



Atkins tries to get its props on the field

-See Page B1



Company donates its time to Mission

-See Page A3



Salem students

North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
FIRM...5-DIGIT 27101
22 03:609
ADMINISTRATION
FORSYTH COUNTY
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2705

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXV No. 4

THURSDAY, September 25, 2008

Teens say racism still lives

Personal stories of bigotry told at city-sponsored forum

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Ten high school students spoke candidly Tuesday evening about their experiences with racism and race relations during a forum sponsored by the City of Winston-Salem's Human Relations Commission and hosted by Atkins Academic & Technology High School. The annual student forum coincided with Race Equality Week, Sept. 22-26.

"It's important that adults can hear some of the issues that young people are facing on a daily basis in high school ... (because) a lot of people think racism doesn't exist anymore," said Wanda Allen-Abraham, director of the Commission. "The problems that they have these days are a lot different than they were even 20 years ago."

City Council Member Joycelyn Johnson welcomed the smattering of students and community members to the school, which is located



Photos by Layla Farmer

Panelists Toby Durotoye, from left, Kevin Pichardo and Breyinn Loftin.

in the East Ward she represents.

"It's your generation, young people, who are going to make the difference for Winston-Salem," Johnson said. "My hat's off to you ...

you've got a whole lot of work on your shoulders."

Radio Personality Manard "Busta" Brown of

See Forum on A14



Photo courtesy of Davis Family

Newlyweds Garrett Davis and Carol Montague-Davis.

New last name and a new job

Montague-Davis insists she is not running away from Carver

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The year 2008 has been full of new beginnings for Carol Montague-Davis. The respected Carver High School principal wed Playwright Garrett Davis on July 19. Now, the newlywed says she's ready to take the next step in her career, as well.

Late last week, Montague-Davis accepted the position of assistant superintendent of middle schools for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system. She is expected to assume her new duties by November. A search for a new Carver principal is already underway.

Montague-Davis took over leadership at Carver in 2004. The school has had a tumultuous period during her brief tenure.

Plagued by declining enrollment and slipping test scores, factors that existed before she was hired, Wake County Judge Howard Manning Jr. threatened to close Carver and other schools in the state with consistently low test scores.

The community rallied around Carver after the judge made his threat, which turned out to be idle. Many credit Montague with acting as the glue that held the school, and the community that supported it, together during those lean years.

"Ms. Montague-Davis did an excellent job

See Montague-Davis on A11

Classes dismissed by city inspectors

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

When Positive Image Performing Arts (PIPA) Owner Courtney Taylor moved into her new location - 722 N. Liberty St. - earlier this month, she thought she was making a fresh start in the newly-remodeled building.

The polished wood floors, giant mirrors and wide open spaces seemed perfect for the more than 100 young dancers who come to her studio to learn ballet, tap and hip hop moves.

The five-year old business was really coming into its own, Taylor said.

"It's almost like we've gotten our second wind ... we just got 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) status," she remarked. "We're right on the cusp of truly reaching success."

But the city is saying, 'not so fast.'

Taylor has had to halt classes because city inspectors say the building is in need of repairs in order to make it appropriate for a dance studio. She broke the news to parents and her students last week.

Taylor is especially frustrated about the city's actions because she says she tried, in vain, to get a city inspector to give the building an inspection before she moved in.



Photo by Jason Pitt

Courtney Taylor stands in front of her recently shut-down dance school.

"We never could get anybody to come," according to Taylor, who said that two inspectors ignored her requests.

Assistant Inspections Director Dan Dockery said he is unaware of requests by Taylor being ignored. Taylor, Dockery and the city's

inspections department has a long and tumultuous history. Earlier this year, Taylor was forced out of another

See Taylor on A14

SUCCESS STORIES

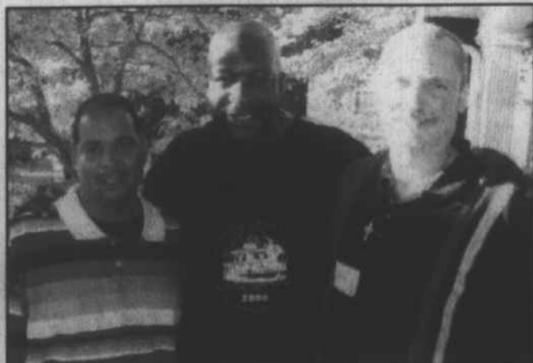


Photo by Kevin Walker

The Fellowship Home Executive Director Thom Elmore, center, poses with two alumni of the substance abuse recovery program, which had its annual reunion on Saturday. Read next week's Chronicle to learn more about the innovative program and the successes of the men who have graduated from it.

Hotels praise their dedicated housekeepers

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

International Housekeepers Week (Sept. 14-20) could have come and gone with no little fanfare, but the Embassy Suites and Marriott Hotel downtown found a unique way to observe the occasion.

Many members of the hotels' housekeeping staffs watched from the sidewalk as a team from the Marriott and an Embassy team competed in a short bed race on the portion of Cherry Street in between the two hotels. That section of the street was temporary shut down so that it could be determined which of the teams would be the first to wheel their bed to the finish line.

Both hotels are owned by Noble Investment Group. The managerial staffs of each



Photos by Todd Luck

Jim Williams is all smiles as his Embassy Suites team prepares to push him down Cherry Street.

See Housekeepers on A12



In Memory of
**Charlene
Russell Brown**

"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

