



Wynn heads sports group

- See Page B1



Economy showing positive trends

- See Page A3



WSTA starts unique service

- See Page A11



NCNW honors longtime members

- See Page C1

54 120203
N.C. ROOM
FORSYTH CNTY PUB LIB
660 W 5TH ST # Q
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

THE CHRONICLE

For Reference

Not to be taken

from this library

Vol. XXIX No. 44

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM • GREENSBORO • HIGH POINT

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2003

Holy M.O.S.E.S.

Men hit the streets of Thomasville to advocate peace, win souls



The men form a prayer circle before hitting the streets.

Photo by Courtney Gaillard

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

THOMASVILLE - Frankie L. McLean and his army of spiritual soldiers took to the streets of Thomasville the evening of June 25 in search of souls that needed saving. McLean, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, recently launched a men's ministry that goes by the name M.O.S.E.S. (Men of Standards, Excellence and Service), where the word of God is the men's weapon and the Holy Spirit is their armor.

Dressed in military fatigues and black T-shirts with M.O.S.E.S. printed on the front,

this group of about 50 religious warriors went out into the community seeking addicts, destitute people, prostitutes, gang members and anyone in need of salvation.

"We launched (M.O.S.E.S.) as a result of basically what's going on in our communities. We saw a rise in gang violence, and we see that our young people have no options; this generation is in trouble," McLean said. "We're coming out there as warriors for Christ, ready to do battle or whatever is necessary to clean up our streets."

First Missionary has seen a lot of people returning to the church in recent times, McLean said.

See **M.O.S.E.S.** on A9



KRT Photo

Many parents in this state are struggling just to meet basic needs, a report says.

Most in N.C. can't afford kids, a new study says

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A nonprofit organization that aims to help low-income North Carolinians escape poverty has a lot of work to do, according to its own recently-released findings.

Raleigh-based N.C. Justice and Community Development Center says that 60 percent of N.C. families with children are not earning enough money to make ends meet. The center's report, titled "Working Hard Still Is Not Enough," is a follow-up to a similar report the center conducted in 2001.

The report looks at the average costs of things such as food, housing, child care and transportation and compares those expenses with federal poverty guidelines and average wages. The equation produced results that are alarming to center officials.

"Since the recession began, it appears that middle- and low-income families have lost the income gains made in the 1990s...Rural counties are also falling farther behind the urban," said Elizabeth Jordan, a center fiscal analyst who co-authored the study.

Those disproportionately affected are blacks and other minorities, according to the report.

But the report reveals that times are not hard for everyone. North Carolina is 10th in the nation in terms of the income gap between rich and poor. According to the center, between the late 1970s and late 1990s, the annual income for the state's bottom 20 percent rose only \$730 to \$13,110, while annual incomes for the state's top 20 percent rose from

State Minimum Wage Rates

North Carolina

\$5.15

Alaska

\$7.15

Washington

\$7.01

Oregon

\$6.90

California and Massachusetts

\$ 6.75

- Source: Working Hard Is Still Not Enough report

See Report on A10

Report tries to make amends

North Carolina sterilized nearly 8,000 residents

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

After months of meetings, a committee has recommended to Gov. Mike Easley several ways that the state can right the many wrongs that took place under a state-sponsored sterilization program.

Easley called for the formation of the committee last

December, soon after he issued a public apology to forced sterilization victims. The state's eugenics program

was aimed at people who had certain sicknesses, disabilities or who were considered "feeble-minded." North Carolina was one of many states that practiced forced sterilization. The state sterilized nearly 8,000 people from

1929 to 1974, although the law making the practice legal was still on the books up until earlier this year. State Rep. Larry Womble led the effort to repeal that law.

Womble has been at the forefront of the movement to get the state to address the issue. Womble was the only lawmaker on the Eugenics Study Committee, which was chaired by Carmen Hooker Odom, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

See **Eugenics** on A4

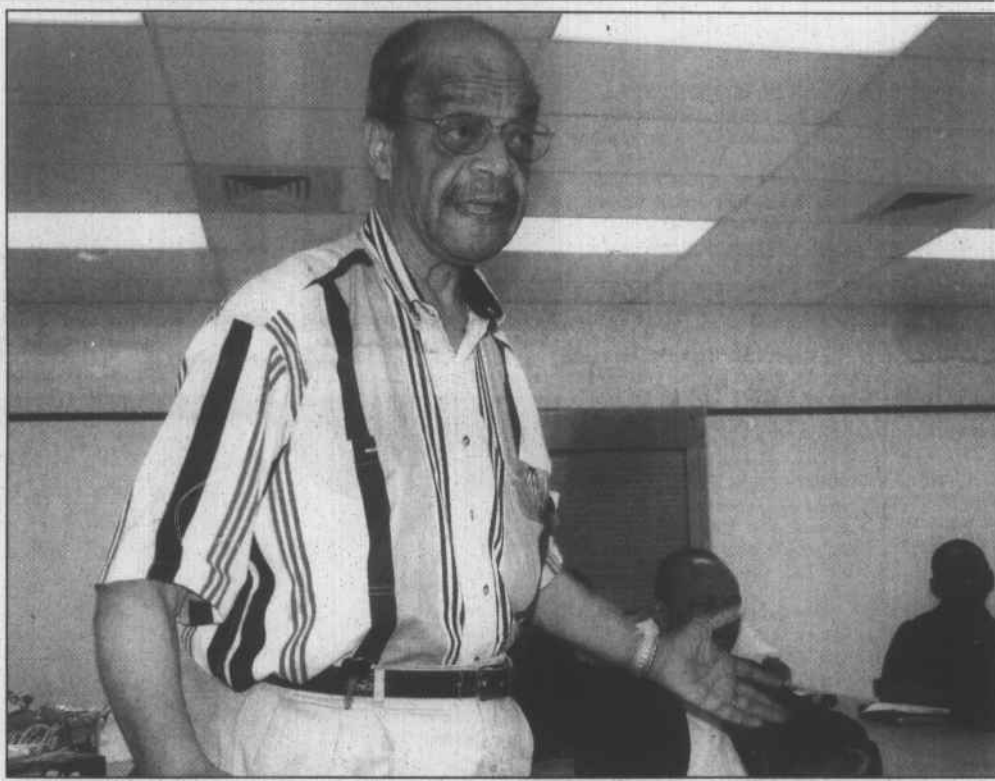


Photo by Kevin Walker

Retired District Court Judge Roland Hayes makes a point at last week's meeting.

Leaders meet to find ways to save young black males

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It started a few weeks ago when Virginia Newell decided to spend an afternoon in Juvenile Court. She watched as black children - some as young as 12 - were marched before a judge to answer for crimes that were far from child's play.

"I saw these kids in shackles, and I just wept," Newell said.

Newell, a former Winston-Salem State University professor and a one-

time alderwoman for the city's East Ward, penned a letter to her friends - people who also happen to be some of the city's most influential residents - urging them to meet to discuss solutions to the growing problem of young black males in the criminal justice system.

Newell led that discussion last Thursday evening at the Reynolds Park Recreation Center. She was joined by about 20 others, including newly-elected County Commissioner Beaufort Bailey, School Board mem-

ber Geneva Brown, Black Leadership Roundtable Co-convenor Fleming El-Amin and recently-retired District Court judge Roland Hayes. About a dozen more people who were contacted by Newell could not make the meeting but have made commitments to help in any way they can.

"If we can go to the moon, we can change God's creations," Newell said, setting the theme for the meeting.

The gathering was loosely struc-

See **Group** on A11

The Inner Circle

Generous NBTF contributors wined and dined

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Marvtastic Society had its coming-out party Sunday evening during a formal gala at the Adam's Mark.

Larry Leon Hamlin, founder of the National Black Theatre Festival, named the society. "Marvtastic" - a fusion of the words "marvelous" and "fantastic" - is Hamlin's signature term.

Members of the society shelled out \$1,000 to support the upcoming theater festival, which will be held here from Aug. 4-9.

During Sunday's gala the more

than 50 people who have joined the society so far were wined, dined and thanked for their support. Members received certificates and lapel pins featuring the NBTF logo. Marvtastic Society members also will get discounts on tickets to festival plays and the swank opening night gala.

This is the first year that festival organizers have tapped individuals for contributions. Hamlin said the decision was made in order to give the festival - which will cost well over a million dollars to stage - additional funding avenues. The Marvtastic Society has been so successful - raising \$52,000 so far -

See **Society** on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

Mr. Marvtastic, Larry Leon Hamlin, works the crowd.