

SPORTSWEEK

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Search for football coaches not inclusive



See B1



See A4



See C5



See C1

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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2001

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Necole Ross said that a search by law enforcement officers of her home terrorized and humiliated her.

Woman says officers wrongfully searched her house

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Necole Ross of 520 W. 17th Street said that a search by law enforcement officers of her home on Dec. 30 was wrong and left her terrorized and humiliated. She said officers said they were looking for white liquor, but they found none.

According to law enforcement officials, the search was conducted by Forsyth Municipal ABC law enforcement officers, assisted by Winston-Salem police.

Ross said that on Dec. 30 about 4 p.m. she heard stumbling on the porch to her house. It was the police and they told her to "open up, open up," she said.

"I said, 'I'm coming, I'm coming,'" Ross recalled in an inter-

view Sunday in the law offices of her attorneys, Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy and Kennedy, LLP.

She said that before she could get to the door, the officers began prying open the door with a crow-bar-type device. She said officers damaged the lock on her door when they pried open the door.

She said eight or nine officers came in her house. Three or four of the officers had their semiautomatic guns drawn and pointed at her, she said.

She said some of the officers had SWAT team on clothing items they were wearing.

Some officers were in uniform and some were plain clothes, she said.

She said, "They told me to hold my hands up."

She said there were no female

officers in the home and that a male officer frisked her, including touching her breasts and buttocks.

She said she was told to sit down, and a couple of officers stood over her while other officers conducted a search of her home.

She said she was told that officers were looking for white liquor.

A search warrant (applied for by Forsyth Municipal ABC law enforcement officers) says that, within the previous seven days, Forsyth Municipal ABC had received information from a confidential informant and officers with the Winston-Salem Police Department "that a drinkhouse is being operated at 520 W. 17th Street, Winston-Salem."

The search warrant said that, within the last 72 hours, the ABC sent a confidential and reliable informant to the house at 520 W. 17th Street to confirm the information. The search warrant said that the informant "was checked prior to being sent to 520 East 17th Street, and found not to possess nor be under the influence of any impairing substance." The informant said that while in the house the informant purchased an amount of alcoholic beverages from "a black male approximately 60 years of age, tall, light, brown eyes, with a medium to dark complexion," the search warrant says.

The search warrant says this informant "has provided information to members of Forsyth

See Search on A2

Still Overcoming

Locals march for King, call for change

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday tradition of marching from Mt. Zion Baptist Church to the M.C. Benton Convention Center continued Monday with hundreds of locals braving fog and drizzle to honor the slain civil rights leader and continue his legacy.

The marchers sang songs like "We Shall Overcome" and shouted rhythmic chants about freedom as they made their way up Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and down Fifth Street. Many in the colossal crowd took up the chant "Free Darryl Hunt" near the end of the march. Hunt is serving time for murder, many believe unjustly. Others shouted out their disappointment with the election mess in Florida; some even carried bumper stickers claiming the election was stolen.

Many social/civic organizations participated in the march, carrying signs for their various causes as they walked. Local Boy Scout troops, the Black Leadership Roundtable and the pro-gun control group, Million Mom March, were among the

groups that marched.

Gail Davis marched with a group from the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem.

"This is an important day for the community, and I mean the community," she said. "Martin Luther King Jr. didn't just stand for black rights; he stood for human rights."

Davis wore a sticker supporting gun control and a pin supporting gay rights.

"All feel that no one is a second-class citizen," she said when asked about the pin.

Davis said she believes in her heart that if King were alive today, he would be fighting for the rights of all oppressed people, including gays and lesbians.

"I don't think that he would stand for discrimination against any people," she said.

At the convention center, the crowd was treated to the annual Noon Hour Commemoration in honor of King. The two-decades-old event is sponsored by WAAA Radio, the Winston-Salem NAACP and the city's human relations commission.

The theme of this year's commemoration was "Democracy = Freedom: The Right to



An unidentified man during the MLK march uses a bumper sticker to voice his opposition to the recent presidential election.

Vote." Much talk at the event focused on the 2000 presidential election and the strange turn it took in the Sunshine State.

Mütter Evans, owner and general manager of WAAA, warned the crowd that although a new millennium has arrived, old problems linger. African Americans must stay on their p's and q's and make sure that

the nation does not take steps backward in the areas of civil rights, hate crimes and racial profiling, Evans said.

"What happened in the presidential election in November...should make you more determined to vote every time there is an election," she said.

Tables were set up at the convention center to register voters. Evans told the crowd that registering to vote is one of the best ways one could honor the legacy of King.

Bill Tatum, president of the local NAACP, spoke briefly about the state of blacks in the city. He said while African Americans are richer and more educated than ever before, the times "have only somewhat changed. Tatum pointed to the trouble James Wynn has had being confirmed for the U.S. Circuit Court as an example of the many hurdles that blacks still have to clear.

Local activist and former NAACP president Patrick Hairston was singled out at the event for his efforts over the decades to keep King's dream alive. In a brief speech, Hairston echoed what Evans and Tatum said.

"We have not overcome," he said to scattered applause. "We must keep working."

Look for more stories about MLK events inside A section and C section.

New group has big plans for East Winston

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

East Winston got a friend late last year to help it in its efforts to keep up with redevelopment activities in other parts of Winston-Salem.

Several leaders with a vested interest in the area formed the Nehemiah Initiative, which is in the process of finalizing an agenda for jump-starting economic and residential development in East Winston.

A group made up mostly of clergy and community leaders decided to form the group after the passage of the city bond package last November. Some of the money earmarked for East Win-

ston will help with several ongoing developments. But during the group's coming out event early this week, the message was that the bond money is not enough to make the kinds of changes that need to be made.

A panel that included business and local government leaders discussed ways to spur economic activity and redevelopment in East Winston at the Adam's Mark hotel Monday. The event was symbolically held on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday; organizers said King's vision of unity is relevant in terms of development in East Winston.

"It takes all of us," said the Rev. Michael Williams, pastor of

See Nehemiah on A4



Herman Lane escorts Novella Drake to her surprise birthday party.

'Mama Drake,' 80, still shaping young minds

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Her friends and family say teaching has been in Novella Drake's blood since she was in the womb.

Her longing to touch and shape young minds is as strong as ever more than 80 years later.

Fittingly, Drake celebrated her 80th birthday last week in a school. Her extended family at Forest Park Elementary School held a surprise party for "Mama Drake" after classes ended for the day. The staff spent the better part of the day preparing for the party, preparing an elaborate money tree

for Drake containing 80 one dollar bills, retrieving a congratulatory letter from Mayor Jack Cavanagh and hiding members of Drake's immediate family so that they would not be spotted by the birthday girl.

"She doesn't have an inkling that this is going to happen," Fannie Williams, Drake's younger sister, said as she hid in the principal's office.

Williams said teaching was the natural profession for her sister. Their mother was a teacher; Drake followed in her mother's footsteps when she graduated with

See Drake on A9



The crowd ends its march at the doors of the Benton Convention Center and listens as they are given a pep talk before sitting down for the Noon Hour Commemoration.