

Mount Airy News

WEDNESDAY

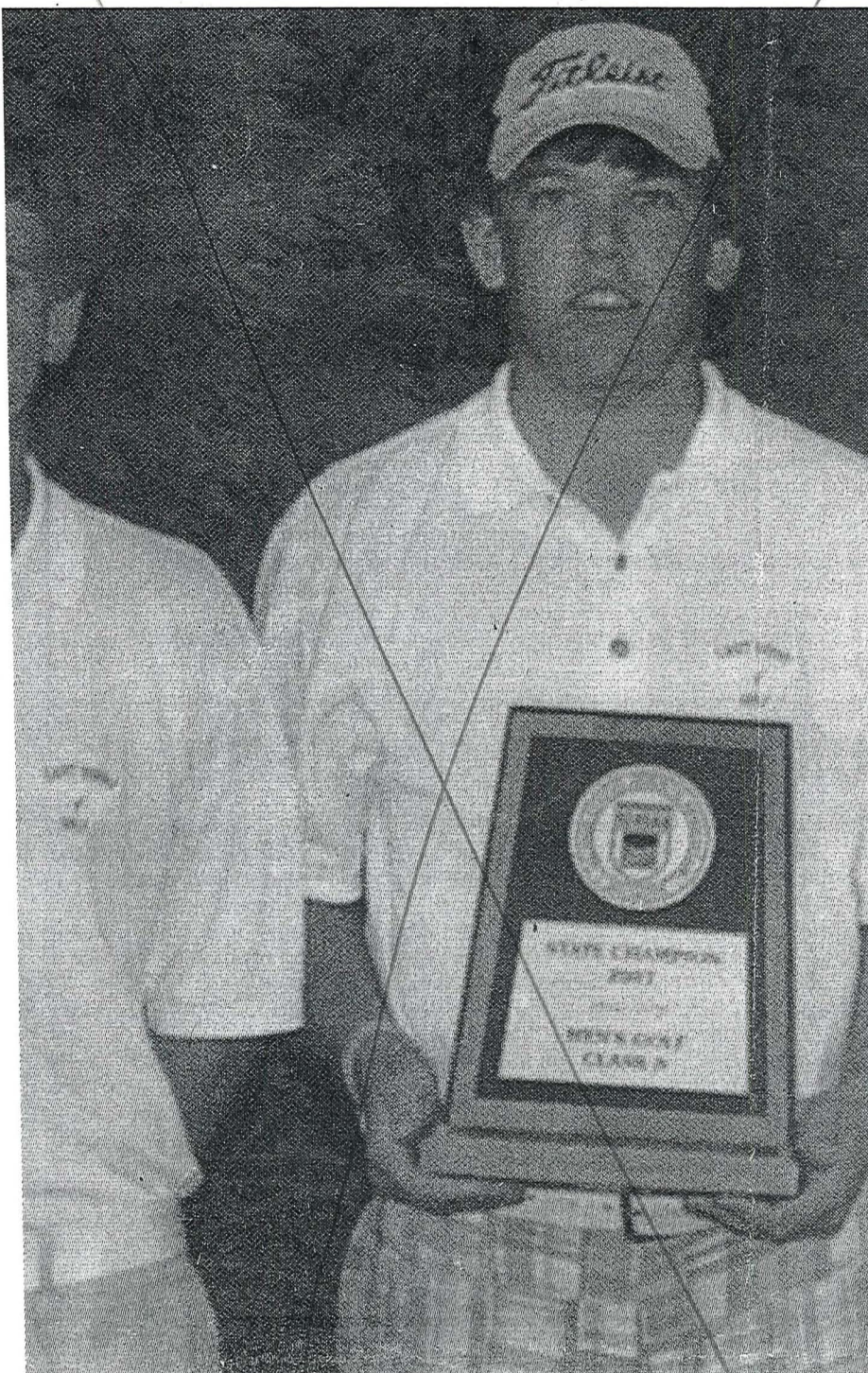
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May 16, 2007

50 cents

VIPS: CARDINALS RULE ROOST AGAIN



Mac Heffner/The Mount Airy News

nt down to Buies Creek and came home champions — for the third
ials, who got off to a rocky start Sunday when the team bus caught fire
ield by nine shots after the first round Monday and finished Tuesday's
lead over North Johnston. East players John Welden and Tommy Gib-
Justin Goforth for medalist honors. Welden took the individual cham-
story on page 8A.

Board honors man

McArthur was first
African-American
to attend MAHS

By LAURA THOMPSON
Staff Writer

MOUNT AIRY — In 1966, Archie McArthur became the first African-American to enter Mount Airy Senior High School as a student. Now, his face will be one of the first things students see when they pass through the school's front doors.

Members of the late McArthur's family addressed a packed cafeteria at Mount Airy High School Tuesday night for the unveiling of a portrait of the trail-blazing man.

McArthur's wife, Linda, told the crowd assembled at the Mount Airy City School Board meeting that her husband never was one to seek out attention.

"At 14, he entered a hostile environment that was totally unknown to him," she said.

Linda McArthur joined Archie's mother, Leona McArthur, and her brother Kenneth Rodgers, who painted the portrait, in lifting the black cloth off the painting's frame.

A scholarship in McArthur's honor also has been established at the high school to aid "a student that had faced obstacles," Superintendent Tim Farley told the board and the audience.

Rodgers described to the crowd the process of trying to capture his brother-in-law's character and history on canvas.

"Over my few years, I've done a few portraits, and they've all had special challenges," he said. But in addition to technical and artistic sticking points, he said, working on this painting "was clearly an emotional challenge I had to confront."

He and other family members discussed how best to portray McArthur, he said, and he looked at numerous photographs of his subject smiling

See MCARTHUR, page 3A

MCARTHUR: Board remembers his contributions

Continued from page 1A

and looking more serious.

In the end, Rodgers painted McArthur with his lips closed staring intently out of the frame. Linda McArthur said the portrait captured her husband well.

"It's excellent," she said after the dedication. She got her first glimpse of the painting on Mother's Day, she said, and no matter where in room she stood she felt as though he was looking out at her.

Linda McArthur also said the family was proud of the possibility of aiding "somebody who really needs the help" through the scholarship.

"We're really pleased with both of these things," she said.

As school board members reflected on their system's past, they also made a decision about its future by voting to ban tobacco products from school property.

Board member David Rowe offered the only vote against adopting the 100 percent tobacco-free schools policy. He told the other members that although he disapproves of using tobacco products, he was "tired of mandates from Raleigh or any government entity telling us how to run our schools."

A bill currently in the state Senate would require all school systems to adopt a tobacco-free policy by August 2008. Before the meeting, board Chairman Wendy Carriker distributed to the board copies of a letter from Lt. Gov. Beverly Purdue concerning the bill along with drafts of the MACS policy.

Board member Phil Thacker brought up the considerable support students in the system already had showed for the policy and the initiative they had taken to have a policy created.

At its March 20 meeting, the board heard from members of the high school's SADD club about the benefits of a tobacco-free policy. The club sponsored awareness activities at the high school and collected hundreds of signatures at sporting events and at Mount Airy Middle School in support of a policy.

The 100 percent tobacco-free policy was approved Tuesday on the condition that it be amended to include a mention of consequences for students who violate it. The policy will ban use of any tobacco product by any person at any time on the system's four campuses beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.



Laura Thompson/The Mount Airy News

Linda McArthur, left, Kenneth Rodgers, back, and Leona McArthur unveil the portrait of Archie McArthur that will hang in the front entrance of Mount Airy High School. A scholarship honoring the high school's first African-American student also has been established.

Earlier this spring, the Surry County Schools Board of Education voted to implement a similar policy. Elkin City Schools already have a 100 percent tobacco-free policy.

In other business, the board discussed a revision to Policy 6050, which currently prohibits the use of cell phones, mp3

"At 14, he entered a hostile environment that was totally unknown to him."

**Linda McArthur,
widow of Archie
McArthur**

players and other "devices causing noise and disturbance" by students.

The revised policy would allow such devices on campus, but would require them to be turned off during instructional time.

Farley told the board the revision was an attempt to get away from the unofficial "don't ask, don't tell" policy currently in effect. Administrators know the students carry cell phones and other electronic devices on campus, he said, but they are confiscated only when they cause a disturbance.

The board decided to table the new policy until school-level administrators had a chance to review it.

The next meeting of the Mount Airy City School Board will be held June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Services building on Rawley Avenue.

You can reach Laura Thompson at lathompson@mtairynews.com.

Come Enjoy Our New Spring Menus

FREE Live Entertainment

Friday, May 18, 7 - 10 - Acoustic Blend

Saturday, May 19, 7 - 10 - Bob Reading

SUNDAY BRUNCH • NOON - 3:00 PM



308 North Main Street
Mount Airy, NC

786-8600

Lunch 11-2 Monday - Saturday
Dinner 5-9 - Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday
Dinner 5-10 - Thursday/Friday/Saturday



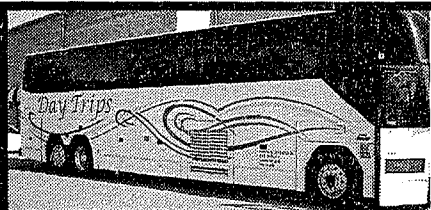
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