



Local man is dreaming of playing in the NFL

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Big Dane comes to town to speak

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Mary Lipscomb will turn 104

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THE CHRONICLE

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Just Praisin'

The Gospel Celebration 'N The Park was a smashing success. Hundreds came out to enjoy Saturday's daylong event, which was held at Rupert Bell Park. The Chronicle put on the event, which featured choirs from several local churches. The crowd enjoyed not only the music, but good food and fellowship as well. To see more images from the event, see B12.

Photo by Kevin Walker



Professors probe Southern segregation

Study finds poverty and other evils in Alabama, Mississippi

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Two Wake Forest University sociology professors say that poverty and inequality are still alive and well in the deep South.

Angela Hattery and Earl Smith have just completed a study, Social Stratification in the New/Old South, that looks at U.S. Census data from counties in Mississippi and Alabama. They examined how poverty and other measures of well-being differ between counties depending on the race of the people who live there.

The study was inspired by a course that Hattery and Smith teach together that takes students from local universities on a tour of Southern states. The tour goes through major historical civil rights sites while letting the professors and students see what modern life is like in the deep South.

Through the tour, the professors and students found extreme poverty and racial prejudice. Smith and Hattery decided to do the study to see if what they personally experienced matched the bigger reality. The answer, they said, was a disturbing "yes."

"Fifty years after Brown vs. the Board, 40 years after the civil rights movement, not only does segregation continue to exist but it significantly shapes peoples' lives," said Hattery.

The study's introduction describes Mississippi and Alabama as being so different from the rest of the United States that they're perceived as "nations unto themselves," and the findings make it easy to see why.

The study found that most counties in those states are still segregated with populations that are either 75 percent black or 95 percent white. People living in these states are twice as likely to live below the poverty line and race can increase that likelihood even more. In predominately black counties, African-Americans are seven or eight times more likely to live in poverty than those in integrated counties. In the predominately black Mississippi Delta, four out of every 10

See Study on A9

Biggs comes home to teach art of dance

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

Young dancers entertained a crowd of dozens last week during a fun-filled recital at Atkins Academic and Technology High School.

The performers hail from various city recreation centers. They performed to popular songs and did skits with zeal. There, watching over all of it was Jahmela Biggs, the brainchild behind the event, which was called, Generation 2006: The Future and the Power!

She has taught dance to kids at city rec centers during the past few summers. A city native who attended Salem Academy, Biggs is currently studying at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

She returned home this summer with two friends, Toccarra Cash and Kaliswa Brewster, to once again teach local children. Their mission has been to inspire the young people through the arts and show them that they can do or be anything that they want.

"I found from working with the City so long that the reward is far greater than a payment, because we do work with a lot of kids who normally would not have the opportunity to be exposed to the arts in the way that we are exposing them," said Biggs, who is the daughter of former N.C. Court of Appeals Judge Loretta Biggs and realtor Larry Biggs. "We also couple the arts with certain themes like daring to



Kouri Peoples dressed as princess for the show.

See Dancer on A9



Jahmela Biggs, center, with friends and fellow instructors Toccarra Cash, left, and Kaliswa Brewster.

Portrait of trailblazer Mazie Woodruff placed in library branch

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

There was a packed house Saturday for a ceremony to unveil the portrait of a local heroine.

Many of those at the Carver School Road Branch for the event knew and loved the late Mazie Woodruff, a former Forsyth County Commissioner and community activist who died in 1997.

The portrait of Woodruff, done by local artist Leo Rucker, will hang in the entrance way of the library, which is adjacent to the Mazie Woodruff Center, a satellite campus of Forsyth Technical Community College. Before, she died, Woodruff had lobbied for a library to be built in the city's Northeast ward.

Woodruff spun a successful political career for herself, while laying a foundation for others to follow. She served her first term as a commissioner in 1967. She was



electd back onto the board in 1982 and then three more terms after that.

Among those who were influenced by

Woodruff are State Rep. Earline Parmon and County Commissioner Walter Marshall, who filled Woodruff's seat on the Board of Commissioners after she passed away.

Marshall said that because Woodruff had spent much of her time campaigning for him while in office, his victory as her replacement was pretty much assured. According to Marshall, it was the interest that Woodruff took in him at a young age that led him to delve into politics after a career in education.

"She (Woodruff) was the person that really influenced me to go into elected politics," he said. "I had no real desire to be an elected official, but she saw something in me that I didn't see in myself."

Marshall and Parmon both spoke at the unveiling. Other speakers included State Sen. Peter Brunstetter, who served as chairperson of the Forsyth County Board of County Commissioners during Woodruff's



State Sen. Pete Brunstetter and State Rep. Earline Parmon admire the portrait of Mazie Woodruff.

See Woodruff on A9

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