

SPORTS WEEK

Reynolds hoping for baseball title

.....

Penn Relays - going the distance



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COMMUNITY

Minority students honored

.....

Altrusa members meet for conference

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXVIII No. 36

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2002

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Atkins, arts school in perfect harmony

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Parents interested in enrolling their young ones in the first arts-based elementary school in the county toured last week the site where the new program will be housed beginning in August.

The Arts Based Elementary School (ABES) will call home a suite with six classrooms on the bottom floor of Atkins Middle School. The site is much more meager than Diggs Elementary School, where ABES officials wanted to house the school



Harris

the Diggs vote was "disappointing," but that board members are relieved to finally have a space

before parents voted down the idea earlier this year.

Hal Johnson, the chairman of the ABES board, said the

where the school can take root.

"We were looking forward to the challenge and the opportunity that Diggs presented," Johnson said. "Finding an appropriate location for the school has been challenging. Opening at Atkins will provide our students with a first-class facility."

The level of cooperation between the arts-based program, which is a charter school, and the public school system is unusual, and it is believed that no charter school in the state has ever been housed in a public

See Arts School on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker

Goldie Irving watches as her sons, Matthew and Andrew, play in the piano lab at Atkins Middle School. Irving was one of about 20 parents on hand for an open house for the new arts-based elementary school that will be housed in a portion of the Atkins building this fall.

Sunday Jazz

Photos by Bruce Chapman

The Mulgrew Miller Trio closed the 2002 Piedmont Jazz Festival Sunday with a performance at UNC-Greensboro's School of Music. This year's festival included a slate of dozens of artists and events in all three Triad cities. In addition to Miller, right, the trio also consists of drummer Ulysees Owens and bassist Darryl Hall.



Committee's role is made uncertain

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The City-County School Board voted Tuesday night to allow the superintendent to produce a yearly report that will update the board on equity issues at schools in the system. By doing so, the board made ambiguous the duties of a volunteer committee that has been looking at issues of equity in schools for the last seven years.

Members and supporters of the Equity Committee - which the School Board established in 1995 when it adopted its controversial redistricting plan, which did away with cross-town busing and, in turn, created a great number of one-race schools - urged the board to continue to let them do their job and not pass that responsibility on to Superintendent Don Martin.

They argued that the board first established the committee

so that statistics on equity could be examined and reported on by an independent group of people.

"The only watchdog that we have is this committee," said the Rev. Carlton Eversley, the head of the

local NAACP's Education Caucus and a longtime critic of the redistricting plan and Martin.

The Rev. John Mendez went a step further, saying that putting Martin in charge of reporting equity issues is like letting the "fox guard the hen house." Mendez told board members before their vote that the Ministers Conference of Winston-

See Committee on A5

Walkers survive breast cancer and bad weather

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The rain and chill in the air Saturday were non-issues for the thousands who took part in an annual fund-raiser for breast cancer. Many of the participants

weathered more turbulent and uncertain storms in the past.

"It is nice to be able to say that I am here, and I am walking and supporting all the others that are here and letting them know that it does not have to be a death sentence," said Pearl

Bacote, a 30-year breast cancer survivor who was among those who walked or ran in the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure.

It was the third year for the fund-raiser, which relies on donations from individual walkers/runners and teams from various businesses and organizations to aid local breast health programs and projects.

But organizers say the event has become more than a fund-raiser. The event brings together survivors with people who have been affected by breast cancer or those who simply want to do their part to help find a cure.

Bacote, who walked with the YWCA Sisters Speak team, was one of the women at



Photo by Kevin Walker

Linda Lindsay and her grandson, Brandon, enjoy a concert after the Race for the Cure Saturday.

- those who have gone toe to toe with the disease that affects one out of eight women and have lived to tell about it - had

See Cure on A4

Shotgun houses to be historic exhibits

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

As part of plans to revitalize the Happy Hill neighborhood, two historic shotgun houses will be preserved and transformed into cultural exhibits called "Across the Creek: The Story of Happy Hill 1816-1952." The restored homes will be included in the new Cultural Heritage Center, which will be built on Alder Street.

During the first half of the 20th century, the shotgun house was a common structure found in black neighborhoods, particularly in many black areas in Charlotte. The rooms are lined up front to back, with no central hallway. It is believed that the name

"shotgun" stems from the fact that a gun could be fired from the front door out the back door without hitting a single wall.

The shotgun houses were moved to a temporary storage location owned by Duke Power last week so that they could be saved for future renovations. The preservation of this structure, which originates from Africa, is significant in that many slaves built and lived in these homes.

"We didn't realize how old the (shotgun houses) were," said Edith Jones, president of the Happy Hill Community Association. Jones explained that once the rest of the houses are moved and cleared from Alder Street, the two shot-



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

As part of an ongoing revitalization effort in Happy Hill, houses like this will be cleared away to make room for new ones.

See Houses on A9