



Soccer star makes history

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'Heart' to raise needed money

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Native making waves globally

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AKAs celebrate longtime members

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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004

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Hard to Stomach



Surgery that makes it difficult to overeat is becoming solution for many trying to shed pounds



BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
 THE CHRONICLE

Burnetta Evans' struggle with her weight ended last September after she underwent gastric bypass surgery. She has since lost close to 100 pounds and is planning to shed 80 more pounds. Battling obesity has not been easy for the 6-foot-1-inch tall Salisbury native who was athletic as a child. For her, it has always been a life-long battle.

"All of my life for as long as I can remember (obesity has been a problem)," said Evans, 44, who is the director of resident services for the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem. Evans is still coming to terms with how much she weighed going into the surgery. She won't reveal exactly how much she weighed, only saying that it was more than 300 pounds. "Coming out of high school and going into college I can remember wanting to lose 100 pounds then, and that's why this first 100 pounds is so important to me. (Losing) 100 pounds has always been my goal."

Countless diets and exercise programs have proven to be unsuccessful for Evans, who has lost a significant amount of



Top: Weatherman Al Roker and music producer Randy Jackson have shed pounds as a result of gastric bypass surgery. Their transformations since the surgery can be seen in these before and after pictures. Burnetta Evans has also slimmed down since having the procedure. The picture above was taken last August, a month before Evans' surgery.

weight at times but gained it all back. After being diagnosed several years ago with an overactive thyroid, which causes weight gain, Evans began thinking about an alternative to losing weight, she said. She controls her thyroid condition with medication.

"I talked to a friend of mine who knew people who had the weight-loss surgery. My initial thought was 'No, that's just too drastic,'" said Evans. "I thought it was giving up and a lot of people think that weight-loss surgery is a quick fix, and it's so much more than that."

Gastric bypass is a weight-loss surgery that significantly reduces the size of the stomach of someone who is morbidly obese. Patients are typically at least 100 pounds over their recommended weight and usually experience significant weight loss as a result of the surgery. Patients are limited to a liquid diet for several weeks following the surgery. They must then train themselves to eat smaller quantities and exercise regularly. Large amounts of fat, alcohol, sugar and deep-fried foods must be reduced from their diets.

Gastric bypass surgeries have been made famous by celebrities

See Evans on A5

CBC leader: Failure not an option

Cummings talks about past, future and Janet Jackson during WSSU stop

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

The most powerful black man in the U.S. Congress took students at Winston-Salem State University on a trip down memory lane Monday evening.

Recalling his childhood, U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) praised his mother for waking up at 5 a.m. on most mornings to make sure that all seven of her young children were clothed and fed before they headed to school.

She would then catch a bus to work, cleaning toilets and scrubbing floors and windows. Even when her work day was over, Cummings recalled, his mother did not rest. She'd come home, feed her family and then go off to church.

Cummings told students he often wondered how his mother managed to do it all. He and his siblings would often sit in awe at night as their mother would rest her weary feet in a tub on Epsom Salt and hot water and hum the bars of "Don't Pass Me By," a song that Cummings



Cummings

See Cummings on A4

Norris will be new police chief

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD AND
 T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

Patricia "Pat" Norris will be the city's next police chief. City Manager Bill Stuart announced yesterday.

Norris will become the city's first-ever African-American police chief and the second consecutive female chief. She will replace Linda Davis, who became Winston-Salem's first female chief back in 1999. Davis is retiring. Norris, who is currently an assistant chief in the department, will assume the role of chief on March 1.

"I'm excited at this new opportunity and (I) am looking forward to working towards safe and crime-free neighborhoods, and in bringing about trustful relationships between the department and the community," Norris

said in a statement.

Norris is a city native who has spent nearly the last 30 years on the police force. She achieved virtually every rank in the department. She was named assistant chief in 2001 by Davis. As assistant chief, she heads the field services wing, which directs the work of more than 300 officers.



Norris

Norris' hiring is a dream come true for many black leaders. Several African-American organizations had said that the

See Norris on A9



City workers clear snow and ice from sidewalks along Trade Street last Thursday to make pedestrian traffic safer. They got a little help from the sun, which was bright this day after being absent for several days.

Some EWPS parents are pitching in to help

School's attorney tells parents school will remain open for remainder of the academic year

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
 THE CHRONICLE

The attorney for East Winston Primary School told parents and school staff Monday evening that the school will remain open for the rest of the 2003-04 school year. Last week a judge extended a restraining order that prohibits the state from shutting down the school. The issue of that order will be taken up March 8 during a hearing in High Point, said



Edwards

Theodore Edwards, the school's attorney.

"In practical terms, what this order means is that school is going to be open for the rest of the school year," said Edwards. "My goal is to keep the parents as up to speed and involved in this process as I possibly can."

EWPS, a charter school, is in the middle of battle to keep its charter. The state yanked the school's charter earlier this year after an investigation concluded that the school's former executive director misused state funds. The state investigation also concluded that the school inflated its enrollment in order to get more state money.

EWPS admits to mistakes in the past but says the school has worked hard to correct those mis-

See EWPS on A4



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