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## Local black civil rights leaders applauded for work by council

*Velma Hopkins and Rev. Kelly Goodwin remembered for deeds*

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The City Council Monday honored two deceased African-Americans who made indelible contributions to civil rights and racial relations in Winston-Salem. The honors continued a program started last year by Mayor Allen Joines that strives to spotlight local black civil rights leaders each February, the month designated to celebrate black history.

Velma Hopkins and Rev. Kelly O.P. Goodwin still have folks singing their praises.

years after they passed away. Goodwin led Mt. Zion Baptist Church for more than 30 years, guiding the church along a path that has made it one of the city's most influential places of worship.

Goodwin's work did not end once he stepped away from the pulpit. He was an active member of the NAACP and Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He served on the boards of the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem and Crisis Control Ministry. Goodwin also served as chaplain for Winston-Salem State University. In 1971, Goodwin and the pastor of Knollwood Baptist Church - which has a largely white congregation - formed a sister-church program aimed at improving racial relations.

City Council member Joycelyn Johnson, who recom-



Photo by Courtney Gaillard  
**The Rev. Kelly Goodwin was pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church for more than 30 years.**

mended Goodwin for the honor, said that when she was growing up, Goodwin was always someone that young people could look up to.

"He was surely a role model for all of us young folks...to model ourselves after," she said Monday, before presenting a resolution honoring Goodwin to Rev. Serenus Churn, the current pastor of Mt. Zion.

Churn said although Goodwin has been dead for several years, he is still very much alive in the work that is done each day at Mt. Zion.

"His spirit is very much a part (of the church). He is still very much with us," Churn said.

Hopkins was remembered as a brave woman who stood for justice in various forms. In

See Honorees on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker  
**Bennett President Johnnetta Cole makes a point.**

## HBCUs to take on smoking in black community

*\$1 million grant will be used to tackle different aspects of smoking*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

**GREENSBORO** - Three historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the state have been given a \$1 million grant to reduce smoking among black North Carolinians. If the school's efforts are successful, more grants could be made to other HBCUs around the nation to fund similar anti-smoking programs.

The grant was announced last week by the American Legacy Foundation during a news conference at Bennett College for Women, Bennett, along with neighboring N.C.

A&T State University and Durham's N.C. Central University will develop a series of programs with the money aimed at curbing smoking, which is a habit shared by one in five African-Americans.

"It is time for African-Americans to take a serious look at the toll tobacco is taking on our health, on our families and loved ones and on our communities," said state Rep. Alma Adams, who is also a Bennett professor and vice-chair of the American Legacy Foundation board. Today, Adams is one of the state's biggest anti-smoking advocates. She led the move last year to ban smoking on the floor of the General Assembly. Adams has not always been against smoking, though. She was a smoker for four decades, starting when she was a teenager.

"I thought it was glamorous, and acceptance by my peers was important for me," she said.

See Grant on A10

## Women of Color

Photo by Kevin Walker

*The Midtown Red Hat Society of Winston-Salem is now alive and kicking. The new chapter of the Red Hat Society had its first meeting last Saturday. The society is a national group for women 50 years old and older. The new chapter has about 25 members. To read more about the chapter and some of its members, see page A10.*



## NAACP keeps up fight against state's felon law

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
 THE CHRONICLE

Amid chilly temperatures on Tuesday afternoon, the Winston-Salem chapter of NAACP held a small demonstration outside the Forsyth County Courthouse, protesting what the chapter says is the unfair treatment of blacks under the state's habitual felon laws.



Hairston

The law allows district attorneys to seek more severe punishments for offenders

with excessive prior convictions. The law is controversial because many claim that black defendants are deemed habitual felons for minor crimes.

Stephen Hairston, NAACP president, said that too many black offenders are being warehoused in jails for nonviolent crimes longer than is necessary because of habitual felon laws. The NAACP plans to conduct a statewide investigation into alleged racial disparities as a result of

See Felons on A10

## Luck of the Push



Photo by Kevin Walker  
**Marshall Dillard stands next to a Saturn ION similar to the one he won recently.**

*Saturn dealership produces winner in Hot Button contest*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

Marshall Dillard says he has never been a particularly lucky person. His name has never been called during raffles. Publisher's Clearing House has never come knocking at his front door.

So Dillard was not feeling particularly lucky on Feb. 9 when he reluctantly played the much-hyped General Motors Hot Button contest at Flow Saturn on Peters Creek Parkway. The contest - made popular by a series of television commercials - invites people to come to GM dealerships

See Winner on A4



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