



Girls b-ball league grows in popularity

-See Page B7



Service celebrates slain officers

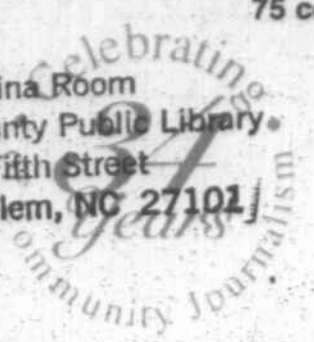
-See Page A3



Women take in family tea event

-See Page B1

North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101



THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXV No. 38

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, May 21, 2009

No plans to close Sims Center

New director will be in place by the end of summer

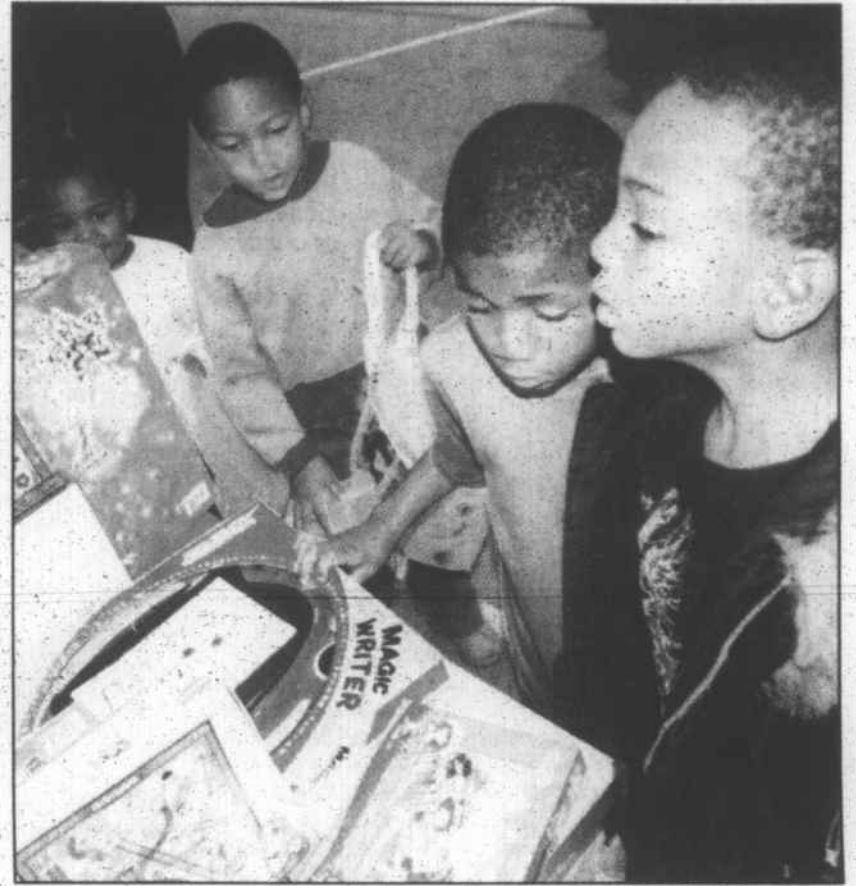
BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Inquiring minds are asking about the fate of the William C. Sims Recreation Center a week after it was revealed that the longtime director of the center will be departing.

Questions about the fate of the Sims Rec Center were being asked even before the city's Recreation and Parks Department decided to transfer Ben Piggott across town to the Carl Russell Recreation Center. The Happy Hill community where the Sims Center is located is no longer home to the sprawling public housing complex that once flanked the center. The Housing Authority of Winston-Salem won a HOPE VI grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform Happy Hill Gardens into a mixed income community of single-family homes, townhouses and apartments. Most of the residents who lived in the public housing complex moved away to make way for the change and did not return when the redevelopment was completed.

Tim Grant, the director Recreation and Parks, says that attendance at the Sims Center has waned since the area was revamped.

"There's definitely been a decline," he stated. "We don't see as many kids as we used to, month to month, week to week, day



Kids line up to receive a gift at the Sims Center's most recent Peace Toys for War Toys Exchange.



Jeter Floyd stands outside of the Kopper Kitchen on Fifth Street.

Smoking Mad

Cigarette ban has few fans in Twin City

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Gov. Bev Perdue signed into law this week a ban on smoking at most places in the state where food and drinks are served. The law, which will go into effect January 2, 2010, imposes a smoke-free mandate upon nightclubs, bars and restaurants, although some "members only" establishments such as country clubs and other private meeting spots are excluded.



Anderson

After years of discussion, the General Assembly OK'd the bill before sending it to Perdue's desk. According to the Associated Press, North Carolina will become the 33rd state,

including the District of Columbia, with laws banning smoking in places such as restaurants, workplaces, bars or some combination. The N.C. law does not apply to workplaces or public places.

Any move to ban or limit smoking in this state is significant, since for decades tobacco was the backbone of North Carolina's economy. State Rep. Larry Womble is well aware of tobacco's storied history in the state and here in Forsyth County, where R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. has done so much for so many. But Womble said he

See Smoking on A10

Station employees told to 'KISS' off

Corporation's downsizing affects local employees

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

In the tidal wave that is our economic downturn, the radio industry is just another vessel that has begun to take on water. Several staffers at Greensboro-based 105.7 KISS FM know this all too well, as they find themselves up that proverbial creek without a paddle.

Brian Anthony, the station's former program manager, was among those let go late last month by the Clear Channel Communications, Inc.-owned station. 105.7 KISS, which promised to deliver a unique blend of classic and contemporary R&B when it launched a few years ago, has now just a skeleton staff of locals to man the media outlet.

The layoffs are the latest in a string of downsizing measures that Clear Channel, which owns more than 1,200 radio stations, has undergone since Inauguration Day,

when it quietly disposed of nearly nine percent of its employee base, according to mediapost.com.

Anthony, whose time in the industry has taken him from "turntables to computers," and other local Clear Channel personalities were among some 590 employees who were dismissed during the latest layoffs, according to an April 29 article on inquisitr.com.

"I don't have any ill will with the company. I've been with the (Clear Channel) company for 11 years; they've been good to me and my family," commented Anthony, who helped to launch KISS FM just over two years ago.

Anthony said his contract at the station had come to an end and he knew that with the company downsizing, renewing the contract was not a guarantee.

KISS FM on-air personality KJ in the Midday and the local Steve Harvey Morning

See KISS on A8



Brian Anthony says he is not looking back with regret or bitterness.

Singing praises of the unsung

Those working at the grassroots thanked for service

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

When neighborhoods burdened with crime and poverty initiate efforts to revitalize and engage their communities, those efforts rarely go unnoticed.

However, the people behind those efforts often do escape public notice, rarely getting recognition for their work. That's why the Winston-Salem State University Center for Community Safety (CCS) holds its biennial Community Safety Awards, to recognize those unsung heroes.

The most recent ceremony



Honoree Karen Redding, center, with Judge Todd Burke and WSSU Provost Jessica Bailey.

was held Friday at the new Family Services Building on Broad Street. Five awards were presented. "It really is to recognize the people who work to help

our community be safer," said CCS Interim Director Alvin Atkinson. "(The public) really doesn't know all the work that is done."

The CCS has been working with partner agencies to revitalize high-crime neighborhoods since 2001. It manages local Weed and Seed programs, which strives to "weed" out crime and "seed" communities with innovative programs. The awards are presented to those who work in the neighborhoods where the CSS has a presence.

The Resident Award went to Karen Redding, a single white mother of three biracial children who has lived in Salem Gardens, a mostly black, low-income community, for nine years. She's president of Salem Gardens Adult Council, which provides vol-

See Awards on A9

VP @ WFU



Timothy Davis, the John W. & Ruth H. Turnage Professor of Law at Wake Forest, does the hooding honors for Vice President Joe Biden on Monday as Biden accepts an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. The vice president served as the speaker at the school's commencement ceremony.

DCN'T PASS THE BUCK BUY LOCAL

