

Klan to rally at site of grisly murder

Spray paint still marks the spot where officials found the head of James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, along Huff Creek Road near Jasper, Texas.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

JASPER, Texas - The Ku Klux Klan has been given permission to hold a rally in the east Texas town where a black man was last week chained to a pickup truck and dragged to his death, officials said on Tuesday.

Deputy Sheriff Paul Brister said the Klan group had been granted a permit to parade for two hours on Saturday, June 27.

"I know they are expected here on June 27," he said. "I talked to one of them and asked him his purpose and he said it was to let citizens know they were here, they were available

and that they can be contacted."

Three white men allegedly linked to white supremacist groups have been charged with murdering 49-year-old James Byrd, whose mutilated body was found on the outskirts of Jasper on Sunday, June 7.

Police say Byrd was beaten senseless, chained by the ankles to the back of a pickup truck and dragged more than two miles down a backwoods road. His head, right arm and chunks of his flesh were torn off along the road.

The murder shocked the nation and focused attention on the Klan and other white

supremacist groups still active in areas of the South.

Most Jasper residents have condemned the murder and insist it is not a racist town, but the Klan rally is expected to increase tension in the area.

The Klan, with its white robes and burning crosses, is the best known of the country's white supremacist groups.

When Byrd was buried here on Saturday, over a dozen heavily-armed Black Muslims and members of a self-styled New Black Pan-

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Allegations topic of discussion

Roundtable and Trustees to discuss allegations against WSSU chancellor

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The recent controversy surrounding Winston-Salem State Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider will be the topic of conversation at two meetings today.

The Black Leadership Roundtable of Forsyth County will meet tonight to allow members of the community to air their concerns about the embattled chancellor.

Roundtable Co-Convenor, N.C. Rep. Larry Womble, D-Forsyth, says the meeting is the result of "concerns voiced by the community"

"We just wanted to offer an opportunity for members of the community to come and voice their opinions," Womble said. "The Roundtable hasn't taken a stance one way or another. What we're doing is offering an opportunity for people to voice their opinions."

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. and will be held in the Winston Mutual Building.

The allegations are also sure to take center stage during the university's Board of Trustees' quarterly meeting at the Anderson Center on the WSSU campus. Trustees are expected to issue a statement regarding recent allegations that Schexnider has misused state funds.

University officials are also expected to release the results of an audit of Schexnider's spending at WSSU.

Allegations against the chancellor began swirling shortly after he was installed.

When Schexnider took office as the chancellor at Winston-Salem State, he stated that he wanted to make the school a "student-centered university."

However, some faculty members at WSSU have said that Schexnider hasn't lived up to that. Some say they are concerned about the growing disparity between faculty, staff and administrative salary and concerned about the direction that the university has taken.

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Womble

We're Flying



A smiling Alan Thompson prepares for his first plane ride Tuesday. Alan was one of 90 children who took an aerial trip around the Triad courtesy of Eastwind Airlines.

Kids take ride of lifetime

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Alan Thompson couldn't wait to get off the ground.

A smile stretched across his face. In his head danced thoughts of flying through the clouds at a "million miles an hour."

"He's talked about it a lot the last two or three days," said his mother Tracey as they stood in line at the Piedmont Triad Airport.

The six-year-old Hampton Elementary student was about to embark on his first plane ride.

Thompson was one of 90 children Eastwind Airlines treated to a round trip flight from Greensboro to Norfolk, Va.

The company was celebrating the arrival of its new Boeing 737-700 series jet and invited the children to be the first to ride.

Radar, Eastwind's mascot, greeted each child as they entered the concourse to the plane, but little Thompson wasn't really excited by the oversized bug's presence. He had bigger fish to fry.

His heart was set on flying and finally getting

a chance to touch the sky.

Not only was it his first plane ride but for his mother's as well.

"I have butterflies myself," said Tracey Thompson. "The experience itself is the award, the more children are exposed to it at a young age the better."

As the children waited for the plane to take off, Alan talked to his mother and friend, five-year-old Noell Massenburg. Both Alan and Noell are members of Uplift, a Greensboro program that works with youth.

Throughout the 30 minute flight excited children's voices echoed through the cockpit.

"Are we flying," said one child to no one in particular.

"No, not yet," was the response from another child as the engines of the 737-700 jet roared in preparation for flight.

"For the kids it exposes them something they never might not even do," said flight attendant Brian Manubay. "I flew on my first flight at about the same age of these children. After

See Flight on A4

Memo sent by State Board of Education 'misleading'

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

A memo issued recently by the State Board of Education contains information that is "misleading," says officials at the U.S. Department of Education.

The memo, sent to news agencies across the state May 27 by the Board's Division of Communication and Information, said the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights "has determined there is no finding that the North Carolina accountability model has an adverse impact on minority administrators and teachers" to a complaint filed with the office by Winston-Salem principal Larry Fields.

In the complaint, Fields claims the state's new ABCs Accountability plan will adversely affect minority principals and administrators.

Officials at the U.S. Department of Education say the state's interpretation of the ruling in the memo was "misleading."

In a letter sent to state Superintendent Michael E. Ward, Alice Wender, acting director of the District of Columbia of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, clarifies OCR's findings and ask that state officials will "take steps to ensure that the Division of Communications presents a more accurate representation of OCR actions in the future."

While the state's release says OCR found ABCs wouldn't not have an effect on minority teachers, OCR officials say their rulings clearly says there wasn't enough evidence to determine the program affect on minorities because not enough data was available to accurately assess the program.

ABCs, which was implemented in 1996, assigns ratings to schools based on how their students perform on end of grade tests which cover reading, math and writing.

Staff in low performing schools face competency testing and, in some cases, termination if their schools don't meet performance standards.

Fields claims the plan will hurt minority principals and teachers, who he says are traditionally assigned to low performing schools, because standards set by the state don't take into consideration extenuating circumstances in poorer schools.

In the letter Wender writes: "The point of our letter was that it is simply too soon to determine if the



Fields

See Memo on A2

Hunt addresses 'both sides of puzzle' in juvenile bill

By JOHN MINTER
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

Gov. Jim Hunt used the wisdom of Solomon in presenting his new \$60 million juvenile crime bill to the state's legislators last month.

Hunt would allocate \$30 million for prevention and \$30 million for punishment, including increased use of boot camps for young offenders.

But the legislature may approve all of Hunt's proposals and some fear the General Assembly may lean more toward punishment than prevention.

"The governor is really trying to address both ends of the puzzle," said Steve Redmond, director of the Children's Law Center in Charlotte. "But he has a General Assembly that needs to refund excess taxes and it's not going to have money to fund alternatives (to punishment). The questions is whether the General Assembly will fund the entire budget or just the punishments."

"No one knows how it will play out," Redmond said. "It is expensive to fund both sides. Who knows if we have the will as a state to do that."

Redmond said alternatives such as boot camp need to be supported with measures to help change the conditions in which young people live, help their families and provide alternatives to life on the streets.

N.C. Rep. Beverly Earle said Hunt met with black legislators before presenting his plan to the General Assembly. The black legislators were supportive of the governor's plan, but Earle said she thinks the Republican-controlled House may not fund the entire plan.

Hunt proposals were based on a review by a study committee which called for some major revisions in the state juvenile justice system.

Among the proposals, in addition to the boot camps, are opening of juvenile court to public scrutiny. Now, most information about juvenile court is considered private, though school officials are notified when a student is charged with a felony.

Other revisions would reorganize family courts to deal with juveniles, to ensure that the entire family was involved in correcting problems and preventing a recurrence of criminal activity.

Redmond's agency handles 1,500 juvenile cases a year. The law center's attorneys are appointed to represent

juveniles - mainly under 16 - in court.

Redmond pointed out that many serious crimes are committed by children aged 16 and 17, so juvenile justice statistics are sometimes skewed because all age groups are blamed for increases in the criminal activity of the older group.

"I don't think the primary focus needs to be on an increase in detention beds and training school beds or an increase in boot camps," said Redmond, whose father is an Iredell County sheriff's deputy. "Those are appropriate tools, but they have to be used when necessary. They are not appropriate for every kid. They don't address why kids are committing crimes."

And, Redmond, pointed out, many incorrectly see juvenile crime as an inner city problem and think punishment is the only answer. Poor children get punished, but others get the alternatives.

"There is as much crime in southeast Charlotte and North Mecklenburg as there is in the inner city," he said. "Juvenile crime crosses all economic barriers. A lot of kids are doing things they ought not be doing in

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