

Capital roll call

A look at how our area's state legislators voted in Raleigh during the past week:

N.C. House

HB1073 — Register of Deeds: Creates the Automation Enhancement and Preservation Fund and increases the uniform fees for services charged by registers of deeds. Introduced by Rep. Bill Culp, D-Chowan. Adopted 99-9. Sent to the Senate for consideration. YES: Frank Mitchell, NO: Mitchell Setzer.

SB88 — Criminal Justice Standards Commission: Adds four correctional officers to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education Training Standards Commission, and clarifies enforcement powers of the commission. Introduced by Sen. Luther Jordan, D-New Hanover. Adopted 105-0. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Setzer, Mitchell.

SB243 — Red Light Cameras: Authorizes Albemarle, Concord, Durham, Nags Head, Pineville and all the municipalities in Union County to use traffic control photographic systems and authorizes the municipalities in Wake County to use red light cameras for safety and the proceeds for schools but not for profit. Introduced by Sen. Aaron Pilyer, D-Union. Adopted 70-36. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Setzer, NO: Mitchell.

SB352 — Public Health Nuisances: Allows the addition of real property to a lien when a person fails to remedy a public health nuisance. Introduced by Sen. John Kerr, D-Wayne. Adopted 93-19. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Mitchell, NO: Setzer.

SB573 — Parental Trust Funds: Allows nonresidents of North Carolina to participate in the Parental Savings Trust Fund. Introduced by Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland. Adopted 109-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Mitchell; Did Not Vote: Setzer.

HB174 — Amend Certificate of Need: Amends the definition of ambulatory surgical facility by reducing the number of required operating rooms from two to one and by amending the definition of new institutional health service by including construction, development, establishment, increase in number or relocation of an operating room or operating rooms and by making those operating rooms subject to the State Medical Facilities Plan. Introduced by

Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland. Adopted 110-1. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Setzer, Mitchell; SB795 — Securities Amendments: Repeals the Tender Offer Disclosure Act and amends the corporate statutes so that the only time a corporation shall hold a special meeting called by shareholders will be when the procedure is set out in the articles of incorporation. Introduced by Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, R-Cabarrus. Adopted 111-1. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Setzer, Mitchell.

SB811 — Parent of Suspended Student/Adequate Notice: Provides that when a student is expelled or suspended for more than 10 days that the local board shall give notice to the student's parent or guardian. Introduced by Sen. Walter Dalton, D-Rutherford. Adopted 110-2. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Setzer, Mitchell.

SB823 — Promote N.C. Grape and Wine Industry: Establishes the wine tasting special Alcoholic Beverage Control permit and allows North Carolina grape growers to ship grapes to wineries for manufacture and bottling of wine and to receive the wine back in closed containers. Introduced by Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland. Adopted 94-10. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Setzer, Mitchell.

SB898 — Student Citizen Act of 2001: Requires the State Board of Education to modify the high school social studies curriculum to include instruction on civic and citizenship education. Introduced by Sen. Walter Dalton, D-Rutherford. Adopted 96-14. Sent back to the Senate for concurrence. YES: Setzer, Mitchell.

N.C. Senate

SB123 — Special Obligation Bonds for Water/Sewer Projects (Concurrence Vote): Authorizes local governments to issue special obligation bonds for water and sewer projects. Introduced by Sen. Bob Carpenter, R-Macon. Adopted 48-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cal Cunningham, Jim Forrester.

SB468 — Workers' Compensation (Concurrence Vote): Establishes guidelines, rights and obligations in Workers' Compensation insurance policy cancellations and nonrenewals. Introduced by Sen. Allen Wellons, D-Johnston. Adopted 48-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cunningham, Forrester.

HB573 — Campaign Reports:

Eliminates the requirement for notarization of campaign reports. Introduced by Rep. Cary Alfred, R-Alamance. Adopted 46-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cunningham, Forrester.

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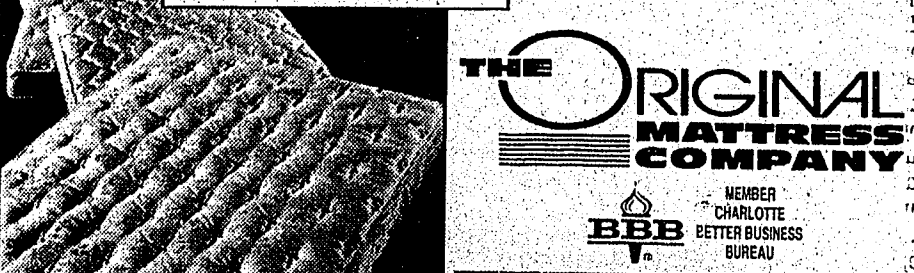
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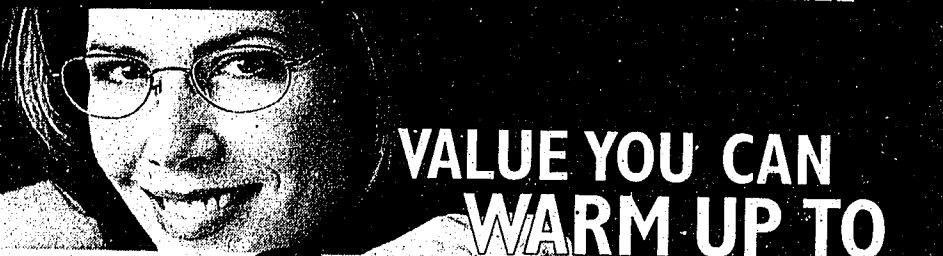


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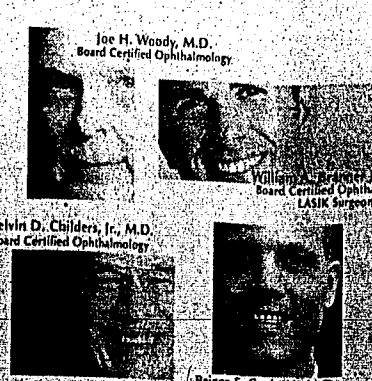
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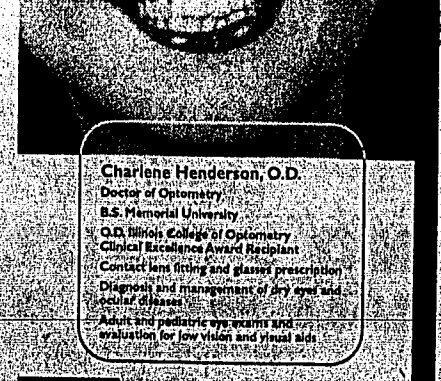
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Siblings create legacy of learning, affordable living

Across the border

Ralph Johnson and his sister Erving, lifetime residents and prominent citizens of Davidson, have transferred 13 rental houses to Davidson College and committed to funding a need-based scholarship for African American students at the college.

In turn, the college has donated eight of those homes to the Davidson Housing Coalition and committed funds for their rehabilitation and/or redevelopment. The properties will become part of the DHC Land Trust, and be sold to current tenants or other qualified buyers through a "land lease" sale that allows DHC to maintain control of the lot, while lowering the purchase price of the properties by about 25 percent. Homeowners build equity as they pay mortgage, and realize appreciation on the value of the houses when they sell.

"We are so grateful that Davidson College and the Johnsons demonstrated their belief in our mission so tangibly," said Margo Williams, president of the DHC board of directors. "The college has shown a great deal of concern for making Davidson an affordable place for all to live by making this happen. The arrangement benefits all parties, but the biggest winners are the people already living in the homes, because they now have the opportunity to become homeowners."

Williams said all current occupants of the homes will be cared for by either helping them buy their homes, or moving them into other rental properties at no increase in monthly payments. It is also possible that some of the lots involved are large enough for building additional affordable housing.

A DHC task force that includes several of the current occupants of the properties has already begun meeting to assess the condition of the houses, make plans for rehabilitation, and examine opportunities for new construction.

College officials have been exploring ways to help the DHC in its goals of increasing and sustaining the supply of housing affordable to citizens of diverse incomes since the DHC was incorporated in 1997.

Johnson and his sister, who formerly lived in one of the homes that is being donated to DHC, were forced to seek assisted living several months ago when ninety-six-year-old

Ralph Johnson broke his hip. The two decided at that time to divest themselves of the properties. However, they were not looking forward to the complications of thirteen different closings and many different buyers.

College officials recognized in those properties an opportunity to contribute to the community by expanding the base of affordable housing in Davidson, and approached the Davidson Housing Coalition with a plan to donate and help renovate them.

The college offered to purchase all of the properties in an arrangement that includes a lifetime annuity for the Johnsons to support their care at The Laurels Retirement Center. As those negotiations proceeded, the Johnsons also decided to commit a substantial bequest to Davidson College for the Ralph W. and Erving E. Johnson Scholarship, which the college recently established. The scholarship recognizes "intellectually curious African-American students who display the sort of strong involvement in the community demonstrated by these two prominent residents of Davidson."

The scholarship's first recipient is Damien L. White, who was named Student of the Year as a graduating senior at West Charlotte High School in 1999-2000. He completed a post-graduate year in May at Phillips Andover Academy, and will enroll with the Davidson College Class of 2005 in August.

Ralph Johnson recently published an autobiography titled "David Played A Harp" (Blackwell Ink, Inc.), which chronicles his life and struggles as a prominent barber determined to better himself in an era when segregation severely limited opportunities for black citizens like himself.

His father died when he was 8, and Johnson accepted the care of his mother and sister as his duty. His mother taught him to read, and it opened up the world to his intellect for many years, and that black graduates of the college are prominent citizens in their communities.

He decided that he wanted his legacy to help more black students toward achievements that were only dreams in his generation. "There are so many worthy black students who have so much hope for the future," Johnson said. "So many young black people have the desire and willingness to go far, but they don't have the money they need. So we decided to put our assets to this useful purpose."

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