

Shaw Alumni Thank Dr. Talbert Shaw



"Thank you, Dr. Talbert O. Shaw...." Greenville, NC ---- The Pitt County Chapter of the Shaw University Alumni Association met Tuesday, June 25th, and had as special guest, the university's president, Dr. Talbert O. Shaw. Dr. Shaw, coincidentally bearing the school's name, announced his retirement after 15 years of service. He has been credited with reviving the 167 year old university to prominence among institutions of higher learning. Dr. Shaw's leadership has produced a multi-million dollar endowment, record enrollment, restoration of the football team and marching band, enhanced curriculum and spearheading the preservation of historical buildings on the Raleigh, NC campus. Dr. Shaw, before meeting with students of its C.A.P.E. program is seen here with area alumni chapter members, Ms. Pauline Anderson, Greenville City Councilman Mildred A. Council, Mrs. Ethelene H. Stover, Ms. Barbara Hester, and Chapter President Jeff Savage. Accompanying Dr. Shaw was his cabinet, including Dr. Ernest L. Pickens, Executive Vice President of the University.

(Photo by: Jim Rouse)



Surprise Graduation Dinner for Bro. Decota Jerrell Thomas who graduated for D. H. Conley on May 31, 2002. He is a member of the Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church of Simpson and participated on the Jr. Usher Board. Decota has joined the (U.S.A.F.) United States Air Force. The dinner was given by his mother who is a member of the P.M.B.C. of Simpson. The pastor, church family and friends attended this affair. Decota is well loved and a role model for the youth of his church and community.

photo by Bro. Michael Adams

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Local Officials try saving Floyd funds

By T. Scott Batchelor and Cynthia Kopkowski, The Daily Reflector

State and local representatives from areas hit by flooding after Hurricane Floyd met in Raleigh on Wednesday seeking to preserve state flood-recovery funds. "We had a kind of open, freewheeling discussion about where we are on Floyd recovery, the effect of the recent recovery and what's going to be paid and not going to be paid," David Kelly, director of the N.C. Redevelopment Center, said Thursday.

The meeting with Kelly, the man who administers flood recovery funds, was called by state Rep. Edith Warren of Farmville and included Greenville City Manager Marvin Davis and Pitt County planner James Rhodes. In order to meet a growing state budget shortfall, Gov. Mike Easley last week took \$150 million from a fund created by the state Legislature to help survivors of Floyd.

That equated to about \$11 million for the city of Greenville, Davis said.

"I think that we opened the door for some discussion," Davis said. "We conveyed to Mr. Kelly that a unilateral action on his part (to eliminate) some categories (of funding) ... was not good."

"Maybe the governor's office will see how important this is to flood survivors of eastern North Carolina," he said.

Nearly 700 Greenville residents remain to be served by the state funds, anticipating either repair money or dollars to replace devastated homes.

Many who entered contracts on new dwellings expecting to receive promised funding will be

left in the lurch, Davis said.

"There are a lot of horror stories, and there will be more horror stories coming up," he predicted.

At least 33 Pitt County families outside Greenville will be affected by the defunding.

The budget proposed in the Senate last week further slashes the relief fund, leaving \$15 million for statewide use.

"If you take another \$100 million, you will effectively shut flood recovery down," Rhodes said.

Rhodes shared the story of a Pitt County family whose impending move is jeopardized by the proposed cuts.

Today, the family is scheduled to close the sale of their flood-damaged home, which they repaired with buyout funds.

They were to move into a new home during the next two weeks, with \$14,000 in state acquisition and relocation recovery funds paying the difference between their current home and a new, comparable home that costs more.

Under the proposed cuts, relocation funds would be in the greatest danger of elimination.

Rhodes asked legislators what he should tell that couple and the other five families eligible for relocation funds left vulnerable by the Senate plan. Answers won't be available until the state's attorney general reviews the situation, state officials told local governments Thursday.

In Pitt County, about \$156,000 is needed to help these families relocate. Rhodes' office estimated. About \$1.5 million is needed to replace 23 families' homes, and another \$36,000 is needed to repair four families'

homes, according to the office.

"We went with a lot of questions, we got some answered, but we probably came away with just as many," Rhodes said.

"We knew that we weren't going to need all the money, but we need to retain - and now possibly restore - what was promised."

"Everything's up in the air."

As a result of the meeting, legislators instructed the local government representatives to estimate how much they need to keep the promises made to their residents. They want a report on that information sent to the N.C. Redevelopment Center by noon today.

"I think we came to some consensus there that a survey would be helpful to see exactly how much money was needed and if any of the local governments at this point might have surplus they can reallocate," Kelly said.

"Edgecombe County has sent back \$1 million that they overestimated or found they didn't need," Kelly said. "It would be nice to find some of those surprises out there."

Kelly said he has "no feel" for how much money might be uncovered.

Davis praised the local members of the state Legislature for fighting the good fight.

"Our local Pitt County legislative delegation is really pursuing this vigorously," he said. "They have been strong advocates in trying to get this flood money recovered."

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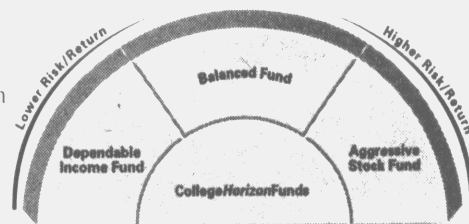
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