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## Smokers clinic will offer new promise

Hospital's program aims to help people finally kick the habit

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. John G. Spangler won't scold smokers who have unsuccessfully tried to quit smoking. But he does want to help smokers kick the nicotine habit this new year through a new comprehensive tobacco intervention clinic that he



Spangler

created at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Spangler is confident that his clinic, which focuses on cigarette smoking and smokeless tobacco use, can help smokers put down their cigarettes once and for all.

"This is a really strong addiction, and nicotine is as addictive as cocaine and heroin. I don't think people really realize that," said Spangler, who is a leading tobacco intervention expert and associate professor of family and community medicine. "I really shy away from fussing at patients or scolding patients. I want to be objective and tell them the truth about the health aspects of their tobacco habits but also help them through their addiction because I know it can be really hard."

Last year, he received a \$1.6 million federal grant to develop a model curriculum to teach medical students how to help future patients quit smoking. Aside from several classes offered around the community, Spangler said, this is the only tobacco intervention clinic in

See Clinic on A4



Timothy Smith and his 4-year-old nephew, Zyrh Smith, pick out the bike they like best.

Photos by Kevin Walker

## The Lottery

Kids try their luck in drawing for bicycles

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

On New Year's Eve, 18 young people came to the Sims Recreation Center by feet, and left by bike.

The center's annual bike giveaway raffle had youngsters from 4 to 18 years old feeling lucky. And luck would have had to be on their side with about 60 people vying for the coveted bicycles, which ranged from slick dirt bikes to classic 10-speeds.

Center director Ben Piggott decided that a raffle would be the fairest way to give out the bikes. The red raffle tickets were in high demand. Little hands clasped the tickets. Some used their other hand to cross their fingers, an old good-luck trick.

"We wish, of course, that we could give all of them a bike," Piggott said, "because for a lot of these kids, this is the closest they will come to something like this."

The Sims Center is in the heart of Happy Hill Gardens, a public housing community



Sims Center Director Ben Piggott hands out raffle tickets.

where residents are far from affluent: The New Year's Eve bike giveaway is similar to the center's popular Peace Toys for War Toys program, which gives children nonviolent toys such as dolls and sports equipment in exchange for their toy guns. The

peace toys program, held Dec. 19, provided toys to more than 300 children.

Piggott said the bike giveaway also gives youngsters who may not have gotten a peace toy the chance to get a late Christmas present.

The new and slightly used bikes were donated by Paul's Schwinn Cycling and Fitness. The company has been one of the Sims Center's best friends. It regularly gives items for the peace toys program and last year the company gave eight bikes for the giveaway. The Harrell family, which has owned and operated Paul's Schwinn Cycling and Fitness for the last four decades, said they were happy they were able to more than double the number of bikes this year.

"We want to give back... and Ben is just such a super guy, and we believe in the things he is doing at the center," said Dennis Harrell, who runs the company with brothers Dale and Paul Harrell Jr. The brothers' father, Paul Harrell Sr., founded the business. Paul Harrell Jr. and Piggott are old friends. They attended East Forsyth High School together in the mid-1970s.

By the time Piggott and Frank Williams Jr., a Department of Parks and Recreation commissioner, began drawing num-

See Bikes on A10

## Church ignites 'City' project

Macedonia will build new north campus community

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church of God wants to turn a rough-looking patch of land off Old Walkertown Road into a spiritual City of Hope.

The church broke ground Sunday on its long-anticipated City of Hope complex that

will include a 5,000-seat worship center and independent and assisted living dwellings. The new worship center will be a cousin to Macedonia TWP Holiness Church on Kinard Drive. Church leaders said both worship centers will be operational and serve their own purposes.

The groundbreaking ceremony nearly shut down Old Walkertown Road as more than 200 people fought for a space to witness the event. Macedonia members were joined by Mayor Allen Joines and City Council members Vivian Burke and Joycelyn Johnson. The ceremony featured prayers and songs. Apostle Sylvester Johnson - head of the church - along with several bishops and the invited dignitaries used gold-colored shovels to scoop up bits of soil at the site, which is currently heavily wooded.

"Building buildings is great but building ministries is greater," Johnson said. City



Johnson

See 'City' on A10

## Somewhat Free

Leaders say problems still enslave blacks

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

On the 141st anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, local leaders said racism and inequality have replaced chains and whips as the greatest barriers to freedom for African-Americans.

"Emancipated, we have been, but liberated we are not at this point," said County Commissioner Walter Marshall, who was one of several leaders who spoke on New Year's Day, at the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association's Annual Celebration of Emancipation.

Marshall cited several problems in the county that he said keep blacks

from achieving true freedom. While applauding the school system for easing the achievement gap between black and white students, Marshall said there is still much work left to be done to help black students reach the academic promised land.

This year's emancipation program took place at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and drew more than 100 people. The annual event recalls the day (Jan. 1, 1863) President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which stated that most slaves would be free. Though widely celebrated, the proclamation was only ceremonial because the end of slavery would come two years later with the

See Emancipation on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

The Rev. Carlton Eversley (from left), Mayor Allen Joines and Rev. John Mendez interlock hands while singing "We Shall Overcome" last week during an Emancipation Proclamation celebration.



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