



Flag football teams keep it lively

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Coach Gaines honors presented

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Dads feted as heroes at Y dinner

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

# THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXV No. 43

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, June 25, 2009



Tyler Smith looks on as his mom, Shelly Smith, and her Blue Cross co-worker, Koya Goolsby, put together a sign.

## Juneteenth more than just a day in the park

Freedom celebration draws large crowd

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

This year's Triad Juneteenth Celebration at Winston Lake Park had all the trappings of a summer festival. Brightly colored tents dotted the lawn in front of the lake, and a slow breeze rippled the water. The scent of smoked barbecue floated on the air, blending with the music performed live by area artists. Children perched happily atop their parents' shoulders as the adults strolled easily from one vendor to the next, while other youngsters raced and giggled from one end of the park to the other.



Photo by Layla Farmer

Families gathered beneath shade trees, fanning themselves with pamphlets to stave off the baking heat.

Saturday's festival was held at Winston Lake Park for the first time this year.

"We hope we've found a home. It's such a beautiful location with the water and the shading with the trees, it's just excellent," said Cheryl Harry, the founder and executive director of Triad Cultural Arts. "Everybody's excited about coming back to the lake. People have (fond) memories of being at the lake."

The annual festival has been observed in Winston-Salem for roughly the last two decades, but its origin dates back 144 years to June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers made it to their final destination in Galveston, Texas, to notify the last slaves in the country that their fervent prayers had finally been answered: they were free. Not surprisingly, the news was met with great celebration, and the tradition of Juneteenth has persisted ever since.

"I'm excited because there's an increased awareness about Juneteenth and the significance of it, its meaning, and that's where I want to keep it focused," Harry remarked. "It's a time in our history that ought to be remembered."

Cedrina Baugh, Kris Feemster and Adrian Malone attend-

See Juneteenth on A8

## It Takes a Village to Raise a Playground

Volunteers show up in force to construct wonderland for kids

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds descended upon the Winston Lake Family YMCA on Saturday morning, determined to transform a barren plot of land into a child's paradise.

Earlier in the year, the Winston Lake Family Y applied for and received a grant from the nonprofit KaBOOM, which works to create a nation where every child lives within walking distance of a safe place to play and unwind.

It wasn't like little ones weren't playing in and around the Winston Lake Y. The branch is within walking distance of football and baseball fields that play host to kid-league match-ups. But as far as an old-fashioned playground - one with swings, a slide and other tot-friendly contraptions - there was nothing in the vicinity, until volunteers began the painstaking task of assembling one on a day that turned out to be one of the hottest so far this year.

"People have come out like crazy," Shawan Gabriel, the executive director of the Winston Lake Y said on Saturday, about an hour into the daylong building project. "Everybody just wants to make sure that our kids have a safe place to play."



Omega Men Bobby Collins (WSSU's basketball coach), Joe Ward and Cornelious Flood assemble a swing.

See Playground on A12

## Minister focuses on competency tests

Some seniors denied diplomas because they failed tests in the eighth-grade

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Some members of the Class of 2009 didn't take home diplomas after this month's high school commencement ceremonies. And Emmanuel Baptist Church wants to hear from them.



Mendez

The Rev. John Mendez, Emmanuel's pastor, will lead a community discussion about the state's controversial testing policy

that requires that all high school seniors pass competency tests in reading, math and computers. The tests are given in the eighth grade, and those who fail have numerous opportunities to retake it throughout their high school years and even after that. The Class of 2009 was the first graduating class affected by the new testing policy. Seniors who had not passed the test by

See Tests on A9

## ALL FIRED UP!

Women's team excited about upcoming firefighters competition

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

A five member team of local female firefighters are in for the challenge of a lifetime as they prepare to race the clock and other competitors to bring home the gold at the upcoming Scotts Firefighter Challenge in Lexington, Ky.

Firefighters Amy Harris, Marlene Kostyrka, Joy Lacy, Angie Richardson and Danielle White make up this year's women's squad, known as the Piedmont Nutrition and Fitness team, that will compete in the challenge on Aug. 14-15.

"I'm excited; I'm ready," White declared.



Photo by Layla Farmer

Front row: Joy Lacy and Angie Richardson with (back row) Marlene Kostyrka, Amy Harris and Danielle White.

See Firefighters on A9

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