



North Forsyth victorious this week

- See Page B1



Young pen pals meet for first time

- See Page A9



Teens get lesson on voting at forum

- See Page A10



School unveils plan for changes

- See Page A3

# THE CHRONICLE

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## Fit for a King

King Day events draw thousands of people to mix of programs

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The famous words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech floated through the air of the banquet hall like sweet music, causing some to close their eyes to take in the full magnitude of the words and others to cry softly.

Larry Leon Hamlin opened The Chronicle's Third Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast with a spirited version of the speech. With the power and cadence of a southern preacher, Hamlin, a trained actor who founded the National Black Theatre Festival, drew in the more than 500 people who attended the event. By the time he got to "Free at last, Free at last," they were on their feet, clapping and saying amen. The speech set the tone for what would be two hours of song and praise laced with a steady dose of inspiration.

Chronicle publisher Ernie Pitt said he designed the breakfast to be a multi-racial occasion for the community to reflect and look ahead. He got his wish this year. Attendees were diverse as were the speakers.

See King on A4



Photos by Kevin Walker

Top: Prayer breakfast speaker Sandra Mikush chats with little Kimberly Greg during a fellowship portion of the event.

Above: The Rev. Claude Alexander of University Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, shakes hands with a man after the Noon Hour Commemoration.

Left: Kimberly Hardy of the HAWS Ensemble delivers a powerful gospel song during the prayer breakfast.



## Greensboro sit-in program will salute Sharpton

WW II hero will also be honored

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Presidential hopeful the Rev. Al Sharpton is expected to be in Greensboro on Feb. 6 to receive the Alston-Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award. The award, named for longtime community activists Skip Alston and Earl Jones, will be presented at The Sit-In Movement Inc. 10th Annual Banquet at the Koury Convention Center.

The event will coincide with the 44th anniversary of the Greensboro sit-in movement, which was launched on Feb. 1, 1960 when four students from N.C. A&T State University walked into a Woolworth store on South Elm Street, sat at the "whites only" lunch counter and asked to be served. Today, that Woolworth store is owned by The Sit-In Movement Inc., which plans to turn it into a world-renowned civil rights museum. Proceeds from the banquet will help the organization fund the project.

Sharpton's appearance will come a few days after the South Carolina primary, one of the primaries in which experts say he can garner a



The Rev. Al Sharpton will break from campaigning to receive an award in Greensboro next month.

significant amount of votes. Sharpton - a New York preacher and activist - has been active in the civil rights movement since 1970. Sharpton is the founder of the National Youth Movement. In 2001, he led successful hunger strike protest after his arrest at the Vieques, Puerto Rico bombing range.

Also receiving an award this year will be Lt. John

See Sharpton on A9

## Hunt honored as Mayor Joines seeks solutions

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

At times, it was hard to figure whether the Rev. John Mendez was talking about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or Darryl Eugene Hunt. Mendez - head of the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity - presented Hunt with the Martin Luther King Jr. Courage Award Monday night during a program at St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church.

Words like courage, resilience and strength - words that have long been associated with Dr. King - have been used with great frequency to describe Hunt.

Hunt is adjusting to freedom and sudden stardom after being released from prison on Christmas Eve after serving nearly two decades behind bars for murder. Hunt was released after DNA evidence led authorities to another sus-

pect. Because the victim in the case, Deborah Sykes, was white and Hunt is African-American, racial tensions have simmered the last two decades. Most blacks have always believed that Hunt was innocent and that police and prosecutors made a quick arrest to appease the white community.

Since his release, Hunt has made it clear that despite the injustice he experienced, he wants city residents to come together. He made that appeal again during his acceptance speech Monday.

"I have been busy (since being released from jail). I have been here, I have been there. I have seen people coming together," Hunt said. He said if city residents can finally dump their racial baggage, his years in prison would be worth it.

Hunt asked people in the packed sanctuary to keep the family of Deborah Sykes in their prayers, even though members of the family have publicly stated that they still believe Hunt played a role in the killing.

"That doesn't bother me because I understand," Hunt said about the family's feelings.

See Hunt on A5



Hunt



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