



Late Nite Hoops taking off at center

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Book takes on homeless problem

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Agency offers fans to seniors

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Rap stars invade G'boro for show

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THE CHRONICLE

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Moratorium supporters smell victory

Forum features victims of justice system

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Death penalty moratorium supporters in this state have fought hard and valiantly for their cause over the years. They have marched, petitioned and shared their agenda with anyone who would listen. And they did all of that during a time in this state when a moratorium bill did not have a snowball's chance in Raleigh.

Now with a moratorium closer to reality than ever before, supporters are turning up their efforts to convince members of the General Assembly and residents of this state that a moratorium is critical.

"There are legislators who are supporting (a moratorium)," said state Rep. Larry Womble. "It is basically one person who is standing in the way from keeping this from coming to the floor." That person, Womble told a crowd Sunday during a

forum on the moratorium, is House Co-Speaker Richard Morgan, a Republican representing Moore. Womble said there is a clear majority in the House who have said that they will support the moratorium, which calls for the state to halt capital punishment for two years so that punishment can be examined and possibly made more fair and just.

Moratorium supporters have come a long way since the bill was introduced more than a year ago. In the beginning, there wasn't even close to enough legislators supporting the bill. To win converts, moratorium supporters have used research - which they say unequivocally shows that the punishment is used overwhelmingly for the poor and minorities - and powerful testimonials of people who have been on death row or close to it and were later



Darryl Hunt says prosecutors should have some accountability.



Larry Fields was praised for his ability to bring the academic best out of students.

Group wants Fields Academy

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

When Independence High School reopens in the fall, chances are it will have a new name.

School board member Geneva Brown and a growing number of others hope the

new Independence will bear the name of Larry Fields, who was principal of Latham Elementary School. Fields



Brown

died two years ago at the age of 54 of an aneurysm. He was hailed as a champion of underdog students after Latham went from having some of the worst test scores in the county to a National Blue Ribbon school for student achievement. The school was later named a School of Distinction by the state. Fields was named Principal of the Year in 1995.

"I hope they'll name it after Larry Fields in some kind of way. When he was principal of (Latham), he really looked at the kids who weren't making it. He was good at working with that kind of kid, if everybody

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(Left) Sherri Paysour, mother of honoree Ivory Paysour, praised her daughter as active in her community, church and school.



(Left) State convener Dr. Manderline Scales presents Tamara Ashley Alexander (Fayetteville Section) with an NCNW plaque.



Joan Cardwell was honored as a Gold Achiever and Bethune Achiever at the banquet.

Bethune awards honor torchbearers

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN, PH.D.
THE CHRONICLE

Four locals honored alongside leaders from around the state

Almost 200 members, honorees and supporters of the National Council of Negro Women Inc. (NCNW) formed a candlelight circle of recognition at the Holiday Inn Hanes Mall on Saturday. Together they lifted their lights and raised the hymn "This Little Light of Mine." Jasmine Stover, a junior at Parkland High School, sang "Pass It On"

to honor the spirit of progress.

Dorris Herrell served as the chair of the Bethune Recognition Program (BRP), and Joan Cardwell was the co-chair.

Denise S. Hartsfield, District Court judge for the 21st District, mistress of ceremonies, opened with a prayer for children, family and nation.

"Our children are in trouble. There are temptations

about them today that we never had before," Hartsfield prayed. "You need us to help in this task, to help our children stay out of the court system, to build strong families in Christ. Bless these honorees this day, and the main honor, the main glory will always go to you."

Local and national leaders offered greetings. They were Earline Parmon, N.C. state rep-

resentative; Dr. Vivian H. Burke, mayor pro tempore of Winston-Salem; Esther Wynn, national Bethune Recognition Program coordinator; and Queen E. Degraphenreid, chairperson, N.C. Coalition.

The N.C. Coalition of NCNW honored leaders from around the state during the fourth annual Bethune Banquet. State Convener Dr. Man-

derline Scales explained the occasion.

"Mary McLeod Bethune was the 17th child of 21 children born of slave parents in South Carolina. After completing Barber-Scotia College, she started teaching girls in Daytona Beach, Florida. She sold sweet potato pies to raise money for the school, which became Bethune-Cookman College," said Scales.

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See Fields on A9

KICKIN' BUTTS

Statewide anti-smoking road trip comes to Winston

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

When Terrie Hall talks, usually teenagers spring to attention. Most of the time, it is her scratchy, mechanical-sounding voice that draws them in. Even the most cynical of teens take notice when Hall uses her hand to remove the wine cork-sized voice prosthesis that juts out of her throat to reveal the gaping hole that the prosthesis covers.

Hall had the prosthesis put in two years ago after doctors discovered a cancerous tumor on her larynx. Her voice box had to be removed. Without the prosthesis, she can't talk or breathe.

These days Hall is using her voice - as strange and artificial as it may sound - to tell young people that smoking kills, or at the

least can cause life-altering illnesses.

"I never gave thought that cigarette smoking would lead to a doctor telling me that I would never be able to talk again," said Hall, a Lexington resident, who is in her early-40s.

Hall smoked at least a pack of cigarettes a day for 25 years. She said from childhood she was influenced by her peers and society to such a point that she thought smoking was cool.

"I remember playing smoking with pencils and crayons when I was a little girl," she said.

Hall and other ex-smokers/cancer survivors were in Winston-Salem last Friday as part of an event billed as a "butt-kicking" block party sponsored by the education group

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Photo by Kevin Walker

Terrie Hall is interviewed for an anti-smoking commercial that should start airing across the state this fall as part of the Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered. campaign.



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