



Kevin Jones adds his name to a growing list of people concerned about the fate of New Evergreen Cemetery. Jones said the petition drive to save the cemetery is important.

Roundtable joins fight to keep New Evergreen alive

By KEVIN WALKER
For THE CHRONICLE

Amid the hundreds of bestsellers at Special Occasions Bookstore, it is easy for customers to overlook the brown clipboard in front of the cash register. But the store's owners, Ed and Miriam McCarter, find time to remind shoppers of it as they ring up purchases.

"Have you heard about this petition they are starting to try to get them to expand Evergreen," Miriam McCarter asked one of her regular customers.

The "they" are members of the Black Leadership Roundtable, a group of men and women who meet to address issues important to the African American community.

The "them" are members of a group with a similar purpose, the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen.

The fate of the city-owned New Evergreen cemetery, located off of New Walkertown Road, was decided on May 18, when a proposal went before the board to expand the facility and failed to win a majority vote. Board members tied 4-4, and the vacationing

mayor was not present to cast the deciding vote.

The decision means that in the year 2001, New Evergreen, the first major cemetery to open its doors to blacks in 1944, will sell its last plots and reach maximum capacity.

If aldermen are to take another vote on the issue, at least five members must agree to it, one more than expansion supporters originally got.

The roundtable is hoping the signatures of hundreds of citizen will show board members that the future of New Evergreen is a great concern.

"Almost everyone whose attention I've called to it have been anxious to sign it," Miriam McCarter said referring to the petition.

"(Aldermen) say they are not closing the cemetery, but in essence that's what they are doing," Ed McCarter added. "It's not like we are going to stop dying all of a sudden."

The concern expressed by the McCarters is exactly the kind of grassroots outcry that roundtable leader and N.C. Rep. Larry Womble, D-Forsyth,

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75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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THURSDAY JUNE 25, 1998

Parents tell board to keep coordinator

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

At least 100 supporters of the African American Infusion Program attended a meeting of the Forsyth Board of Education Tuesday night.

And after hours of explaining to school board members why being inclusive is important to all children, the Board voted to restore the coordinator's position which provided training to schools about the program.

Officials are unsure if Pam Frazier, AAIP's last coordinator will continue in the position.

Superintendent Don Martin earlier had called the position "temporary" and reassigned the coordinator's duties to Avon Ruffin, who handles the social studies curriculum for the school system.

"There was never any decision to do away with the program," Martin said. "It was funded in the beginning with grant money and we estimated it would take about four years to implement in the school system. At that time the staff support position would be phased out. We felt a training coordinator would be needed during that four year period. After that we thought the program could be sustained without a full time position."

But the real winners are students, says educator Eileen Wilson-Oyularan, a member of the Community Advocacy Group which mounted a massive letter writing campaign aimed at getting black parents to make school board members and officials aware of the need for the staff position.

"Textbooks are a little better than they were before," said Wilson-Oyularan. "But African American history is still a little spasmodic. It's not really chronological. People of color are boxed off to the side, if you know what I mean. The beauty of the curriculum is that it brought everything together."

While the program has been in place for four years, Wilson-Oyularan's group says little effort has been made to ensure that schools receive the proper training to implement the program.

Currently 12 schools have not implemented the program and efforts to begin a Hispanic curriculum have not been completed.

Martin says the 12 remaining schools are being brought on this year. The school system set a drop dead date for implementation then asked for volunteers for come on line each year.

As for the implementation of the Hispanic component, Martin says that was never set in stone.

"It was never written on a timeline," Martin said.

See AAIP on A11



Brown

40 Acres?



Knightdale farmers Johnny High, left, and James Dunn are part of a growing number of North Carolina black farmers fighting to hold on to their farms.

Black farmers locked in battle to save way of life

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

For many black farmers, their future harvests will rest on what happens at the nation's capital, not out in the growing fields.

Because of discrimination, black farmers claim they are unable to purchase seeds or machinery needed for crops until the middle or end of the growing season—which may be too late. Therefore they are unable to make money to pay for already existing loans. The government then forecloses on their farms and takes the land leaving the black farmer with a huge debt and no way

to pay it.

A North Carolina farmer, Tim Pigford, is the lead plaintiff in the discrimination suit filed last year by 400 black farmers against U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

The suit alleges that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has practiced discriminatory loan policies toward black farmers between 1983-1997. According to the Congressional Black Caucus, white farmers received 91 percent of farm loans in 1997, 2 percent went to blacks, 4 percent to Hispanics and 1 percent to Native Americans.

See Black Farmers on A3

'I made some errors,' WSSU chancellor says

Schexnider discusses results of new audit

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

According to an internal audit, Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider of Winston-Salem State violated spending policies at least four times this year.

The results of the audit were released to the university's Board of Trustees at a meeting last Thursday on the WSSU campus.

During an exclusive interview with The Chronicle earlier this week, Schexnider admitted he made "some errors in judgment" and is ready to "put the matter behind him and move the university forward."

The allegations came to light two months ago when individuals with ties to WSSU reported them to the state auditor's office. The Chronicle detailed them in a series of recent articles.

"I look at them not as abuses of power," Schexnider said, "but as the report describes it. It said I made some errors in judgment. They are minor. They are not material findings ... (In an audit) you have findings, then you have significant findings and material findings. These are insignificant findings."

The university's board did not sanction or reprimand Schexnider. However, it did find that he acted improperly in making personal and school-related purchasing decisions.

The findings of the audit revealed that Schexnider used state employees to perform work at his house twice in the last three months. He had employees deliver and set up personal workout equipment in his house. State employees also repaired a basketball goal at his house.

Schexnider broke university purchasing procedures when he purchased a large-screen television set for \$1,861.75 for his residence. He did not receive prior approval from the university's purchasing department, but later asked for reimbursement.

He also improperly had his house keeper, who works on a contractual basis, transport his children to and from school. According to state law, non-state employees performing official state business can be reimbursed for travel expenses.



Schexnider

See Schexnider on A5

Parents remember special child

By HANNAH M. ROSE
For THE CHRONICLE

On August 29 1994, nine-year-old Kenny Wright grabbed his books, waved goodbye to his mother, and skipped out to his bus stop near his family's home in Carver Glen.

It would have been the 4th grader's fourth day at Prince Ibrahim Elementary School. Instead, it was his last day of life.

As Kenny ran to the bus stop that morning he was struck and killed by a Chevrolet Blazer. Kenneth Wright Sr., a mild mannered and soft-spoken man said that several residents had complained about the location of the bus stop.

Since Kenny's death, a lot of things have changed. Sidewalks have been added to the street where he lost his life.

But it's the scholarship that bears his name that most people are talking about.

See Scholarship on A11



Vanessa Wright looks at a picture of her son, Kenny. The family has begun a memorial fund in Kenny's honor.

Chronicle, Post pick up 12 during annual convention

By JOHN MINTER
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

The Chronicle and The Charlotte Post, both Consolidated Media Group weeklies, were voted second and third best African American papers in the country during an industry convention last week.

The awards were handed out last week in Memphis, Tenn. during The National Newspaper Publisher Association's annual convention.

The Chronicle picked up five awards including "Best Sport Section" for the second year in a row

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