



Parkland runners celebrate successes

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Locals talk about Obama's ex pastor

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Students celebrate Cinco de Mayo

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New Boys and Girls Club dedicated

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Though it won't be open for business until June, Winston-Salem's first new Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club in 56 years was dedicated last week.

The facility's large gymnasium was transformed into a posh banquet hall for the dedication ceremony, which attracted more than 500 people and also served as a fund-raiser for the club. The new, state-of-the-art facility on Reynolds Park Road will replace the current club on Martin Luther King Drive, which has served the community for more than half century. About 400 children, ages five to 18, take part in after-school and summer programs at the club. All services are provided with



The new club is on Reynolds Park Road.

Photos by Todd Luck

The new Ken Carlson Boys and Girls Club is named for a longtime Salvation Army board member, donor and volunteer. A doctor and prolific community volunteer, Carlson has given more than 900 children free physicals in the last decade. He is excited that the new facility bears his name.

"With this new facility and the support of the community, the future of this organization is really something else," said Carlson.

The new club has \$4 million price tag, is 22,000 square feet and can accommodate 1,000 members. The switch over to the new club is planned for the second week of June. The old location will then be used for the Salvation Army's emergency assistance and Christmas programs.

Sylvia Adams, the club's executive director, is pleased with the club's upgrade.

"I've been here for about 20 years and we have watched the old building on Martin Luther King -- we've

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minimal cost to parents.

"We try to make it affordable, and I think that's what sets us apart from

other youth-providing agencies," said Lisa Parish, director of operations at the club.



Willa Abbott

Nurse Abbott's lifetime of caring

After 41 years, she prepares for retirement

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Registered nurse Willa Abbott has seen it all. For four long decades, she has cared for patients at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. In the midst of National Nurses' Week, observed May 6-12, the soon-to-be retiree reflected on a successful career that began in 1966, when Abbott, a girl of 21, landed a job at the prestigious, and predominantly white, facility. She was five days out of nursing school.

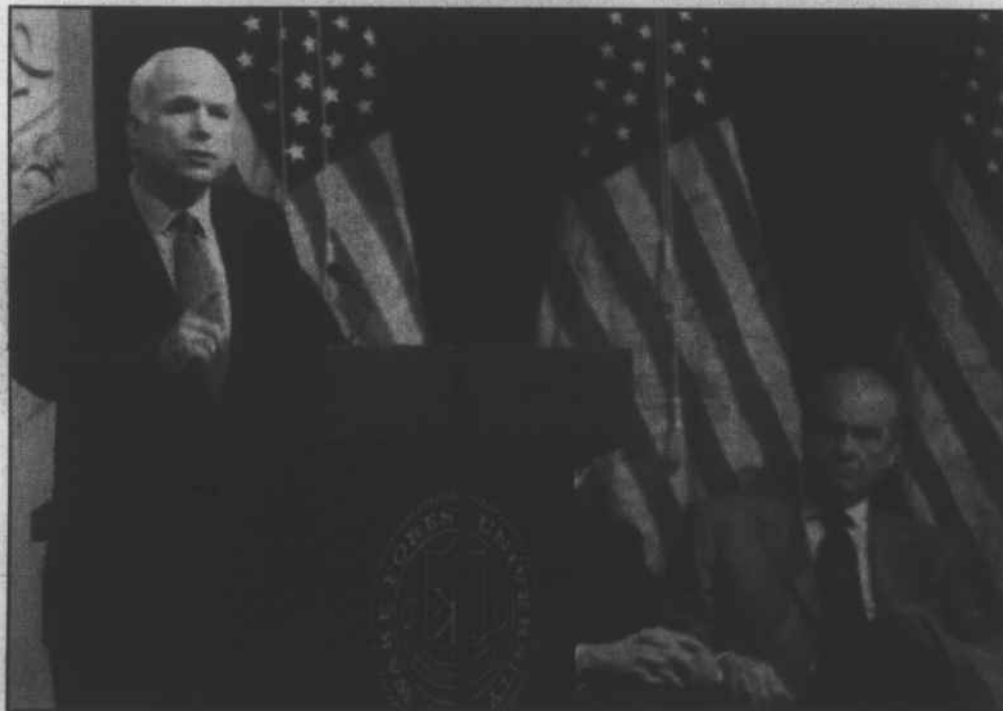
"I came over to Baptist and applied for a job and they of course for some reason hired me," she quipped. "It's been a good fit for me or I wouldn't have stayed for so long."

Though she was hired on her first attempt, Abbott says she didn't always feel welcome at her new place of employment.

"It wasn't easy for me per-

See Abbott on A11

CITY HOSTS ANOTHER HOPEFUL



WFU Photo

Sen. John McCain of Arizona speaks to a packed house Tuesday morning in Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University. McCain took part in a forum on the federal judiciary and became the latest presidential hopeful to visit Winston-Salem. Sen. Hillary Clinton was here, also at WFU, two weeks ago. And a week ago, Sen. Barack Obama was in town for a rally. Sitting next to him is former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson, who is best known as a television and film actor. Thompson was one of several Republicans that McCain beat in the GOP Presidential Primary process. In November, he will take on either Obama or Clinton.



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garmis

Chancellor Donald Reaves, from left, sits by Marshall Bass and Geneva Brown during last week's service.

Chorus of caring voices helps kids in need in Africa



Photo by Todd Luck

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

For the past three years, grocery chain Harris Teeter has held a contest, inviting its customers in nine states to sing its famous "My Harris Teeter" jingle.

The lofty \$10,000 prize attracts many creative contestants. Harris Teeter's Jennifer Panetta said that she thought she'd seen it all until a local entry caught the store's attention this year.

"We've had groups. We've had individuals. We've had people singing in their bathrooms. We've never had a group of children who sent in and wanted to give the money away," said Panetta.

Those were the intentions of a second-grade grade class at Forsyth Country Day School in Lewisville. The students entered the contest with the goal of giving their winnings to the Amani Children's Foundation, a local charity that provides for children orphaned by AIDS and poverty in Kenya.

But the students' attempt to help children an

REMEMBERING GREATNESS

School recalls service of Wilveria Bass Atkinson

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University mourned the loss of Dr. Wilveria Bass Atkinson, one its most distinguished former faculty members, in a special memorial service on campus last Friday afternoon.

Atkinson, a WSSU professor for more than three decades and the former chair of the Department of Life Sciences, passed away Feb. 29 in Morehead City, NC. A native of Goldsboro, Atkinson became an internationally-known educator and is credited with putting WSSU's Life Sciences Department on the proverbial map, procuring more than \$24 million in funding for the institution over the course of her career.



Atkinson in 2005.

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