



Pop Warner teams do battle

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Critics upset by school name

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THE CHRONICLE

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'THE LITTLE SCHOOL THAT COULD'

Blue Ribbon Award icing on the cake for North Hills Elementary

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The faculty and staff at North Hills Elementary School knew something was up when Principal Nathaniel Barber called a last-minute staff meeting after school on Sept. 15. Once they had all gathered in the school's media center, Barber ended their suspense, telling his teachers and other staffers that North Hills had been selected to

receive the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools award from the U.S. Department of Education.



Barber

The recognition honors schools whose students have achieved stellar academic excellence. The honor also looks at schools that have greatly improved their students' test scores. North Hills has met both criteria. North Hills was named a School of Distinction after the state's latest ABCs results were released.

See North Hills on A4



North Hills teachers Patricia Bitting (left) and Delores Lassiter celebrate after learning that their school had been picked for the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award.

Business park lands tenants

First businesses will move in within weeks

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

The Premier Business Park that is being constructed along the 14th Street corridor has already landed its first three tenants.

The Meridian Realty Group made the announcement at Tuesday night's Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Premier Design Builders Inc. is developing the four-acre site located just off New Walker Road.



Gwyn

The space is suitable for professional offices or medical practices. The 11 free-standing duplex-style buildings offer 2,500 square feet of office space.

"We're planning to move over here into the business park. The first three buildings have already been leased out," said John-Troy Witherpoon of Premiere Design Builders. "They are detached units that can be used as a duplex or someone can take the whole unit. They vary from 1,250 square feet to 2,500 square feet."

Office space can accommodate conference room space, a reception area, break room and single offices. The complex has been under construction for more than eight months now, and Witherpoon says it will be completed based on the demand for the units. He expects the first tenants will be able to move into the office space within the next two weeks.

Michael D. Gwyn, of Meridian Realty, says the business park will serve the various businesses in East

See Business park on A4



The Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Stamp will not be available to the public until the end of this month. But local residents got a look at the stamp during a program at Bennett College for Women. Here, Jasmine Williams, a former poster child for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of the Piedmont stands in front of Sen. Katie Dorssett after the unveiling. Also pictured is Dr. Johnnetta Cole, president of Bennett.

Sickle cell stamp unveiled at Bennett

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Hundreds of people in the Triad got a sneak peek at a special commemorative postal stamp that the rest of the nation won't get to see until next week.

A big to-do was made Friday at Bennett College for Women as a group of dignitaries unveiled the first-ever Sickle Cell Disease Awareness

Stamp, which will go on sale nationwide Sept. 30. This is not the first time that the U.S. Postal Service has used stamps to raise awareness of serious health issues. There have been stamps to promote breast cancer and AIDS awareness. But while the public is already well aware of those health conditions, sickle cell still remains a mystery to many. The stamp hopes to help change that.

"Science and medicine have

advanced rapidly in the past few decades. Unfortunately, this is not the case for sickle cell disease relative to other health disparities," Dr. Willarda V. Edwards, president and COO of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, said in a statement. "We are very happy to see this collaborative effort with the SCDA and the U.S. Postal Service come to fruition."

The Sickle Cell Disease

Association of the Piedmont sponsored the local unveiling last week. Before a poster-sized mock-up of the new stamp was revealed to a crowd of several hundred, a series of speakers talked about how important the fight against sickle cell has become.

The disease is believed to affect one in 12 African-Americans. It gets its name because the cells of those afflicted with the disease are not round like

normal cells but sickle-shaped, which causes them to cling together, blocking blood flow to major organs. Excruciating pain and strokes are common for those who suffer from sickle cell. Death is also one of the complications from the disease.

The disease is usually detected in newborns and occurs when both parents carry the sickle cell trait. As a result, early testing for the sickle trait

See Stamp on A10

Blair apologizes to black reporters

Photo by Kevin Walker.

Winston-Salem State University was the first college campus where Jayson Blair was invited to speak. Blair resigned from the New York Times amid scandal last year.



BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Ebonee Russell admits to harboring some disdain for Jayson Blair ever since the former New York Times reporter became infamous when he admitted to plagiarizing and fabricating news stories. Russell, a senior studying mass communications at Winston-Salem State University, did not expect her feelings toward Blair to change after Blair came to her campus last week to speak to journalism students.

But standing barely 5 feet tall, the Jayson Blair that walked into Russell's classroom looked more like a lovable 1980's child sitcom star than a cunning manipulator who has been accused of giving journalism a permanent black eye.

"I feel sympathy for him," Russell said soon after Blair spent more than an hour telling students the story of his fast rise and abrupt fall. Russell said she can forgive but forgetting is harder. She will graduate in the spring and hit the pavement to look for her first journalism job. She feels that as a black reporter, Blair will make her job search that much harder.

"He lost it all for himself and maybe even for me. It makes it

See Blair on A10

JOYFUL NOISE



Ellery Payton leads God's Miracle Men in a song Sunday afternoon at the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries' ninth annual Hymns for Hope at Brendle Recital Hall at Wake Forest University. See story on page A5.



In Loving Memory of Willie Earl Fair "Coo-Jack"

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