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Dog Saves Minister's Life

By Patrice E. Lee
Staff Writer

It was Pete's persistent barking that allowed Mickens to save himself from an inferno that could have been fatal. "When I went to the kitchen the smoke was so hot I couldn't see the fire," Mickens said. After calling the fire department at a neighbor's house, Mickens returned to the bonfire to find Pete still on the job. "The firemen were battling with him, shooting water on him. He wouldn't let them in the house," Mickens said. The two-story home that Mickens and his wife remodeled almost five years

ago-and everything in it--has been destroyed. Assistant Fire Marshall Ike Spillman, who investigated the fire, said that it was accidental, caused by a spark left among embers that Mickens had burned earlier. Luckily, Fannie Mickens was at work and the couple's five children were staying with their grandmother for the weekend. By working together and saving for several years before buying their house in 1975, the Mickens' were able to

double the value to the home they bought for \$25,000. "Last summer we put on a complete new roof," Mrs. Mickens says. "Everything inside--from the floor the ceiling--was new," she says. Rev. Rayford Thompson, associate minister of Friendship Baptist Church, is spearheading the community effort to assist the Mickens. "They need everything--bed linen--they need the works. We want anyone who can to help this family in need," said Rev. Thompson.



Photo by Patrice E. Lee
Minister and Mrs. Eugene Mickens look lovingly at "Pete" the 11-year-old German Shepherd who saved his life from a fire which destroyed their home last Saturday morning. A relief drive is being conducted to aid the Mickens family.



Staff Photo by Templeton

members of the Flower Niche Club decorated the tree and the home of Miss Louise Smith of 1244 Dublin Drive for the annual tour of homes and Winston-Salem State University dormitories.

Little Attacks Budget Waste

By Patrice E. Lee
Staff Writer

North Ward residents may have missed one opportunity to tell elected officials how to tighten the city's fiscal belt but their alderman has said there are several "fat" areas that can definitely be trimmed. Of approximately 25 people who attended last Thursday's "Focus" hearing on the 1980-81 budget at Martin Luther King Recreation Center only seven were private citizens.

Despite an expected budget crunch, North Ward Alderman Larry D. Little says that he needs a better understanding of how much money could be saved.

Saying that the board needs to "set a general policy" and leave the actual budget cuts to "our experts," Little questioned the need for all the legal counsel the city now receives:

- The largest legal firm in Winston-Salem--Womble and Carlyle--is paid an annual retainer fee of \$25,000 plus "a pretty good fee" every time the city goes to court;
- City Attorney Ron Seeber, now

receiving \$33,895.89 annually; •Assistant City Attorney Ralph Karpinos, now receiving \$19,674.30; and •Public Safety Attorney Claire McNaught, now receiving \$30,824.56 yearly, according to personnel department records. "They don't handle anything (the city-employed attorneys). If they city gets sued it goes to Womble and Carlyle. I think we can get by with just one of them," Little said.

Public relations is another "fat" area, Little says. "When we have to cut back we don't need public relations. Keeping people's taxes down and delivering services is the best form of public relations," he said.

The city could save money if it rebuilt all its "rolling stock"--fire trucks, etc. "The mechanics of the city tell me that we could rebuild dump trucks" just as fire trucks have been rebuilt," said Little.

The board should also set policy to provide for the streamlining of city personnel because administrative staff is top heavy "in some areas," Little said.

200 Seek Filing Help For Refunds

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

More than 220 persons have contacted the local Legal Aid office to seek help with filing a claim for the Section 236 rent refunds of up to \$500 before the January deadline.

Ben Erlitz, a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Northwest N.C., said group seminars or workshops are being developed to handle the volume of requests.

Persons who lived in one of five local housing complexes, Fairchild, Goler Metropolitan, Holland Homes, Millbrook or New Bethel, between 1975 and 1977 are eligible for part of a \$60 million settlement of a class action suit against the U.S. government.

To receive the refunds, tenants will have to pick up a claim form from their complex office, complete it and

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lacks are losing 3,000 acres of land a path in the South, see page 2.

ty racks down on unsafe wood stoves, details page 3.

ad traffic conditions are making some neighborhoods inaccessible. See Editorials, page 4.

Special Christmas Gift Guide with ring and making suggestions, pages

ollars? That's how many one local lady has collected. See Social page 10.

gle Gaines played possibly the best around game of his career, says house, page 13.

Subsidized Apartments Near Castleshire

150 Units Upset Neighbors

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

City planners and engineers have failed to take into account the impact that drainage water from a new 150-unit apartment complex might have on the Castleshire Woods subdivision just outside the city limit.

The development, to be called Lake Park Apartments, would increase the amount of water flowing into the Brushy Fork Creek, which runs between the

apartment site and the subdivision, but city erosion control engineer Tom Dyer said he does not know how much the waste water would add to the stream.

Castleshire Woods residents complained that the stream is already flooding yards the lower end of their neighborhood during a strategy meeting residents of the well-to-do predominately black community had, with the predominately white Churchland Acres community Sunday aimed at preventing the apartments.

Dyer said the city's erosion control ordinance is concerned with cutting down erosion of soil off of a site being developed, but not with flooding. He said the developers had been required to slow the velocity of waste water coming out of drain pipes to meet the ordinance.

Dyer said he thought current clogging of the stream by cars and other debris presented a greater problem that runoff water from the apartments. "That creeks is pretty well choked up," said

Dyer. In addition to the water issue, residents expressed fear that the Section 8 subsidized housing would lower property values in their neighborhood of \$70,000 and above homes and hired attorney William Pfefferkorn to take their case to the Board of Aldermen Monday night.

Walter Marshall, named chairman of the group fighting the complex, said residents were given no notice that 1)

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Father, Son Build Solar Collector

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

describes a solar window box, which uses glass and insulation to expose a stream of air to the sun's rays, and then to channel it back into a room.

"We found a way of mass producing kits so that people could start doing some things for themselves and stop feeling so helpless," said Harris.

The church members also offer free instruction on the "heat grabber," so long-time handyman Cassaberry and his son decided to make their own.

"They say the parts cost about \$35, but we were able to do it for about \$32.50," said Cassaberry.

His energy saver works by using windows on the south side of his house. Harris explained, "Although the sun moves from east to west, in the winter, it is usually in the southern part of the sky all day long."

This is how the heat grabber is



Staff Photo by Templeton

The James Cassaberrys, Junior and Senior, or 2020 E. 18th Street show how a small fan can be added to their "heat grabber" solar window collector to

improve the flow of warm air. Using a little more than \$30 in supplies, the two handymen built a collector which heats the entire basement on sunny days.

designed: A three foot wide box made of insulation board is covered with either glass or Plexi-glass painted black. The box is built to tilt at a 45 degree angle into a lip which hooks over a windowsill. Inside, a panel of insulation board is placed approximately in the middle of the box with an open space at

the bottom. The heat collector works as follows: sun rays hit the black glass surface, which absorbs the heat, and warms the air underneath, which rises up the 45 degree angle, through the lip and into the room. The warm air creates a draft

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Woman Faces Murder Charge

A woman originally charged with seriously assaulting a man during an apparent domestic argument has now been charged with murder, because the alleged victim has died, a Forsyth County jail spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday.

William Witherspoon, 46, of 928 E. 18th St., remained in critical condition while being treated for gunshot wounds in the back and the mouth until he died Dec. 1, a N.C. Baptist Hospital spokeswoman said.

Dorothy Cecelia Davis 21, of 3010 Old

Greensboro Road, had been charged with assaulting and seriously wounding Witherspoon Nov. 10. After her bond was reduced from \$50,000 to \$5,000, Ms. Davis was released from jail Nov. 29. On Dec. 5 Davis was re-arrested on a murder charge and released after her first appearance Dec. 6, the jail spokeswoman said.

Court records show that Ms. Davis had received a summons on the day of the shooting for criminal trespass at Witherspoon's home Nov. 8

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