

SPORTSWEEK

Where does Tiger go from here?

Lady Rams sweep doubleheader



See B1



See A3



See C7



See C1

COMMUNITY

Area students shine in Science Fair

Racism has new face, speaker says

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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Photo by Kevin Walker

Nyanca Bandle marches on behalf of Hampton.

Marchers fight for Chicago man

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem branch of the National People's Democratic Uhuru Movement received attention from both motorists and pedestrians last week as they marched, chanted and waved picket signs at the downtown transportation center as people made their way home after the workday.

The group was protesting the conviction of one of its own, Fred Hampton Jr., president of the Chicago branch of NPDUM, a social action group made up of mostly young African Americans. Hampton was sentenced to 18 years in prison in 1993 after being convicted of arson. Hampton, a controversial figure in Chicago before his conviction, is the son of former Black Panther Fred Hampton, who was killed by law enforcement officials in Chicago in 1969. The youngest Hampton had made quite a name for himself, staging youth rallies and leading campaigns against police brutality.

NPDUM members across the country and others contend that most of the evidence in the case supports Hampton's innocence. They say his imprisonment is payback for his vocal voice. As local members marched last week, they shouted

See NPDUM on A2

Million Moms to take message to state capital

Group is asking locals to join fight for gun safety, children

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In the wake of the shooting deaths at Columbine High School, the Million Mom organization had its national coming out party last Mother's Day with a grand spectacle on the streets of the nation's capital.

The group has not gone away since that megamarch, which brought women, men and children together from across the country to lobby the public and lawmakers for stricter gun control laws. Next month, state chapters of the organization will hold marches at their respective capitals.

The marches are aimed at convincing lawmakers to push for stiffer gun laws and to serve as memorials for those who have lost their lives to gun violence. About 1,000 people a year die as a result of guns in North Carolina. Among those are many young people who become victims because guns owned by their parents have been improperly stored, said Gail McNeill, president of the Forsyth County Million Mom chapter.

"We want to show strength in numbers at the march...to show legislators that enough is enough," she said.

The Raleigh march will be held May 5; marches in other states are scheduled for Mother's Day. The

See Moms on A11



Photo by Felicia McMillan

The Rev. John Mendez cuts the ribbon before the congregation enters the new church.

From Excelsior to Shalimar

Emmanuel Baptist Church commemorates the spiritual journey to the new edifice

BY FELICIA P. McMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Palm Sunday marks a seminal point in the historical and spiritual journey of Emmanuel Baptist Church. On Palm Sunday, March 26, 1972, the church building, then located at 500 E. 16th Street (now Exodus Daycare) was destroyed by fire. When William Stewart, 72, who was then in the making for a trustee, heard the news of the fire, he brushed the snow off of his vehicle and headed for the church. His friend Willie Fair had called him to alert him of the tragedy. As he approached the 16th Street bridge, known as Thrill Hill, he was stopped by a barricade of police cars. Tears still well up in his eyes as he describes what he saw.

"I went up there to the fire, but I couldn't go no further than the bridge. The dome of the church was caving in as I watched. I almost went crazy," said Stewart. "The church was burning down. I figured that the church was on fire, and that it could be handled, but since the church had such thick windows, the water from the fire hose could not touch the fire. It burned so fast because the frame of the church was made of wood. Since the annex was built later with a steel frame, it survived. I couldn't



The first service at the new Emmanuel Baptist Church was held April 8. The church has been in the works for some time.

believe it."

Since the church had burned down, the congregation worshipped at Gilmore Funeral Home on that Palm Sunday.

First Lady Sarah Mendez welcomed worshippers into the new sanctuary on Palm Sunday 2001.

"I say to you this morning, God is a good God. Great are his works. Marvelous are his ways. This Palm Sunday reminds us to celebrate the history and life of this church. It marks two remembrances, one of sadness and one of great joy," she said. "On the Palm Sunday, at this hour, in this sanctuary...we are marching in the light of God."

More than 1,000 church mem-

bers, family members, visitors and community supporters poured into the new sanctuary of Emmanuel Baptist on Palm Sunday, April 8. The new sanctuary accommodates 1,100 people with state-of-the-art sound/video equipment and lighting system, two new organs, one new piano and other modern equipment. In addition, there are three new Sunday school rooms, a pastor's study, a boardroom, finance office, nurses and ushers room and other facilities.

According to Willis Black, co-chairman of the Building Committee, the new building is 25,000

See EMMANUEL on A10

Bullet Dodged

Embattled company could have been another thorn in HAWS' side

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

J. Reid Lawrence, executive director of the Winston-Salem Housing Authority, won't admit to breathing a sigh of relief after a company HAWS was strongly considering hiring for the much publicized HOPE VI project agreed to pay the federal government more than \$10 million for taking part in a fraud scheme that involved overbilling the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), bilking millions of dollars from the agency.



Lawrence

Without admitting any wrongdoing, Management Assistance Group Inc., or MAGI as it is commonly called, struck the agreement in federal court in San Francisco March 30, ending a years-long fight between the feds and A. Bruce Rozet, the principal developer in MAGI.

The former head of HUD, Andrew Cuomo, initiated the investigation into the company's dealings. Several years ago, Cuomo put Rozet in a group he called "bad landlords that use HUD programs like personal ATM machines to enrich themselves and rip off the American taxpayer."

MAGI officials claim the company never saw any of the money received from the overbilling. The plea agreement was made, in part, to save the company legal fees, according to a statement from a MAGI attorney.

MAGI lost out on a contract to develop the remaining three phases of HAWS' HOPE VI project twice. The first time was two years ago when HAWS officials chose black-owned H.J. Russell Co., after the first developer chosen for the project quit unexpectedly. MAGI was also in the running several weeks ago before The Communities Group of Washington was chosen to replace Russell, which the HAWS board fired last year.

The HOPE VI project had come under intense scrutiny from members of the Board of Aldermen and residents because of its skyrocketing costs and because of some delays. Lawrence would not speculate about what the results would have been if HAWS had chosen MAGI and possibly had to choose another firm after last week's ruling.

"It turned out that it worked in our favor...We put all of our faith in the committee that recommended the company...They did a great job," Lawrence said.

The committee rated the various competitors for the HOPE VI project on a number of different characteristics and turned those findings into the HAWS board, which had the final say on the company. In at least some categories, MAGI outscored other companies, which led some commissioners to question the committee's recommendation for The Communities Group.

Ernie Pitt, acting chairman of the HAWS board and publisher of The Chronicle, admits that he was one of those who questioned the committee about the recommendation, but now he says he's glad members made the recommendation that they did.

"I commend them," he said. "They did a more thorough job than I think any of us expected."

Pitt added that it was "possible" that HAWS would be faced with a new list of concerns and questions if it had hired MAGI.

See HAWS on A5

Hairy Situation

Hair-A-Thon will benefit Sickle Cell Disease Association

BY CORTNEY L. HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Striving to make a difference in the Piedmont area, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of the Piedmont (SCDAP) will play host to the Sickle Cell/Dudley Products 24-Hour Hair-A-Thon on April 28-29 at Dudley Cosmetology University at 900 E. Mountain Street in Kernersville.

The fund-raiser will start at 6 p.m. on Saturday and continue until 6 p.m. on Sunday night with all proceeds benefiting clients who receive services from SCDAP due to donated products and support from Dudley Products Inc.

As part of the Hair-A-Thon, Dudley Cosmetology University will host a predawn show at the Yates Conference Center from midnight to 6 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, which will feature personalities from 102 JAMZ and 97.1 WQMG radio stations as well as a step show

featuring college Greek organizations.

Also to be featured during the event is Fun Day, which will be held on Sunday, April 29, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the campus of DCU. The day will be filled with health screenings for adults as well as food, games and rides for the entire family.

"We held this event for the first time in 1998 and raised over \$14,000 in 24 hours with 288 stylists," explained Gladys Robinson, executive director at the Sickle Cell Disease Association. "Our goal this year is to raise \$25,000 for the association, and to meet that goal we will need about 800 customers and close to 300 professional stylists working in four- to six-hour blocks."

Robinson added that they need as many professional stylists and barbers as possible to come and volunteer their time to make their 2001 Hair-A-Thon a success.

During and after the predawn show, ser-

See Hair-A-Thon on A2



Sitting, Lillian Snipes, former president of the state beautician and cosmetology organization; and standing, Shirley Hall, owner of Classic Touch Beauty Salon. This picture was taken during the 1998 24-Hour Hair-A-Thon.