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# THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2003

## NAACP may take control of center

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

Although the Northampton Recreation Center is closed, it was open Monday night for residents of the neighborhood to meet to discuss buying the center from the city.

The city closed Northampton and North Hills recreation centers earlier this summer, to the dismay of residents, to save money.

The city said that both centers were underutilized. But residents say the closing of the center has given young people in Northampton few after-school options.

"We're willing to maintain the building so that we can use it for our purposes.... We want to keep it for our kids and the older people," said Gloria Stinson, president of the Northampton Neighborhood Association.

Employees of the city's Recreation and Parks Department were no-shows at the

See Center on A11

## Black caucus holds first convention

Organization will work to get blacks to the polls in upcoming elections, primaries

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

**GREENSBORO** - The seeds of the recently planted African-American Caucus of the N.C. Democratic Party are beginning to blossom. The caucus held its first statewide convention Saturday at the Koury Convention Center, attracting members from the more than 20 county African-American caucuses that have already taken form.

Stella Adams, who was elected president of the state African-American Caucus at an earlier gathering, has high hopes for the four-month-old caucus.



Earle

"We really need (the caucus) desperately to make sure the Democratic Party is hearing the needs of the African-American community in a coherent,



Adams

clear fashion," said Adams, the executive director of the Durham-based N.C. Fair Housing Council. "Without a caucus, the party can go pick and

choose the black leaders it talks to depending on what it wants to hear rather than hearing what we want to say."

Unofficially, the caucus has existed since February, but the N.C. Democratic Party did not approve the caucus until its May meeting. The African-American Caucus joins a number of other caucuses - including ones for college students and women - that fall under the state Democratic Party umbrella.

Adams insists that the need for an African-American Caucus is not indicative of a division between black North Carolinians and the Democratic Party. But Adams concedes that

disagreements between the two groups first raised the need for the caucus. A major point of contention concerned voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts. Many black party faithful thought more dollars and energy should have been put into both in recent elections. The party leadership thought otherwise.

"After the 2002 elections, (black Democrats) were extremely frustrated," Adams said. "We made recommendations that were not listened to. The strategy used by the party failed. We felt it failed because they did not listen to what we were saying."

See Caucus on A4

## Putting with a Purpose

Black business group plans annual charity golf tourney

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Over the last 14 years, the annual golf tournament hosted by the East Area Council of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce has raised more than a quarter-million dollars.

Each year, the council donates a large chunk of the tournament take to some worthy local group or agency, which uses the funds to do everything from provide educational scholarships, to combat the county's domestic violence problem. Officials at the Maya Angelou Institute for the Improvement of Child and Family Education and the Downtown Health Plaza of Baptist Hospital are depending on another successful tournament this year. The two organizations have been chosen to receive a portion of this year's tournament proceeds.

The Downtown Health Plaza, which recently had its

See Tournament on A4



Michael Pitt (from left), an East Area Council member; Donna Benson of Winston-Salem State University; EAC President Mosé Belton-Brown; Dr. Robert Jones of the Downtown Health Plaza; and EAC members Richard Williams and Darryl Little pose with the banner for this year's Mayor's Open Golf Tournament.

Photo by Kevin Walker

## Group decides on youth program

New initiative will target children with scrapes with the law

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Agencies and programs in Forsyth County designed to help young people stay on the straight and narrow receive more than \$3 million a year in public money and other funds. But the effectiveness of these groups can't be counted and measured like dollars.

A grassroots group that has been meeting for the last couple months to discuss the problem of black youths in the criminal justice system has decided to start a program of its own aimed at helping young offenders. The group says already existing programs are not effective enough and could use some help since the county courthouse still has no shortage of young black male defendants.

"(Youth crime rates are) not decreasing enough for me," said Virginia Newell, a former City Council member and college professor who initiated the grassroots group.



Chief court counselor Walter Byrd listens as Virginia Newell makes a point.

Photo by Kevin Walker

Newell has been leading the group's twice-monthly meetings since late June. The group's focus and goals were loose during its initial meetings. Newell simply

wanted a forum where the problem could be discussed and information could be shared.

Featured speakers at the meetings have included officials

from the county's criminal justice system as well as parents of teens who have had run-ins with the law. Former teen offenders who

See Youth on A9

## Larry Womble is featured in another national magazine

Legislator is leading anti-eugenics effort

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Since state Rep. Larry Womble has taken the lead role in trying to right wrongs done by the state over a 40-year time span, Womble has shown up in a number of popular national magazines.

People magazine is the latest publication to feature the veteran legislator. In the Aug. 18 issue of the weekly magazine, Womble is quoted and a picture of him with Elaine Jesse appears. Jesse was one of the nearly 8,000 people sterilized by the state of North Carolina between 1929 and the early '70s. Jesse's story is the main focus of the People article.

Womble has been at the forefront of a movement to get the state to recognize the great despair brought about by its eugenics program and to make amends with sterili-

zation victims through a variety of means.

Gov. Mike Easley has already apologized to victims, most of whom were African-American. The state's eugenics program focused on people who were deemed mentally handicapped or feeble-minded. The law that made sterilizations



Womble

legal was on the books until Womble introduced a bill earlier this year to strike it down. Easley also started a special committee to look into the state's ugly history of steril-

See Womble on A9