

## SPORTSWEEK

Women's football league taking off

Blevins settling in at Old Town



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See C1



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## COMMUNITY

Local artist soon hopes to flourish

Kids awarded for healthy eating

75 cents

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# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

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## School's location not set in stone

Many thought new school would be off Old Greensboro Road

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Tonight's scheduled forum to update the community about the new inner-city high school could not have come at a better time. School officials have announced that the school, which will be built with money from a bond referendum passed by voters last year, may not be built off Old Greensboro Road as perviously hinted.



Johnson

Officials now say they have their eyes on a cheaper, larger tract of land near Kernersville Road, close to

Hall-Woodward Elementary School. Although both proposed sites are in the city's East Ward, many of the African Americans that supported the bonds last November did so under the impression that the school would be off Old Greensboro, a site closer to the heart of East Winston.

The bond issue split several African American organizations. Some groups thought that the black community would not get enough out of the bond package. Those on the other side touted the benefits a new high school would bring to East Winston. Alumni of Atkins High School, which was closed in the 1970s when integration came about, hope to name the new high after their alma mater. Among those with that notion is school board member Victor Johnson.

The Black Leadership Roundtable in conjunction with the city-county school system will present tonight's forum. Officials from the school system are expected to be on hand tonight to answer questions about the proposed school.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. and end around 8:30 p.m. The forum will be held at Carver High School, which is slated to get millions of dollars of renovations with bond money. Delores Smith, president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League, will moderate the forum.



Photo by Kevin Walker

Al Sharpton chats with State Reps. Larry Womble and Mickey Michaux.

## Ready to Run?

Al Sharpton inching closer to run for presidency

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK — Al Sharpton is showing more and more signs that he would like the word "President" to precede his name instead of the word "Reverend."

The outspoken New York-based activists and founder of the National Action Network, said Friday, after taking part in a town hall meeting, that he will decide by the end of the summer whether or not to run for president in 2004.

"I'm more than 50 percent sure that I am going to do it," Sharpton said when asked which way he was leaning in the decision-making process.

Sharpton was the guest of honor at a forum that kicked off the Black Legislative Caucus 17th Annual Legislative Education and Scholarship Weekend Conference. He was among a panel of state officials and had been slated to discuss issues of national concern for African Americans. Sharpton did just that but managed to throw in several hints about a possible 2004 run, including a jab at Sen. John Edwards, the North Carolina junior senator, who like Sharpton, is also rumored to be considering a presidential run in 2004 on the Democratic ticket.

Sharpton brought up the point that many say Sharpton lacks the experience to be president. Sharpton then juxtaposed his career as

See Sharpton on A11

## Artists create history downtown

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Eleven budding teenage artists armed with brushes and gallon-sized buckets of colorful paint have been using the city's downtown transportation center as a blank canvas.

But don't call CrimeStoppers just yet.

The teens are part of The Arts Council's Artiva program — which provides paid summer employment to high school students who have an affinity to art — and under the direction of professional local artist Leo Rucker.

Together, Rucker and the teens, are in the process of fusing art and local history.

For the last three weeks, the teens have been painting the 24 columns that support a large outside metal canopy at the Winston-Salem Transit Authority Transportation Center. When completed in two weeks, the columns will pictorially tell the story of the Safe Bus Co., the historic company that became WSTA.

"We hope to add some color and brilliancy to downtown but also to enlighten people about Safe Bus," said Rucker, a popular city artist known for his portraits. "A lot of people are uneducated about Safe Bus, even though they ride these buses everyday. I did not realize this much history was in the transit system. It was eye-opening for me."

The Safe Bus Co. took shape in the mid 1920s when a group of independent African American jitney operators (men and women who transported passengers in small buses or cars for a fee) agreed to join forces. Over the next several decades the company would become the largest black-owned transportation company in the world, employing hundreds of local men and women.

Rucker has been leading Artiva projects



Photo by Bruce Chapman

Leo Rucker, rear, center, takes a break with the teens. The teens are, from bottom, Melik Walker, Erran Hamlin (from left, second row), Megan Jacobs, Monique Smart, Leslie Branch, Dustin Friend, Emily Kelker, Nora Debroder, Brittany Davis and Caesar Brantley.

for three summers. The folks at WSTA saw a mural that Rucker and Artiva teens did at Experiment in Self Reliance, an agency that supports the working homeless, and began putting the wheels in motion for the column

project.

Art Barnes, general manager of WSTA, and others have worked hard to ensure that Safe Bus' rich history is not forgotten.

See Art/history on A9

## BLR recounts string of victories

Roundtable celebrates 5 years of active participation

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

When new breath was pumped into the Black Leadership Roundtable in the summer of 1997, it was made instantly clear to city residents that members of the organization were not about having afternoon socials or mere chit-chat.

The roundtable is about action, a fact that became apparent

five years ago when the organization, still in its infancy, took on the police department's use of pepper spray.

The death of a black man who died after being pepper sprayed by officers brought the issue to the roundtable's attention. The organization successfully pushed for the city to adopt guidelines for pepper spray use.

There were many more successes to come. In 1998, the roundtable successfully lobbied for the city to expand Winston-Salem's largest public African American cemetery. The following year, the organization went to bat for three African American police sergeants who were demoted after a rap concert they were charged with securing got out of hand. After roundtable leaders vocally expressed their outrage, the officers' demotions were overturned.

Last week, the Black Leadership Roundtable took time to reflect on its victories and honor some of the people that have helped the organization be all that it can be. About 100 people attended the roundtable's fifth anniversary celebration at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church. They included everyone from longtime members of the organization to candidates seeking political office.

"Some people think that we have been around for 10,



Griggs

## Locals honored for helping students

President of United Negro College Fund makes special appearance to give area contributors a pat on the back

BY FELICIA P. McMILLAN, PH. D.  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

The United Negro College Fund representatives inducted more than 70 of the 120 charter members of the Kennedy Society into the Kennedy Society; A Mind is Society, Winston-Salem Chapter on Saturday, June 22, at the Piedmont Club. Charter members are those individuals who gave \$1,000 and above during 2001 and who make a pledge of \$1,250 or more during 2002. The members were awarded a certificate of induction.

In order to recognize UNCF's growing list of generous individual supporters, the "Kennedy/A Mind Is Society" (KAMI) was founded in 1995 to honor UNCF's most generous individual annual supporters. The

KAMI Society recognizes four levels of support. The Golden Circle is comprised of individuals who give \$1,000. The Friends of the College Fund give \$1,250, while the members of The Century Club give \$2,500. Members of the Cornerstone Society give \$5,000, and members of the President's Circle give \$10,000.

Members of the Presidents Circle who were recognized were Dr. Charlie L. and Mrs. Willie Kennedy, Mr. William C. and Mrs. Shelia L. Scales, and Mr. Harden and Mrs. Janet Wheeler. Members of the Cornerstone Society who were recognized were Col. Andrew M. and Dr. Mary Perkins, James H. and Brenda B. Diggs, and Alan and Lisa Caldwell. Members of the Century Club are Dr. Stephen and Mrs.



Photo by Felicia McMillan

Several county educators helped raise money for UNCF. They included (from left) Velma Friende, Martha Holmes, Janice Ferguson, Regina Elcock-Winningham, Avon Ruffin and Dr. Irene Hairston.

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