



WSSU takes home CIAA titles

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More housing options downtown

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CEO promises ED search progress

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

YMCA of Northwest North Carolina CEO Curt Hazelbaker told Winston Lake Family YMCA members, staffers and volunteers Tuesday that a search for a new executive director for the branch may begin next month.

Former Executive Director Shawan Gabriel left the organization in December to lead the local Big Brothers Big Sisters Inc., and Hazelbaker said at the time that he hoped to have Gabriel's successor in place by March.

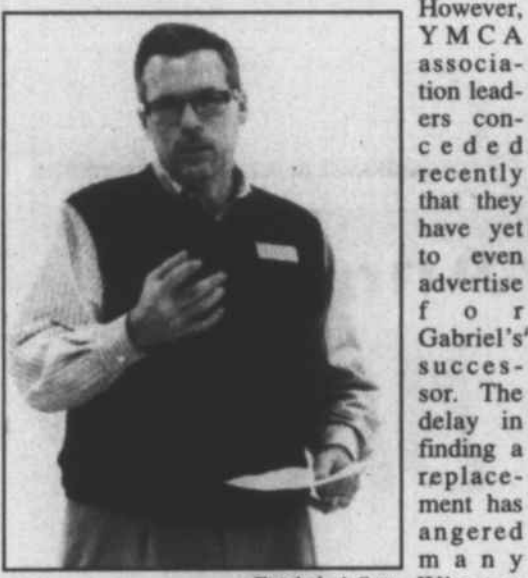


Photo by Layla Garms
YMCA CEO Curt Hazelbaker speaks at the Winston Lake Y.

However, YMCA association leaders conceded recently that they have yet to even advertise for Gabriel's successor. The delay in finding a replacement has angered many Winston Lake members and volunteers, some of whom believe Winston Lake is being put on the back-burner because it is the Association's only majority African American branch.

Hazelbaker's appearance Tuesday was the second time this month that YMCA of Northwest North Carolina leaders had visited Winston Lake to address concerns. On April 9, Senior VP and COO Mark Bachman spoke to a group of close to 100 during a morning meeting. Hazelbaker's meeting only drew a small crowd.

The Chronicle's coverage of the April 9 meeting, wherein many members voiced dissatisfaction and exasperation at the agency's handling of the matter, prompted Hazelbaker to address Winston Lake members directly, first through an open letter and again with the 4:15 p.m. meeting at the branch Tuesday.

"I want to address an article in The Chronicle last week about the Y's search for a new executive director at Winston Lake," he wrote in a letter (printed in its entirety on page A9) dated April 19. "As you know, we are in the process of evaluating a wide range of options to ensure we make the best possible decision for the Winston Lake Family YMCA and the com-

See Winston Lake on A10



Photo by Layla Garms

Siblings Edwin Archie, Carolyn Archie, Velma Fields, Bernard Archie and Elvita Hunt.

Honor for First Family of Tennis

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Before Venus and Serena, there were the Archies, and here in the Twin City, the family was legendary.

The late Charles and Ella Ruth's nine-member brood were known for their prowess on the court in a time when there were very few black faces in the sport.

"People of my generation, of my age - a lot of us took up the game because of them," said City Council member Denise "DD" Adams. "We watched them win tournaments, and that

was pretty much unheard of for young, African American kids... They were considered to be the best of the best."

Six of the Archie children competed at the regional level or above, and several of them made national headlines. Edwin, the second oldest, took second-place in the Junior National Tennis Tournament title in 1955, falling to a young Arthur Ashe, and brother Richard Archie continued the family's success, competing in the Western North Carolina High School District Tennis Tournament of Negro High Schools

See Archies on A10



DD Adams

Monk has Southern Baptist roots

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Bushi Yamato Damashii, 43, has had a long spiritual journey, one that led him from Christianity to Buddhism, Baptist minister to monk.

He was born Torrence Marquis Ramsey and raised a Baptist in West Palm Beach, Fla. He joined the Marines at 17, allowing him to visit 34 countries, including Kuwait and Iraq, where he saw combat in the 1990s. It was during a visit home that he was first introduced to Buddhism - which has more than a billion followers in Asia and around the world - by a Vietnamese-American friend.

"A friend of mine was practicing meditation," Damashii said. "It was something that was intriguing to me. One of the things that was most intriguing



Submitted Photo

See Monk on A8

Bushi Yamato Damashii poses in a Buddhist temple.



Photo by Layla Garms

COLLEGE-BOUND

Israel Suarez poses with his mother, Isabella Acosta, at the annual Crosby Scholars Senior Gala Monday night at the Benton Convention Center. Suarez, a senior at Reagan High School, was one of nearly 600 high school seniors who were feted during the event. Read more in our May 2 edition.



Photo by Todd Luck

Richard Koritz celebrates with Larry Little.

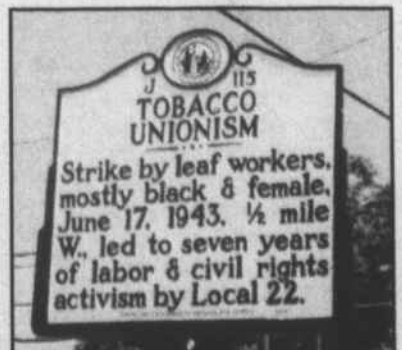
Union leaders recalled as trailblazers

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A permanent tribute to workers whose strike led to the formation of a landmark union now stands at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Fourth Street.

A celebration and unveiling ceremony for the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources' historic marker was held Saturday near the site at First Calvary Baptist Church. A crowd of more than 140 listened as a num-

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