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**Young soccer star honored by his school**  
*-See Page B1*



**Powerball briefly comes to Hanes Mall**  
*-See Page A 14*



**Cancer awareness comes to Winston-Salem**  
*-See Page B16*

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Legacy of heroine Hopkins lives

Portion of busy street named for late community servant

BY SANDRA ISLEY  
 THE CHRONICLE

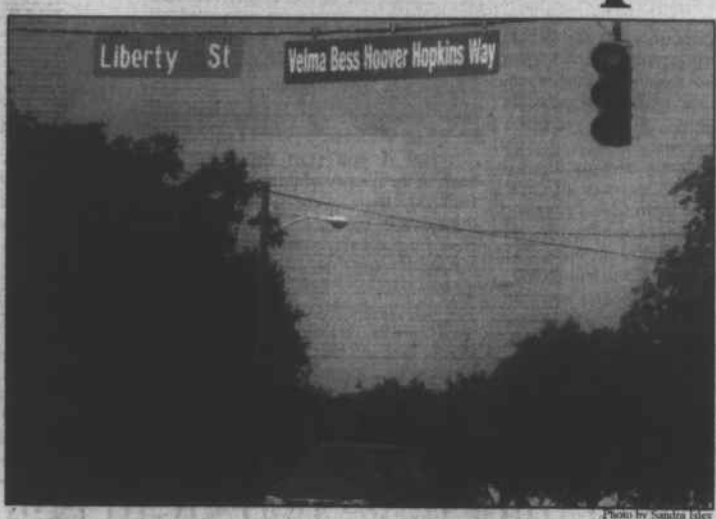
She was often called a slave for all people.

Now those who Velma Hopkins touched and served are celebrating a very visible honor for the late community activist.



Burke

A section of Liberty Street has been renamed Velma Bess Hoover Hopkins Way. Those who loved and respected Hopkins were on hand last Thursday for the unveiling, which took place outside of the Medicap Pharmacy on the



Residents can see the sign at Liberty and 14th streets.

corner of Liberty and 14th streets.

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who spearheaded the project, said it was the ideal place for the sign because

Hopkins had lived in the area. The intersection also has stop lights, Burke said, giving people a greater opportunity to notice the street sign that bears her name.

"She did it her way, before Frank Sinatra was singing it his way, because she was her own individual and we're just blessed that Mrs. Hopkins was born in Asheville, N.C., but came to Winston-Salem to live," said Burke.

During the ceremony, Mayor Allen Joiner issued a proclamation listing Hopkins' numerous accomplishments. Her mountains of work for the underprivileged, underemployed and unemployed spans decades.

Hopkins, who once worked at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., organized United Tobacco Workers Local 22, a predominantly African-American union that helped to secure better wages for workers at RJR and improved working conditions within the factories.

"She knew that RJ Reynolds was built on the backs of blacks," said Burke. "And she knew that blacks should get fair treatment."

She also fought for integration. In the 1950s, she was involved in the initiative that enrolled the first black student in lily-white Reynolds High School. Hopkins was no stranger in the world of

See Hopkins on A13

## Hairston cleared by board

NAACP president ready to move forward

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

The president of the local branch of the NAACP is ready to take care of business now that the civil rights group's National Board has lifted a pending suspension of Hairston and the branch's treasurer, Irene Phillips.

Hairston said he learned of the National Board's decision last week in a letter. Earlier this year, the board had suspended Hairston and Phillips for more than two years. Neither branch officer left their posts because



Hairston

both filed appeals and were allowed, under NAACP rules, to keep their offices through the appeals process. In handing out the suspensions, the board accused Hairston of forging the signature of another branch officer, Vice President Jim Shaw, to checks and making deposits to the branch's bank account, a task that, according to by-laws, only the branch treasurer can perform.

Hairston said he never violated rules intentionally. Shaw has said the he gave Hairston permission to sign his name. Shaw is arthritic and often has a hard time writing. Hairston said he was not aware that only a treasurer could make deposits. He explained all of this and more a few months ago when a three-member panel of the National Board heard his appeal during a meeting at Piedmont Triad International Airport.

See Hairston on A16

## Winston Lake Y celebrates 20th year

BY TODD LUCK  
 THE CHRONICLE

The Winston Lake YMCA last Thursday celebrated its 20th year at its current Waterworks Road location.

The ceremony included performances by the Winston Lake Y's popular Boss Drummers, the Jazzy Jumpers jump-roping troupe and a poetry reading by students in the Y's after-school program. More than 125 people came out to help the Y celebrate.

The Winston Lake YMCA moved into its current facility on June 1, 1986 from a location that was

located downtown on Patterson Avenue.

The Winston Lake facility's first director, Norman Joyner, said making the move was a major project for the community at the time.

"This building was not easy," he said. "Raising money for this building was not easy. Getting support from the community was not easy. But people believed that what this facility, what the staff and what the volunteers could do, they could make a difference in the lives of young people."

Joyner said that back then other local YMCA branches had been expanded and it was Winston Lake's turn. He said with tremendous support from the community, the 50,000 square foot facility was built on 13 acres of land that the YMCA purchased.

The new facility was a cut-above the old Patterson Avenue site, with a regulation size gym, a swimming pool, child care facilities and other features that made it into a full-service facility.

See Leak on A14



## A BIG HONOR

Photo by Kevin Walker

Clara Gaines, the widow of community servant and basketball legend Clarence "Big House" Gaines, stands beneath a super-sized version of a street sign bearing her husband's name. East End Boulevard, where Coach Gaines lived with his family for five decades, has been renamed Big House Gaines Boulevard. Clara Gaines is joined here by her daughter, Lisa McDonald, and the other residents of Big House Gaines Boulevard. To read more about the event, see page A 16.

## RAYE OF HOPE

Local king of positivity rebounds from colon cancer

BY SANDRA ISLEY  
 THE CHRONICLE

"I was shell shocked - frozen in shock, but I was never afraid. And still ain't afraid, because I knew that I was not going to die. I knew because I got too much work to do. I got to go save some black folks."

Those are the words of John Raye. He has been known by many titles over the years - "businessman," "motivational speaker," "dreamer." These days, he has a new title - cancer survivor.

He was diagnosed with colon cancer earlier this year. According to the American Cancer Society, colon cancer affects millions each year and ranks second as the most deadly form of cancer. In January, doctors removed 18 inches of Raye's colon.

He is perhaps best known for spreading hope and black empowerment. An inspirational motivational speaker and author, black self-determination and self-empowerment were already virtues that Raye regularly preached about. He has now added earlier diagnosis and cancer testing to his list of topics.

"Everywhere I go, I speak about cancer. Now what I really speak on is economic and financial empowerment. That's my thing - showing people how to be a job-maker instead of a job-taker...but, no matter what I've been asked to speak on, I'm going to talk about cancer," he said.

Raye admits that he ignored signs that could have led doctors to diagnose his cancer earlier. For more than a year, Raye suffered unrelenting pain. He refused to go to a doctor. He recalled spending nights writing his motivational column in utter pain. Sometimes all he could manage to do was curl up in fetal positions; other times, he was unable to have a bowel movement and unable to eat for days at a time.

Like in many cases, it was Raye's wife, Rosie Smith, who convinced - forced, rather - Raye to seek medical attention. Smith threaten to call 9-1-1 if her husband did not go to the doctor. He finally yielded.

The news at the doctors office wasn't good - Stage Two cancer. Stage Two means that the cancer is either spreading beyond the middle tissue layers of the colon wall or to nearby tissues surround-



Rosie Smith



Photo by Sandra Isley

See Raye on A11 John Raye is back to work after a bout with cancer.

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Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support

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