



Native is hoping to be snatched by NBA team

-See Page B10



Rams give women football lessons

-See Page B1



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Grant calls for dramatic faculty changes at Cook

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

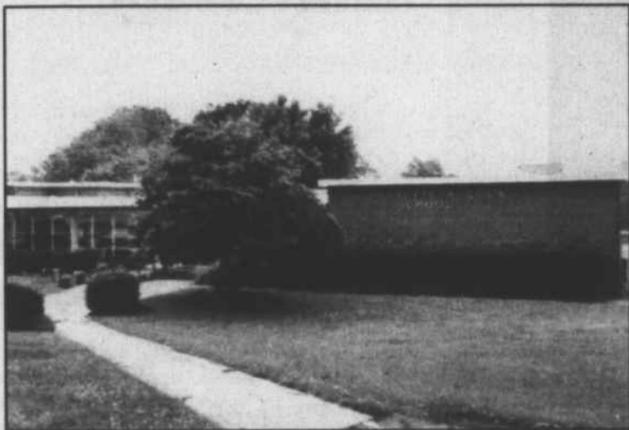
When students return to Cook Elementary School in the fall, they will see a lot of new faces.

Cook, which is among the lowest performing in the state, will be making some big changes over the summer break as a result of the \$1.7 million school improvement grant it recently received from the U.S. Department of Education to improve its academic standing over the course of the next three years.

Among the terms of the grant is a staff restructuring that requires every faculty and staff member to re-interview for their current posts. The grant stipulates that the school can choose to re-hire no more than half its existing staff. Those who aren't re-hired at Cook will be placed at other schools, leaving Cook room to hire new faces.

"What the grant does is it's going to help us to find teachers

See Cook on A7



Sunday bus service a-go

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Transit Authority and Trans-Aid are poised to begin offering Sunday service later this year, city officials say.

City Council members voted

Monday to approve a \$378.9 million budget. The budget sets the property tax rate at 53 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which is 3.9 cents higher than the current rate of 49.1 cents. But since more than 60 percent of city property owners saw a drop in their house values, most residents will pay less taxes this year.

The budget includes funding for seven WSTA Sunday bus routes that are expected to be offered starting in the fall.

"I think it will be a good thing for our community," commented City Council Member James Taylor. "We've had a lot of outcry for Sunday service, and the new budget does just that."

Assistant City Manager Greg Turner says the addition of Sunday services will create around a dozen jobs and help get Winston-Salem in line with other large cities in the state.

"We're one of the last, if not the last, major city in North Carolina that doesn't have it," he commented. "... We're a seven days a week city just like everyone else, so we wanted the public to be able to use public transportation seven days a week."

The city will offer Sunday service on seven of its most highly utilized routes. The routes may have slight variations on Sundays but will be modeled after the Saturday schedule, Turner said. It is the first time in Turner's more than 30 year career that the city has offered Sunday service, and he believes it will improve the quality of life for



Randy Smith



Turner

Photos by Todd Luck

Nana Vee Terry demonstrates broom-making at the Juneteenth Africana Festival.

Below: Larry Womble addresses attendees.



AN ODE TO FREEDOM

Annual cultural celebration returns

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The struggles and triumphs of African-Americans, past and present, were celebrated Saturday at the annual Triad Juneteenth Africana Festival at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum Annex.

The local event and Juneteenth festivals around the nation mark the day - June 19, 1965 - that the last slaves in the then-burgeoning nation learned of their freedom.

Organizer Cheryl Harry is encouraged that the festival draws thousands of loyal attendees year after year.

The event is a celebration of how far African-Americans have come, she said.

"Freedom and independence is perpetual, the celebration never ends," said Harry. "...It represents progress to me."

Food, music and special guests helped to make the event memorable, as did the bevy of historical displays and cultural exhibits.



LaVon Williams, a self-described "urban folk artist" generated a lot of attention. The Florida native and current Kentucky resident is a woodcarver who created the National Black Theatre Festival logo at the request of NBTf founder Larry Leon Hamlin. The logo has garnered Williams attention from across the globe.

"Larry said it would have the power to

travel everywhere, it would be that powerful," said Williams. "It's kind of amazing. When I first did it I just didn't realize what it would end up meaning and would mean to so many people when they see it."

Williams' original oval-shaped carving of the logo was on display. At Hamlin's

See Juneteenth on A8

See Buses on A8

THE GREATEST GENERATION

Retired educators recall how they strived in the toughest times

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

In Winston-Salem, like in countless cities across the South during the Jim Crow era, black students fought against the odds to get a sound education.

Educators of the 1960s and earlier were forced to use cre-

See Educators on A10



Photo by Layla Garms

Former educators (from left): Walter Farabee, James Brandon, Peyton Hairston and Irma Gadson.

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