

**EDUCATION**

**Davidson Improvement Plan approved**

**EMILY WEAVER**

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Bob Grigg, principal of Davidson Alternative School, presented the school's improvement and safe school plan to the Cleveland County Board of Education Monday night at the board meeting. The plan was presented for board member's approval and was unanimously accepted.

Part A of the plan concentrated on the school's Accountability Goal and AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). According to Part A strategies, teachers will work closely with each student to raise EOG reading scores among middle school students (grades 6-8) from 53 percent last year to 55 percent this term.

Part B of the Accountability Goal and AYP is designed to raise the percentage of high school students' proficiency in EOC (End of Course) testing from 35 percent last year to 38 percent this year. Staff will apply the same strategy used in Part A with the addition of emphasizing the particular areas where each student needs improvement or shows weakness.

The next goal is to decrease the number of students receiving discipline referrals from 5 per student last year (360 in total) to

4.75 per student (342 in total) for 2007. The strategy to achieve this goal involves teachers implementing two lessons per week that address the school district's Character Education Plan goals through a list of character traits. The school counselor and social worker will address a majority of student problems before referrals are made to the office. Administration will review the logs from the counselor and social worker.

Another goal of the plan is designed to increase the number of community members involved in the school from 24 last year to 26 this year. Strategies state that students will be encouraged to keep students on task; and that community volunteers will be invited to share learning with the students.

The last phase of the plan does not focus on the safe school/improvement plan but does focus on the improvement of students' and staff's health and well being. It strategically reserves 8-10 minutes of physical activity per class period as required by law. Student accidents plan to be prevented by them not being restrained for more than 10 minutes. Students will also be sent to ISS (In-School Suspension) for the remainder of

the class period for disruptive behavior.

According to the ABC's Incentive Pay, "Certified personnel and teacher assistant (ISS) employed more than three months in Cleveland County Schools and assigned to Davidson School shall be eligible to receive ABC compensation allocated to the school. Employees will be compensated based on the percentage of full time employment at Davidson School. Eligible employees in active employment or on approved leave at the end of the school year shall receive bonus pay. Employees will be compensated on a pro-rated basis according to the number of months an employee works. If partial months are involved, amounts will be rounded to the nearest month."

Davidson provides an alternative educational environment to students, grades 6-12, who have demonstrated behavioral problems. Each middle and high school in the district is allowed to fill only a certain number of seats at Davidson. The school can accept a total of 74 students. The staff at Davidson is made up of eight certified teachers, an EC teacher assistant, a guidance counselor, a school social worker,

the principal, secretary, a teacher assistant/bus driver, two custodial bus drivers and an ISS instructor/bus driver. Students are placed on a point system to gain readmittance to their home school. They must earn 1300 points in the fall semester and 1500 points in the spring, by displaying good behavior and good grades, to return to their regular school.

Dr. Darrin Hartness told board members that after completing a survey to find out how their school system compares to others, he was informed that Cleveland County Schools was ranked among the top 10 school districts in North Carolina.

Interim Superintendent Steve Borders told members that the state is faced with a shortage of school administrators and suggested that action be taken through an Administrative Mentoring Program (AMP). The program would encourage and guide more teachers into principalship. A kick-off dinner with a speaker about the program is set for Nov. 20 at 5:30 pm at First National Bank in Shelby. Four follow-up meetings will be held from 3:30 pm-5 pm at Shelby Middle School's Media Center on December 13, January 24, March 21, and May 2, 2007.

**Schools to offer candidate superintendent position**

Cleveland County Schools have found their next superintendent. After months of searching for the best fit for their schools and the community, board members have narrowed down their search to one candidate. They are not releasing the name of the man that they have chosen, however, until their lawyer can work out a contract

negotiation with him.

The board members met in closed session after the regular school board meeting Monday night to discuss the issue. "We reached a general agreement," said Chairman of the Board George Litton. He said that their lawyer is in contract negotiations with the candidate at this time. Once he has agreed upon the

contract, he will join the Board in open session where members will approve the contract and vote him into the position. His identity will be released during the open session meeting and the public, then, will be able to meet their new superintendent of schools.

Litton said that after everything is in motion on this end,

the candidate will then have to resign from his position as superintendent of his current school district and get out of his contract with them. "Our target goal is January 1," he said, adding that they hope to have him in office by then. "But if that time period is too short then we can allow for a little more time."

**LOCAL BRIEFS**

**Power outage hits four counties**

The power outage that folks in Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, and Rutherford counties experienced in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 22, was due to mechanical problems. Officials from Rutherford Electric said that one of Duke Power's 440 transmission lines killed power to seven of their substations, causing the blackout. The problem was fixed and power was returned a few hours later. Sometimes power interruptions are scheduled for maintenance on the system. The schedule is available on Rutherford Electric's website, remc.com, under the News link. There are no scheduled power interruptions at this time.

**Terror by the Tracks at Little Theatre**

The Kings Mountain Little Theatre will continue their last week-end haunting the Joy Performance Theatre, 202 S. Railroad Avenue, with their spook-spectacular "Terror by the Tracks." The haunted theatre will scare from 7 pm-11 pm Friday and Saturday nights and a special "lights on" tour for the little ones will be held from 10 am-2 pm on Friday. Their website, terrorbythetracks.com, said that the lights on tour will be a simple walk-through with all of the lights on and no live scares for the "younger haunters and older scaredy-cats."

General admission is \$10. A group rate of \$8 each is available for a group of eight that want to be frightened together. Tickets may be purchased at the theater.

**Financial aid workshops at CCC**

Cleveland Community College will host several financial aid workshops during the next three months. All workshops are free and will be held in the Shelby Rotary Club Center for Global Studies in the Jim and Patsy Rose Library. Each individual will need to take 2005 federal tax forms, W-2 forms, and any social security, AFDC, or child support information. Pre-registration is required as seating is limited. Call 704-484-4028 for more information and to register. The following is the workshop schedule:

- Monday, October 30, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 16, 10:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 28, 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13, 10:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 14, 5:30 p.m.

**Historical Museum to host book signing**

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum will be hosting a slide lecture presentation and book signing by Anita P. Davis, on Thursday, November 9 at 7:30pm., on her recently published book "Cleveland County In World War II."

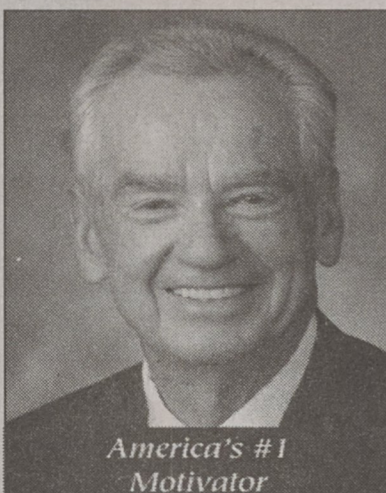
She has written several books about this area of the western piedmont.

Dr. Davis is a professor at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC where she is the Charles A. Dana Professor of Education Emeritus. The lecture is free and copies of the book will be available for \$20.00. The Museum is located at 100 East Mountain Street.

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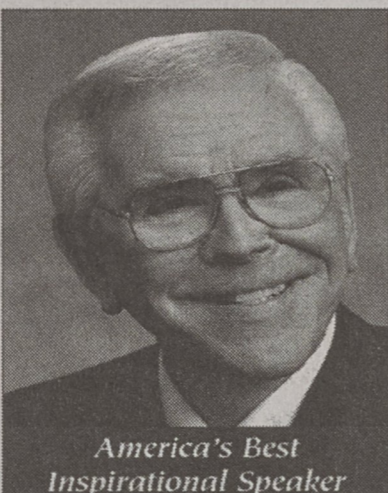
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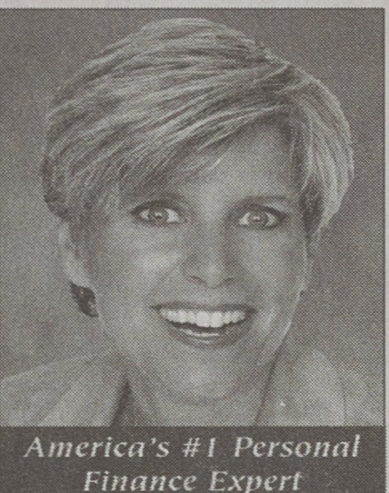
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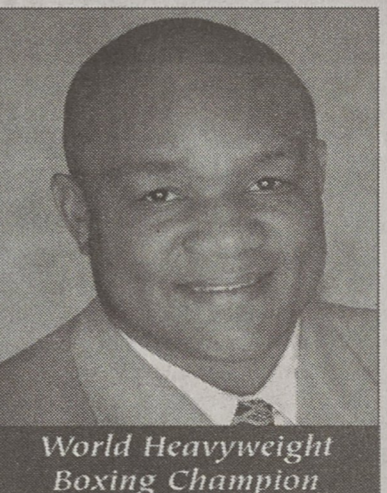
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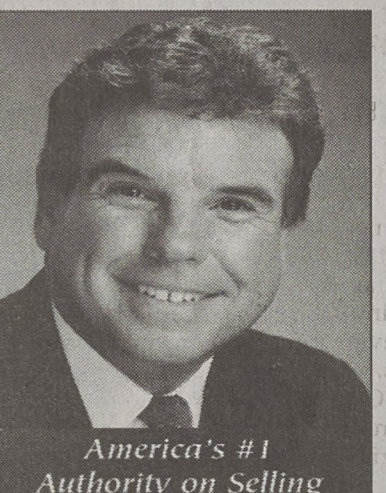
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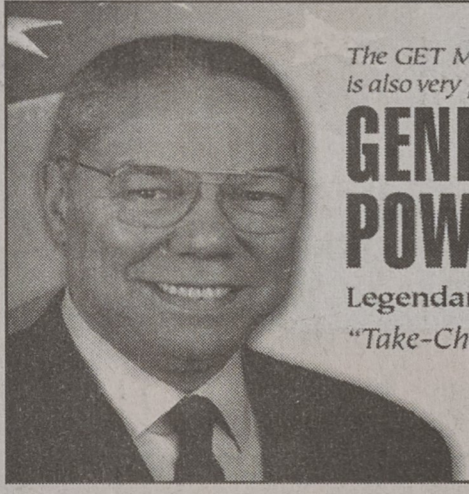
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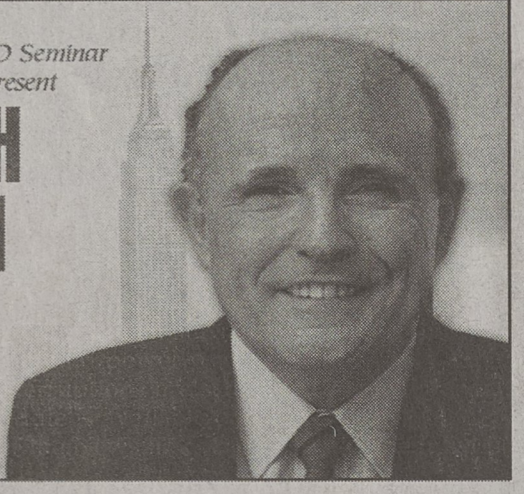
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