

▲ Tom Joyner to headline A&T homecoming See Page A4

▲ SPORTS WEEK

Vikings spell
U-P-S-E-T
....

Rams sitting
pretty atop CIAA



See A3

See C1

See A4

See B1

▲ COMMUNITY

New Teen Talk
column
...
Church celebrates
blessing

75 cents

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A light in the darkness



Photo by Bruce Chapman

Gloria Carter, who was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago, is one of a growing number of African American women stricken with the disease.

Carter educates women about breast cancer

BY JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

Two years ago, Gloria Carter didn't know anyone with breast cancer.

Now, she can barely keep track of women she knows who have been ravaged by the disease.

She quietly counts the number, using the fingers on her right hand.

A woman from church. A relative. A neighbor. A close friend who lost her life as Carter struggled to regain hers.

Strangers she meets during

her many talks around the city to encourage black women to have mammograms and do monthly breast self-examinations.

Before long, she needs both hands.

"Ten in all," she said. "Ten women with breast cancer that I've met in the last two years."

She pauses and draws a deep breath.

"Make that 11. I forgot to count me."

Carter, who was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago, is one of a growing number of African American

women stricken with the disease, the second most common cause of cancer death in black women.

Two years ago, she hadn't given a thought to breast cancer. She'd never had a mammogram, an X-ray of the breast which can reveal hidden abnormalities, or given herself a breast self-exam.

Now, she says with a chuckle, she is a walking endorsement of both. At least once a week,

she says she finds herself talking to women — often women she doesn't know — about the horrors of breast cancer and the need for regular checkups.

"People tell me all the time that they haven't had a mammogram," she said. "They tell me they think it will hurt. I tell them every time that little pain you may feel is nothing compared to what you will go through if you wait."

To make her message even more clear, she's memorized all the harrowing statistics on black women and breast cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, black women have a higher breast cancer death rate than any other racial or ethnic population.

See Carter on A11

Being black is tough

Research shows African Americans still face rampant discrimination

BY ROBIN ESTRIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Blacks still end up at the bottom of the pack when it comes to opportunities ranging from jobs to housing, according to a new study that indicates race continues to play an enormous role in the success of Americans.

Fifty researchers studied the cities of Atlanta, Boston, Detroit and Los Angeles and found that race is deeply entrenched in the country's cultural landscape — perhaps even more than many Americans realize or are willing to admit.

See Being Black on A2

"I think this study tells you not only that some of these perceptions are true, but it tells us in more detail where inequality is being generated," said Alice O'Connor, a historian at the University of California-Berkeley, who wrote the introduction to the report.

The Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality, released Friday, found that racial stereotypes and hierarchies heavily influence the labor market, with blacks landing at the very bottom.

The seven-volume study looked at job market participation, racial inequality and political attitudes among 9,000 households and 3,500 employers in the four cities.

It was sponsored by the Russell Sage Foundation — a private research center on social policy —



File photo
A new study doesn't give blacks much to smile about. It shows that race plays an enormous role in the success of Americans.



Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Louise Davis, center, admires the cover of "African Americans in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County: A Pictorial History."

Black history chronicle available

Book tells hidden history of city

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

They sat back and let the pages of "African Americans in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County: A Pictorial History" transport them to another time.

For most of them, the hundreds of sharp, black and white photographs contained in the much-anticipated book were foreign images from an era glorified in the ramblings of their parents and grandparents.

The book's a walk down memory lane for William Roscoe Anderson, a collection of familiar faces and old haunts.

See History on A12



Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Church-goers sing along with the Greater Cleveland Avenue Mass Choir at Sunday's service.

Cleveland Avenue Church makes big move

Thousands turn out to celebrate historic first service

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Amazingly, the new 30,000 square-foot Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Center is still standing and in one piece.

The 1,600-member congregation and hundreds of guests took the immaculate structure for a "test drive" last Sunday during a dedication service, rocking its hallowed halls with hand clapping, songs and powerful "amen" crescendos.

For more than a year, church members had waited for this day. For many of them it marked the first Sunday morning in 25 years that they hadn't sat in the church's cozy sanctuary on the corner of Cleveland Avenue and 10th Street.

The new church sits on Lansing Drive, in a stretch of the road lined with other churches, schools and middle-class subdivisions. But not even its immense two-stories and vast parking facilities could accommodate those who flocked to the occasion.

Church-goers turned the patches of grass and gravel on the shoulders

See Cleveland on A5



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