

Author, talk show host Tavis Smiley to return to Winston-Salem...See page A2

SPORTS WEEK

Journey off to... Starting start... Howard Deacs



See B1



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COMMUNITY

Local group goes caroling

Trumpet awards to honor legends

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2000



Program will help aid transition

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Daisy Rodriguez Bartash left a 20-year career in the corporate world to tackle a new set of challenges...

'It's not about taking them by the hands and leading them; it's about guiding them and giving them tools.' - Daisy Bartash

Bartash has been pegged by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce to head El Puente...

bring Hispanic children and their parents into the fold, training them in skills that many English speakers take for granted.

thing when something good can come out of what you are doing.

The chamber came up with El Puente, which means 'the bridge' in Spanish, to help Hispanics who have not yet learned to navigate through American culture...

'This is near and dear to my heart,' Bartash said of the reason she left big business. 'It's just an amazing

VICES for their children because of their lack of English skills.



Photo courtesy of Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce

See Bridge on A2 Daisy Bartash symbolically poses near a bridge.

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Carolina Martin... Commission... the General... to encourage... about the state... team of the late

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public relations... director at the... architect of the... She said the... MLK commis-... e Y to continue... that will help... ents.

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See MLK on A4

Johnson elected to national board

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Alderman Joycelyn Johnson of Winston-Salem was elected to the board of directors of the National League of Cities (NLC) Dec. 9 as the league concluded its annual meeting in Boston.

Johnson, who currently serves on the NLC Community and Economic Development Policy Steering Committee, will serve a two-year term on the 40-member NLC board. The board, which elects 20

new members each year, has the lead role in shaping priorities and directing the activities of the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal



Johnson

governments.

More than 4,000 local government leaders attended the 2000 Congress of Cities. The delegates also elected new officers for the coming year, and Mayor Dennis Archer of Detroit was elected to serve as NLC's president for the year 2001.

'Joycelyn Johnson has been a valuable leader in her community, and we look forward to having those talents and insights con-

See Johnson on A9



Photo by Kevin Walker

looks through an anthology of short stories with Williams, one of the contributors to the booklet.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Claudette Henry read a poem at a graduation ceremony early this week, just minutes before she received her GED.

The poem focused on staying positive, even as others doubt, and holding onto hope, even when there is nothing else to hold onto.

Henry said she's been there. She wrote the poem one night, several months ago. To her, it is not just words on paper, but an affirmation, a source of light and hope in a place where one expects to find neither.

Henry's graduation ceremony took place in a small room behind a corridor of steel, locked doors. She wore no cap. A dark blue jumpsuit with the words Forsyth County Deten-

tion Center scrolled across the back substituted as her gown.

Henry and about a dozen of her fellow inmates became a statistic when they received their GEDs, but a positive statistic this time. They joined about 100 other inmates who received GEDs over the past three years through a program administered by Forsyth Technical Community College.

'I was determined to get this,' Henry said proudly as she stared at a transcript of her passing GED scores. Her certificate will be sent from Raleigh.

'I want to make a difference; it's time enough,' she continued.

Henry's release date is unclear. Her plans for the future are not cloudy, though. Henry talks with great excitement about studying computers and

pursuing a high-tech career.

Prison officials say inmates like Henry who receive their GEDs in jail have less chance of returning once they are released. Brenda Manley, program manager at the jail, said the rate of recidivism (relapse into criminal behavior) for GED graduates is only about 15 percent, far less than the rate for inmates without them.

'We feel that it is the key to cutting the recidivism rate,' Manley said. 'We usually don't see them again once they get that diploma.'

As program manager, Manley said she has proudly taken the charge given to her by Sheriff Ron Barker and Maj. Wayne James (the Sheriff's Department runs the jail) to implement programs that give inmates a

chance to become productive members of society once they serve their time. Everything from English as a Second Language classes to haircutting courses are offered at the jail.

But the GED program has become the most popular, Manley said. The waiting list for the courses usually has more than 100 names on it. Sessions are limited, with a few instructors coming to the jail a couple times a week to guide inmates toward achieving GEDs.

Roni Valenti, GED examiner for Forsyth Tech, said waiting list numbers usually rise after a jail graduation ceremony. The graduates' fellow inmates are usually inspired by what they see, she said.

'When we first started here

See Inmates on A10

Many blacks still upset, despite finality in presidential race

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY NNPA

WASHINGTON - Protesters outside the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 11 - from grassroots to leading activists - vowed that their quest for justice for black voters in Florida will continue even if it takes the next four years.

'We are sending a strong word to the Supreme Court of 'No Justice, No Peace,' said Al Kally, among the thousands of Democratic and Republican protesters awaiting the ultimate U.S. Supreme Court decision on whether to restart the recount. The court ruling came night of Dec. 12 in favor of a Bush White House in a 5-4 decision.

'We're going to call George Bush a thief and take the protests to the White House every day,' said Kally, a 44-year-old travel agent of Hyattsville, Md.

Gary Flowers, a deputy director of Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, said the Chicago-based organization will continue to hold rallies and vigils calling on the 'United Nations to investigate' the treatment of blacks at the polls, including arrests, harassment, racial profiling, and people being arbitrarily turned away in predominantly black areas.

Flowers, who helped to register new voters across the nation, said at least 200,000 new voters were registered in Florida alone. Of the 940,000 African Americans eligible to vote, 893,000 voted, he said. The fact that the most disenfranchisement happened in majority b' ck areas is not a mistake, he said.

The crowd heated up as Jackson emerged from the courthouse to a chorus of simultaneous cheers and boos.

'Jes-se! Jes-se! Jes-se!' the Democratic protesters chanted, hailing the civil rights leader who has flown back and forth from Florida to D.C. to his home base in Chicago, fighting for the vote count that the U.S. Supreme Court would ultimately say is unconstitutional.

Flowers, greeting members of the crowd, vowed that Jackson would continue the fight long past this phase of the battle.

People of all ages and backgrounds - from Main Street-type lawyers arguing their cases, to students too young to vote, to seasoned activists from the Civil Rights Movement - chanted in front of the monumental white building encircled by some 40 policemen, many in riot gear, including helmets and batons in hand.



Kally



Flowers