

Chronicle wins N.C. Press Association awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Chronicle staff won a top award from the N.C. Press Association (NCPA) for News Coverage in the smaller newspapers division.

Also, designer/political cartoonist Ron Rogers and reporter/designer Todd Luck won Third Place for Use of Photos in the contest, called the 2015 News, Editorial & Photojournalism Contest.

The event was held Feb. 25 at George Watts Hill Alumni Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Chronicle won in DIVISION B for Community newspapers with 3,500-10,000 circulation.

Judges, who awarded The Chronicle First Place in News Coverage, said The Chronicle's coverage of the



Luck



Rogers

Charleston Massacre – the deadly shootings at a church in Charleston, S.C. – stood out in the judged newspapers of June 11 and 25, 2015.

“Compelling coverage on the Charleston Massacre. Appropriate quotes and outstanding supporting photos. Well done!” the judges said.

The June 25 issue included coverage of two local vigils regarding the Charleston Massacre and a “People on the Street” feature that asked people whether they were afraid to go to church in light of the massacre.

Staff members Luck and Tevin Stinson, photography intern Erin Mizelle and freelancer Tori P. Haynesworth as well as Managing Editor Donna Rogers contributed to the award-winning issues.

Ron Rogers and Luck won their award for The Chronicle's issues that covered the 2015 National Black Theatre Festival: Aug. 6 and 13, 2015.

“This is a great day for The Chronicle,” Donna Rogers said. “This validates our hard work as we strive to provide our community with stellar coverage.”

Forsyth County health officials confirm first Zika travel-related case

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) last week confirmed the first case of Zika virus infection in a Forsyth County patient who had recently travelled to a country with ongoing Zika virus transmission.

To protect patient confidentiality, no additional details on this patient will be provided.

“The FCDPH is working closely with North Carolina Division of Public Health, providers and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help with diagnosis testing in persons returning from areas with active mosquito-borne transmission of the Zika virus,” said Marlon Hunter, Health Director.

At this time, no cases of the disease are known to have been acquired in Forsyth County or elsewhere in North Carolina.

As of March 9, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported five travel-related Zika virus infections in North Carolina. Forsyth County Health Department is home to one of several Vector Control Programs across the state and has already started its regular mosquito control activities around the county.

Zika virus is transmitted through the bite of an infectious mosquito, although cases of transmission through sexual contact and blood transfusion have also been reported. Symptoms can include rash, red eyes, fever and joint pain. Only about one in five people infected with Zika virus will show symptoms.

A pregnant woman infected with Zika virus can pass the virus to her unborn baby. A serious birth defect of the brain called microcephaly and other adverse pregnancy outcomes have been reported in some infants born to mothers who were infected with Zika virus while pregnant. FCDPH is in constant communication with health providers, including obstetricians and gynecologists, to ensure they have the latest information, as well as access to guidance and testing from state health officials.

While the primary mosquitoes that carry Zika virus are not believed to be widespread in North Carolina, individuals are always encouraged, as a routine precaution, to take steps to prevent mosquito bites, such as:

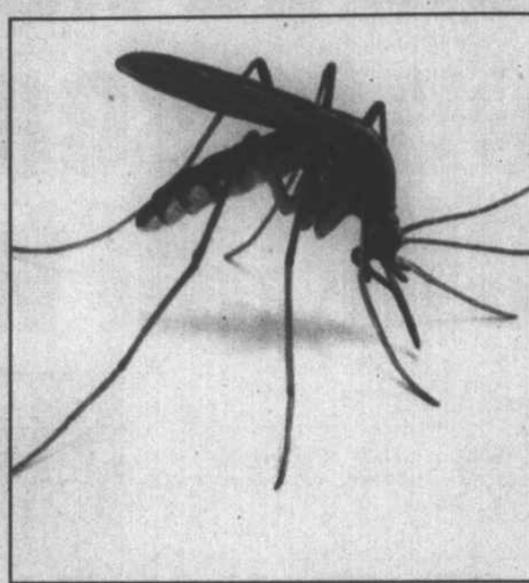
*Eliminating potential breeding sites in their own yards on a weekly basis: draining water from garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other container where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

*Discarding any items, however small, that may collect water. Remember to clean bird baths and pet water bowls twice a week.

*Wearing shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves, and apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing.

*Always use an EPA registered insect repellent according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a travel advisory recommending pregnant women consider postponing travel to any area with active Zika virus transmission. Women who are trying to become



pregnant should talk to their doctors about the risk of Zika virus infection before traveling.

For additional information about Zika, visit <http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/> or call Forsyth County Department of Public Health-Division of Environmental Health at 336-703-3225.

Chronicle file photos
Larry Womble and Earline Parmon, then state representatives, are shown at a local 2008 vigil for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Parmon
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“Earline Parmon was the true definition of a public servant,” said Adams. “She dedicated her life to fighting for justice and fighting for our communities.”

Parmon was also an educator and school principal, founding the now-defunct LIFT Academy, working with minority and at-risk youth. She was also an associate minister at Exodus United Baptist Church.

Parmon's spiritual adviser, Exodus' United Baptist Church Pastor Alvin Carlisle said, “Minister Parmon was a force to be reckoned with. She may have been small in stature, but she was a powerhouse who loved The Lord!”

Parmon was the first vice president of the Winston-Salem NAACP branch. Local NAACP

President Isaac “Ike” Howard said she was a fearless grassroots leader who was mentored by the late Velma Hopkins, an organizer with the Local 22 tobacco workers labor union. He said Parmon was dedicated to helping the unrecognized, unrepresented and neglected. He said it will be hard for anyone to fill the void she leaves.

“We don't grow that kind anymore,” he said.

Former N.C. Rep. Larry Womble knew Parmon for 40 years and the two became inseparable colleagues as representatives. He said Winston-Salem has lost a hero who loved her city. He said he was impressed by her loyalty, dedication, commitment and humor.

“She lived her life, especially as a legislator, as an example,” he said. “I hope the ones that are coming along now can use her activism and her commitment and her involvement as a model to go by. You

can't replace her, but we have young people who can certainly emulate that.”

Sometimes called “the dynamic duo,” Parmon and Womble championed various pieces of legislation together. This included passing compensation for victims of the state's eugenics sterilization program and the Racial Justice Act, which let those on death row appeal for a lesser sentence if they believe race was involved in their sentencing. The RJA was later repealed by the Republican-majority General Assembly.

N.C. Sen. Paul Lowe, who replaced Parmon

when he was appointed to the 32nd District Senate seat in 2015, also said Parmon left a great legislative legacy.

“Senator Parmon was always concerned about helping people, the disenfranchised and those who did not have a voice,” he said. “During her tenure in the legislature, she fought fervently for the less-fortunate in our county and state. She will be missed by many.”

Parmon was married for more than 47 years to Albert Parmon, who passed away in 2014. The couple had many children and grandchildren.



Earline Parmon is shown with Paul Lowe at the Forsyth County Democratic Headquarters last year, on the night Lowe was appointed to succeed her in the state senate.

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