



Runners take it to the 'Next Level'

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Geek Squad hosts tech camp

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Black turnout could make or break Obama

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Black voters turned out like never before in 2008 to help elect the nation's first African American president.

Here, in North Carolina, African American voter turnout increased by 127,000 from the previous presidential election in 2004. It was that surge that helped to give then-Sen. Barack Obama the slim 14,177-vote victory he needed to carry North Carolina, a long-time Republican-leaning state.

Analysts say that black voter turnout, especially in swing states like North Carolina, could mean the difference between victory or defeat for President Obama in November. In mid July, the National Urban League released "The Hidden Swing Voters," an extensive report about the role of the African American electorate in 2012. Because African Americans had the greatest increase in voter turnout in 2008, that demographic will also likely experience the greatest decrease this time around if numbers return to their norm, the Urban League speculates. This could mean that the Obama campaign will struggle in states like N.C., Virginia and Ohio, where African Americans tipped the scales in his favor just four years before, the report theorizes.

Dr. John Dinan, a political science professor at Wake Forest University, said North Carolina may in fact favor Republican Mitt Romney over Obama this election sea-



Barber Johnson



Members of the Carolina Renegades practice last week.

Photos by Todd Luck

For the Love of the Game

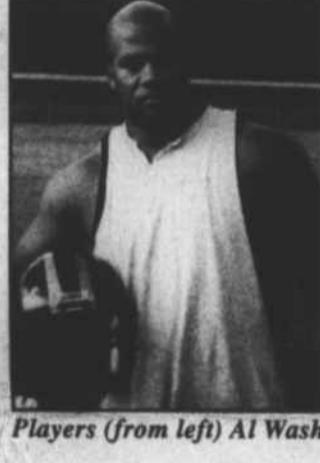
No frills team offers athletes another chance to shine

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Carolina Renegades football team is ready to take it all this season.

The Renegades is a local non-profit semi-professional team that plays in the Central Carolina Football League (CCFL). The players don't play for money because they aren't paid a dime. Some are no spring chickens, way past their football-playing prime; others squeeze in practices around their busy job schedules.

Head Coach Dale Glossinger, who owns the team with his wife Sandy, said his guys are motivated by their love of the game and the thrill



Players (from left) Al Washington, Dwayne Ijames and Marques "Bus" Newman.

of victory that playing well can bring.

"That's truly why these players are out here," he said.

The Renegades squad is

heavy with veterans. Many of the players have suited up for colleges, the Arena Football League (AFL) and European leagues. They started the sea-

son, which runs from July through October, with a 44-0 victory over the Rowan (County) Rampage and a 22-

See Renegades on A5

Lartey hoping to use Goler successes as bishop

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

After 20 years at the helm of Goler Memorial AME Zion Church, Dr. Seth Lartey is assuming a new title and embarking on a new chapter in his life.

Lartey, a native of Monrovia, Liberia, will soon be making a triumphant homecoming to the Mother Land as the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church's newly-elected bishop of the Western West Africa Episcopal District. The married father of three was consecrated as the 100th bishop during 49th Quadrennial of the General Conference of the AME Zion Church in Charlotte on July 24.

As bishop, Lartey will preside over 6,700 congregations and roughly 100,000 people in the West African nations of Ghana, Togo, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. He and his wife Jacqueline plan to divide their time between Africa and the United States — where their children will remain — and Episcopal



File Photo
Dr. Seth Lartey is leaving Goler Memorial for a new challenge.

headquarters in Ghana and Liberia.

"I feel excited because it helps me link North Carolina, and Winston-

Salem specifically, to where I am (now)," said Lartey. "We will have a platform for evangelism, education, economic development and empowerment."

Lartey said he will encourage his congregations to reach beyond the walls of their churches and think beyond the boundaries of traditional evangelism and outreach. He plans to bring a greater focus to basic human needs such as feeding the hungry, caring for widows and building communities.

"The church can no longer be just a call to worship and a benediction type of an institution ... We will return to basic Christianity that looks at being your brother's keeper," Lartey declared. "We want people to experience the Kingdom of God here so when they get to Heaven, they will recognize it."

James Hunder, another Liberian native and member of Goler Memorial for the past eight years, says the

See Lartey on A6

Blind kids gain keys to independence at unique camp

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Last month, blind and visually-impaired young people learned key survival skills in a newly-built school house designed especially for them.

Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind has held the SEE (Student Enrichment Experience) camp for the last five years, but this was the first summer it took place at Tracy's Little Red School House, a facility named for the late educator Tracy Lynn Callaghan that is located on IFB's campus off of North Point Boulevard.

The School, which opened this sum-

mer, is enhancing the camp's mission to teach blind and visually-impaired youths to function independently.

Its floor makes mobility and orientation training simpler because it is textured so that it feels and sounds different when tapped with a cane. The school's computers are equipped with software that reads words from the screen.

Another room is equipped with a washer and dryer, a fold-out bed and a kitchen. There, instructors teach life skills such as doing laundry and cooking.

There's even an art room and a playground with a bench swing in the back of the school. SEE activities were not lim-



Viars



Photos by Todd Luck
Instructor Jill Wilson (standing) asks Jacob Gerancher (far left) to tell her which bottle is which.

See SEE on A6



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