

SPORTS WEEK

Younger power-hitter making his mark

Little leaguers fall short in tourney



See C7



See C1



See B1



See A9

COMMUNITY

Best-selling author launching talk show

Church celebrates 60 years

75 cents

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Church hopes new digs will help to impact community

St. Peter's plans several events to celebrate new buildings

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

St. Peter's World Outreach Center has always had a mission as lofty as its name. Now the church has a grand campus to match, a campus it wants to use to try to implement change in the city for the better.

After a year of construction, the church is preparing to open its new Family Life Enrichment Center and Family Worship Center. The two Goliath buildings now share a space

with St. Peter's World Outreach Center's old sanctuary, which was constructed more than 10 years ago.

St. Peter's plans a litany of activities to celebrate, including a concert by gospel giants Mary Mary and Donnie McClurkin Aug. 12 and a special appearance by the Rev. T.D. Jakes Aug. 26.

But the Rev. James C. Hash — who took over pastoring duties for his father at the church nearly 15 years ago — is quick to point out that although stunning in size and appear-

ance, the buildings are not merely for people to marvel at. They are, he said, merely a means to what he hopes is a better end for local residents.

"It is our goal to touch the community and change it and make Winston-Salem a better place," Hash said last week.

The Family Worship Center, the church's new sanctuary, holds more than 3,000 and was greatly needed to accommodate the church's growing membership. The Family Life Enrich-



Photo by Kevin Walker

The Rev. J.C. Hash looks out at his church's new sanctuary.

See Church on A3

Friends, family say goodbye to educator

Grier died over the weekend after a century of life

BY MELDE RUTLEDGE
 THE CHRONICLE

Bishop Philip Cousin Sr. said that people who need a long introduction don't deserve one, and those that deserve long introductions really don't need one.

"The same is true with eulogies," he said. "Those who deserve long eulogies have lived their lives."

Cousin was referring to his mother-in-law, Maxwell Christine



Grier

Banks Grier, who passed away on July 4, at the age of 102.

Grier was a figurehead in the 25th Street community, known for her countless involvements there, especially with the youths.

People close to her say that she loved children. As a teacher, she taught inside and out of the classroom, started a neighborhood club and held picnics at her own expense for them.

Naomi Jones met Grier when Jones was a fifth-grade student at Columbia Heights Elementary School. Grier was a teacher at the school.

"She has kept up with me ever since," she said at Grier's homegoing service on Tuesday morning at First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue. "In fact, she loved all the children."

She is also remembered for her numerous organization affiliations, primarily with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and her 42-year involvement with the 25th Street Flower and Condo-lence Club, which began by buying floral arrangements for grieving families. Now the service gives food to families in their time of need.

If there was an emergency in the community, Grier was the first one there to call people together, telling them what they needed to do.

"Mrs. Grier was always the one who was there to guide us," said Evelena Clayborn, a friend of Grier. "I cannot imagine the 25th Street community without the presence of Mrs. Grier."

See Grier on A10

Foundation awards mean R&R for heroes

Paid leaves, worth \$15,000, will allow nonprofit leaders a chance to regroup

BY MELDE RUTLEDGE
 THE CHRONICLE

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation understands the rigorous tasks that leaders from nonprofit organizations go through.

To show its recognition, the foundation formed a special program more than a decade ago to relieve such individuals from their work, based on the stress of their work environment, the creativity demonstrated in their past work achievements and their potential to continue making significant contributions to public service — awarding them sabbaticals (a paid leave of absence) worth \$15,000 each.

Tony L. Burton III is one of the five recipients to receive the annual award this year. He is the founder and executive director of VisionsWork Youth Services, a local, nonprofit organization at 2020 E. 12th Street that works with adolescents who are tangled in the court system or are suspended from the local school system.

He plans on using the award to take three months away from the office to spend time with his family.

"I'm very excited about it," said Burton. "I thought that it was a great honor."

Four years of teaching middle school prepared him for VisionsWork, where he has directed and implemented daily operations for seven years, while establishing and maintaining relationships with collaborating agencies.

Two more VisionsWork locations have been established outside of Winston-Salem, in Rowan and Iredell counties.

"We'll continue to grow and try to open up other programs in more counties to meet the needs of kids in those areas," he said. He feels especially rewarded when he is visited by teen-agers who were part of past VisionsWork programs who have graduated and went to college.

To apply for the sabbatical, organization leaders must request an application and turn in all information before Dec. 1 of each year. Preference is given to individuals with at least five years of experience who are working for



Burton

See Sabbaticals on A2

Torchbearer



Photo by Kevin Walker

Carmen de Jesus, far left, and Diane Caesar look at a photo de Jesus took of actor Morgan Freeman in one of his early plays. Pictures buy de Jesus are on display at the Sawtooth Center.

Black theater photographer trying to keep tradition alive

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

There was a lot of head scratching last Friday night in the Milton Rhodes Gallery of the Sawtooth Center. Many people looked perplexed as they examined the vivid black and white photos on the gallery walls. After a moment or two, their facial expression changed to one of recognition and they moved on to another photograph where the whole process would begin anew.

The guessing game was sparked by folks trying to figure out whether that was

Denzel Washington staring back at them from one of the photos and if the young girl depicted in another photograph is stage and screen legend Cicely Tyson.

It's indeed a pre-movie star Washington and an ingenue Tyson. Before they were Hollywood stars, they shined in the world of black off-Broadway plays.

A new exhibit presented by Delta Fine Arts Inc. takes us on a photographic journey into that world, with stops belonging to James Earl Jones, Morgan Freeman, Sidney Poitier and many others.

"Black Off-Broadway — Images of African American Theatre" will run

through Aug. 4 at the Sawtooth. The exhibit, not coincidentally, will end the same day that lights go out on the National Black Theatre Festival.

Dozens of photographs, stretching from plays staged in the 1960s to today, are featured in the exhibit. They were all taken by Bert Andrews, the grandfather of black theater photography who died in 1993, and his longtime assistant, Carmen de Jesus, who now wants to carry the torch that Andrews ignited.

"It's an important exhibition on different levels," said de Jesus, in town last

See Photos on A10



Cast members from "The Jackie Wilson Story: My Heart is Crying, Crying."

A Legend Resurrected

Life of crooner Jackie Wilson to be told on stage at festival

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

Before Elvis Presley caused an international sensation with his swirling hips — before Michael Jackson sent crowds into a frenzy with his gravity-defying dance moves — before Prince sent female hearts aflutter with his sexually-charged innuendo — there was Jackie Wilson, a Detroit-born singer who had been there and done that, while setting concert halls ablaze with his infectious melodies and often risqué moves.

Wilson rode a wave of cross-racial popularity in the '50s and '60s with hit songs such as "Lonely Teardrops" and "Higher and

Higher," but his career cooled after Beatlemania. He died nearly 10 years after suffering a stroke on stage in 1975 and was buried in a grave that was left unmarked for several years.

The legendary Wilson will rise again during the National Black Theatre Festival

NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL



(July 30 - Aug. 4). "The Jackie Wilson Story: My Heart is Crying, Crying" will kick off the festival's week-long slate of plays and will mark the first time the play will be per-

formed outside of the Chicago land area, where the play is one of the most popular and most critically acclaimed productions ever staged by the Black Ensemble Theater.

"Jackie Wilson still does not get the kind of attention that he deserves," asserted Jackie Taylor, who founded the Black Ensemble

Theater more than 20 years ago. "He was the kind of artist that enabled Prince and Michael Jackson to do what

they do."

Taylor founded the black ensemble to

See Wilson play on A5