

SPORTSWEEK

North, Carver JVs pull off victories

Weekend game letdown for WSSU



See B1



See A5



See C1

COMMUNITY

Union kicks off large-scale revival

Program aims to better communities

THE CHRONICLE

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Election is kind to blacks, but not Blue

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Earline Parmon jumped for joy Tuesday night, literally, after all 28 precincts in the 72nd State House District had reported their election results. Parmon leaped into the air outside of her East Fourth Street headquarters as more than a dozen grassroots supporters — people who had spent the day shuttling low income and elderly voters to the polls and passing out literature at polling sites — rhythmically shouted “Parmon, Parmon, Parmon.”

Parmon, who gave up an opportunity to hold onto her seat on the Forsyth County

Board of Commissioners to run for the open seat that is being vacated by retiring House member Pete Oldham, won the Democratic primary easily, picking up nearly 40 percent of the vote, according to unofficial, but complete, results.

Parmon said she knew she would be strong in the race, which pitted her against three political novices, but even she was surprised by the results.

“I thought it would really be close because we had four good candidates,” Parmon said.

Parmon’s seemingly easy victory came



Dan Blue waits to speak at Rupert Bell park Saturday. Behind him are his two sons, Daniel III, far left, and Dhamian.

See Election on A4



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

This Main Street statue depicts Richard Joshua Reynolds looking for a location for his tobacco plant in the 1870s.

Slaves’ son sues RJR, others for reparations

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The hits keep on coming for Winston-Salem-based R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Two days before the cigarette maker won a victory in a Miami courtroom (a judge ruled against a flight attendant who claimed that her sinus condition was caused by exposure to secondhand smoke), a 119-year-old black man named RJR as one of the defendants in a lawsuit that seeks reparations for the descendants of slaves.

Attorneys for Eddlee Bankhead, whose deceased parents were slaves and who is believed to be the oldest living American, filed the class-action suit Sept. 3 in District Court in New York. A similar suit was filed in San Francisco the same day by Chester and Timothy Hurdle, whose father was a slave. The suits, which do not specify exact damages sought, seek to not only compensate the main plaintiffs but all descendants of slaves.

The suits name several companies as defendants and allege that each of them profited from slavery or became successful as the result of the institution of slavery. The allegations against RJR fall into the latter category.

According to the complaint, RJR is the “beneficiary of assets acquired through the forced uncompensated labors of enslaved African Americans.”

The suit alleges that Hardin Reynolds, the father of RJR founder Richard Joshua Reynolds, owned up to 88 slaves, some of whom were used to produce

See RJR on A10



Up to the Challenge

Photo by Bruce Chapman

Ken Kennedy of the Winston-Salem Fire Department’s Engine 9 competes in the Rescue Drag Saturday during the Firefighter Combat Challenge at Smith Reynolds Airport. Looking on is Scott Gaudin of Engine 1. The challenge pitted WSFD firefighters against firefighters from other departments in several competitions. The local team did well enough during the competition to qualify for the world finals, which will be held at the end of the year in Deerfield, Fla.

Officials look to groups for ideas

Agencies are asked to develop strategies for economic development

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

County Commissioner Chairman Peter Brunstetter and Mayor Allen Joines have announced a process for implementing the results of an economic summit.

A news release says that since the conclusion of the summit in May, work has been underway to analyze information gained from the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis, the presentations by economic experts, and the reports of the small group discussions.

As a result of this work, six critical objectives have been identified and a lead agency assigned to oversee implementation of each objective. These objectives and the responsible agencies are:

1. Enhance collaboration, including improved communication to all constituents, and establish accountability to ensure there is sufficient support for and follow-through on economic development activities. The oversight committee will include representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Black Chamber of Commerce, Winston-Salem Business Inc., Alliance, Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership, Hispanic Business League, Winston-Salem Alliance, Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development, as well as the chairman of the county commissioners and the mayor of Winston-Salem.

Miriam McCarter, president of the Black Chamber of



McCarter

See Summit on A10

The Fourth Dimension

City plans block party to show off improvements to downtown’s main thoroughfare

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

City officials are gearing up for the Fourth Street Reopening Celebration scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20. The first-ever “Rock the Block” street festival will celebrate Fourth Street’s makeover, which is part of the downtown Winston-Salem revitalization project.

The street has been buzzing with construction activity for the last several months. Now that sidewalks have been widened, street trees have been planted, bike ramps have been installed, city leaders plan to try to attract several new restaurants with the premise of sidewalk dining. Officials also say the new Fourth Street will be a more pedestrian-

friendly section of downtown.

Fourth Street, like its neighbor Fifth Street, also will become a two-lane stretch of road through the heart of downtown.

The city of Winston-Salem and the Downtown Partnership are collaborating on the Rock the Block event, which will take place on Fourth Street, between Spruce and Marshall streets. Each block will pay tribute to a decade in history from the 1940s, 1960s, 1970s and the millennium.

Live music, performances by extreme skaters, shag dancers, vintage cars and movie posters, costumed actors, karaoke and more are planned for the celebration.



Photo by Kevin Walker

Fourth Street, which will have two-lane traffic next week, has been outfitted with new benches, trees and chic street lamps. An opening for the renovated street is planned.

See Fourth on A9

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