

Athlete finds new love in the arts

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New Happy Hill center dedicated

-See Page A12



Bikers will head to Salisbury VA facility

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Forsyth County Public Library
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Winston-Salem, NC 27101*

75 cents

THE CHRONICLE

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TEARFUL CONCLUSION

Photo by Kevin Walker

Weomie Smith, right, and Norma Francis share a tearful embrace Saturday during a "fashion show." Smith organized to bring attention to the local homeless problem. To find out why the women were crying, go to page B7.



Housing help for those with low income

Federal, local programs make mortgages affordable

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Department of Housing and the Rural Development wing of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have a common goal: helping low-income people become homeowners.

The agencies have collaborated several times to create the best possible outcome for their clients, making the American Dream a reality for many who never thought it possible.

The USDA recently announced that a new partnership has been formed between it and its ally — the Forsyth Housing

Department.

By pooling their assets, the agencies are hoping to reach a segment of the population that would not have been able to become homeowners otherwise, says Housing Director Dan Kornelis.

"Families with a lot lower incomes could buy houses where they couldn't with our other programs," he explained. "We used to be able to serve people at up to 80 percent, but this allows us to go to 50 or maybe even 45 percent of median income."

With the help of Forsyth Housing and USDA programs, it is possible for a local low-income family, those with an annual income of \$46,550 or less for a family of four, to purchase a home and have affordable mortgage payments.

Forsyth County Housing offers programs such as deferred payment second mortgage loans, while the USDA offers subsidized mortgage funds, which, depending on a family's income, could provide as little as one percent interest on loan repayments.

To qualify, applicants should have an adjusted annual income below 80 percent of the area median income; be without adequate housing that they own; have stable and dependable income and have good credit. Loan funds can be used to purchase existing or new homes.

According to Paul Butler, a local USDA Community Development Manager, his agency looks for opportunities to combine its services with other housing agencies. Such partnerships are win-wins for the consumer, he said.

See Housing on A13

Local people take part in a candle-light vigil last week.



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Leadership change for Dems

Former City Council Member Terry resigns as chair

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Human Resources Department.

Terry, who decided not to run for reelection in 2005 in order to pursue his theological aspirations, is also pastor of a small congregation in Mooresville.

"I don't have that kind of time," he added.

Terry announced his resignation at a meeting two weeks ago, and says that he intends to remain



active within the organization.

"Things are just now getting cranked up," he remarked. "I just look forward to being one of the troops and helping to make the party a success."

Despite the abbreviated term, Terry made a valuable impact on the organization, according to First Vice Chairman Mary Dickinson.

"We developed our strategic plan under Fred, and from our strategic plan, we had a long view on what we wanted to do in the party," she explained. "That has never really been done before."

Dickinson praised the former

See Dems on A11

Gift brings disabled man to tears

Mobility made easier for Michael Danzy with motorized wheelchair

TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A member of New Gospel Tabernacle Church received an awesome reward last Friday for his faith and holy service.

Michael Danzy, 23, has gone all over the community with the East Winston Community Prayer Band, stomping, clapping and singing old gospel songs. This is remarkable considering Danzy has Cerebral Palsy, which impairs his motor and mental capacities. When most children learned how to walk, Danzy learned how to use a walker.

The walker that he used to get into the church last week was so wide it almost filled the aisle between the pews at the small East Winston church.

But what Danzy left the church in was a power wheelchair, worth nearly \$7,000. The chair was donated to him by his fellow band members. Danzy was presented with the awesome surprise gift after a service held in his honor that night.

Joniest Moses, president of the gospel band and a deacon at New Gospel, opened the ceremony. Moses provides transportation for most of the elderly gospel band members as well as Danzy. He said Danzy, despite his physical limitations, was always ready to come and praise God.



The Rev. Johnny Johnson, left, and Joniest Moses, right, present Michael Danzy with the wheelchair.

"It's an inspiration to me to know that someone like Mike (is) all the time ready to go to church," said Moses, who also works at The Chronicle in the circulation department.

Moses said the gospel prayer band is made up mostly of older

members of various East Winston churches. The group performs at various churches and rest homes.

The band brings praise and worship with them wherever they go — using only their hands, feet and mouths to make a joyful noise.

"We sing without music. We sing

old music — foot stomping, hand clapping kind of music," said Moses.

The service for Danzy was filled with singing and foot stomping that shook the wooden floor of the church. It was also filled with quieter moments as members of the

See Danzy on A6



Solemn and hopeful AIDS ceremony held

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

More than 30 people came out for a candlelight service to remember the impact that HIV/AIDS has had on the community and the world.

The service was held in front of the Stevens Center on a frigid Wednesday night last week. It was organized by AIDS Care Service, a local organization that provides housing, food and other services for those with HIV and AIDS. It took place against a backdrop of more than 1,700 red ribbons, the universal symbols of AIDS awareness, that were hung in front of the Stevens Center, each representing a person living with HIV/AIDS in Northwest North Carolina. The service acted as a prelude to World AIDS Day, which was Saturday, Dec. 1.

The service featured singing by Diana Tuffin and reflections from those who have been touched by

See AIDS on A11