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Kenneth Kaunda

Tragedy led former president to new cause

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In Africa, AIDS is threatening to destroy "the village," the continent's centuries-old concept of family, faith, morals and respect.

That's what one of the Motherland's most respected leaders believes, and it's a threat that he is not taking lightly.

"The social system in Africa was strong enough that when people died, their families would take care of the orphans," said Kenneth Kaunda. "But so many people are dying across the board, that's no longer possible."

Kaunda, the former president of Zambia, is in the midst of an international effort to stir up interest in the Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation, an organization he is devoting all of his time to since he left the world of politics less than a month ago. The foundation's mission is to aid the orphans of Africa, mainly those orphaned because their parents were victims of the AIDS epidemic which has been especially vicious in Africa.

"It's a terrible epidemic," Kaunda said. "We have lost millions to AIDS on the continent as a whole."

Oddly, Winston-Salem was Kaunda's

first stop on a sort of promotional tour for the foundation. He arrived here June 10 and spent all of last week meeting with church leaders, business and education officials and notables like poet Maya Angelou.

Winston-Salem will also serve as one of four international headquarters for the foundation. The others are in Lusaka, Zambia's capital city and Kaunda's hometown; Johannesburg and London.

Kaunda said he is giving so much attention to Winston-Salem because longtime colleague Robert Penney - an Irishman who lived in Zambia for nearly 30 years - resides here. Penney will head

the local office.

Kaunda first began to think about starting the foundation in 1986 while still serving as president of the landlocked nation. One of his nine children died of the disease that year. Kaunda and his wife, Betty, took on the responsibility of raising the six children that were left behind after their son's death.

Kaunda became the first president of an independent Zambia in 1964. He left the presidency in 1991, and up until last month, he headed the United National Independence Party, one of the nation's

See Foundation on A10

National HIV Testing Day will help to fight fear

RODGE
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is National HIV Testing Day. While some see the prospect of discovering if they are infected with the fatal disease frightening, experts say that for all people, African Americans in particular, the test is a relief.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 41 percent of new AIDS cases in the United States are among African American people.

African Americans account for 37 percent of the AIDS cases in the United States. According to the National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS, one of the 650,000-900,000 people living with HIV, one-third don't know their status.

Anderson, director of NAPWA, said the idea for National HIV Testing Day was born out of the concern for people who did not know they had HIV. National testing was started in 1995.

Anderson was talking about the advantages of testing. "A lot of people are afraid of the test," he said.

Anderson added, it is vital that people know if they are HIV positive and he said it was hard to muster the strength to take the test.

"I was at risk, but in my gut I didn't want to know. It is a scary feeling," he said.

Anderson said that finding out one's status allows that person to get the treatment needed to combat the disease.

Anderson added that the National HIV Testing Day is designed to normalize HIV testing.

Anderson said, it has been working. There have been a number of signs (that people are being tested). We find that during the week of National HIV Testing Day, there is a higher number of people going to the test," Anderson said.

Anderson said a church group in Miami got together to have 100 people to be tested, he added.

In the last five years, Anderson said there has been a significant shift in how people handle getting tested. "People see it as something you can control," he said.

Anderson acknowledges that there are still many people who face when they consider testing. "If people still don't trust the test," he said.

See Forsyth Health on A10

Doing it yourself



Photo by Paul Collins

Regina Singletary takes a faucet apart and puts it back together again. Sylvia Neely looks on.

Locals learn how-to at clinic

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

During a how-to clinic on repairing and installing faucets last Thursday night, Regina Singletary got a chance to take a faucet apart and put it back together again.

Other participants in the clinic gave her moral support.

"You make it look like you know what you're doing," one of them said as Regina worked on the project.

"You go, girl. You go," said Bryce Wood of Lowe's Home Improvement store at Hanes Mall, one of the instructors.

"What night do you want to start working?" Steven Speer of Lowe's, the other instructor, said

when Regina successfully completed the project.

Regina smiled broadly, and she received a round of applause from the clinic participants and instructors.

During a break, Singletary said she wants "to learn how to do some minor repairs myself."

Last Thursday night's clinic, at the Winston-Salem Urban League, was the first of a series of how-to clinics sponsored by Lowe's Home Improvement and the Urban League for homeowners and potential homeowners from Habitat for Humanity and public housing.

"The Urban League along with Lowe's Home Improvements came up with this initiative as a result of our president and CEO (Delores J. "D" Smith)

See How to on A4

Mayor Perkins: Town's down but not out

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Alderwoman Joycelyn Johnson introduced guest speaker Delia Perkins - the mayor of the flood-devastated town of Princeville - at the third annual anniversary celebration of the Black Leadership Roundtable Saturday. Johnson described Perkins as a small woman who "can moooove a mountain, can be battered by the angry sea and still hold on."



Perkins

Perkins then told Princeville's remarkable story of devastation, determination and efforts to rebuild.

"The town of Princeville is a small town on the Tar River that was founded by freed slaves...These slaves came across after freedom and decided this was a place they wanted to call their own, and they decided to stay. (They lived through) hardships of flooding, of everything you can imagine that people would encounter trying to start something anew, trying to build a foundation. They stood, they stayed, and Princeville is still there.

"On Sept. 16, we had a visitor from Florida. We thought at first that it was torrential rains, and low-lying flooding, that we would not have a thing to worry about. After all, we do have that three-mile dike that's around the city of Princeville, which is 37 feet high. We just didn't give a thought that we would encounter flooding.

"But on Thursday night, after much labor putting down sandbags and trying to decide what we needed to do about the flood waters that were coming up through the storm drains, how to evacuate citizens out, we decided to at least leave, then maybe tomorrow morning, Friday, to come back and we could clean up what was messed up and start all over again.

"But this was not to happen. Floyd devastated the town of Princeville to the extent that we had 46 feet of water within our town. Everything that you could imagine in the town was submerged under water for 10 days. As I walked out to the bridge on that Friday morning and looked across and thought

See Princeville on A9

CDC hits home run with kids

WALKER
ICLE

Members of the Southside Community Development Corp. say they are fulfilling their social duty by providing their neighbors and community with uniforms to initiate a partnership to improve city-owned recreation centers in the community.

As two years ago. This is the latest fruits of that partnership to bear. The Southside Community Development Corp. distributed about 65 baseball uniforms to center directors at each of the centers in the Southside - the Center, Reynolds Rec Center, Garden Rec Center, Street Rec Center and Belmont Rec Center.

The uniforms were then presented to people who make up the youth baseball teams. They were presented for the first time Tuesday

for the first game of the season in a league made up of the five centers.

Cary Cain, president of the Southside CDC, said the organization decided to secure uniforms for the teams because the rec centers provide positive outlets for young people in the various communities. He said the partnership with the CDC also shows that the CDC is about more than "bricks and mortar."

"As a CDC, we have a social obligation as well as a financial obligation," Cain said.

The organization's economic obligation is often what gets most of the attention, however. The CDC has just hired a project manager for the much talked about Happy Hill revitalization project, which is expected to transform the historic community by adding new structures and giving facelifts to others.

But the CDC is also aggressively trying to make its mark on the social front. Recently it has sponsored a series of programs at the rec centers aimed at building a stronger social fabric in the community. Student performers from the N.C. School of the Arts, which is located in the Southside, have staged performances at the centers at the CDC's request. The organization also arranged for a circus group to make a stop at one of the centers recently. A CDC-sponsored workshop for prospective home buyers was held at the Sims Center just three weeks ago.

The total cost of the uniforms was about \$1,600, Cain said. The money was raised through corporate donations and grants. Steve Mack, treasurer of the CDC, began soliciting local businesses for money near-

See CDC on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker

Jacques Bitting, from left, Tiffany Richardson, Nicole Stewart, Jeffrey Richardson, and Anthony Aikens, Jr. hold the new shirts for the teams. Also pictured in second row: center directors Brian Manns, from left, and Bryant McCorkle; Beth Barnhill and Lemelia Bonner of the CDC; center director Ben Piggott. Back row: from left, Cary Cain and Steve Mack of the CDC.