

Center for Home Ownership officially opens its doors... See A

SPORTS WEEK

Tennis phenom moves
to #1 in the state

Davis gives take on
Stanley Cup



See B1



See C9



See A

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Vol. XXVIII No. 41

CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2002

Locals to be feted in Raleigh

City sit-in leader among those to be honored at Black Caucus annual conference

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The 17th Annual Legislative Education & Scholarship Weekend Conference will be held in Raleigh, but Winston-Salem will be well represented.

The popular conference is sponsored by the Black Legislative Caucus and is designed to bring legislators face to face with the people they serve to discuss pressing issues and ponder strategies to tackle problems.

State Rep. Larry Womble of Forsyth County is serving as a co-chairman for this year's conference. Womble has served in that capacity for past conferences but he thinks this year's event will be the best yet.

"We are trying to reach out to as many people as possible to make this conference as broad based as possible," Womble said.

Forums on hot-button topics such as vouchers, infant mortality and juvenile justice are planned. Womble said audiences at the forums are likely to be packed with lawmakers. In addition to members of the General Assembly, the governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. representatives and U.S. senators have been frequent guests over the years.

"We want people to meet (politicians) eye to eye and shoulder to shoulder to tell us their concerns," Womble said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton has agreed to serve as a panelist for a town hall meeting that will be held on the opening day of the conference. The legendary R&B group the Manhattans will also perform during a special concert.

"We wanted to do more with the entertainment this year," Womble said. "We wanted all the bases covered."

Irma Avent-Hurst, administrative assistant for Sen. Frank Ballance and longtime coordinator of the conference, said word about the conference has been getting out successfully. She expects interest to be extra high this year because of Sharpton and the entertainment, which will also include a performance by jazz

See Black Caucus on A11

French Twist

Photo by Art Seitz/Zuma Press

Serena Williams posed with her trophy in front of the Arch de Triomphe (Arch of Triumph) in Paris after winning the French Open Saturday. Williams became only the second black woman to win the title (Althea Gibson was the first). Serena Williams beat her big sister, Venus Williams, 7-5, 6-3 to take the title. It was the second time the sisters met in a final of a tennis grand slam event. The two also squared off last September at the U.S. Open, where Venus beat Serena handily. This week, the sisters became the top two ranked players on the Women's Tennis Association tour. Venus is the top ranked female player in the world, while Serena is a close second. Both women are expected to compete at Wimbledon later this month. Venus is the defending champion at the prestigious English tournament.



What to do with kids this summer?

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Summer provides kids a needed break from school, and they deserve it. Parents need to provide a structured environment in which kids can relax, have fun, learn and explore opportunities, according to Lacy DeBerry, a staff development specialist at Winston-Salem State University, a certified trainer and formerly an educational consultant for CenterPoint Human Services. He said options for summer include:

• Sending kids to camp. The planning process should begin before school gets out; that saves a lot of stress, DeBerry said. Call churches, organizations, recreation centers to find out about programs and costs.

See Summer tips on A5



Photo from Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership

Reading is one of the many positive activities children can do.

Liberians honor people who helped little boy

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The little Liberian boy who came to Winston-Salem last year to receive a life-saving surgical procedure is better than ever 10 months after the operation.

The city's growing and tight-knit Liberian community held a celebration Sunday evening to thank the people who made little Stanley McGill's turnaround possible. Sunday's celebration also coincided with Stanley's third birthday.

Dr. Robert Letton Jr., the surgeon who corrected Stanley's imperforate anus, was among the guests of honor at the event, which was held at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church. The medical



Stanley McGill's mother, Catherine Williams, looks on as Dr. Robert Letton Jr. is gowned.

condition that afflicted Stanley is fairly common and occurs when the rectal area does not develop fully, making it difficult to pass stool.

Before Stanley's surgery, his family feared that he would die because his condition limited his ability to eat. Liberian hospitals were not

prepared to handle a condition like Stanley's.

Letton performed the surgery free of charge last August through the international affairs wing of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, which provides free or prorated surgical services for people living outside the country. About 12 requests a day are received by the department.

"I'm totally overwhelmed," Letton said of being honored Sunday.

Letton, who brought his wife and two children along for the ceremony, called Stanley a "miracle." Letton downplayed his role in Stanley's new vibrance. But Stanley's mother, Catherine Williams, and many mem-

See Stanley on A10

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Aldermen turn away cafeteria backers

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Board of Aldermen want other high rollers in the game before it will even consider whether or not to take a stake in the long-proposed East Winston Cafeteria. A request by cafeteria-supporters for \$700,000 in city loans and grants did not make it past the Finance Committee Monday.

The aldermen who sit on the committee — Wanda Merschel, Vivian Burke, Fred Terry and Robert Clark — said the cafeteria must first get firm financial commitments from banks before the city would even consider giving city money to the project.

"It has always been the city's position that we are a gap-filler. We are not a primary lender," said Derwick Paige, the city's development director. Paige's office recommended that the committee not give the project any money until other means of financing are secured and answers to a few financial questions are cleared up. For instance, Paige told aldermen that the city gave the East Winston Community Development Corp. — which has been pushing the cafeteria idea for several years — a \$5,000 grant in 1999 to help the group with marketing. But the existence of that \$5,000 does not show up in any of the financial reports that the CDC has provided the city, Paige said.

To generate money to build the cafeteria, the CDC in 1998 formed David Capital, a for-profit corporation, to sell stocks to local churches and residents. Officials pushed the

See CDC on A10

Teens take complaints about jobs to leaders

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Broadus Taylor was looking forward to spending the summer working before starting his senior year at Parkland High School this fall. The only problem is, Taylor and many of his peers say they can't find jobs anywhere in town. So instead of waiting around at home on a phone that may never ring, they decided to let Mayor Allen Joines in on their summer job dilemma.

"It was funny to me, to call back Taco Bell and their line was disconnected," said Taylor of his failed summer job search. "All we basically want is something to do over the summer."

Rev. John Mendez of Emmanuel Baptist Church and workers from the Urban League accompanied Taylor and 120 other youths like him to City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce last Friday to lobby for jobs they believe are available in Winston-Salem.

With the sole intention of drawing attention to employment opportunities for local teen-agers of color, Mendez said it apparently sent a "panic" through the business community, where some feared a "protest" was being planned. After reassur-

See Jobs on A10



Joines



Stanley McGill points at his cake.

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