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**SPORTSWEEK**

**Carver girls ready for playoffs**

**Black coaches excluded locally?**



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See A3



See C5



See C1

**COMMUNITY**

**School transformed into motherland**

**Bona fide diva soon to hit Triad**

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# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

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Taken in 1951, the first black members of the city's fire department strike a pose. From left: Robert Grier, George Penn, Raphael Black, John Ford, John Meredith Jr., Lester Farvin, Willie Carter and John R. Thomas.

## Trail Blazers

Officials show first black firefighters that they have not been forgotten

BY CORTNEY L. HILL  
THE CHRONICLE

The 50th anniversary of Winston-Salem's first black firefighters was celebrated last Wednesday at the Adam's Mark Winston Plaza Hotel with a salutatory luncheon hosted by Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke.

The surviving four members of the eight pioneers - Raphael O. Black, Willie J. Carter, Robert L. Grier and John R. Thomas - were present at the luncheon to accept honors and praise from Winston-Salem Mayor Jack Cavanagh, Jr., Deputy Fire Chief John W. Lucas, City Manager Bryce A. Stuart, Burke and other city personnel.

Cavanagh began the luncheon with a few remarks about the firemen. He mentioned how incredibly proud he was of the men and how impressed he was with them because the No. 4 Fire Department was one of the first departments in Winston-Salem to become integrated during a time when the Civil Rights Movement had not gotten underway.

Burke referred to the men as "making history." Stuart recognized them for their great leadership and day-to-day dedication to the city Fire Department. He also said how proud he is to be associated with them.



The surviving four members of pioneering eight - from left, Robert Grier, Willie Carter, John Thomas and Raphael Black.

During the luncheon, the retired men all reminisced about the ups and downs of the early days. They also shared stories that entertained and enlightened the small group attending.

The eight men came to the city Fire Department in 1951 due to a vote passed by the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen. The eight-member Board of Aldermen included only one black, Kenneth R. Williams, former chancellor of Winston-Salem State University. Williams introduced the vote to

add the black firefighters. With four members voting against the men being in the department and four voting for it, former Mayor Marshall Kurfees broke the deadlock, voting to hire the men.

The eight men came on board with seven white firemen already in the department.

"Because we came in during a time when integration hadn't occurred, the seven white firemen were ridiculed because they had to be over us," said Grier. "We came in during a time when the North

Carolina separation laws were existing. Because of that they had to build another kitchen for the black firemen to use and we had to sleep in separate quarters because we were not allowed to be in the same room."

Because integration did not happen until a decade later, Thomas said, the integration among the workers in the department was something new to the city of Winston-Salem. "Because we integrated gradually amongst our-

See Firefighters on A9

## First Ladies



Photo by Kevin Walker  
Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, right, chats with her "hero," local legend Annie Brown Kennedy.

## College salutes women who have left marks on history

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

There was no glass on the floor at a reception held Sunday at Forsyth Technical Community College, though the guests of honor have broken through glass ceilings in a variety of professions.

The Women's Resource Center at FTCC shined the spotlight on

"women who were first," praising them for raising the bar while breaking down walls. Among those honored for being first ladies were Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, the first woman to hold the state's number two spot, and Desna Wallin, the first female president of FTCC.

"These women are shining examples of women who have

See Ladies on A5

## Raleigh, CIAA basking in union

Last tourney was most successful ever

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's success may prove to be some Winston-Salem officials' heartache. The CIAA announced last week that its most recent men's and women's basketball tournament, held in Raleigh,

was its most profitable ever. The news comes as officials here prepare to launch an all-out attack to regain the tournament from its neighbor to the east.

The 56th annual tourney, held in late February, early March, broke attendance records, drawing more than 75,000 fans, nearly 20,000 more than last year, which was the first year the tournament was held in Raleigh. The CIAA pointed out in a news release that

See CIAA on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker  
Red Cross employees Bill Mangan and Kerrenda Crandall unbox fire detectors donated to the agency by Lowes.

## Tragedies have pushed fire safety to forefront

Free smoke alarms available to residents who qualify

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Tragedy has been the result of many house fires in the Triad over the past few weeks. Apartment fires sent several Triad residents to hospitals; a Greensboro man died last week after his home was engulfed in flames; and fire devastated a Winston-Salem family March 7, leaving a 3-year-old child dead and other family members with severe injuries.

The fires have kept officials at the Northwest N.C. Chapter of the American Red Cross busy. The agency provides clothes, warm meals, counseling and temporary shelter for fire victims. There have been more than 200 people displaced since last November by fires in the Red Cross' Northwest. Many of those displaced have received a helping hand from the agency.

There have been four fatalities

See Fire alarms on A4

## Mighty ginkgo is subject of study

More than 700 people currently being sought

BY CORTNEY L. HILL  
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Sharon Jackson of the Bowman Gray medical staff along with other medical staff members Sally Mauney, Beverly Tucker and Michelle Greene came to give a seminar about Ginkgo Biloba recently at the Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Ginkgo Biloba, a tree whose leaves have many active ingredients, has been the subject of much study and debate.

Ginkgo leaves have been extracted and used in countless

medical studies, including ones trying to help prevent Alzheimer's disease memory loss. The Wake Forest University School of Medicine is conducting research called the Ginkgo Evaluation of Memory Study (GEM) and is looking to recruit healthy



Benbow

See Study on A10



Photo by Cortney Hill  
Dr. Sharon Jackson makes a point at a recent function.