

SPORTSWEEK

Hard work paying off for Reynolds JVs

Rams take anger out on Broncos



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COMMUNITY

Conference focuses on adults as mentors

Female record exec making way in rap

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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The Choice for African-American News

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Candidates ready to run

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Denise Hartsfield was at the Forsyth County Board of Elections early Monday morning.

Surrounded by many of the people she grew up with or works beside, Hartsfield formally announced her intentions to seek the District Court seat currently held Judge Roland Hayes, who many say will not run for re-election.

Hartsfield refused to speculate about Hayes' future, stating that Hayes should be given the respect of announcing his decision when he sees fit.

Hayes is the only African-American District Court judge in the county. A victory by Hartsfield would ensure racial diversity. But Hartsfield is the

first to admit that the election is a long way off and much work must be done.

Hartsfield said she counts her native status as a big plus.

A graduate of East Forsyth High School and Wake Forest University School of Law, Hartsfield has worked at the local Legal Aid Society and is currently an assistant county attorney representing the Department of Social Services.

"I do feel that it's a slight advantage being from Winston-Salem. The people here are not just citizens of Forsyth County to me. I went to high school with them. They are my church members....These are people that I care about," Hartsfield said.

As a result of a legislative change, for the first time, District Court races will be non-

partisan. Hartsfield said she is happy about the change and is looking forward to the challenge of educating voters about the change.

Last year, Hartsfield was on Gov. Easley's short list for an open District Court judgeship. She said she was honored to be considered, but not getting the position has spurred Hartsfield to take the traditional route to the District Court bench - wooing voters.

Hartsfield already is facing some competition. Dean Rutledge, a longtime attorney, announced this week that he also will seek Hayes' seat.

"I believe my 20 years of practice will separate me from other candidates," he said in a statement. "In those 20 years, I have always tried to be

See Candidates on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

Denise Hartsfield, standing, hopes to become Judge Hartsfield in November. She was at the Board of Elections Monday preparing the proper papers to file to run for District Court judge. Here she chats with Shonna Alexander, one of her supporters, in the lobby of BOE.

Faith leaders take part in land blessing

BY FELECIA P. McMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Ivy Steward, church and community relations coordinator, Habitat for Humanity, and Sonya Murray, director of development, led staffers in the first Land Blessing, Fellowship and Worship Service on Monday at St. James AME Church on Patterson Avenue. Pastor Mary Peterson



Peterson

welcomed the clergymen to the sanctuary. After a breakfast fellowship, pastors and ministers of 57 United Methodist churches that committed the money for the project united their hearts in a spirited celebration of the seven homes that will be built on 14th Street. This was the first land blessing Habitat has held.

"It is a blessing to see this vision come to pass," Steward said. "This is exactly how I envisioned it would be. Because you have come out, you have helped to fulfill a dream. I want to thank all of you for answering the call from Habitat."

Steward also thanked her colleagues who stepped in to complete the plans for the project because her father recently died.

Rev. John Epps, pastor of Saints Home United Methodist Church, offered a sermon after Rev. Benjamin Moseley of Union Baptist Church read the Scripture: Matthew 5:1-16. Epps focused on the 13th verse, which reads, "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?"

"This Sermon on the Mount offers a description of the characteristics of the ideal Kingdom citizen," Epps said. "The ideal citizen will respond with love and acceptance to all...Habitat for Humanity has been serving as the salt of the earth (to) bring into fruition the great American dream that everyone is entitled to live in decent, affordable housing."

Rev. Dr. Hurley Thomas,

See Blessing on A11

Mental health changes may lead to lawsuit

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

The Friends of Public Mental Health of North Carolina Inc. plans to file a class-action lawsuit to amend or repeal a state plan that will overhaul North Carolina's public mental health system. Friends believes that the plan will reduce mental health services; that the plan discriminates against minorities and poor people; that there will be increased homelessness, crime and vagrancy, and additional burdens on local law enforcement and social agencies, and additional burdens on hospital emergency rooms throughout the state; that many public mental health workers will lose their jobs; and that state taxpayers will have to pay at least twice as much as they do now for the state's public mental health system, said Dr. Tom Smith, a spokesman for Friends of Public Mental Health.

However, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - North Carolina said in a statement that it "supports the vision of the mental health services and management contained in the proposed MH/DD/SA (Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse) State Plan. But such a comprehensive initiative, as proposed in the State Plan, often raises as many questions as it answers." And NAMI North Carolina has identified some questions and concerns "that need to be addressed to make reform efforts successful."

And Ronald W. Morton, area director of CenterPoint Human Services in Winston-Salem, the public mental health agency for Forsyth, Stokes and Davie counties, said he agrees with many of the objectives of the state plan, and he thinks the plan should be given a chance to work, though he does have some concerns about "unknowns."

Carmen Hooker Odom, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said in a statement, "The statewide plan says what services we're going to provide, who we're going to provide them to, and

See Mental health on A10

The Real Deal



Salem College student Sara Al-Jazra asks Coral Smith about her experiences as part of the 10th anniversary season of "The Real World," a long-running MTV reality show. Smith was at Salem Sunday to talk to students about her new role as a human rights activist and self-proclaimed feminist. See page A11 for more on Smith's visit to Winston-Salem.

Photo by Kevin Walker

Jones says he's ready for his chance at gold

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE



Front to back are driver Brian Shimer, Nathan Minton, Randy Jones and brakeman Garreth Hines competing in the '98 games in Nagano, Japan.

The four years of waiting is now down to a matter of hours for Randy Jones. Jones, a Winston-Salem native, and a member of the U.S. Winter Olympic Team, will finally get his chance on Friday to begin pursuit of the medal that he so desperately wants to earn at this year's Winter Games.

After coming within two-hundredths of a second (less than the time it takes to bat an eyelash) of earning a medal at the 1998 Games at Nagano, Japan, Jones and the U.S. four-man bobsled team came away dejected. It hurt Jones so much personally that he took two years away from the sport, concentrating on business pursuits and his personal life.

Now, Jones' attention is focused squarely on the bobsled competition that gets under way tomorrow (Friday, Feb. 22).

"There's a really big anticipation," Jones said during an exclusive telephone interview with The Chronicle from the Olympic Vil-

lage in Salt Lake City. "The biggest thing is the wait itself. It's a hard thing knowing that if you miss it you have to wait four more years before you can try it again."

"At that point you have to ask yourself, 'Am I going to wait another four years or am I going to go on and do something else?'"

This time Jones hopes he won't have to go through that. At age 32, Jones said, there might not be another opportunity for him to capture an Olympic medal.

Medaling at the Olympics would be the crowning achievement in Jones' athletic life. It also would help him to do something that he believes would help African-American youths.

See Jones on A9