

New home for rebel statues?



• See Opinion/Forum pages on A8&9 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

THE CHRONICLE

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Caucus: Event stalls black monument effort

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

The chair of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (NCLBC) says her members believe the political atmosphere is too racially caustic now, especially after the tragic events of Charlottesville two weeks ago, and subsequent growing-controversy surrounding the removal of Confederate statues and monuments statewide, to publicly lobby for funding for the long-planned Freedom Monument project.

"The consensus of our group is that we

didn't want to conflate the issue of the African-American monument, and lack thereof, to the Confederate monument issue at this point," said State Sen. Angela Bryant (D - District 4), NCLBC chair. "We think [both issues] should be addressed separately. We don't want them to get into a competitive issue." It was last March when Gov. Roy Cooper, a



Bryant



Goodwin

Democrat, first appropriated in his proposed budget a one-time funding of \$200,000 toward the design and other planning surrounding the Freedom Monument, a state monument to be erected in honor of African-American contributions to the state. The project had been originally planned under the previous administration of Republican Gov. Pat

McCrory, who wholeheartedly endorsed the project as "...an appropriate way to recognize the contributions to North Carolina's history."

Public hearings had been held statewide, and the N.C. Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, along with the N.C. African American Heritage Commission and N.C. Historical Commission, was coordinating. But when Republican legislative leaders unveiled their final \$24 billion fiscal budget in June, the Freedom Monument Project was

See Monument on A2

HIDDEN TOWN

Slaves and freemen lived in shadows of Salem

This is the second of a three-part series.

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

It is impossible to tell the story of Salem without including the narratives of enslaved blacks and freemen like Peter Oliver, Johann Samuel, Christian David and countless others.

From the time the first slave was purchased by Wachovia Moravians on Aug. 7, 1769, the black population lived, worked, and played in the same spaces occupied by their owners but in the shadows, going almost unnoticed in what has become known as Hidden Town.

When discussing the hidden history of the black population in Salem, it is important to note that during the late 18th century when the town of Salem was founded, it was unlike many others in the Southern United States. Salem was a theocracy, which means it was governed by the church. In the beginning all slaves in the town were owned by the Wachovia Administration, the governing body of all six communities in the area: Salem, Bethania, Bethabara, Hope, Friedberg and Friedland. During the Industrial Revolution, you will see how living arrangements of the enslaved set Salem apart from other towns and cities in the South as well.

Despite rules that prohibited the individual ownership of slaves, as the town continued to grow,

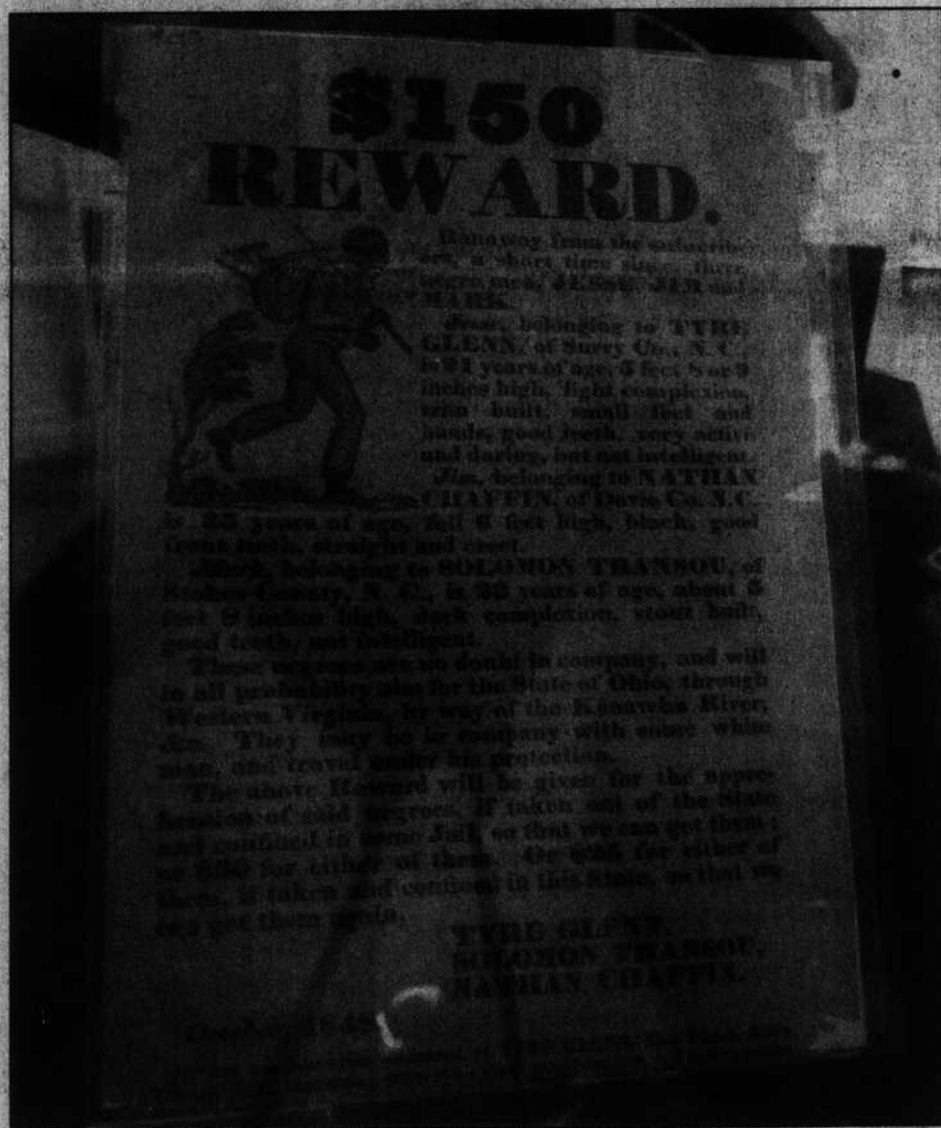


Photo by Tevin Stinson

A reward poster for runaway slaves posted in the town of Salem. Around this time segregation started to become popular in the Moravian town.

the use of slave labor crept into the Moravian way of life. Throughout the majority of the 18th and early 19th centuries, renting slaves was suggested as an alternative to owning slaves. For example, records from the "Salem

Diary" in "Records of the Moravians in North Carolina" show that in 1803 the owner of a tavern named Elrod requested the services of a slave to help out in the pub.

An excerpt reads, "... After a full discussion of

the matter Council approved the suggestion to make an exception in this case, and gave Br. Elrod permission to bring him on condition that if he did not behave well he would send him away."

See Slaves on A7

Will U.S. court accept new redistricting maps?

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

After much ado, the newly proposed legislative redistricting maps were released last weekend, with statewide public hearings held on Tuesday, House and Senate committee votes scheduled for today and/or Friday, and possibly a state House floor vote scheduled either Friday or Monday. Before the process is completed, both legislative houses are expected to have ratified each other's maps, and Democrats are expected to unveil their own maps.

Unlike in 2011, race was not among the criteria used in drawing the new maps.

Democrats, as expected, have already turned thumbs down on the new GOP-leaning maps, which, by order of a three-judge U.S. District panel, are supposed to remedy the 28 out of 170 illegal and unconstitutional racial gerrymanders drawn into the 2011 legislative redistricting maps. The three-judge panel ordered the districts redrawn a year ago, and the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that decision last June.

The judicial panel has since, after blasting Republican legislative leaders for deliberately dragging their feet, ordered them to produce remedied maps by Sept. 1 (Sept. 15 at the latest) or else face having a court-appointed special master draw them, something that Democrats and many critics of the pending new Republican maps would welcome because it would take the GOP partisanship out of the process.

"My initial impression of the maps is that they're up to the same shenanigans they were up to before the court slapped them on the wrist. So now maybe the court will smack 'em upside the head and they'll get the message more clearly," Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue told Spectrum News on Monday. Blue added that "even though the Republicans said they would not employ race as one of the criteria in redrawing the maps, there's little question they use it to their advantage where they could."

Speakers at the satellite public hearings were just as damning of the maps. In Raleigh, a young mother named "Eva" said she was embarrassed that North Carolina was "no longer a democracy." She added that the process "feels like computerized apartheid."

Eva closed by warning Republicans, "Don't act like Nazis - gerrymandering is white supremacy."

As they stand now, 33 of the proposed Senate districts,

See Maps on A5

W-S OKs Sunday morning alcohol

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Military incentives, serving alcohol on Sunday and where newspaper racks can go downtown were among the items approved by the City Council on Monday, Aug. 21.

Citizens responded to a variety of issues during the public comment period. One was Rev.

Robert Hutchens, pastor of Meadowview Baptist Church, who opposed the council's approval of a "brunch" ordinance allowing the sale of malt beverages, unfortified and fortified wine and mixed beverages on Sundays starting at 10 a.m. Such sales had been restricted to after 12 p.m. on Sundays.

The General Assembly recently gave local governments the option to allow sales of such bev-

erages on Sunday morning. Hutchens said that he felt "the Moravians who founded Winston-Salem would roll over in their graves" as the city became the latest to adopt the measure. He felt that it would lead to more problems with alcohol, like drunk driving.

"They start drinking at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning, they're going to be on the roads when

See City on A2

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