



Arena football star has local roots

- See Page B1



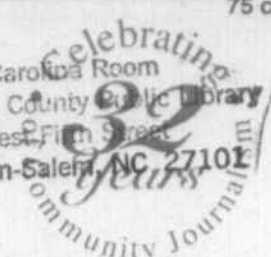
New credit union has official opening

- See Page A3



Teacher's actions anger parents

- See Page A14



THE CHRONICLE

21 072108 1 *FIRM*****5-DIGIT 27
PERIODICALS Nc Room
FORSYTH CNTY PUB LIB
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2705

Vol. XXXIII No. 32

THURSDAY, April 19, 2007

Summer concerts see more changes

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The start of the popular downtown outdoor concert series is still two weeks away but it is already clear that 4th Street Jazz & Blues - the signature event of the series - won't quite live up to its name this season.

The Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership announced this week that 4th Street Jazz & Blues, which will offer a different musical act each Friday starting May 18, won't be on 4th Street at all. The event, which will run through Aug. 24, has been moved to nearby Winston Square Park on Marshall Street.

"It is the premier event location downtown," DWSP President Jason Thiel said, explaining the event's relocation. "It was a waste not to use the park."

When the first notes ring out next month, it will mark the 10th year that outdoor summer music concerts have been staged downtown. In addition to 4th Street Jazz, there is a Thursday evening series, Alive After Five, set to start May 3, and a Saturday series, Summer on Trade, which will kick-off May 12. The concerts have been credited with helping bring traffic back downtown, which was a virtual ghost-town when the music series began a decade ago. But in recent years, some downtown restaurateurs and shop owners say the concerts have hit soar notes. Last summer some complained that the crowds attracted by the concerts spend little money at downtown businesses. Others complained that teens and pre-teens who attend 4th Street Jazz are too boisterous and disruptive.

DWSP changed the location of 4th Street Jazz last year near the end of the sea-

See Concerts on A12



Thiel

HEART OF THE MATTER



Photo by Felicia McMillan

Dr. B. Wayne Kong speaks to minority doctors of tomorrow Saturday night at the Hawthorne Inn. Kong, the head of the Association of Black Cardiologists, talked about the importance of a racially diverse health care field during his keynote address at the Student National Medical Association's annual awards program. To read more about the event, see page B14.

DNA's first innocent man shares his tale

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

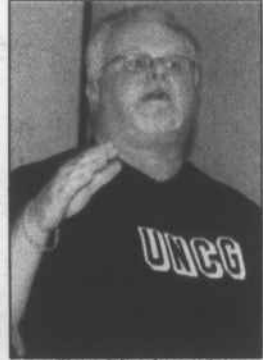
GREENSBORO - Kurt Bloodsworth spent years in prison for a rape and murder he didn't commit, but in 1993 he used science to turn the tables on the legal system that convicted him by becoming the first man in the United States to have a capital conviction overturned using DNA testing.

He shared his story of injustice and deliverance with a packed audience at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro last week. Bloodsworth spun a story all too common in cases of wrongful conviction.

At trial, the prosecution had little evidence and instead relied heavily on eyewitness testimony. Bloodsworth, a Maryland resident, said it was his neighbor who reported to the police that he matched a composite sketch of the suspect in the brutal rape and murder of young Dawn Hamilton. He said with no

prior record, the police arrested him in August of 1984 for murder. His trial did not go as he had hoped.

"The gavel came down on my life on March 26, 1985, and it would be death. When the judge hit the gavel on the bench the court room erupted



Kurt Bloodsworth

in applause ... that was the loneliest feeling I ever felt when everybody got up. I never in my life wondered what it would be like to feel hated like that and, I've got to tell you, in that instance I felt everyone's hatred for a long time, even years after I got out," said

Bloodsworth. Originally Bloodsworth was sent to death row but after a retrial he ended up receiving two consecutive life sentences. He would spend over eight years in prison. He vividly described the horrid conditions inside, from rampant cockroaches to constant violence. He said many of the

See Bloodsworth on A11

Slain officer and others honored with safety awards

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Center for Community Safety (CCS) hosted its third biannual Community Safety Awards Friday afternoon at the Benton Convention Center. Formed by WSSU in 2001 with the help of a five-year grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the Center for Community Safety is a community-based initiative that seeks to address public safety concerns through collaborations, partnerships and the implementation of new programs.



Atkinson

"It started as a way of really recognizing individuals and organizations who normally don't have their names in the light and don't really know that they're making a contribution to our community," explained CCS Interim Director Alvin Atkinson. "We wanted to give them recognition, to have an opportunity to celebrate their work, because it was their work that was helping



Winners Lt. Robert Twitty, from left, Bill McClain, Tracey Maxwell, Tiffani Catheart, Stan Hill and Joyce Plouff, the widow of Sgt. Howard Plouff.

See Awards on A5

Workers honored for overcoming employment barriers

Forsyth Industrial Systems assists dozens with disabilities

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Finding a job can be harder for some people than others. But for those with developmental and physical disabilities, finding and keeping a good job is a real accomplishment.

Forsyth Industrial Systems (FIS) held an awards ceremony last Thursday at the Behavioral Health Plaza downtown to honor many who had achieved that feat.

FIS presented certificates of achievement to all its clients who have found and main-



The award recipients pose outside of Forsyth Industrial Systems after the ceremony.

Photo by Todd Luck

tained jobs over the last year. FIS helps its clients with employment and holds the ceremony annually to highlight

their achievements. Though more than 80 people were listed as finding work this year, far less showed up

for the afternoon ceremony because many were too busy earning money at their places of employment.

Kevin Hiatt, an FIS employment specialist who hosted the awards, said that finding a job can be very diffi-

cult for those with disabilities, so his clients' employment is cause for celebration.

"These guys fly under the radar for most of their lives. They've been told they 'can't' and people tend to focus on the limitations of folks with disabilities and we like to highlight the abilities that they have, the inspiration that they are to their families and to the community," Hiatt said. "The community needs to see these guys out working, I think it's good for everyone to realize there is this kind of program here. Anybody who does a good job I think should be rewarded and it means a whole lot to these guys."

FIS works with those who are mentally and physically disabled. Its clients have a

See Workers on A14

In Grateful Memory of Our Founders, **Florrie S. Russell and Carl H. Russell, Sr.**

"Growing and Still Dedicated to Serve You Better"

Russell Funeral Home

Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support

822 Carl Russell Ave. (at Martin Luther King Dr.) Winston-Salem, NC 27101 (336) 722-3459 Fax (336) 631-8268 rusfhome@bellsouth.net