



Wilkins never gave up dream to play football

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Freshman hear from local stroke doctor

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Pastor honored for many years of service

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THURSDAY, August 31, 2006

Dems seek to end GOP board control

Republicans have long called the shots on Board of Education

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Democratic Party is confident this election year that it can weaken Republican control of the city-county School Board.

Republicans have long called the shots on the board. Seven of the nine members are Republicans. The two Democrats are also the board's only African Americans. Democrats Geneva Brown and Victor Johnson have for years served District 1, which is largely African-American.

Democrats over the years have tried, and ultimately failed, to win one, two or all three of the School Board's At-Large seats, which are decided by every voter in the county. Democrats have also come up short in District 2, which has four seats that are decided by suburban voters.

Three of the four Democrats fighting for a place on the board in the November election, used the first day of school, Aug. 25, to point out what they say are major faults with the current Republican-dominated board. They - along with Forsyth County



Photo by Kevin Walker

School board member Geneva Brown speaks at last week's news conference. Behind her are three School Board candidates. To her left is Democratic Party Chairman Harold Kennedy III.

Democratic Party Chairman Harold Kennedy III and School Board Member Brown - held a noontime news conference in Hanes Park at a strategically-

placed podium that put Wiley Middle School over the shoulders of each speaker.

"I believe in diversity - period," Brown said when asked,

before the news conference, about her participation. She said the board needs more political diversity. Her Republican colleagues, she added, have made decisions

that she believes have not been beneficial to students. She is still angry about the redistricting plan that the board passed a decade ago

See Democrats on A5

Davis Garage plans unveiled

Developers want to create transportation, retail hub

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

A plan to transform a historic area adjacent to Winston-Salem State University received mostly positive reviews during a community meeting Monday.

Excelsior Street Development Company, a

newly-formed partnership between businessmen Bill Cannon and Chris Frantz, wants to convert Davis



Johnson

Garage into a transportation, retail center with a nearby residential/office building. About a dozen people gathered at Ishi Pentecostal Temple, which is a few yards away from the garage, to listen to the plans and to examine architectural renderings depicting what the finished project may look like.

Davis Garage was once the city's train station. Cannon and Frantz want to revert it back to a train station. Their plans are to only restore the three-story building, which has not been altered over the years. The building has been designated a historic property.

The restored building would not only be a place for travelers. Plans are to have a shopping mall on the top two floors with a mix of major retailers, restaurants and locally-owned shops. A multi-level residential, office building would be built adjacent to the train station on property that currently stores junk cars.

The plans have evolved over the last two years. Cannon credits former WSSU Chancellor Harold Martin with helping to cultivate the idea. There are plans to have pedestrian bridges, or perhaps, even a tunnel, to connect the eastern side of the campus with the new structure. WSSU may also get some space in the proposed residential/office building.

Those in attendance were mostly members of Ishi, which has been at its current location for more than half a century. The developers assured church members and residents along Excelsior Street that their properties would not be affected by the project.

"We want this to be something that will be a win-win for everyone here," Cannon said after telling the crowd that their property values would skyrocket if the project comes to fruition.

In its heyday, Excelsior

See Garage on A11

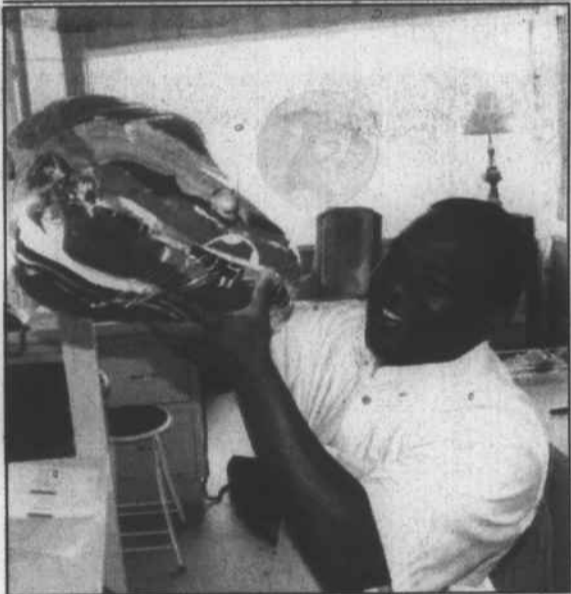


Photo by Kevin Walker

Al Shaw Jr. places a bundle of clean clothes on a shelf.

MR. CLEAN

Young entrepreneur opens West End laundry service

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It's a dirty, tedious job - so why should you have to do it? That is part of the business philosophy of Al Shaw Jr. He opened Personal Care's Downtown Laundry last week because he believes that in today's stressful, competitive world, the last thing people should have to worry about is whether they have clean clothes to wear to the office the next day.

"We offer a convenient service - fresh, good-smelling cloths," Shaw said Friday as he manned the phone at Personal Care's. "We want to take some of the pressure off of busy people."

Located in the heart of the West End, Personal Care's offers an array of laundry services - everything from dry-cleaning to an office/home pickup service. But its bread and butter is its drop-off service, which lets customers drop off their dirty clothes one day and pick up clean items the next day. Several coin-operated laundromats in the city offer a drop-off service, but Shaw believes his business is the only one in Winston-Salem which focuses primarily on laundry drop-offs.

A city native who graduated from N.C. A&T State University

See Shaw on A13

WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE



Photo by Kevin Walker

Hashim Saleh holds a picture of Ruth B. Lewis, a former principal of Kimberley Park School. Saleh helped put together a program last week that featured several people who graduated from Kimberley in the '30s and '40s. The alumni encouraged current Kimberley Park teachers and talked about life at the old school. To read more, see page A5 of this week's Chronicle.



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