

**SPORTS WEEK**

**Pender on road to football success**

**Little Leaguers on fire in tourney**



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## Morbid afternoon aims to end crime

BY PAUL COLLINS  
THE CHRONICLE

The Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of North Carolina Inc. will hold an End the Violence Campaign Friday, June 15. The campaign, co-sponsored by the Center for Community Safety in Winston-Salem, will include a motorcade of about 20 hearses that will go through "high-crime areas in Winston-Salem," according to a news release from the FD and MA of NC. Caskets will be placed on the corners of some locations.

Bernardeane H. Morton, public relations director for FD and MA of NC, said, "We're going to bury you eventually...but we don't want to do it until it is time."

Allen Jones - a member of FD and MA of NC and owner of Superior Mortuary Services in Durham - said, "The Bible promises three score and 10 years. We're trying to promote life, not death."

He encourages the public to attend the End the Violence event. "We need the public there. We need support." And if somebody "who is headed down the wrong path" attends the event, "there will be somebody there to talk to (him or her)."

Jones said this is the second time the FD and MA of NC has sponsored a motorcade of hearses. "We did it in Durham a couple of years ago. (Ironically, it was the same day that the Columbine shootings happened in Colorado.) We ended up with 23 hearses going throughout our neighborhood. The slogan was 'Rise, revitalize or ride.' We had a very positive reaction. We had a lot of people who came out to the rally. We had it at the armory. We had support from ministers who gave the food."

A news release about Friday's event says: "The FD and MA of NC wants to send a message to area youth to 'end the violence to help preserve our future.' We ask that everyone assemble at Reynolds Park - Shelter 1 - at 1 p.m. to line up for the motorcade (which will start at 2 p.m.). The Center for Community Safety, the Recreation and Parks Department, the Winston-Salem Police Department, area funeral directors, the Ministerial Alliance of Winston-Salem, area churches, community organizations and friends will be in attendance to witness the motorcade and help send the message to end the violence."

Sharee Fowler, facilitator of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, is one of the local officials who will be on hand for the End the Violence event.

The route for the motorcade: left on Reynolds Park Road, right on Waughtown Street, right on Vargrave Street, left on Mock Street, right on Nowlin Street, left on Free Street (stop here - rally), left on Howie Street, left on Mock Street, left on Vargrave Street, right on Diggs Boulevard, left on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, right on New Walkertown Road, left on Bowen Boulevard, left on 25th Street, right on Dunleith Street, left on 26th Street, right on Claremont Avenue, left on 29th Street to Piedmont Circle, back to Virgilina Avenue, left on 30th Street, left on Liberty Street (stop here - rally), left on 28th Street

See Motorcade on A10



Larry Leon Hamlin, center, discusses the film festival that will coincide with the National Black Theatre Festival. Charles McClennahan, left, and Ron Stacker Thompson are helping to organize the festival.

Photo by Kevin Walker

## Best festival yet is promised

Hamlin said show will go on despite need for money

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

For more than a decade, Winston-Salem has been the temporary home for the famous and the talented during the National Black Theatre Festival, a biennial 24-hour party that draws thousands to the city and pumps millions into the local economy.

At a noon, outdoor news conference Monday, the founder and artistic director of the festival, Larry Leon Hamlin, told the dozens of theater lovers on hand that they have not seen nothing yet.

"This is going to be the hottest festival ever," promised Hamlin after a group of entertainers and

corporate sponsors spent nearly an hour praising him and the festival for creating new avenues for artists while putting the city's name on the entertainment A-list.

The seventh festival will kick off July 30 with a star-studded gala at the Benton Convention Center, where more than two dozen entertainers will come together to salute legendary stage and screen actress Cicely Tyson with the 2001 Sidney Poitier Lifelong Achievement Award.

Others expected to be in town for the six-day event are Charles Dutton, Paul Winfield, Malcolm Jamal Warner and Sheryl Lee Ralph. Many of the performers are best known for their big- and small-screen work, but a co-chair

of the 2001 festival said they all have theater roots that run deep.

"Some of us have made it big in the movies, some of us have made it big in television, but we all cut our teeth on the stage," said André DeShields, a veteran Broadway actor who is currently appearing in the smash "The Full Monty."

DeShields joined "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" actress Janet Hubert at Monday's news conference to tout the significance of the festival.

Hubert first came to the festival two years ago. She said she was pleasantly surprised to see all the works that were staged.

"I could not believe there was this much black theater going on in

See NBTF on A10

## Hard Knocks

Students get up close and personal look at county jail

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Several dozen middle school students had a field trip like none they ever had before last week.

They got a glimpse into the hard-knock life of those who live behind bars from sunup to sundown and are told what to do and when to do it.

About 50 Hanes Middle School students toured the Forsyth County Detention Center as part of special summer enrichment program started by the school's resource officer, Cpl. Charles Crosby.

Crosby, a member of the Sheriff's Department, which runs the jail, will spend much of this month taking the students on similar-type adventures. The group is expected to visit the airport soon.

"It's just a way of exposing them to a whole lot of different things," said Crosby, who started the program a year ago.

But Crosby said he hoped last week's trip not only served as an educational outing but a wake-up call. Some of the students in Crosby's program have not been exactly angels in the classroom. He started the program, in part, because some teachers complained that students were driving them up the wall.

Crosby says his kids are good kids, but he said if the tour could keep just one of them from making a bad decision, the effort would be well worth that.

If the youngsters were expecting the pretty, condensed version of jail, their expectations were not met by jail officials.

See Jail on A4



Sgt. B.G. Geiger shows students what a jail meal looks like.

Photo by Kevin Walker

## New school leader senses great potential

BY MELDE RUTLEDGE  
THE CHRONICLE

Shelia P. Jackson believes in healthy competition. It's good that she does because the thousands of parents who live in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools' zone five have the choice of enrolling their children in one of five schools.

Each school in the zone (Kimberley Park, Jefferson, Sherwood Forest, Speas and Vienna) teaches the required N.C. standard course of study, but also provides its own special theme that is designed to motivate students by tapping into their interests and preferred learning styles.

"We have some healthy competition," said Jackson, who signed on as the new principal of Kimberley Park Elementary earlier this month. "That's a good thing, but the downside to that is if you don't get the children in your school, then your attendance drops and becomes somewhat of a problem to really operate a school," such as receiving school funds.

Enrollment at the school has been down since the system implemented its redistricting plan several years ago. The school also lost students when it was stripped of its gifted program last year. When the previous principal, Richard Watts, was assigned to the new Gibson Elementary School, which will open this fall, enrollment at Kimberley Park suffered again, Jackson said.

"We have to work on getting our enrollment back, and you do that with family-quality programming," she said.

Located at 1700 N. Cherry Street, Kimberley Park is the only year-round elementary school in

See Kimberley Park on A4

## Troubled charter school climbing back

East Winston Primary has already begun recruiting students for coming year

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

East Winston Primary School made a big to-do over its graduation for pre-kindergarten pupils last week. The 15 graduates were marched proudly into a roomful of their parents and other family members. The grads performed musical numbers and led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance before donning their gold caps and gowns and receiving their tiny certificates of achievement.

The event marked not only a graduation for the students into bigger and better things, but also for the school, which is forging ahead with its vision to provide top-notch schooling to youngsters who have not been able to find it elsewhere.

Several months after its financial lapses made headlines, East Winston Pri-

mary has begun to advertise for new students for the upcoming school year.

"East Winston Primary School is still going forth, regardless of what the rumors may be," Jimmie Bonham, one of the school's board members, told the audience at the graduation.

East Winston Primary joined a long list of financially challenged charter schools this year when the school ran out of money in the midst of a school year. Many teachers reportedly worked during the ordeal without being compensated.

It's clear that the school wants to be given a clean slate. Bonham says the future is what is most important at this point for the school.

He believes that bad press will not thwart the school's current recruitment efforts.



Pre-K students at East Winston Primary line up to show off their certificates.

Photo by Kevin Walker

See EWPS on A10