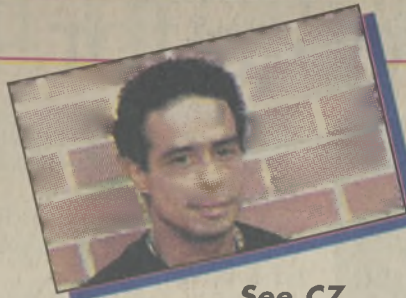


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SPORTS WEEK

rowlers down but not out?

France's work is paying off



See C7



See A2



See B1



See C1

COMMUNITY

African quilters carry on past

Tips to beat the summer heat

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

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## Building blocks

Best Choice Center appealing to residents as it begins to build for the next generation

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Dorothy Graham-Wheeler took Lois Hanes on a brief tour of the Best Choice Center last week.

Graham-Wheeler, the director of the well respected, non-profit after-school and summer program for students 5 to 15 years old, boasted about the spacious new computer lab and adjacent library. She then took Hanes, a charter board member of the 12-year-old center, into the Life Skills Center, a place where students, teachers and parents can study vari-

ous disciplines using videos, computer programs and various other forms of technology.

The tour relied heavily on description; the visual tours will have to come later. The only things that fill the computer lab, library and Life Skills Center now are cardboard boxes, thin slabs of wood, the sound of hammering and the smell of fresh paint.

The Best Choice Center is in the midst of the largest face-lift and expansion of its history. When the last nail is hammered - which officials with the center hope will happen sometime next year - the program will add about a dozen new classrooms, enough space for the program to add 100 students.

"That's why it's so important that we expand," Graham-Wheeler said. "We keep a waiting list. We have to turn down people each year."

Currently, the small church on Highland Avenue that Best Choice Center has called home for close to a decade will allow for only

See Best Choice on A4

"Who is going to take care of our kids if we don't take care of them?"

- Dorothy Graham-Wheeler



Charlie Douglas, right, and DaSean Liles play a chess match in their math class at Best Choice Center.

## Time program bringing message to the streets

HODGES  
CHRONICLE

Graham lives in Piedmont Park. She is affectionally called Mama Graham by many of the young people who live in the area.

She said that the latest acts of violence in her neighborhood are disturbing, but no one bothers her. "I've been here so long, they respect me," she said. "The people in the neighborhood don't use profanity and Graham.

Her granddaughter Terry tells another story from her neighborhood. She hears gunshots, she sees people and she steers clear of all of that.

According to statistics from the Winston-Salem Police Department, since April 26 there have been four homicides in the Piedmont Park area.

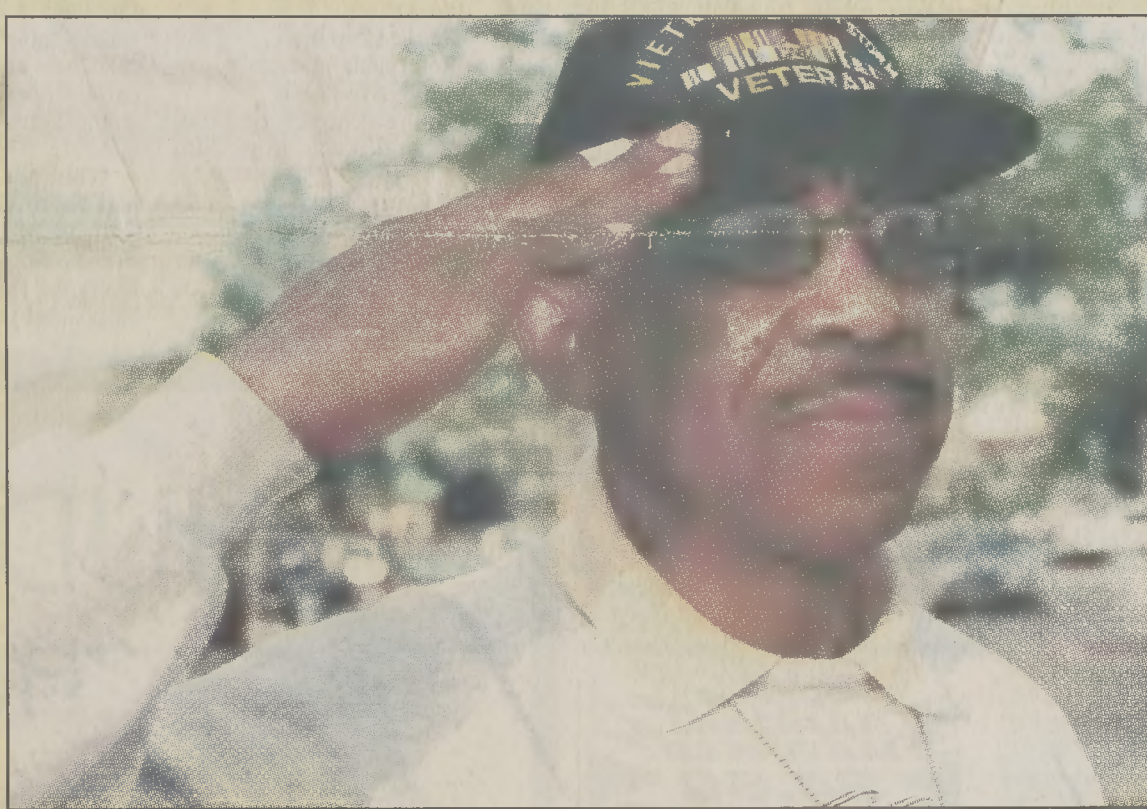
On Ross reported that he was robbed at gunpoint by three suspects. Robert Wilson was shot and killed, and two unknown men, and a 10-year-old victim were killed by fists and kicking, then the suspects fled on a bicycle. The suspects were described as being in the ages of 10 and 13. Keyna Eaton reported she had been shot while he was in the 2700 block of

These incidents brought law enforcement agents from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office; District Attorney; WSPD; FBI; Drug Enforcement Agency; State Police; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; State Police Investigation; Housing Authority of Winston-Salem; Division of Adult Probation and Parole; and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Some of the agents participated in a stationary drive-by checkpoint at the entrance of the neighborhood. The agents went door to door handing out fliers about the acts of violence that occurred in the neighborhood and the names of people who had been arrested or charged on their homes by HAWS.

Mama said she thinks what the police and other agencies are doing is a big help to the community. "A lot of people that are up here (causing violence) don't live here. It makes it look bad for the neighborhood to live here," she said.

See SACSI on A9



Retired Marine Emerson Manns received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with a Combat V (Valor) for his service in Vietnam. He joined other vets at an LJVM ceremony last week.

## Veterans applauded at LJVM

BY PAUL COLLINS  
THE CHRONICLE

Emerson Manns of Winston-Salem proudly wore a shirt and cap with U.S. Marine Corps insignia to "A Veterans Salute to Remember" Friday at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Manns, a 62-year-old retired Marine, served from 1956-76. He retired as a gunnery sergeant. He served two tours in Vietnam.

"I have the Bronze Star with a Combat V (for valor) and a Pur-

ple Heart. I went to Vietnam ... 1965-66 and 1970-71. Very fortunate - 150 of us went out on an operation; 24 of us came back. I was one of the walking wounded. Operation Starlight, I will never forget that, April 1965.

"We went to secure a town (the South Vietnamese town of Chu Lai, which was occupied by the North Vietnamese) and helicopters let us off in the rubber plantation. We found ourselves surrounded. I got hit in the canteen in the back. I often ask my students - I teach school now

(special education at Hill Middle School), "What would have happened if that canteen had not saved me from that bullet?" I pulled the canteen around and I came down from the ridge and there was the bullet stuck in there....

"I received the Bronze Star for saving my men. After we had gotten across this rice paddy, I noticed one of my men's pack was full of grenades and it was on fire.... We were (lying) down. I said to myself, 'I better try to save my

See Veterans on A5

## Residents say do not close pool, cut routes

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

A town hall meeting late last week became one of the latest venues for residents to express their displeasure with two city budget proposals that they say are detrimental to poor people.

The meeting, held by North Ward Alderman Nelson Malloy and East Ward Alderwoman Joycelyn Johnson, was billed as a forum for residents to discuss any topic they deemed important, from "hot spots" in their particular neighborhoods, to redevelopment efforts throughout the city.

But proposals currently being discussed by the Board of Aldermen to close the city-owned and operated swimming pool in Happy Hill Gardens and to eliminate some of the Transit Authority's bus routes dominated much of the discussion.

The items are being proposed by the city's budget office because of financial problems over the years. Both proposals were also spurred by recommendations from the city's Citizen Efficiency Review Committee, a volunteer group that spent months investigating ways the city could use its resources to the fullest.

Many of the 30 or so people who attended the meeting said profit should not be the city's paramount concern, especially since the proposals would affect the city's poorest residents. The meeting was held in the aldermen's board room at City Hall, the very place where the board is expected to approve a 2000-2001 budget for the city on June 5.

"If you close that swimming pool we are (in) trouble," said Lloyd Cuthrell, president of the Happy Hill Neighborhood Association. Cuthrell and several other members of the association said closing the pool would create idle time for the community's young people, idle time that could lead to crime and violence.

Ann Jones, the city's budget director, was on hand at the meeting to give residents the rationalization behind the proposals. The Happy Hill pool grossed under \$500 for the entire season last year, Jones said. Closing the pool would save the city about \$17,000.

See Town meeting on A4



Scholars and best friends Angela Bonner, left, and Angela Breeden take a stroll.

## Separated friends will reunite at college

BY CHERIS HODGES  
THE CHRONICLE

"We've been apart for four years. This will just make it better."

- Angela Bonner

"It's easier to talk to people that you know."

- Angela Breeden

Angela (pronounced Ongela) Bonner and Angela Breeden have been best friends for seven years.

But for four years of their friendship the two girls rarely saw one another.

"We saw each other about once a week," they said as they laughed.

Bonner and Breeden met in middle school. They became instant friends, but when it was time for the girls to go to high school, Bonner went to North Forsyth and Breeden went to Mount Tabor.

Four years later, the two will be reunited at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Both girls received track scholarships to the coastal school.

"I was overjoyed," said Bonner. "I didn't expect to do track in college."

As a matter of fact, Bonner didn't expect to do track at all.

"When I tried out for the track team, I wanted to be manager," she added.

Breeden said she was just as excited when she found out about her scholarship.

"I didn't know (UNC-W) existed," she said. "The track coach did a good job of recruiting me."

What the girls didn't know until March was that they were going to be together again.

Neither thought they would be attending the same college.

But now that they know they are going to be together, they are going to make the most of it.

Bonner and Breeden will be on the same track team and they will be roommates.

The girls think having each other will make the adjustment to college life that much easier.

"I'll have somebody I know (at school)," Bonner said.

"It's easier to talk to people that you know," Breeden added.

Bonner said if she has a problem when she gets to school, she would rather have a friend there to turn to rather than depending on a complete stranger.

See Separated on A4