state and federal government.

But the issue of same sex marriage, and even homosexuality, is still very much a contentious one for the mostly black clergy who make up the Ministers Conference.

"It has been a journey for us," Ministers Conference President Willard Bass said of Green Street United Methodist Church's decision to support same-sex marriage in such a bold way. "...The question of not doing marriage at all in the church is a very controversial issue. It's really profound for a church to go that far."

Bass is the associate pastor at Green Street, a racially integrated church that is home to about 35 same-sex couples. The church's stance came just days before the U.S. Supreme Court was slated to hear oral arguments in two highly-publicized gay rights cases.

The Ministers Conference as an organization has not taken a stance, one way or the other, on the legal challenges to California's Proposition 8 ban on same-sex marriage and the federal Defense of Marriage Act. Last year, the Conference urged voters to vote against Amendment One, which changed the state constitution to define marriage as being only between a man and a woman, though many members, including then-president Rev. Joseph Nance, expressed uneasiness about gay marriage and Biblical objections to homosexuality.



Marshall

See Ministers on A8



Photo by Layla Garms

Ministers Conference President Rev. Willard Bass stands outside Green Street Church.

Wright condemns usurpers of history

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright likened those who alter, edit or redact the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the Pharisees in chapter nine of John who created their own version of events rather than accepting a blind man's claim that he was healed by Jesus.

"We let folks repackage King ... They want to tell you today what they think Dr. King stood for," said Wright, who predicted that such repackaging would reach a fever-pitch next week as the nation marks the 45th anniversary of the Civil Rights icon's assassination.

Pastor emeritus of Trinity United Church of Christ — a Chicago mega church that once counted President Barack Obama and his family among its nearly 9,000 members — Wright keynoted The Chronicle's 28th Annual Community Service Awards Gala Saturday night at the Benton



Photo by Jason Pitt

Rev. Jeremiah Wright takes a moment to ponder.

Convention Center. He told a crowd of more than 700 that distorting King's dream and mes-

sage is a bi-partisan and multi-racial campaign. Black preachers have used King's words to preach a message advocating prosperity for the church and its members. The "prosperity pimps" have it all wrong, Wright said. "King was not a prophet of prosperity ... King was on the side of the poor."

On the other extreme, Wright contends that right-wingers have distorted King's words to advocate for causes such as ending affirmative action. Knocking notions of a "so-called post racial America," Wright suggested that those who think this country is at a place where content of character trumps skin color are delusional.

"Ask the parents of Trayvon Martin is racism a thing of the past," Wright said.

He urged the crowd to tell their own stories instead of leaving them for others to retell or distort.

See Wright on A8

Meet the New Super

Photo by Layla Garms

Jane Goins, chair of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, introduces incoming Superintendent Dr. Beverly Emory to the local community Tuesday. Emory, who currently serves as superintendent of Pitt County Schools, will take the helm here in July when Dr. Donald Martin retires. Read more about her on page A3.



Rev. Parthenia and Robert Galloway

Loved ones vow to continue Cuthrell's fight

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

City native Tammie "Tammie" Cuthrell built her life on serving others.

Whether it was her family, friends or her clients at the department of Social Services where she worked for 14 years, the UNC Chapel Hill alumna was known for her

giving nature and willingness to do whatever she could for her fellow man.

"She never was a taker," said her father, Robert Galloway. "She never wanted you to give her anything unless she really needed it."

Cuthrell passed away March 9, following a coura-

See Cuthrell on A10



Photos by Layla Garms

The late Tammie Cuthrell speaks at The Light's Toy Drive/Breast Cancer benefit in December.

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