

# The Progress

Morrisville & Preston  
Published Monthly Morrisville, N.C.

## Wife of fired police officer drills chief, town manager

BY MARY BETH PHILLIPS

Donna Lynn Myers claimed that her husband was wrongfully fired from the Morrisville Police Department and asked Town Manager David Hodgkins for an explanation during the public comments session

ment of the Morrisville Board of Commissioners meeting Monday night.

"My husband has tried to deal with you on a one-to-one basis, and in a professional manner, but he has had inadequate responses from

you," she said.

Meyers was terminated from his temporary, part-time position with the police department on Sept. 4. Commissioner Mark Silver-Smith has charged that he was fired because Police Chief Bruce Newnam

suspected that Meyers gave his name to a state agency which talked with Newnam after he had a non-certified police officer direct traffic at two events.

"I think this town should know there's been a breakdown of lead-

ership in our community," Mrs. Meyers said. "You as town manager are responsible for the whole town. If you cannot handle the town's leadership, you should step down as town manager," she said. Commissioner Leavy Barbee

asked that a personnel committee meeting be held with the town manager and the police chief, but backed down after Hodgkins said such a meeting would be inappropriate.

See WIFE, page 2

## Prestonwood drops Nike; seeks Seniors

BY MARY BETH PHILLIPS

Prestonwood Country Club has decided it will no longer be home to the Nike Carolina Classic, citing inconvenience to the more than 1,100 golfing members during the weekend of the event each year.

But country club officials say they might be willing to inconvenience members if they could land a more prestigious golfing event, specifically a Senior Tour game.

Prestonwood was instrumental in bringing the Nike Tour event to this area, and hosted it for four successful years, raising more than \$100,000 for Triangle area charities, especially the Wake County chapter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

"We decided with the membership growing, that it wasn't fair to the members to take up two golf courses," said Vance Heafner, Prestonwood golf pro.

When the tour started, there were only about 700 golfing members, he said. Now there are more than 1,100. "Out here we've changed so much, and changed so rapidly, it was just time to move on," Heafner said.

The Nike Carolina Classic is one of 30 events that make up the Nike Tour, which is a step below the PGA Tour. Two of the past winners of the Carolina Classic—Skip Kendall and Michael Christie—now play on the PGA Tour.

A Tournament Players Club course designed by Hale Irwin will be opening in Wakefield in North Raleigh in about two years, and agreements have been made that the Nike Carolina Classic can play there after that time.

The Carolina Classic is looking for a temporary home until that time.

"Prestonwood has been super to us," said Marymac Webb, Tournament Director for the Nike Carolina Classic. "They had told us from the beginning that this was just for a few years. It had just run its course," she said.

Meanwhile, Prestonwood officials are hoping to attract a Senior Tour event.

"It brings you a lot of national exposure," Heafner said. "Next to the PGA tour, it's the best you can get. We think that this area is ready for a Senior Tour event, and we may be able to work something out with them."

He thinks members would not mind having their weekend disrupted for something that big.

"We can raise a lot of money for the charities with a Senior Tour event. People can relate to the Senior Tour players because they've seen them on TV for 20 years. They can relate a lot better than they could to the Nike Tour players."

He hopes that a Senior Tour game could be played temporarily at Prestonwood until the TPC course is finished. "We're still in the talking stage now (with Senior Tour officials)," he said.

## Police seeking more info in club thefts

One young man has been arrested, but Cary Police are still looking for other individuals who have stolen at least 12 sets of golf clubs and related equipment from homes and cars in the Preston subdivision.

The town is offering a reward

See POLICE, page 2



**RECORDING HISTORY**—Esther Dunnegan says one can't write the history of Shiloh without writing about the Shiloh Baptist Church. The

grave of James H. Dunston, an early pastor of the church, is the only one on the church grounds.

## Of historical note

*Esther Dunnegan is preserving her father's tales of growing up on a Shiloh farm. As church historian, she has gathered research over the years that paints a story of leadership, courage and generosity.*

BY MARY BETH PHILLIPS

A love of history and a feeling that many old stories will die with older Shiloh residents led Esther Dunnegan to write a history of the community for her master's thesis nine years ago.

Now, she's working on a book about her father, Nathaniel Mayo, titled *Tell It Again, Pa Pa*, detailing his memories and his life growing up on a farm in Shiloh.

Mrs. Dunnegan, a school system administrator with the Wake County Schools, agreed to talk

about her research in honor of the upcoming homecoming service at Shiloh Baptist Church, the third Sunday in October.

She has been the church historian for many years, and said the history of Shiloh cannot be told without the history of the church.

"The church and the community are still inseparable for the older generation here," she said from her home off Kit Creek Road, which is rapidly becoming surrounded by industries in the Research Triangle Park.

Much of the history can be traced to the third pastor of the church, James H. Dunston, who became pastor in 1882, Mrs. Dunnegan said.

"We have had very good ministers, but none since him have been as involved in the role of the church as it relates to the community."

Dunston taught his people to save money and buy homes. He would loan money to people or co-sign deeds so they could have

See SHILOH, page 3

## Lawsuit alleges disparity at PD; Town hall mum

By MARY BETH PHILLIPS

A former Morrisville police officer filed a lawsuit on Aug. 29, charging discrimination in his 1994 firing by Police Chief Bruce Newnam.

The suit could not come at a worse time for Newnam, who is seeking the mayor's seat in municipal elections to be held in November.

Gregory F. Cade, who was employed by the police department between March 12, 1990 and Aug. 31, 1994, said he was never promoted during those years and that there was a disparity in his treatment and that of white police officers.

Cade was terminated from his job after a minor white female, who is unidentified in the lawsuit, alleged that he had made harassing telephone calls to her.

According to the suit, Cade responded to a police dispatch concerning suspicious activity involving the same minor white female on Aug. 18, 1994.

A few days later, without being informed of the allegations against him, Cade was directed to telephone the Cary Police Dispatch, "and upon the plaintiff's so doing, the white female alleged identified plaintiff's voice and named plaintiff as perpetrator."

The lawsuit states that a preliminary hearing on the charge was held Aug. 30, 1994 and a disciplinary hearing on Aug. 31, 1994, and his employment was terminated

immediately following the disciplinary hearing.

"The plaintiff was questioned concerning the alleged incident, but the female at issue was not required to substantiate the allegations made by her," the lawsuit states.

"The allegations made by the minor white female against the plaintiff were never proven as factual, and the investigation conducted by the town was not sufficient to warrant discharge of the plaintiff from employment," the lawsuit states.

The minor white female never filed a criminal or civil complaint against the police officer in any court of justice in North Carolina or elsewhere, according to the suit.

The suit goes on to say that Cade was never given the option of resignation and that on a report submitted to the N.C. Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, the reason for the separation from the police department was given as "conduct unbecoming to a police officer."

According to the lawsuit, Chief Newnam checked the boxes on the back of the form that stated that the Morrisville Police Department would not consider the individual for reappointment and that "this agency would not recommend employment elsewhere as a criminal justice officer."

As a direct result of this, Cade has not been rehired anywhere as a police officer, according to the suit.

The suit also alleges that, "At

See LAWSUIT, page 2

## Four Oaks police chief says dual offices a plus

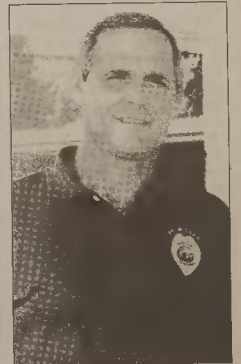
BY MARY BETH PHILLIPS

The police chief of Four Oaks, who is also a town commissioner, has found the dual role to be an asset, for him and for the town.

"It's worked out real good," said Danny Toppings. "As police chief I'm here every day, I see what's going on. I'm not just a hit-and-miss commissioner. Most of the other commissioners have a full-time job somewhere else. The only time they are connected with town business is if they are connected with a project, or if they are called on a complaint, or when they attend board meetings."

"I'm working here every day; I'm in constant contact with people. I see the problems that arise, and most of the time I am more informed on situations than the other

See FOUR OAKS, page 2



DANNY TOPPINGS

## Newlyweds' mishap has 'precious' end

BY ROXANNE POWERS

After a three-month separation from their cat, "Precious" owners Jason and Krista Chern feel that their four-year-old silver Persian has truly earned her name.

The separation from Precious was just one piece of an amazing conglomeration of good luck and bad for the young newlyweds.

The good news was that when the young couple made the decision to move to the area from Fort Lauderdale, they both found jobs immediately.

The bad news was that in the process of moving, Jason, who was driving their Ford Explorer, fell asleep at the wheel and flipped the vehicle over onto its side, scattering their more delicate valuables down the highway.

Jason said Krista, who was driving the moving van ahead of him, was unaware of the accident. After a few miles of not seeing him in the rear-view mirror, she pulled over and waited for him to catch up. When a busload of teenagers stopped to check on him, Jason sent them to alert his wife.

Meanwhile, Jason began the search for their cats, Zoey and Precious. He found Zoey almost immediately, still in the over-turned

See NEWLYWEDS, page 3



**SAFE AT HOME**—Jason and Krista Chern are happy to have their cat, Precious, back home after she was lost for several weeks.

Bulk Rate  
Postage Paid  
Morrisville, N.C.  
Permit #23

Delivered expressly to the residents of Morrisville and Preston