

SPORTS



Cam Newton showed up at the Carolina Panthers camp Wednesday looking to build on last year's success. **B1**

Controversy brews at Ace Speedway as a driver takes issue with one of the track's most successful stars. **B1**

NATION

Seeking to redefine America's foreign policy for a post-war era, President Barack Obama on Wednesday declared that the United States remains the only nation with the capacity to lead on the world stage but argued it would be a mistake to channel that power into unrestrained military adventures. **A6**



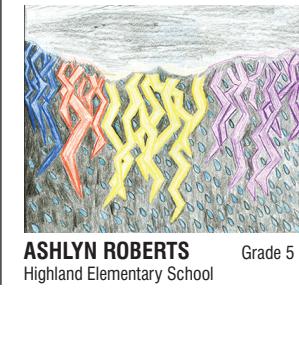
Is a local librarian on track to get body-slammed? **REGION, C1**



County's artistic community shows off its colors — **SCENE, D1**

Weather: Storms

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>> TENURE DISPUTE

Teacher raise proposal on table

GOP plan would boost wages, but some call price too high

By Emery P. Dalesio
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — A proposed state budget for the year starting in July would include pay raises of more than 10 percent for veteran teachers who relinquish job protections a court says lawmakers can't strip away, Senate leaders said Wednesday.

Republican legislative leaders and Gov. Pat McCrory promised in February that they would commit about \$200 million over the next two years to raise pay for early-career teachers from \$30,800 a year to \$35,000.

Senators said they would go further by spending up to \$468 million next year alone and offer bigger raises to teachers who voluntarily give up job protections. Principals and other school administrators would receive an average 2 percent raise while other school employees would get a flat \$500, Senate leader Phil Berger said.

Berger declined to say where the extra money for raises would come from, saying it would be outlined when their proposed budget was unveiled later Wednesday.

Teacher salaries have been stuck since 2008 except for a 1.2 percent increase in 2012.

The Senate's determination to dissolve tenure protections in return for better pay won't help attract and retain bright

See TEACHER RAISES / Page A2

A down-to-Earth icon

By Anna Johnson
Times-News
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Despite her international recognition and success at crafting literary prose, the late Maya Angelou was still a master of everyday talk.

"She was down to Earth and full of wisdom,"

said Burlington resident Renee Donnell, who met Angelou in 2009. "Sitting down and talking to her, I was nervous and excited at the same time. She talked to me like we were having a regular conversation. She asked about

See DOWN TO EARTH / Page A2



Dr. Maya Angelou smiles during an appearance at Elon University in 2012. View a photo gallery from Angelou's life at The-TimesNews.com

Times-News file photo

>> BENEVOLENCE FARM

Neighbors still frosty toward halfway house

Large crowd turns out Monday night for community meeting

By Anna Johnson
Times-News
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GRAHAM — Neighbors and Mount Hermon community members continue to voice their opposition to Benevolence Farm, a transitional living site for women recently released from prison.

More than 40 people attended a community-organized meeting Monday night

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at the Mount Hermon Community Center and peppered Benevolence Farm Executive Director Tanya Jisa with questions and concerns about the farm's operations.

"How, exactly, is it going to positively impact the community?" said Debbie Newell, who helped organize the meeting. "We feel like we can't be safe in our community."

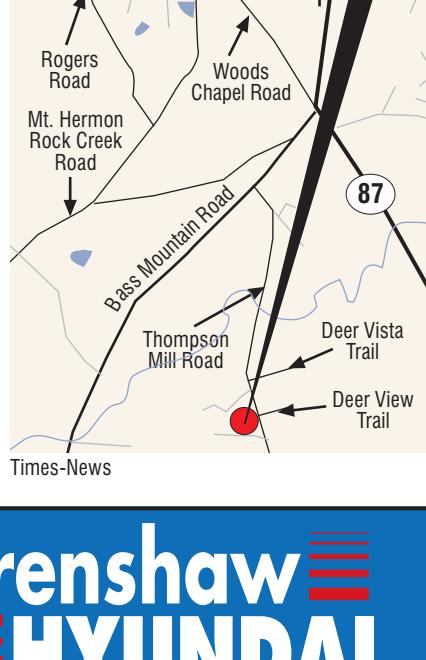
BENEVOLENCE FARM RECENTLY purchased a three-bedroom house at 4265 Thompson Mill Road, after 11 acres of nearby land was donated to the organization. The home will initially house four women recently released from prison who are inter-

ested in rehabilitating their lives, Jisa said. The organization's leaders intend to expand the facility to house no more than 12 women. While on the property, they will spend 25 hours a week out in the field growing produce and 15 hours learning job or educational skills. The farm's leaders are currently holding work days once a month to prepare the property for the women, who may begin arriving by early next year.

With more than 2,600 women exiting prisons in North Carolina, including 48 Alamance County residents, there is a need for this type of service because, Jisa said, if these recent inmates are not helped, more than two-thirds are rearrested. The

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Site of Benevolence Farm



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