



Rising baseball star getting lots of attention

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Voters have their say at the polls

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THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, May 8, 2014

Stable Carver leader sought

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

School officials say a new Carver High School principal could be selected as early as this summer.

"My biggest need and requirement there is that we have to have somebody who has experience and we have to have somebody who understands the Carver community, someone who will commit to staying at Carver for a long period of time," said Superintendent Beverly Emory. "The need for the Carver community is to have some stability there."

Ronald Travis, the school's current principal, is departing at the end of the school year to



Ron Travis with Beverly Emory at Carver last year.

head to Main Street Academy, an alternative school that serves students in grades 6-12 who have been booted from their

regular schools because of behavioral issues.

Travis, a product of the Happy Hill Gardens public

housing community, said the decision to leave Carver was his own and difficult to make.

"I am saddened, but when an opportunity like this presents itself, it's so unique that one has to take it. ... Even though I hate leaving Carver, I'm also excited about the fact that I'll be able to deal with children from throughout the county," said Travis, who served as an assistant principal at Carver from 2002 to 2005 and then from 2009 to 2012, when he succeeded Nathaniel Barber, who led the school for three years.

Carol Montague-Davis led the school before Barber; she left after four years to become an assistant superintendent. All

See Carver on A7



Amy Adams speaks.

Speakers: Coal ash threat real

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Feb. 2 pipe leak that dumped 39,000 tons of coal ash into Dan River is just the beginning of environmental problems caused by Duke Energy's coal ash basins, according to environmentalists who spoke at Temple Emanuel last Thursday.

The gathering of the Temple Emanuel Environmental Movement (TEEM) - which addresses environmental issues through regular movie screenings and discussions - focused solely on the coal ash controversy last week after technical issues prevented highlights from the Robert Redford-narrated film "Watershed" from being screened.

Even before the Dan River spill, which Duke Energy started cleaning up with a vacuum dredging technique this week, state environmental groups like Appalachian Voices and the Waterkeeper Alliance sued the company to force it to clean up its coal ash basins - like the one at Dan River - which they contend pollute both surrounding water bodies and ground water.

"There are many complicated environmental issues; this is not one of them," said Frank Holleman of the Southern Environmental Law Center, which is representing the environmental groups in the lawsuit.

Coal ash is the waste left over after coal is burned at power plants. Currently, Duke Energy has 33 basins holding more than 100 million tons of coal ash at 14 sites around the state. It's kept in unlined pits that are separated from local waterways by dams. The problem, according to Holleman, is that the basins are leaking into local water supplies. The groups are asking Duke to move the coal ash to a dry, lined pit or to recycle it into concrete as other utility companies do.

A video presented by Appalachian Voices' Amy Adams claims an unusually high number of unexplained cancer cases have occurred in young people near the Belews Creek coal-fired power plant. She said it was uncertain if Duke's coal ash, which contains toxic compounds like mercury, arsenic and lead, is the cause, but she'd like to see it investigated. Adams, used to work for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Dean Nanjoks



The audience applaud the 2014 Lavender graduates.

Their Day

WFU holds first LGBTQ graduation

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University held its first Lavender Graduation on Wednesday, April 30, giving an inspirational sendoff to LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) undergraduate and graduate students who will receive their degrees later this month.

About 20 students were feted. Each was presented with a lavender cord during the service, which drew a crowd of hundreds to the Z. Smith Reynolds Library auditorium and included reflections from several students and university officials.

The University of Michigan is believed to have held the first Lavender Graduation ceremony in 1995. The color lavender is said to be symbolic - a combination of the pink triangle that gay men were forced to wear in concentration camps during World War II and the black triangle designating lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany. Today, the color is associated with achievement, survival and triumph over adversity.

"I do not want to suggest that our work is done," cautioned Dr. Angela Mazaris, the founding director of the WFU LGBTQ Center, noting that many members of the LGBTQ community still face dis-



J. Robby Gregg addresses attendees.

See Graduation on A2

See Coal ash on A7

Victim remembered

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The life of Jerome Dwayne France was celebrated last Thursday near the site where it came to a savage end.

More than 150 of France's family members and friends gathered for a solemn vigil near the intersection of New Walkertown Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. France died in that immediate vicinity in the wee hours of April 27 after being struck by a pick-up truck driven by Travis Scott

See France on A7



Photo by Kevin Walker

Flowers and candles sit near the spot where Jerome France died last month after he was intentionally hit by a pick-up truck.

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