

# BUSINESS FOCUS

## Briefs

### Biscuit makers honored for skills

Area residents did well in the recent Biscuitville Inc. Biscuit Bake-Off.

Ken Underwood, operator of the Battleground Avenue location in Greensboro, won the title of "Company-Wide Management Champion for 2008." Wendy Davis, a crew member at the Rockingham location, won the Company-Wide Crew Championship.

"The Biscuitmaker Bake-Off was developed as a way to recognize and honor our biscuit makers and to improve our biscuit quality and consistency company wide," stated Connie Bennett, director of operations.

Made-from-scratch biscuits are what Biscuitville does best and the Bake-Off is a part of the continual focus on ensuring customers get the best biscuits possible. One crew member and one management member is selected from each of its restaurants and then compete in four district competitions. The winners of each of our four district competitions then go on to compete in the company-wide competition. Each competitor is judged on individual biscuit-making procedures, speed, biscuit color, texture, size and overall appearance. Winners of the district and company-wide competitions are awarded cash and prize packages, which are delivered to the winners by our Back-Off Prize Patrol.

Biscuitville Inc. is based in Greensboro.

### Registration open for Women's Entrepreneur Conference

The Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship, Commission on the Status of Women, and Greensboro Chamber of Commerce will host the Women's Entrepreneur Conference on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Elliott University Center on the University of North Carolina at Greensboro campus. The theme for the conference is "Equipping Women Entrepreneurs to Thrive in the 21st Century". Attendees will be able to attend up to four educational workshops and develop their business skills in a variety of areas. The cost of the workshop is \$25 and exhibitor space is available.

In addition, there will be four interactive workshops for 30 high school girls entitled, Young Divas Making Millions. The girls will participate in workshops on product development, business planning, and marketing. The cost of the workshop for high school girls is \$15.

Attendees may register online at [www.nussbaumcfe.com](http://www.nussbaumcfe.com).

### Leadership Winston-Salem has new board members

Leadership Winston-Salem has 12 new members of its Board of Directors.

Chairing the Board of Directors is David P. Barksdale; the Vice Chair is Robert S. Parker; Secretary is Kathy Goliszek; Treasurer is H. Greg Bray, a new board member; and the immediate past Chair is Chris Leak.

In addition to Bray, newly appointed board members are Ronnie Abernathy, Assistant Police Chief with the Winston-Salem Police Department; Eric Aft, Vice President for Community Planning & Investment with the United Way of Forsyth County; Alison Ashe-Card, an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice; John Bost, President of Master Counsel & Associates, Inc. and Mayor of Clemmons; Shari Covitz, Vice President for Institutional Advancement for Forsyth Technical Community College and Executive Director of the Foundation; Raymond Gatland, Senior Vice President, Treasury Services for Wachovia Bank; Donna Hamilton, Counsel with the Wake Forest University Legal Department; Harold Holmes, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Student Services for Wake Forest University; Cheryl Joyner, Senior Vice President & Manager of Client Communications for BB&T; Peter Juran, an attorney with Blanco Tackabery; and Dr. Ernie Wade, President & Lead Consultant for Dr. Ernie Wade & Associates. All new board members are alumni of Leadership Winston-Salem, a community leadership program.



Abernathy

### Indian tech company coming to Wake County

HCL America Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading global information technology services firm HCL Technologies, will open a facility in Wake County.

The company will invest \$3.2 million and hire 513 employees during the next five years, thanks in part to a state Job Development Investment Grant.

The North Carolina facility will be HCL's first delivery center in North America. Wages for the 513 new positions will average \$46,660, not including benefits.

HCL America was established in 1989 and is headquartered in Sunnyvale, Calif. The company has approximately 3,000 employees working at various customer locations in 15 states, including 33 in North Carolina. These employees provide application development and maintenance, IT infrastructure management, English and Spanish help desk support, storage design and other consulting services for United States customers.

For more information about HCL America and employment opportunities with the company, visit: [www.hcltech.com](http://www.hcltech.com).

## Winner has a thousand reasons to love M&F

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A Fayetteville woman has pocketed a \$1,000 prize in a Mechanics & Farmers Bank contest that was held to celebrate the bank's 100th anniversary.

Quanasha Robinson received her check last week in Durham, where M&F was founded in August 1908 and is still headquartered today. She was one of 120 semi-finalists. Beginning in August 2007, each month 10 winners were selected to receive a \$100 prize from their local M&F branch in Durham, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem or Charlotte, which made them eligible for the grand prize.

The bank provided drop boxes at every company branch for entry form submissions. Participants could also mail-in the forms. The bank not only encouraged their customers to participate, but the whole community.

M&F President and CEO Kim D. Saunders presented the winner's check along with Bank Board Chairman James Stewart, Board Member Aaron Spaulding.

Adding to the excitement, the winner's name was drawn by Audrey Cox, the reigning 2008 Miss Black North Carolina.

"This event today ends the official Centennial celebration which began in February 2007 with the Founders Day celebration. It was the kick-off, and we've been cele-



Photo by David Webb/M&F

brating ever since," said Saunders. "We will continue to look for ways to celebrate our history and build on our rich legacy in the future."

Robinson had much praise for M&F. "It feels great to be a winner," exclaimed Robinson. "I plan to open a savings account with Mechanics and Farmers Bank. I love the bank, its services and the people who work there. They give great customer service!"

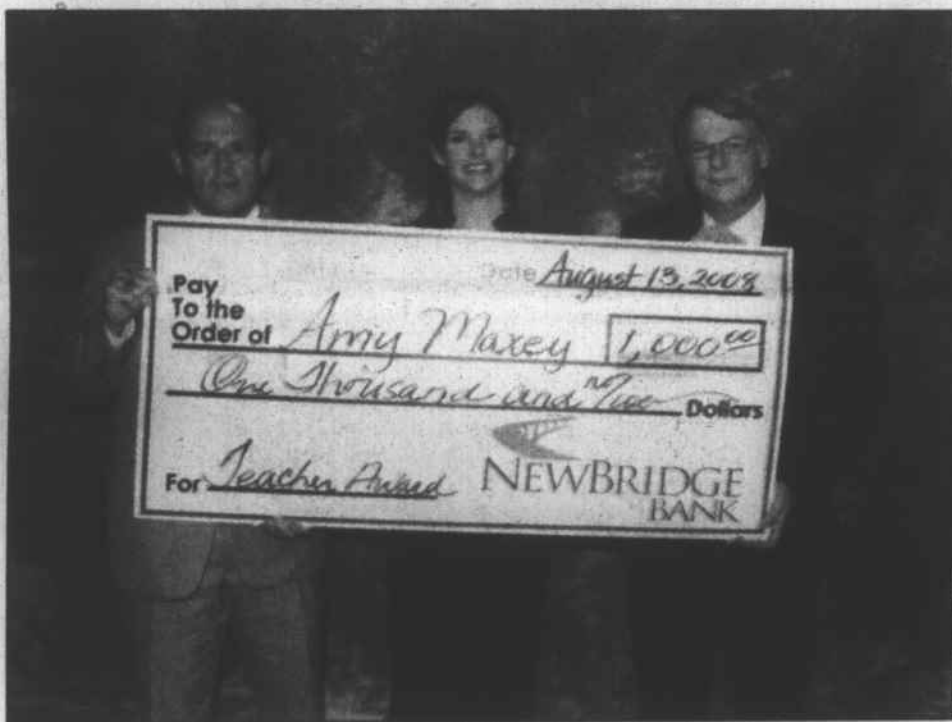
So, where does M&F Bank go from here? "We have a grand vision, just like our founding fathers had a

grand vision," Saunders said. "We hope that they are looking down upon us and they are pleased with the progress that we have made over this century. We have taken their initial \$10,000 investment and today, due to the work of many, many individuals, shareholders, customers, associates and directors, we now represent more than \$250 million in assets. So we have significantly grown their initial investment to a bank that is the largest minority-owned bank in the state of North Carolina; and that is located in all five major cities."

## HONORING EXCELLENCE

New Bridge Bank Photo

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools' Teacher of the Year Amy Maxey, center, has claimed another honor. New Bridge Bank has named her its Outstanding Teacher of the Month for August, an honor that came with a \$1,000 prize. Also pictured is New Bridge Bank President and CEO Pressley Ridgill, right, and West Forsyth High School Principal W. Kurt Telford, Maxey's boss.



## Young Republicans taking author Weaver on N.C. tour

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Conservative motivational speaker Mason Weaver will give several speeches in North Carolina beginning this week.

Weaver - author of "It's OK to Leave the Plantation: The New Underground Railroad" and a frequent guest on the Christian television show, "700 Club" - is being brought to the state by the North Carolina Federation of Young Republicans.

The grassroots organization for Republicans between 18 and 40 years old, will sponsor appearances by Weaver in Charlotte, Asheville and Jacksonville. He will also make stops along the way to support local Republican candidates and promote his most recent book, "Polishing the Diamond in the Rough."

"We are bringing Mason here to mobilize black voters and youth voters in North Carolina in a new way. He brings a fresh and well-articulated perspective - one that is very much opposed to liberal thinking," said Kim Cotten, state chairman for the Young Republicans. "This is a critical time to mobilize conservatives. With over 1.8 million blacks or African Americans and more than 2.8 million young adults, these are key populations to reach out to in this election."

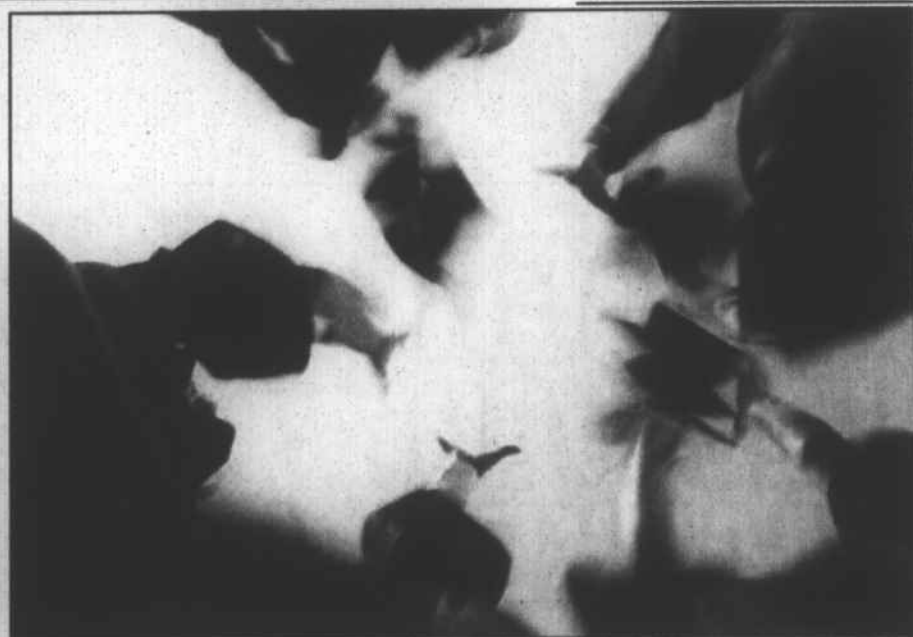
Weaver rose from tragedy to triumph. He was a young Navy sailor when 2,800 pounds of steel and iron plates fell on him while on duty in San Diego. The Navy classified him disabled and discharged him. He went to college and established a background in business and the public sector.

He once worked for the U.S. Department of Energy, where he negotiated multi-million dollar government contracts with major contractors such as General Dynamics and General Electric.

He formed his own private consulting company in 1980, which led to a lucrative career as a motivational speaker and wealth building workshop leader.



Mason Weaver



## Salem part of deal to offer degrees in Randolph County

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Salem College, Pfeiffer University, Greensboro College and Randolph Community College have signed a letter of agreement to form the new University Center of Randolph County.

Through the partnership, the four institutions will offer courses on the campus of Randolph Community College that will enable students in particular disciplines to complete baccalaureate degrees. Students will be able to take courses beginning this fall, with each of the four institutions specializing in a particular area of study.

Salem will offer two courses in business administration through its

Fleer School for Adult Education; the courses will be taught at the Randolph Community College location by Ed Hartgrove, a member of Salem's business and economics faculty.

Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the courses taught by Greensboro, Pfeiffer and Randolph Community will ultimately lead to baccalaureate degree-granting programs in business, criminal justice and education.

Ultimate responsibility for the new University Center will be shared by the presidents' council, consisting of the president of each of the participating institutions, while a coordinating council will oversee all course offerings and other administrative duties.



Faith Hill

## IAAP elects new leaders

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) recently elected new members to its Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 term.

IAAP has about 700 chapters and 40,000 members and affiliates throughout the world. It is the world's largest association for administrative support staff.

Faith Hill was elected president of the local chapter, while Wanda Ervin is the new president-elect. Robin Shamel is vice president; Sherry Waycaster is the secretary; the treasurer is Emily Long; the certification/education director is Debra Gibson; Jo A. Peay is membership director; Joan Roggenkamp is program director; Patty Atwood is the new student chapter director; and Sue Matney is publications director.

IAAP is made up of members from many different backgrounds, including administrative professionals, secretaries, executive/administrative assistants, information specialists and other office support personnel.

The local chapter meets at 5:45 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the offices of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, 1 W 4th St. The meeting cost is \$12 per person and includes dinner and the program.

For registration information, call Patricia Shelton at 336-480-2101.