

Local schools compete for wrestling crown
Hill goes 1-on-1 with Chris Paul



See B1



See A3



See C1

Woman celebrates 98th birthday
Suicide up for young blacks

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Pre-MLK Day event pushes peace

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In 1962, Marjorie Gregory was a student at N.C. Central University, and like many of her classmates, the Massachusetts native was often engaged in acts of civil disobedience aimed at changing the segregationist times.



During one demonstration in Durham, Gregory — upset by ugly words that were being hurled at her and other demonstrators — broke down in tears. A man she did not immediately recognize grabbed her by the shoulders and told her something she has never forgotten.

"He said, 'Young lady, put your head up, your shoulders back and let all the

ugly things people say about you roll down your back," Gregory recalled last Friday at an anti-violence forum held in the heart of the Happy Hill community.

Gregory says she has taken those words to heart and put them to practice many times over the last four decades. The man who gave her that treasured advice was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With the national holiday to honor King near, organizers of the anti-violence forum relied heavily on King's words and vision at the event, which was staged at the Sims Recreation Center for a crowd of about 100, many of whom were not even born when the King holiday became reality in the



Photo by Kevin Walker

Brandon Thomas looks over the program for last's anti-violence forum held at the Sims Recreation Center.

See Forum on A5

Efforts to reach black donors will increase

African-Americans are often in need of organs, but rarely do they sign up as donors

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Only 25 percent of all organ donors are minorities, and that doesn't match up with the nearly half of minorities who are on the national waiting list for organ transplants. While race is not a barrier nor a criterion for organ placement, it does increase the chances of a patient receiving a transplant if the organ comes from a donor of the same race.

Carolina Donor Services (CDS) with created an African-American Outreach Task Force to reach people of color with life-saving information about organ and tissue donation. Through a grassroots campaign led by Richard L. Williams, who has been appointed chair of the task force, the group aims to educate the black community about the critical need for organs and tissues.

Williams is a former newspaper reporter who now heads his own public relations and advertising firm.

CDS, a federally-designated organ and tissue agency for 79 counties of North Carolina, seeks to save and improve lives through organ and tissue donation.

Williams has learned firsthand just how important organ donation is to saving a life. Over the last 10 years, two members of his family have passed away while awaiting organ transplants.

"It's been very educational for me...when I learned about the rate of African-Americans who are on the transplant waiting list and also the fact that very few African-Americans or minorities are even on the donor list. I started thinking back to the personal experiences I had related to organ and tissue donations," said Williams, who has organized a group of people to serve on the African-American Outreach Task Force from around the state, including Rep. Larry Womble and Carmen Carruth, a local woman whose young son recently received a kidney transplant.

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) reported that out of the 56,006 patients on the waiting list for organ transplants in the year 2002, 1,799 were patients



Williams



Hinesley

Report creates undue smoke, some say

Black lawmakers question why they failed group's financial litmus test

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Several African-American state legislators say a campaign finance report card recently released by a non-profit watchdog organization puts them in the worst possible light, creating smoke where they say there is no fire.

Democracy North Carolina — a 6-year-old nonprofit group, which, according to its mission statement, strives to right society's social and economic injustices by focusing on the issue of finances in politics — regularly releases report cards, grading legislators on various aspects of their campaign financial reports.

According to the most recent report cards handed out by the group — which were released on Dec. 30 and looked at legislators' third-quarter disclosure reports — many African-Americans in the General Assembly need extra tutoring on how to file their reports. All seven of the black legislators initially graded received failing grades, including Rep. Larry Womble.

"It gives the impression that the organization is singling out African-Americans," said Womble, who got an F. "I don't know whether that is true or not. But if it is not true, they need to explain that."

Womble received a failing grade, according to the report, because his report was "weeks late." Black legislators Rep. Thomas Wright (D-Wilmington) and Rep. Larry Shaw (D-Fayetteville) also

See Lawmakers on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

Jay Carlton stands in front of a mural he helped to create at the Downtown Elementary School. The wall he is standing in front of was once barren and dull. Carlton, a lifelong artist, volunteered his time to paint a series of insects on the wall.

In Living Color

Local budding artist finds peace of mind through painting

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Jay Carlton is a tall, quiet, unassuming man who practices modesty as if it were a sport.

Carlton is one the city's budding artists.

You won't find his colorful paintings in swank galleries, at least not yet. Carlton is slowly making a name for himself through murals he has painted.

His ability to transform dull, lifeless walls into life-like works of art is a skill



Carlton points to the image of Judas in this wall painting he did of The Last Supper.

that he has honed for most of his life. That talent is on display each Sunday for parishioners at Mount Nebo

Holiness Church. Carlton, who is a devout member of First Waightown Baptist Church, painted an Afro-

centric version of the Last Supper on the wall of Mt. Nebo's basement. His attention to detail is evident in the faces of those around the table, especially in the face of Judas.

"I made his eyes so that wherever you stand in the room, he is looking straight at you," Carlton said, as he moved his hands like a paintbrush around the figure of Judas.

Much of Carlton's work centers around biblical themes. He is working on a pictorial series based on the story of Noah's ark.

Recently, Carlton, a 1980 graduate of Winston-Salem State University, and fellow local artist Deborah

See Carlton on A10

Another eatery hoping for success on New Walkertown

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

A section of Winston-Salem that once dreamed of a K&W-style cafeteria will be home to the city's latest Church's chicken franchise. A Church's restaurant is set to open next month on New Walkertown Road and is promising to give customers the best deal in town for chicken.

While two Church's Chicken restaurants are located on Patterson Avenue and Waightown Street, this brand new restaurant is owned and operated by Manna Foods, a newly



Johnson

formed Christian-based company out of Greensboro that owns fast food restaurants like Church's Chicken and Steak 'n Shake. Manna Foods also runs several other Church's Chicken

restaurants around the Triad in High Point and Greensboro.

Church's Chicken, known for its Southern-style chicken and specialty sides menu, began in San Antonio, Texas, back in 1952.

"We have a great product. Our chicken is really second to none. We give it at a great value price, and it's great food for less money at Church's Chicken," said Robert Vaughn, vice president of operations for Manna Foods. "That's the biggest distinction: People who haven't tried Church's Chicken lately don't realize

See Restaurant on A9



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

This New Walkertown Road building has housed several eateries over the years. It will be the new home for a Church's Chicken franchise.