



G'boro native makes NFL HOF list

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Links give money to program at WSSU

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Churches party for the Super Bowl

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Vol. XXXIII No. 22

Winston-Salem, NC 27101 TUESDAY, February 8, 2007

Innocent teens frisked by cops

Owner tells cops boys acted suspicious

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

It has been nearly a week since Shirley Smith's teenage grandsons were frisked by police officers on the sidewalk of a busy Kernersville street, but Smith is still trying to wrap her mind around what happened to the boys and why.

"I believe in making people be accountable, because I try to teach my boys to be accountable," Smith, who is raising her grandsons, said Monday in the living room of the family's Kernersville home.

Chris, 18, and Eric Smith, 13, say they were walking home Saturday, Feb. 3 from the Kernersville library when they decided to stop at Bob's N.Y. Italian Sub Shop on Main Street for a bite to eat. It was about 1:30 in the afternoon when they entered the shop, ordered, and paid for two orders of french fries. They say they chatted with one another at a table in the shop as they waited for their take-out order to be filled. They left the restaurant a few minutes later with their purchases and stopped at an outdoor bench nearby, to dress their fries with ketchup.

Outside the sub shop, the boys say they were approached by Officer J.D. Serrin of the Kernersville Police Department, who told them that police had received a call from Robert "Bob" Bender, the owner of the shop, saying that

See Teens on A13



Photo by Layla Farmer

Some of the graduates listen to a speaker during Monday's ceremony.

First crop of chefs complete program

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Triad Community Kitchen, born of a partnership between Second Harvest Food Bank and Goodwill Industries, graduated its inaugural class of chefs Monday.

More than two years in the making, the Community Kitchen offers a 12-week training class to unemployed and underemployed citizens who desire to pursue a culinary career.

Under the instruction of Director/Executive Chef Jeff Bacon, the chefs-in-training prepare perishable items donated to the food bank for distribution to needy people within the bank's service area.

"Those of us at Goodwill knew that this could be a successful program; we knew this could work," Goodwill's Special Projects Coordinator Nancy Doub said at the ceremony. "We wanted to make it work and we're proud to be part of this program."

Jill Staton Bullard, the co-founder and executive director of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, a nationally recognized food rescue organization which serves the central region of North Carolina, gave the keynote address.

Nine of the original 14 people who entered the program made it to graduation day, a testament to their determination and perseverance, according to Bullard.

"The journey is hard; keeping motivated is hard; keeping going is hard when you don't know what the path is going to look like or ... where it's going to lead," Bullard told the graduates. "The journey is hard, but you've done it."

She expressed her admiration for all the

See Chefs on A11

Photo by Layla Farmer
Shirley Smith stands with her "boys," Chris, 18, and Eric, 13. The boys are wearing the hooded jackets they wore to the sub shop last week-end.



FOOTBALL PLAYERS HAVE PLAY-DATE

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The littlest Rams at Winston-Salem State University got to meet some of the campus' biggest residents last week.

The university's football team paid a visit to the highly-acclaimed child care center that has called the campus home for several years. The event was billed as a pre-Super Bowl Party.

Nine Ram footballers visited the WSSU Child Development Center and Lab School Friday. They met children from the center's two-year-olds and pre-K classes and talked to them about football.

Linebacker Merrell Streeter Jr., a sophomore, asked the children if they knew who they were. "Football boys!" yelled one girl.

Streeter continued the quizzing, asking the children if they knew why he and his teammates wear helmets and pads.

"Because you play football!" another child answered matter-of-factly.

The players chuckled at the kids' honest and enthusiastic responses. Streeter gave a more thorough answer to his question, explaining to the little ones that football players wear helmets and pads for safety because the sport is very physical.

After the lively chat with the children, the players split-up into two groups. Half went with the pre-K kids back to their classrooms; the other players went with the other group to their room. The big Rams played with the little Rams for quite some time. They danced with them, and even read to them for story time. The children and players were treated to snacks served on football-themed



Photo by Todd Luck

Above: Joseph Johnson reads to the children during story time.

Right: The players chat with the kids.

plates and napkins.

The kids continued to get big smiles out of the players as they responded to them with curiosity and enthusiasm. Sophomore running back Ernest Blakely said he enjoyed the change of pace from his usual schedule of hitting the books and the gridiron.

"It is nice to do something different every now and then, it keeps us grounded," he said.

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Clinic gives kids reason to smile

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Across the nation last Friday more than 51,000 dental professionals provided free dental care to children from low income families as part of "Give Kids a Smile" Day.

Ballinger Family Dental Care, 705 Coliseum Drive, was one of many dental clinics that participated in the program. The clinic cleared its schedule - which is usually packed with paying customers - to focus on the children, whom don't have any sort of health care coverage.

The children received a wide-range of services - everything from common cleanings to costly extractions and fillings, all provided to them at no cost.

The clinics' dentists, married couple Christopher and Nermin Ballinger, along with their staff, worked steadily and diligently to make sure the nearly 40 young people they saw that day received all the service they need-



Photo by Todd Luck

Nermin Ballinger prepares to examine a child.

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\$1,500 Richer



Photo by Jackson Pitt

Local NAACP President Stephen Hairston, right, presents a check to Kevin Williams, who won \$1,500 in the first-ever NAACP/Sarah Marsh Fund-raiser. Raffle tickets were sold as part of the fund-raiser, which raised money for scholarships for local students. Williams was the holder of the lucky ticket.



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