



Reynolds tries to focus after tragedy

-See Page B1



Fire summit features gadgets

-See Page A3



Politicians attend church service

-See Page B8



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Area black Republicans lukewarm to Obama's history-making nomination

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Democrat Barack Obama made history last week when he became the first African-American ever to be nominated for the presidency by a major political party.

Many view Obama's nomination as a sign that race relations in America are on the upswing. Yet, many black conservatives contend that Black America's overwhelming endorsement of Obama is just one another indication that race is still a factor.

Buncombe County Republican Party Chair Timothy Johnson says Obama is getting undue support from blacks because of his race, not his politics.

"Barack Obama shouldn't get a pass because he is a person of color," said Johnson, a delegate for Sen. John McCain to this week's Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. "I hope people take time to really ask the hard questions."

Johnson, whose son is currently serving in Iraq, supports the war and



Timothy Johnson poses with U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

says that America needs a leader who is well-versed in military affairs. That leader is not Obama, he believes.

"Senator (John) McCain has the experience; he has the wisdom; and he's picked an excellent running mate."

he said. "He's been on the front lines, making a difference for our nation. He has stayed committed to this country for his entire adult life."

Forty-nine year-old Jimmy Bention Sr., who lives in Monroe, is also a con-

vention delegate. He says Obama's success story is just one of many.

"His story is not the first story of a successful black politician," Bention said. Others who have excelled in the political arena are shunned because of their affiliation with the GOP, added Bention, who cited examples like Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and retired general and former State Department leader Colin Powell

For Bention, determining which candidate was worthy of the nation's top elected office was easy.

"Senator McCain has caused my blood to boil at times when I felt he wasn't giving support to the party that he needed to," admitted Bention, "(But) on every level, he outshines the competition."

The longtime pastor of Metrolina Christian Center Church of God in Christ, Bention says that the Republican Party is the place to be for African-Americans who support socially conservative causes such as anti-abortion legislation and bans on same

See GOP on A4



Empty shelves have become too common at Crisis Control Ministries.

Hunger pains felt by agencies

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

It's not like Paul Cribb hasn't seen empty shelves before. Over the course of the nearly ten years that he has worked at Crisis Control Ministries, Cribb has seen supplies dwindle in the agency's popular food pantry. But Cribb, Crisis Control's operations manager, has never seen donations dry up as regularly as they have in the past several months, as local residents cut back on giving to compensate for their own rising needs.

"We've been hit really hard this year," Cribb said. "With high fuel costs, people aren't able to pay their bills... donations have slowed down... because people don't have the extra funds."

Donations have been so low that Crisis Control is already \$18,000 over budget. While donations have decreased, families in need of the free food offered at the pantry have not. Demand is greater these days because of the same factors that have limited donations.

The Christian-centered organization helps local families and individuals in financial crunches through gifts of food, medication, and funding for essentials like rent and utilities. The income level of the average family that benefits from the services has increased, Cribb said, a sign that more families are falling on hard times.

The strain is being felt all over by organizations that provide food to those in need. St. Paul's United Methodist Church has had a food pantry for the past seven years. It has seen the number of patrons for its weekly free food distribution double over the years. As a result, the ministry has had to

See Food on A4

New WSSU initiative rallies 'real' men to become teachers

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Real Men Teach. It's more than just the name of one of Winston-Salem State University's newest programs; it is the belief of everyone who participates, from the students on up to

the Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Hammond, dean of the School of Education and Human Performance and visionary for the project.

"There's a lack of male role models in the classroom," explained Dr. Michael Sutton, one of the coordinators for Real Men Teach. "The program is designed to support and increase productivity of male students interested in education."

Sutton and program developer Myra Waddell

started Real Men Teach last spring in an effort to increase the number of males in the discipline.

"It's a female-dominated major," admitted RMT President Kevin Wilson, a senior education major. "Young kids, especially males, cling to me because (male teachers aren't) something they're used to seeing."

Boosting the number of minority males in classroom settings is especially important, says Sutton, who is the son of two teachers.

"The world is getting browner and browner," he commented. "We need to make sure that the teaching profession reflects that."

Each participant is linked with three experienced educators who can help them with social, academic and personal concerns that may arise over the course of their educational journey. Students in the program are also expected to support and encourage each other.

See Teachers on A11



The Gospel Ice Cream Truck is unwrapped on Sunday.

HEAVENLY TREATS

Church unveils its own ice cream truck

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Call it an ice cream truck on a mission from God.

Ready to depart on a delicious mission of evangelism, Union Baptist Church dedicated its Gospel Ice Cream Truck Sunday before a crowd of awestruck young people.

The truck will cruise the streets of Winston-Salem, peddling more than just ice cream. In addition to a sweet treat, customers will receive Christian literature and a card with directions to Union Baptist church. Union Pastor Rev. Sir Walter Mack Jr., came up with the concept. He believes it is a new way to reach young people.

"Today, we believe we're ministering to people from all

See Ice cream on A4



Pastor Sir Walter Mack Jr. came up with the concept.



Kevin Wilson is the president of RMT.



Elliot

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