

# Call for Prevention Award nominees

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Problems is accepting nominations for its Community Service Awards. The awards will go to groups and individuals who have taken the lead in promoting the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse in Forsyth County within the past year. The awards will be presented at the second annual Community Service Awards Banquet in October. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Coalition office at 301-C South Liberty Street in Winston-Salem or by calling 723-3784. The deadline for submitting nominations is September 22.

# Black mayor accused of making color political issue

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) — The first black mayor of Tuskegee, seeking a sixth term, was accused Thursday by his black opponent of making her light skin color an issue.

Challenger Arvon Thigpen charged that Mayor Johnny Ford's campaign has spread word that she actually is white as the two head into a Sept. 15 runoff forced after Ford failed to win a majority in the five-way August election.

Ford says that if there has been any discussion of Mrs. Thigpen's race, it hasn't come from his campaign.

"Everybody knows what my position has been regarding race," Ford said. "She is a very fine lady. But I think the entire community understands the lady does not have a high respect for the truth."

Thigpen claimed the Ford campaign had someone show up at a polling place for the Aug. 25 election to sing that "the Ku Klux Klan is going to take back your land" if she were elected. She said there have been many other incidents throughout the campaign.

Thigpen said she has heard Ford himself make what she interpreted as a remark about her skin color only once, when she said she overheard him talking about Tuskegee not needing "to go back to 1972."

Ford, 50, became the first black mayor of Tuskegee in 1972 by defeating the white incumbent. His hold on City Hall was threatened when he garnered 46 percent to Thigpen's 35 percent in the August election.

Tuskegee is a city of about 12,000 in south Alabama that is 85 percent black. It is the home of Tuskegee University, a landmark black institution founded by Booker T. Washington.

Thigpen, 62, who sells encyclopedias, said she attended black schools, Booker T. Washington High School and Clark College in Atlanta.

"I have the appearance of a Caucasian," Thigpen said. "But I am a very proud black woman."

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