

Grayson man mourns son's death

Gamett Johnson, 77, sits with a picture of his son Garnett Paul "G.P." Johnson Jr. in this Aug 1 photo. "The only thing I can say was that he was a good boy. I think more about why somebody would want to kill him," said Johnson. younger The Johnson, 40, who was brutally murdered July 25, lived with his father in Elk Creek in Grayson County.



(AP Photo/Cindy Pinkston, Roanoke Times)

NYPD teaches by example



(AP Photo/Daniel Morel)

U.N. Police Officer Frantz Jerome, left, a Haitian-American, discusses the Abner Louima beating incident with other Haitian National Police undercover agents at Petion-Ville police station in Port-au-Prince on Monday, Aug. 18. Jerome and 21 fellow New York City police instructors are using the case of the Haitian immigrant in New York's alleged torture by New York City police to train the officers to respect human rights.

Lone student left in Prop 209's wake

Brooks Bloomington, Ind., University of California Berkeley **Boalt Hall law school** student, speaks during a media conference Monday, Aug. 18, in Berkeley, Calif. Brooks is the lone black student in the incoming class of the law school, in the semester of the post affirmative action era.



(AP Photo/Ben Margot)

Farrakhan addresses D.C. home rule



(AP Photo/Brian K. Diggs)

Minister Louis Farrakhan speaks at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., Saturday night, Aug. 16. Farrakhan addressed the home-rule issue with the city, Mayor Marion Barry, and the federal government.

SCLC

Many, however, still believe that King's assassination was the work of a conspiracy. Federal officials revealed in a 1975 Senate testimony that under J. Edgar Hoover, the Federal Bureau of Investigation harassed and tried to a larger picture.

discredit King. Among those believers are some of the late King's closest aides: the Revs. Jesse Jackson, Walter E. Fauntroy, the late Ralph Abernathy and SCLC president Joseph Lowery have always maintained King's assassin was part of

PRIMARIES

Those numbers were higher in the election three years before, with 10.8 percent and 33.5 percent Republican and Democrat turnout respectively. That year, a county-wide bond referendumwas attached to the ballot.

Since this year's bond referendum was held by special election in June, turnout for the Sept. 23 municipal primary may be lackluster.

"So far, there's not been a lot of interest," Cooper admitted.

Registration drives sometimes spark the interest of eligible voters. Often civic groups, political parties and even individual candidates will sponsor get-out-thevote campaigns on a local level, by bringing registration material to the people.

In Guilford County, an aggressive voter registration drive is credited with reelecting mayor Carolyn Allen two years ago. Allen trailed opponent Tom Phillips in the primary, but won the general election after an African-American political action committee (PAC), the (original) Underground Railroad to the Polls, lent their support to her campaign. Underground Railroad volunteers canvassed and registered hundreds of black voters.

If you don't want to wait for a voter registration drive, you can pick up registration forms at the County Board of Elections office on West Fourth Street, city hall or register in any public library. BB&T banks also carry the forms, and those who visit the Department of Motor Vehicles to renew or change a driver's license are offered the chance to register.

You can also find voter registration forms in various government offices and agencies, such as Social Services and the Securities Employment Commission, and at the headquarters of political parties. The registration forms may be mailed back to the board of elections or delivered in person, but must be postmarked or delivered 25 days before an election.

The U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the North Carolina constitution's one-year residency requirement for registration, as well as the state-mandated literacy criterion. In order to register, you need only to have lived in your precinct for 30 days before the election, and you may have someone assist you in the booth if you cannot read.

Seventeen-year-olds who will turn 18 by the general election are allowed to register and participate in the primary election, said Cooper. The registration deadline for the primary election is Aug.

Absentee applications begin Aug. 25, for those who will be out of town for the primary, or are unable due to infirmary to show up at the precinct in person. Persons incarcerated for misdemeanors may also vote by absentee ballot.

The voter or his or her family members or legal guardians must fill out an application for an absentee voter at the Board of Elections office beginning 50 days prior to the election. The deadline for such applications is the Tuesday prior to the election. Absentee ballots must be returned to the office by 5 p.m., the day prior to the election.

Convicted felons, however,

PRIMARY ELECTION SEASON TIMELINE

Monday, Aug. 25:Absentee applications begin for city primary

Friday, Aug. 29:Deadline for voter registration (primary elections)

Monday, Sept. 1(offices closed for holiday): One-stop absentee voting begins

Tuesday, Sept. 23:City primary election

cannot vote until their citizenship rights are restored upon final release. Once freed, though, former felons may reregister to vote.

· In this year's mayoral primary, incumbent Democrat Martha S. Wood will face three challengers from her party: Mark A. Thomas, Joseph A. Alexander and Richard Lambert Newton. The Republican Party's favored candidate, Jack Cavanagh Jr., will go up against Alfred Abdo and R. Dale Catlett.

· In the East Ward, alderman Joycelyn V. Johnson will face Democratic challenger Thelma Westbrook. No Republicans regis-

· Democrat Lisa Cockerham and alderman Vivian H. Burke will face off for the Northeast Ward. No Republicans registered.

· North Ward alderman Nelson L. Malloy does not have an opponent for the primary. He will face Republican Diana W. Cotton in November.

· In the Northwest Ward, Democrats Wanda S. Merschel and Gary James Minter, and Republicans Briggs D. Miles and

Ken Raymond will face each other in the primary. Incumbent Nancy Pleasants is not seeking reelection.

· Five candidates are vying for the Southeast Ward seat. Democrats are Fred Terry, C.F. "Hoagy" Carmichael, E.C. Frazier and Samuel G. Scott. Republicans Shannon Stewart and L.D. Kirk face Republican alderman Robert Norlander.

· South Ward incumbent J. Hugh Wright will not seek reelection. His endorsed candidate, Republican Vernon Robinson, faces Jere Dailey in the primary. Democratic challengers are R.S. Cranfill, Don Evins, Frank L. Frye, B.G. Hauser and Robert E. Moricle.

· In the Southwest Ward, Democrats Inez Davis and Ann Wagoner will run against incumbent alderman Lynne Harpe. Republicans registered are Steve Whiton, Michael S. Cross and Donald T. Shaw.

In the West Ward, Republican Steven M. Johnston challenges incumbent alderman Robert. 8. Northington. No Democrats are registered.

CHURCHES

Eric Cloud arrived in October 1996. And two months later, the important goal for the church: 50-member congregation opened a cafe' adjacent to the church. "Besides being known for services," said pastor Cloud, "Houses of Prayer are known for good eating. We have good food here."

Fried chicken and fried fish are always on the menu. The third choice is usually a red meat - ribs, meat loaf, stew or liver. With entrees priced at \$4.75, a family of four can eat for about \$25.00.

The cafe is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 7 p.m. It is currently staffed by church members. Eventually, it will open everyday, says Cloud. In the meantime, the cafe is benefiting from word-ofmouth advertising.

While the House of Prayer feeds the body, Grace Church tends the young. This predominantly white nondenominational church is located in a black middle class neighborhood in a modern, two-story structure. A satellite dish hovers over the parking lot - a vestige of Network Church, the building's former occupant. The Rev. Rodney Odom says the congregation is racially mixed (90 percent white and 10 percent black), "but not as much as we would like."

The racial makeup of the day care center reflects that of the surrounding community. "A predominantly black day care center at a predominantly white church is unique," says day care center director Jo Stanton. She taught secondary school in the public school system for 15 years. She became director of the church-run day care center shortly after enrolling her baby daughter.

Grace Church has two day care facilities. Both provide a Christian environment of care and learning. The first, located in the main church building, opened in 1994. It has 125 students ages three to 11. The second, located a block and a half away, opened in July. With capacity for 84 students, it's reserved for infants and toddlers. "In that building," says Stanton,

"we're looking only at the needs of Their favorite destination, howevthose children. They require more er, is Oak Hollow Lake, where they pare than the older children do."

The day care center fulfills an introducing the church and facilities to the community.

While Grace Church serves the young, St. Stephen AME Zion Church ministers to the elderly. Since 1984 the church has operated an adult day care center. The church relieves caretakers and provides assistance and recreation for seniors. The center operates Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The center director is Natalie Bailey, and Dorothy Holland serves as activity coordinator. The center's 18 participants range in age from 50 to 103. Some have suffered strokes or have Alzheimer's disease.

The church van transports participants to and from the center. Each day the center provides two meals, a snack and a full schedule of activities, such as devotion led by supporting director James Stanton, senior exercise, current events talks, Bible study, arts and crafts, videos, musical entertainment, games and literacy lessons. "Some of our participants can't read and write," Holland explains, "and we're teaching them."

Participants also get their blood pressure checked daily and have a half-hour rest period. Once a week, they go on an outing. They have visited the mall and the airport and have taken rides in the country.

feed bread crumbs to the ducks.

The center also carries participants on errands to pay bills if such assistance is needed. Some families pay their own fees. Public and nonprofit agencies, however,

help subsidize some participants' fees. For the seniors, the St Stephen Adult Day Care Center means recreation and companionship. Equally important, it enables caretakers to work or pursue other interests, knowing that their loved ones are in good hands.

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