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has become
CIAA
legend

-See Page B1



More
voting sites
requested
by some

- See Page A3



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THE CHRONICLE

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SECOND CHANCES

NC residents with
felony records can
recover voting rights

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

A widespread misconception has kept some eligible voters from casting their ballots in past elections. Many ex-offenders mistakenly believe they are ineligible to vote, voting advocates say.

"(Ex-offenders) are among the groups that have been historically left out of the process," said Jennifer Frye, associate director of Democracy North Carolina, a nonpartisan organization that focuses on voting rights and campaign finance reform. "We don't want anybody to be turned away."

State law prohibits those with a felony conviction from voting, Frye says, but only temporarily. Ex-offenders are eligible to re-register as soon as their debts to society are paid.

"The rules vary state to state, but in North Carolina ... once you have completed all the terms of your sentence—which includes parole and restitution—you automatically have your voting rights restored," she remarked.

Ex-offenders who were registered prior to their convictions must re-register to exercise their voting rights. Once they have re-registered, ex-offenders may vote just as any other citizen would, Frye says.

"In order to feel like a full fledged citizen, that right to vote is very important for everybody, including those who have served their time," Frye pointed out. "I think for ex-offenders especially, the whole idea of serving time for a crime is to go through rehabilitation and be able to come back into society as a citizen, someone who is going to par-

See Voting on A4

RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH SPIKE



Members of Black Men for Change share a laugh with Director Spike Lee last week after the filmmaker's appearance on the Winston-Salem State University campus. Black Men for Change is a student group that is involved in myriad on-and-off campus activities. The organization hosted a forum on the State of the Black Male just hours before Lee's lecture.

Photo by Jason Pitt

Guest readers share classic Dr. Seuss tales with kids

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

It's not every day the mayor reads a Dr. Seuss book to a class of enthusiastic third graders, but Monday was an unusual day at Kimberly Park Elementary School.

The school took part in Read Across America this week. The event promotes reading by getting schools to encourage students to read Seuss's famous children's books.

Locally, several elementary schools have invited guests to come and read Seuss's work to students this week.

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines was one of the

celebrity readers at Kimberly Park.

"I try to support this every year because, to me, just encouraging strong reading habits is so important for these young people's success, not only in education but in their careers," said Joines. "I am fearful with computers and video games (that) we may be losing some focus on reading."

Joines, dressed in his customary suit and tie, sat on a stool as he read "Oh, the Places You'll Go!," which

is Seuss's final book. Published in 1990, the book reflects on life's struggles. Joines read each page and discussed its meaning as he showed the students the book's illustrations.

Joines was not the last visi-



Teacher Sherry McCollum



Students enjoy a breakfast of green eggs and ham.

Photos by Todd Luck

tor Johari McRae's third grade class, which is made up of all boys, would receive. Jamie King, a member of Best Buy's Geek Squad (the store's computer repair team), visited the

class dressed in full Geek Squad attire. King—who also makes shirts for the school through his business, Next Level Sports Gear—read "The King's Stilts."

McRae applauded the visitors for taking time to read to her students. She said their presence was a real benefit to

See Reading on A13

Artists community unites to help two of its own

Couple lost everything in house fire

Photos by Jason Pitt

James "Jams" Jolliff, or Brother Reade, rocks the house at the Werehouse.

Far Right: Justin "Dirt" Holm and Jody Erickson enjoy the music.



JAESON PITT
THE CHRONICLE

The city's talented community of young artists came together Monday to help one of its own.

A benefit showcase at the Werehouse featured bands, singers, rappers and musicians, all of whom donated their talents to help raise money for Justin "Dirt" Holm and Jody Erickson, a couple who lost everything in a Feb. 17 house fire. As contributing artists in the downtown arts scene, Holm and Erickson have little in terms of a security blanket to fall back on.

A minimum \$5 donation



was requested for admission into the fundraiser at the Werehouse, a popular Third

Street creative hub. Prior to the performances of the bands Young Sons, Love Language, Autopassion, in which Holm is a guitarist, and Hip-Hop acts Brother Reade and DJ SK, the venue announced that it had already raised close to \$800 for the couple. The dough was donated through solicitations at Krankies Coffee (which has a location in the Werehouse), The Garage, 6th&Vine restaurant, Elliot's Revue and Hatch Inc.

Folks also donated gift cards, clothes, and household items. Mayor Allen Joines

See Artists on A11

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