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Funeral directors convention draws national personalities

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG Chronicle Staff Writer

The Rev. Jesse Jackson will head out a star-studded list of speakers at the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association Convention to be held at the M.C. Benton Convention Center Aug. 6-12.

About 2,000 people are expected to attend, including

1,500 association members, several exhibitors and special guests.

Jackson and Democratic Party presidential nominee Michael Dukakis were invited to attend, and Jackson recently accepted his invitation, Jerry Gilmore, III of Gilmore's Funeral Home said Tuesday. Jackson's arrival time has not yet been finalized. Dukakis is expected to

attend also, but has not yet been confirmed. "It will be on a pop-in basis," Gilmore said.

Gilmore said the national organization has a membership of over 2,200. Harry J. Carter of Chicago is the outgoing president. Carlton C. Douglas of Baltimore, currently president-elect, will take the helm as president at the end of this convention. Gilmore is running unopposed as

president-elect and said he expects to take over as president of the organization in two years.

Tony Brown, a nationally known public speaker and syndicated columnist, will highlight the Tuesday, Aug. 9, Award Banquet. The event will be followed by a dance with music provided by the Sweet Dreams band.



Gilmore Brown Jackson Jacob

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Lawmakers: Election plan may not pass

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG Chronicle Staff Writer

The county electoral district plan, the result of an NAACP suit against the county, is nowhere near becoming a reality, as the local delegation of the state legislature reportedly appears split on the issue.

The president of the local branch of the NAACP, Walter Marshall, and County Commissioner John Holleman agreed to a modified district approach on the eve of the court date. U.S. District Court Judge Eugene A. Gordon signed the settlement two weeks later.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sued the county in 1986, claiming that the county's at-large election system diluted the Afro-American vote and prevented Afro-Americans from participating fully in Forsyth County politics. Many community leaders hoped a straight district elec-

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'Footloose!'

Photo by Mike Cunningham

Jamian Clark and Corry Gwynn, both 3 years old, don't waste any time in preparing for a soothing and relaxing "foot dip" in the sand.

School board continues public forum on two issues

Debate grows over academic standards, selection of school superintendent

By ANGELA WRIGHT Chronicle Managing Editor

"Qualifications" has been the operative word at the most recent school board meetings, both of which were special sessions to allow public input on two controversial issues: the selection of a new school superintendent and a proposal to abolish academic requirements for membership in school service clubs.

The first special session was held July 18, but as the discussions concerning the proposal to abolish academic requirements became heated and prolonged, the board decided to continue the public hearing on Wednesday, July 27.

Given the diversity of suggestions from the public on the qualifications for school superintendent, the next one must be all things to all people. The one point on which most of the citizens seem to agree is that the person should come from

within the local system.

Most of those making presentations represented community and educational organizations. Janet Wheeler, of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, said the new superintendent should have "...vision, values and motivational skills..." She said that such individuals currently exist "within the administration staff."

The Rev. Diane Dixon-Proctor, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, suggested that the school board consider someone "sensitive to the cultural diversity of the students" within the local school system.

One concerned parent, Beverly Gamble, came to the meeting even though her children have now graduated from the local school system. Gamble said she still had concerns about some of the problems she experienced when her children were in school. She called upon the

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Low self-esteem major problem in adulthood

Abused children turn into abusive parents

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG Chronicle Staff Writer

One out of every three or four women was sexually molested as a child, and one of every eight men are molested by their 18th birthday, a local child protection official said recently.

And many more have suffered physical abuse.

The people who commit these acts are usually parents who carry a well-defined load of psychological baggage

which contributes to their troubled relationships with their children.

Abusive parents' relationship with their children often reflects their childhood relationship with their own parents. An abusive parent often had little emotional support, care or love as a child. "Fear, frustration and anger are associated with these unmet needs, and abusive parents are more likely to act on impulses," according to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. "Abusive parents often lack the skills

and abilities necessary to provide for their own emotional stability...and they have not learned how to cope with the anger, fear and frustration they feel."

The result is often low self esteem, a characteristic common to most physical and sexual child abusers. Low self esteem leads to low expectations, which leads them to reject positive relationships with others creating a vicious cycle that follows them far into adulthood. These problems lead them to avoid social interaction and sometimes

hurts career advancement.

Such behavior leads to another common characteristic of abusive parents -- isolation. They often avoid rejection and anger by breaking off close personal relationships. They are afraid to reach to others, causing them to look to family members to fill all their emotional needs, adding pressure to the family unit and increasing the likelihood of abuse.

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Residents make way for new fairgrounds

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG Chronicle Staff Writer

The residents of Shore Drive have endured the sounds of the annual Dixie Classic Fair and the not-so-distant roar of the crowd from Ernie Shore Field for more than a decade.

But the neighborhood will soon be nothing but a memory for the residents, mostly retirees, some of whom have lived there almost 30 years.

The west side of the street is already gone, the people moved, the 11 houses pulled from their foundations and placed on Clark Avenue. The fair midway will soon replace them.

Those on the street's east side

may have only one more fair to contend with. Their houses will likely be placed on Clark Avenue as well, in an area which has stood vacant since the city levelled condemned housing there almost 10 years ago, city Real Estate Supervisor John Cockerham said.

The residents on the west side sold their homes for an average of \$65,000 to \$70,000 and moved with the help of the city Housing Services Department, Cockerham said. The houses will be resold once they are rehabilitated on Clark Avenue, and the current residents will have the option to buy them back from the city.

And as the process is ending for the west side of the street, it is

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Photos by Mike Cunningham

An angry Mrs. Frances Hall stands at the end of her yard just across from where construction work is being done to complete the new fairgrounds on Shorefair Drive. The city has purchased the houses on the west side of the street and is now moving them to other locations. The homes on the east side will soon meet the same fate.



NEWS DIGEST

Compiled From AP Wire

Oprah leads group to S. Africa

ALEXANDRIA, South Africa (AP) -- An American group sponsored by television personality Oprah Winfrey on Friday treated elderly residents to a hot lunch that is to become a weekly feature in this impoverished black township.

Organizer Armstrong Williams said Ms. Winfrey has never been to South Africa, but became interested in Alexandria after interviewing Mark Mathabane, who grew up in the township.

No charges against Mrs. Richie

Brenda Richie, wife of pop singer Lionel Richie, apparently won't be prosecuted for attacking her husband and beating a young model who found him with in a Beverly Hills, Calif., apartment last month.



Board approves black frat membership

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) -- The state College Board has approved a lease for a 20-member fraternity to become the first black group to live on all-white Fraternity Row at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. The board approved the lease without debate last Thursday.

Promotion of blacks lags in Navy

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Navy is studying why the promotion of blacks in its ranks lags behind that of other services, 40 years after President Harry S. Truman ordered the nation's military to integrate.