

SPORTSWEEK

Hampton, Howard going dancing
Jackets, Demons get state crowns



See B1



See C1



See C7



See C1

COMMUNITY

Singer gives college \$1 million
Eye bank honors those who give

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXVII No. 28

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2001

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Wake Forest students light candles as they prepare for a vigil to honor the life of Willie Fisher and the women he murdered.

Execution 1, Opponents 0

Death penalty claims first life of the year

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Prayers were answered for a group of mostly Catholics that held a vigil last week a few hours before a Winston-Salem native was scheduled to be put to death at Central Prison in Raleigh.

As they lighted candles and sang spiritual tunes on the steps of Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University, a Superior Court judge miles away halted the scheduled execution of Willie Ervin Fisher, who was convicted of the savage stabbing death of his girlfriend, Angela Johnson, in 1992.

Fisher's execution was scheduled for 2 a.m. March 9, but Judge Howard Manning of Wake County delayed the execution, stating that Gov. Mike Easley's prior position as attorney general jeopardized Fisher's right to due process. Easley, who as attorney general represented the state in Fisher's many appeals, had denied Fisher's clemency plea early last week after meeting with the victim's family. Fisher's family and several community and religious leaders from Winston-Salem.

"After a careful review of this case, I conclude that the jury's recommendation of death is attribut-

See Vigil on A5



A student, center, at Santana High School in Santee, Calif., is embraced after a shooting spree at the school recently.

Clifford: Youth anger must not be ignored by adults

BY PAUL COLLINS THE CHRONICLE

Recent school shootings across the United States are a wake-up call for this country, said Dean Clifford, Ph.D., executive director of Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership.

"Violence can happen anywhere any time," she said.

In many cases, parents are not spending enough time loving their children, especially in early years, she said. As long as parents continue not to give the loving, nurturing training that children need, acts of violence are likely to continue to happen, she said.

The problem knows no socioeconomic lines. "I don't care how much money the family has, if there is a lot of yelling, not much warmth (in the home), you are setting the stage for poor social interaction (for the children)," Clifford

said. "Recent shootings at schools, I can't think of one that wasn't done by a white middle-class kid," she said.

Recently, a kid accused in a school shooting felt picked on by other students and felt like a loner. But most people can site instances in their lives when they felt picked on by other people, Clifford said. For example, she felt that way herself at times when she was growing up "but I had an inner conviction that I was OK, and I had inner equipment to deal with that."

All of us are going to feel anger from time to time, but parents need to help their kids grow up with the tools for recognizing anger and for dealing with anger in positive, nonviolent ways, she said.

The first few years of life are critically important in setting the stage for that, she said.

See Youth anger on A4

Small wonder serving as agency's ambassador

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Charlean Wright admits that she knew little about the March of Dimes until birth defects hit close to home more than five years ago.

Expecting her first child, Wright drove herself to the hospital with what she was sure were labor pains only 26 weeks into her pregnancy. Hospital officials insisted that she was mistaken, but further examination proved her right. Her labor could not be halted and Wright delivered her son, Jeremy Gregg, on April 17, 1995. He weighed a little less than 1.8 pounds, so small that he could fit in the hands of his mother.

The first few months of his life were spent under intense scrutiny in

a hospital neonatal intensive care unit. His mother was never far off.

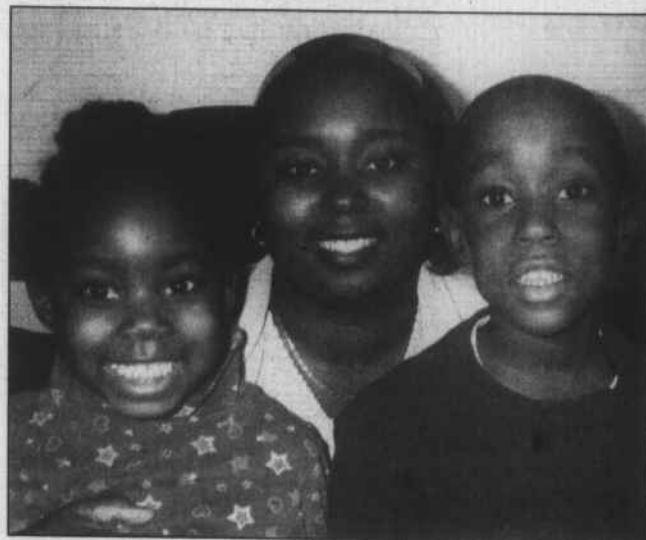
"They said if he made it past the fifth day he would have a good chance of surviving," she recalled.

Wright and her family prayed heavily up until that fifth day; their prayers increased once Jeremy made it over the hump. It was an optimistic, yet sad time, Wright remembers, because while she and her family hoped that Jeremy would pull through, other babies in the unit were slipping away, one by one.

"I was thinking that my child could be next," she said. "The only thing that you could do was pray."

The family's prayers were answered. But as Jeremy was growing stronger, he was hit with another

See Gregg on A2



Charlean Wright holds her two children, Jacora and Jeremy, the March of Dimes ambassador for the area.

Got Game?



Forest Park Elementary School teachers, from left, Teresa Cranfill, Vicki Sweitzer, Betty Collins and Deborah Andrews warm up for a game that matched them against some of their students. See page A10 for complete story.

Samaritan Ministries celebrates 20 years

Organization has served more than a million meals

BY CORTNEY L. HILL THE CHRONICLE

It's been 20 years since the Samaritan Ministries opened its

doors and hearts to the community. On the day it began, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were served to 26 people. Today, Samaritan Ministries serves almost 225 people daily, totaling more than 1,796,032 people served to date.

On Friday, March 2, Samaritan Ministries celebrated 20 years of serving food, hope and healing.

With plans of celebrating the support and hope throughout the year, in the fall, the ministry will honor the volunteers who have supported and contributed to help fulfill its mission of serving hope, healing and love.

Sonjia Kurosky, executive director, has been a part of Samaritan for four years. Working with the

community has had a profound effect on her. "Working here has taught me that you don't need much to live and that you only need the simple things in life to get by," she said.

Samaritan Ministries is a Christian organization that is mostly supported by more than 400 churches.

See Ministries on A8

Moon to headline unity conference

Winston-Salem only N.C. city on reverend's 50-city tour

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon is slated to make an appearance here early next month as part of a 50-state tour to unite families and people of various religious denominations.

The "We Stand Together! Tour" is part brainchild of Moon's Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Church, a sometimes criticized sect Moon founded.

The tour has been billed as a celebration of faith and a call for reconciliation. It has been endorsed by

an impressive list of religious leaders, of many different denominations, from across the country. Winston-Salem will be the tour's only stop in the state.

Local religious leaders like the Rev. Seth O. Lartey of Goler Memorial AME Zion Church; the Rev. Fermin Bocanegra of Iglesia Cristiana Wesleyana; The Rev. James Fullwood of Saint Mark Baptist Church; and Min. Mikal Muhammad of the local Nation of Islam Mosque have endorsed the tour and are taking active parts in promoting it.

See Moon on A11



Moon is perhaps best known for the mass wedding ceremonies he has performed, like this one in Korea last year.