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Heath to be laid to rest Saturday

City mourning death of popular pastor and singer

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Apostle John Henry Heath, well-known for his abilities as both a pastor and a singer, passed away Friday.

Heath was founder and pastor of Greater Higher Ground Worldwide Ministries Inc. With his passing, his wife and co-pastor, Janice Heath, will now lead the church. John Henry Heath rose to bishop and became an apostle as presiding prelate of Greater Higher Ground in July.

Heath's sister Doris Jones said that he'd preached earlier last week before becoming seriously ill, so his passing came as a shock. But the church persevered, holding revival service that night, which she said would've been exactly what Heath would've wanted.

"It's sad but joyous at the same time, because we know where he is," she said. "He's transitioned to that glorious church."

Heath was born and raised in Winston-Salem. He was the youngest of seven children and started singing at an early age. Jones recalled that at only 12 years old, his rendition of "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" got a standing ovation at a service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s memory. Heath's baritone voice, which she said "came straight from God" only got better with age.

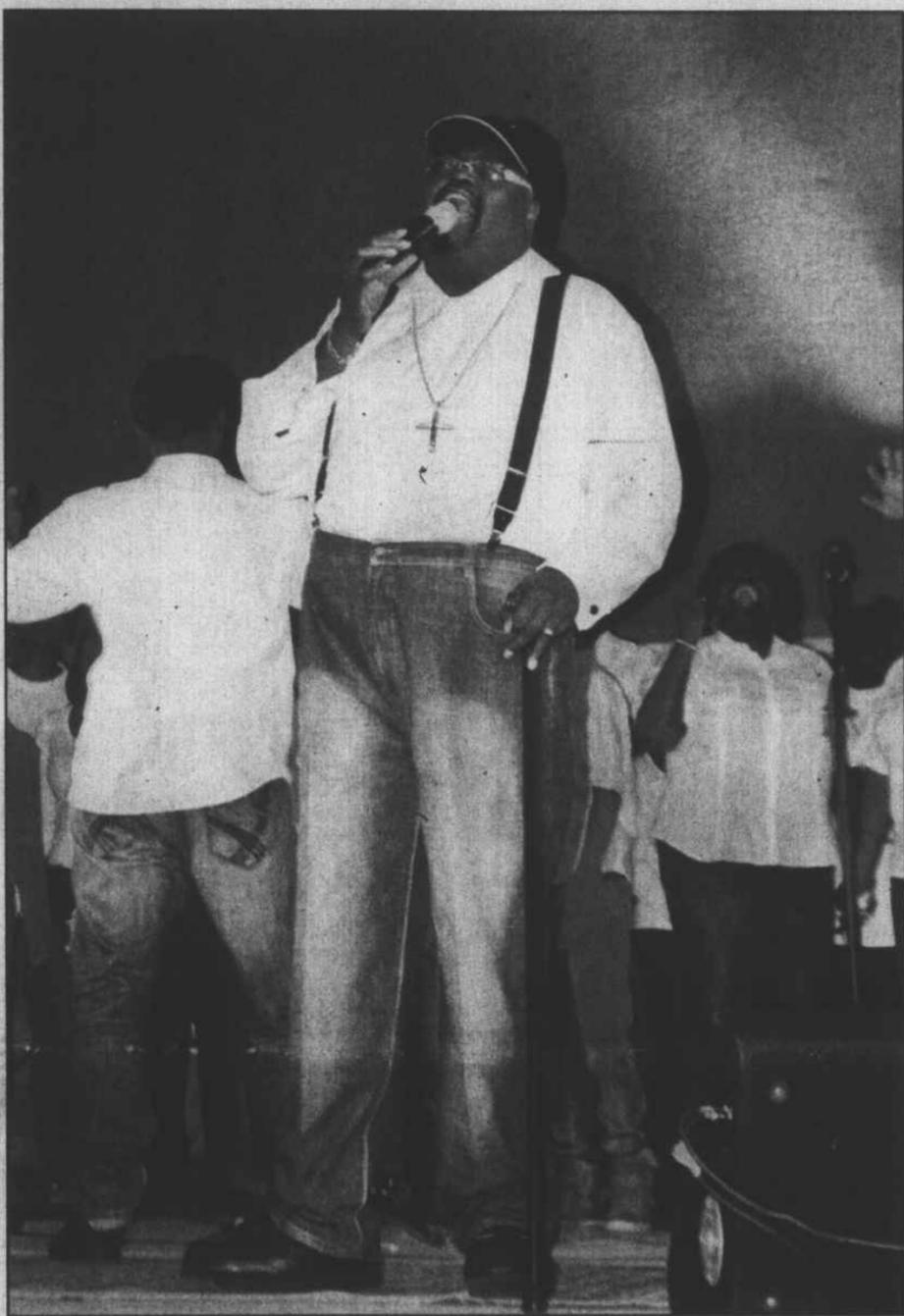
"He would just open his mouth and sing, and you'd just get lost in it," she said.

She said he had a special wisdom beyond his age and his brother and sisters came to know God through him. In 1982, he became an ordained minister under the leadership of Bishop F.D. Patterson at Ambassador Cathedral.

He also had a long career as a gospel singer, which began as one of the lead singers with David Allen and the Ambassadors for Christ Church Choir. He would go on to sing all over the country, perform with numerous gospel singers and groups and record several CDs.

He was a member of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, using his

See Heath on A2



Bishop John Heath performs with the choir from Greater Higher Ground Worldwide Ministries Inc. at The Chronicle's Gospel Fest in 2011.



File Photo
Earline Parmon is a longtime public servant.

Parmon ready to start new position

Vote to replace her in the Senate is tonight

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

State Sen. Earline Parmon, District 32, announced her resignation last week, effective Wednesday, Jan. 28. She will now be the director of outreach for 12th District U.S. Rep. Alma Adams. She'll work under the district director and beside the director of casework.

"This job will allow me to continue to do the thing that has always been a part of my life and that's helping people by empowering and providing services for them," she said. "This will allow me to do what I've done in the political community all my life."

When Parmon first talked to The Chronicle on Jan. 14, she did not want her new position to be released.

Adams Chief of Staff Rhonda Foxx said that Parmon made an independent decision to resign and that after learning of it, the office offered her the position.

"With her addition, our team will be well-equipped to address the needs of the 12th District," she said. "The knowledge Earline has gained through her extensive work in the community is a welcomed addition that will bring added value to team Adams."

Parmon said that after her husband's passing last year, she felt this would be a good opportunity for her to do something different.

"I think this is an opportunity for me to serve the community in a different and wider capacity," she said.

See NAACP on A3

See Parmon on A2

New NAACP regime halted as national office steps in

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will void its last election, which took place on Jan. 10, as the national office looks into a complaint filed by the organizations' executive board.

The complaint states that campaign material was passed out inside of the 50-foot buffer zone and that there were no printed ballots.

Current President S. Wayne Patterson has told The Chronicle that he has been given orders to advise members to follow Article IX, Section 2 and paragraph C, which states "pending resolution of the dispute, the officers whose terms were to have expired with the new election, will continue to function," as the national office investigates the process of the state-monitored election in early January.

An announcement was made at the general body meeting Tuesday, Jan. 27.

"Nothing has changed as far as officers," Patterson said. "We did find out, for a fact, that the national office deemed the election null and void on the premises of there not being ballots."

Patterson said that he believes it was not reasonable for them to vote on a blank piece of paper.

"The main issue is that you can't have an election with a piece of paper like this is 1941. You got to have a ballot with names on it," he said.

Numerous calls to the Rev. Gill Ford, NAACP national director of unit administration, went



File Photo
S. Wayne Patterson still has a chance at the presidency.



Howard

King expected death, Dick Gregory tells W-S audience

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE



Rodie Lamb Jr.

Winston-Salem State University's K. R. Williams Auditorium was filled with hundreds of people who were waiting to hear what the 82-year-old Richard Claxton "Dick" Gregory had to say about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Gregory told more than 1,400 that King knew he was going to die.

The social activist and comedian was the keynote speaker at

See Gregory on A2



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garris

Dick Gregory speaks to a large crowd at WSSU last week.

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