



Jacob W. Hughes, Jr., addresses this concerns during the public meeting.



Ron Bristow addresses the panel during a public meeting concerning the methane gas that has been recently discovered in the vicinity of Bowman Gray Stadium on Thursday, June 25, at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Fitch St.



Stacey Smith, president of Smith Gardner, explains the details of the recent methane gas discovery.

Photos by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle

## Neighbors

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A statement released by city officials said while the odorless, flammable gas escaping the soil is not hazardous, it could pose a threat of explosion and cause headaches, dizziness, and nausea if build up is confined inside buildings.

According to the statement, testing had to be conducted before a plan could be set in motion. The initial testing was conducted by Smith Gardner consulting firm. Stacey Smith, president of Smith Gardner, said that in the 14 homes they tested, none had a detection of methane.

"We've done an extensive sweep of the Bowman Gray property and the surrounding areas," Smith said. "We have not found any methane gas inside any of the residents we have tested at this time."

Assistant City Manager Greg Turner said that if residents would like their property checked for methane gas, they should let city officials know by filling out the correct forms. According to Turner, private property cannot be checked for the gas unless the property owner gives permission.

"We need your permission to go onto your property to sample soil and enter your homes. The last thing we want is methane in someone's home, but we can't check unless the permission is given," Turner said.

To be added to the list to have property and home checked, residents must fill out a form that is posted on the city's website.

Dennis Leach, who is the pastor at Morning Star, said he believes a better plan should be set up for checking the neighbor-

hoods in the community.

"A lot of the residents are not computer literate, so unless someone does it for them, they won't be able to have their homes checked. That just isn't right," Leach said. "I just don't want anyone's property to be overlooked for that reason."

According to Turner, testing in the area will continue on Tuesday, July 7. Results from those tests will not be back until late August.

"We will continue testing until we have a clear understanding what we're dealing with. We need the support of the community to make sure no one is at risk."

A PowerPoint presentation that was shown during the meeting, showing which locations have already been tested, is located on the city's official website.



U.S. Supreme Court building



Hayes



Jones



Miller Jones

## Locals

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Hayes presided over the wedding of a lesbian couple and was able to say the words "by the power invested in me by the state of North Carolina" for the first time as he officiated. Now, thanks to what he said was a "wonderful" Supreme Court ruling, he'll be able to continue saying it.

"It speaks to the justice-mindedness of the country as the country enters into a season, I truly do believe it is a season of civil rights and of justice," he said.

Hayes said he thought the decision would make Senate Bill 2, a recently passed state law that allows magistrates to recuse themselves from marrying same-sex couples if they have religious objections to marrying a couple, unconstitutional because it allows magistrates to not perform same-sex marriages.

Wake Forest University Law Professor Shannon Gilreath agreed. He said the majority in the Supreme Court cited *Loving v. Virginia*, which established the right of interracial marriage, in its decision, giving same sex couples the same type of fundamental constitutional protections.

"Same sex marriage now occupies the same space constitutionally that interracial marriage occupies," he said. "If an interracial couple presented themselves to a magistrate who said 'Sorry, but I won't marry you because the Bible tells me the races shouldn't mix,' I think there's no question that the magistrate's actions would be unconstitutional."

Regarding the Affordable Care Act

(ACA), Lafayette Jones and Sandra Miller Jones were particularly elated over the ruling that upheld the subsidies that help lower and middle income Americans buy private insurance in the health insurance exchanges or marketplaces set up by the ACA, popularly known as Obamacare.

"We think it is a victory for millions of people who finally have access to quality affordable health coverage because of the Affordable Care Act," said Sandra Miller Jones.

For the past three years the couple's company, Segmented Marketing Services Inc. has been signing up thousands of people for health insurance through the ACA's marketplace. They've been informing thousands more about it through navigators that spread the word about the new law, advertising, direct mail marketing and their Urban Call magazine.

They said the stakes were very high, with 85 percent of the 10.2 million consumers who enrolled in health insurance through the exchanges qualifying for subsidies. The couple said they'd gotten many calls from consumers concerned about if their subsidies might go away.

"There's no longer an uncertainty," Lafayette Jones said.

Mark Hall, a WFU professor of law and public health, said if the Supreme Court had ruled the other way, declaring that the wording in the law didn't allow for consumers in states like North Carolina that use the federal health-care exchange to get subsidies, millions would've seen their financial assistance disappear. Many would've found health

insurance simply too expensive to be able to afford and dropped it. The mass exodus of insurance consumers may have caused health insurances prices to sky rocket and potentially caused a collapse of the whole market.

He said that the "coast is clear" for the ACA in the courts with no other major challenges to the fundamentals of the law.

Fair housing activists like Winston-Salem Human Relations Department Director Wanda Allen-Abraha were glad the Supreme Court upheld the use of disparate impact in fair housing cases, which says discrimination doesn't not have to be intentional to be illegal.

The local Human Relations Department mediates landlord/tenant disputes and has about a dozen fair housing claims a year, which allege discrimination against a tenant on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, nationality or disability.

Allen-Abraha said disparate impact allows for fair housing cases to be argued based on the discriminatory impacts of an action and not just its intention. This is true not just in individual cases, but in cases involving lending and other housing policies such as the case the Supreme Court ruled on, in which a concentration of low income tax credits in black neighborhoods unacceptably increased segregation even if the practice wasn't intentionally racist.

"I think the decision is just an affirmation for a lot of the work that had been taking place around the country over the past 40 years," she said.

## Veteran

from page A1

some "quick rank" since soldiers in combat were promoted faster.

"I was scared, but I did my country good," he said.

He can still vividly recall the dead bodies lying everywhere on the front lines, some of which were there for days. He said he'd never been more scared.

"That does something to you," Dodd said. "It does something to your mind, it does something to your head, it does something to you all over. You can't hardly stand that."

The soldiers with him were terrified, too. During a barrage where mortar rounds were falling all around their position, one tried to run away. Dodd grabbed him and pulled him back in the foxhole. As Dodd was doing that, he was struck by a mortar. A first he didn't even know he was hit and then saw blood running down his leg. Blood filled his shoes. A medic was called and he was brought via helicopter to a Navy ship, where he was treated. On top of his injuries, his feet were frozen and frost bitten in the Korean winter. At one point, he said, doctors almost amputated his feet, but he told them not to.

Dodd said that as he was recovering, he was given his Purple Heart, which he held in his hand. He figured he'd have a hard keeping up with it and gave it back so it could be kept with his records. He never saw the medal again.

Dodd healed and was sent back to the frontline. He said his records must have been lost as he transferred from place to place

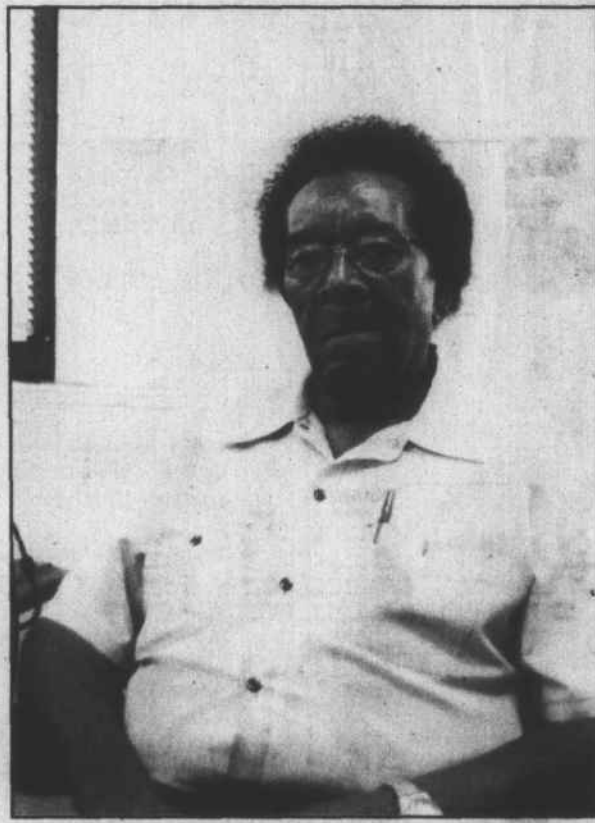


Photo by Todd Luck

Dock Dodd has been trying to get VA compensation for 16 years.

**"I wasn't there by myself."**

—Dock Dodd

during the war.

Now at the age of 85, Dodd still experiences pain and swelling from that old war injury and shrapnel still remains in his body. PTSD still makes recalling the war a traumatic experience for him. He gets care from VA doctors, but cannot get VA compensation for his injuries.

The search for proof that he was in Korea has been extensive, with a congressional review and an extensive search for Dodd's records.

At this point,

Muhammad said that he's scouring the Internet and social media hoping to find someone who served with Dodd in Korea. It's a long shot because it's been 65 years, but if he could find a witness that places Dodd there during the war, he said Dodd finally would receive compensation.

"I wasn't there by myself," Dodd said.

Anyone who served with Dock C. Dodd in Korea can contact Commander Jamaal Muhammad at [nabvetsg-](mailto:nabvetsg-)

## Correction

The Chronicle apologizes for an error made in a story written by Tevin Stinson and printed in The Chronicle on page A10 on June 25. The article stated the general manager of the Winston-Salem Hotel and Spa was Walter Smith, when in fact the correct name of the general manager is Rudy Ferraro. The Chronicle regrets the error. The Editor

## Have a Story Idea?

Let us Know

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