

SPORTSWEEK

Pitts brothers prepare for playoff runs

Girls show off skills at softball tournament



See B1



See A2



See C1

COMMUNITY

Choir sings for crowd of 400

Agency specializes in American dream

31 120202 *****CAR-RT-LOT**C022
N C ROOM
FORSYTH CNTY PUB LIB
660 W 5TH ST # Q
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

CHRONICLE

WINSTON-SALEM • GREENSBORO • HIGH POINT

Vol. XXIX No.11

75 cents

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2002

Latham parents discuss principal concerns

Many want current assistant principal to take over for the late Larry Fields

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The city-county Board of Education got an earful Tuesday night as several people urged school officials to hire a current assistant principal at Latham Elementary School as the school's new principal.

Latham has been without a permanent principal since September when Larry Fields, the much-loved leader of the school, died unexpectedly of an aneurysm. An interim principal has been at Latham since Fields' death.

Fields had done amazing things at Latham in just 10 years. The school had some of the lowest test scores in the county before Fields came to the school. At the time of his death, Latham had become the first Equity Plus school to earn School of Distinction honors on the ABCS test.

As an assistant principal at Latham, Gwendolyn Johnson was by Fields' side as he implemented the changes that took Latham to the top.

Parents and supporters of the school say the decision about Latham's next principal is a no-

See Latham on A9



U.S. Senator-elect Elizabeth Dole is joined by U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige and former Howard University President James Cheek (far left) during a campaign stop at Salem College Nov. 2.

Local black Republicans have little to cheer about

BY T. KEVIN WAKER
THE CHRONICLE

John Davenport is the kind of young man that the African-American community wished it could clone. The affable 34-year-old is happily married with four kids and makes his living running his own engineering firm.

So more than a few people were surprised last week when Davenport fell far short in his bid to win a seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. The Democrats who won the two District A seats, Walter Marshall and Beaufort Bailey, got nearly twice as many

votes as Davenport, a Republican.

"It pains me that I was raised in East Winston, went to church with these folks, grew up with these people, and they still will not vote for me," a clearly frustrated Davenport said two days after the election. "I don't think it is as much about me as it is about my party affiliation"

Although Republicans around the nation had much to cheer about on Election Day, the party's success did not trickle down to local black Republicans, who had the dubious task of trying to convince black voters to look past their party affiliations and focus on their ideas and qualifications.

Davenport and Vernon Robinson, the black Republican who lost a bid for the 72nd State House seat, made inroads, but in the winner-takes-all world of politics, almost doesn't count.

Both men now say that if they were

See Republicans on A10



Davenport



John Pearson performs a self-penned song for students at Hall-Woodward Elementary School last week. Pearson works in the cafeteria at the school but was given the opportunity to showcase his other talents by school officials. For the last several years, Pearson has found success as a puppeteer and comedian. To read more about Pearson, see A10.



CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry joined Natalie Taylor, a vice president for Food Lion, last week at Winston-Salem State to announce the new partnership.

Grocery chain to scour HBCUs to recruit managers

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Supermarket chain Food Lion has developed a management training program geared toward graduates of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The establishment of the Retail Management Trainee Program was announced last Thursday on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

Food Lion, based in Salisbury, is one of the largest supermarket chains in the country, with more than 1,200 stores across the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states.

Beginning in July of 2003, participants of the training program will spend a year learning how the entire grocery supply chain operates from a retail store location to the Store Support Center, Food Lion's corporate headquarters. Upon completing the program, trainees will be assigned to store management positions to gain additional skills to progress into other areas of the company.

Food Lion will select 12 of the most qualified candidates to

participate in the training program from the HBCUs, and all will be paid as regular employees of Food Lion as they progress through the program.

Natalie Taylor started out as a part-time cashier at a Food Lion store in Radford, Va., more than 20 years ago to pay her way through college. Today, Taylor is the vice president of diversity for Food Lion and hopes that the program's future trainees will follow in her footsteps at the grocery store chain.

"Once I got there I realized that there are so many opportunities in this industry, things I didn't know about...but once I talked to people from (human relations) I realized that there were opportunities at the corporate office for me. So I decided to stay with the company," said Taylor, who, before overseeing the diversity division, was director of diversity planning for Food Lion.

Under Taylor's leadership, the NAACP awarded the company two Fair Share Awards for its minority vendor program and for its overall efforts in support of the organization.

According to Taylor, Food Lion hopes that this program will increase the number of African-American college graduates entering into the grocery industry and provide them with comprehensive training. Taylor looks forward to working with

See Grocery on A4

Airport comes up short in landfill battle



Planned runway resurfacing and safety area construction have been put on hold for the time being at Smith Reynolds Airport.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Zoning Board of Adjustment sided with people who live around Smith Reynolds Airport last week when it voted 5-1 to deny the airport's request for a special use permit that would have cleared the way for an inert debris landfill to be established on airport property.

Residents showed up in force last Thursday, telling the board, which is made up of appointed volunteers, that they feared the landfill would become a health hazard and bring unwanted noise and dump-truck traffic to their communities.

"The apprehension that we have is tremendous," said Joe Rogers, president of the Castle Heights Neighborhood Association. "We would like to have the sympathy of this board...We feel as though there ought to be some sort of alternative."

Airport officials have argued that their alternatives are limited. The inert landfill would not have accepted trash, only concrete, dirt,

force last Thursday, telling the board, which is made up of appointed volunteers, that they feared the landfill would become a health hazard and bring unwanted noise and dump-truck traffic to their communities.

"The apprehension that we have is tremendous," said Joe Rogers, president of the Castle Heights Neighborhood Association. "We would like to have the sympathy of this board...We feel as though there ought to be some sort of alternative."

Airport officials have argued that their alternatives are limited. The inert landfill would not have accepted trash, only concrete, dirt,

See Airport on A5



Merdis McCarter

LIBERTY 1500 Peter's Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC
Visit us on the web at www.libertylm.com or call 336.725.0411

The Only Choice for African-American and Community News