



Tabor dominates weekend track meet

-See Page B10



Young poets compete for title

-See Page A3



Ladies don hats for fancy party

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THURSDAY, April 23, 2009

CHERRY ON TOP

Residents hope revitalization plans will help breathe new life into historic black community

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County recently celebrated the kickoff of a development that has been more than a year in the making.

Fifteen Habitat houses, valued at approximately \$100,000 each, will be erected in formerly vacant or abandoned lots on Cherry and Garfield streets over the course of the next year.

As always, the homes will go to carefully screened families that meet Habitat requirements. But the Cherry Street development is unique in its implementation, says Habitat Executive Director Sylvia Oberle. More than a year and a half of compromises, collaborations and community meetings have made the project unlike any Habitat has launched before. City officials, neighborhood residents and leaders from nearby Kimberley Park Elementary have all lent their support to make the effort a success, Oberle said.

"We've taken more time on the people side, as well as on the political and logistic side to do this right," she explained. "We've had to really work hard. The result has been a much better development."

The high visibility of the community, which flanks University Parkway and is in close proximity to the downtown area, has been a key factor in the project's success.

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See Cherry on A12



Habitat for Humanity plans to build homes on this tract of land.



Photo by Todd Luck
Marco Mata receives his scholarship award from Truliant's Marjorie Rorie.

THE NEW AMERICAN DREAM

Scholarships help Hispanic college students move closer to graduation

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Hispanic League's Spanish Nite Gala had all the trappings of a ritzy party — from the fine dining to the open dance floor. But there was no birthday or special holiday being observed. It was education that was being celebrated.

Nineteen \$2,000 scholarships were given to Hispanic college students at the bilingual gala Saturday night at Embassy Suites Hotel. Many of the scholarships were sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

Axel Lluich, director of Hispanic/Latino Affairs for Gov. Bev Perdue, gave the keynote address, telling the hundreds in attendance that education is priceless.

"I know we're going through some hard times here and everywhere, but you carry your education with you," said Lluich. "And that's the beauty of education, that

See Scholarship on A13

'Real Men' continue to be drawn to teaching program

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

A program designed to encourage more males to go into the teaching profession is increasing its presence on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

Real Men Teach (RMT), now in its second year, recently inducted 16 new members. The inductees will be in constant contact with mentors in various occupations throughout the community. The program hopes that the interaction between the college students and the professionals will motivate the young men to vigorously pursue careers in education, a field with a dearth of black male talent.



Derwin Calhoun, William Goodlett, Chris Graham and Ronald Willams Jr.

Freshman Chris Graham is one of RMT's latest inductees. Becoming a part of the group was a proud moment for the Snow Hill native. He calls RMT an "elite group."

The 19-year-old says recognizing the disparity of black men in the teaching profession inspired him to pursue education as a career.

"I saw there was an imperative need for male

See Teachers on A9

COPING

NBTF optimistic that it will overcome deficit

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Twenty years ago, Micki Grant's "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" opened the first ever National Black Theatre Festival, ushering in an era that would exceed the expectations of many who witnessed the fledgling festival's debut.

Now, officials at the North Carolina Black Repertory



Patton

Company, which hosts the biennial theatrical extravaganza, are hoping to recreate the magic of that first hopeful year by bringing the play back to the local stage.

The re-staging of "Cope" at the Arts Council Theatre May 1-3 is part of the Black Rep's 20/30 celebration, marking the 20th

See Black Rep on A14



Photo by Ralph Meadows

Mabel Robinson is flanked by the cast of the Black Rep's "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope."

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