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Police are giving out life-saving info kits

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Museum free day draws children

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THE CHRONICLE

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Young leading the young

Photo by Kevin Walker

Terrill Shepherd, on piano, and Albert Strong were among those who shared their love for the arts with children during the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Summer Arts Camp. To read more about the innovative camp, see page A10.



Crime spirals in Forsyth

County crime rate dip is biggest in state over the last 10 years

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Local officials are crediting a strong working relationship between crime-fighting agencies for a drastic reduction in violent crime in Forsyth County over the last decade. According to recent numbers released by the State Bureau of Investigation, violent crimes in the county have dropped by 46 percent since 1994. It is the largest decline for any urban area in the state.

Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Violent crimes in the county have fallen steadily over the

years. There were about 7,077 violent crimes in the county in 2001. That figure was down by about 9.4 percent, to 6,412, in 2002. Property crimes were also down in the county over that period.

"It appears that compared to the other cities, we are doing a little bit better (in lowering crime)," said Forsyth County District Attorney Tom Keith.

Guilford County had a 10.1 percent drop between 2001 and 2002. Less violent crimes were also reported in Guilford in 2002 (5,836) than Forsyth.

Keith can't attribute the dip to any one initiative. For the past

several years, the DA's office has been a part of a multi-agency effort to fight crime on many fronts.

Project ZAP (Zero Armed Perpetrators), for example, brings together the DA's office with the Sheriff's Office and Police Department each week to review every gun arrest in the county.

For the past two years, representatives from Keith's office have also joined officials from the police and sheriff's departments, probation and Winston-Salem State University's Center for Community Safety on a Violent Crimes Task Force. The task force identifies problems in progress and ones that are bubbling under the surface.

Sylvia Oberle, the executive director of the Center for Community Safety, said the task force, which meets every other



Oberle

See **Crime** on A4

Students embark on civil rights road trip

Wake Forest group will visit sites in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Jarrett Heard is one of 15 students who will learn first-hand about the social ills plaguing the Deep South.

Heard, a senior premed and sociology major at Wake Forest University, and his peers will travel by

bus this month through five Southern states to study Social Stratification in the American Deep South.

He said he's excited about the chance to learn outside of the classroom and to spend some time in the heart of the Delta.

"It's just a good opportunity to take a class without staying in a classroom and to travel," said Heard, who is from Tennessee. "We're actually going to be able to see existing stratification in the Deep South and compare it to things we've seen in North Carolina or wherever people are from. It makes it more tangible when you can see something outside of the classroom."

The course was designed by Earl Smith, chairman of the sociology department at Wake Forest, to give students a clearer perspective of the social, economic and political inequalities in the South.

"The goals of the course are to show students, via a live experience, how stratification unfolds in the American South and to show that

See **Students** on A10



Pastor Bobby Best, center, with ministry members Alan Speas (from left), Adrienne Speas, Carolyn Hampton and the Rev. Barbara McCollum pose on the steps of St. John CME Church.

On Fire

Church's new ministry hopes to restore faith of Christians and others

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The spirit was high last weekend at St. John Christian Methodist Episcopal Church - the Holy Spirit, that is.

The church pulled out all the stops Saturday afternoon to announce to the city the formation of its Spiritual Renewal Ministry. The ministry will strive to reawaken the godliness in those who have already professed their Christianity and reach out to those who have no relationship with the church.

"What I always tell my congregation is that ministry is about much more than what happens in these four walls, said St. John Pastor Bobby Best. "We want to open our doors and be out there for the community."

The Spiritual Renewal Ministry will try to achieve its mission by helping people to remember their spirituality as they cope with the challenges of day-to-day life. The church plans to partner with other churches to stage events where people can come and feel free exploring and appreciating their spirituality.

Church officials said the new ministry was overdue. They said that even the most devout Christ-



Member of the Red Hat Society of Davidson County show off their unique hats and dresses during a fashion show.

ian sometimes needs to be rejuvenated. Many at Saturday's event wore red to symbolize a rekindling of Christian fires.

"Sometimes in our lives as Christians our flames burn down," said Mary Crowell, a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church who emceed Saturday's program. "Sometimes we need to put a log on (the fire)...God wants us to keep shining."

Emmanuel - whose step team performed at the kickoff - was not

the only church that came to show its support for St. John's new ministry. Members of Union Baptist Church, St. Peters World Outreach Center and St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church were also on hand to perform or simply to show their support from the audience.

The newly-formed Red Hat Society of Davidson County made the celebration a multiracial gathering. The society, which has a largely white membership, is

See **Ministry** on A9



Actors Shonnese Coleman (right) and Gilbert Glenn Brown in a scene from "Miss Evers' Boys."

Play recalls shameful 1930s event

'Miss Evers' Boys' will come to the NBTF from the stages of California

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

"There are no overnight successes." Those are words that Yetta Young lives by. And she should know.

Young has been coming to Winston-Salem for the National Black Theatre Festival since 1995. She sat in audiences at countless plays, took notes and dreamed.

"I knew that one day I wasn't going to be just an attendee. I knew I would have my name on the marquee." Young said recently by phone from her home in Los Angeles.

As director and producer of "Miss Evers' Boys" - one of this year's NBTF plays generating a great deal of buzz - Young is fulfilling her prophecy.

Written by David Feldshuh, "Miss Evers' Boys" is based on the infamous Tuskegee Experiment, a government study in the 1930s and 1940s that involved withholding needed treatment for black men in Alabama afflicted with syphilis. Although the play is a fictionalized account of events that took place as part of the experiment, it is deeply rooted in fact. The lead character, Eunice Evers, is based on Eunice Rivers, the African-American nurse who worked under the two doctors that administered the experiment.

Young said she was drawn to the play by its historical roots.

"I was just amazed. I was not really aware about all of this history," she said.

Young was commissioned to direct the play after winning over audiences and critics for her direction and production of an African-American



Young

See **'Miss Evers' Boys'** on A10