



Volleyball players visit sick children

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Man walking to combat obesity

-See Page A9



Students have Zumba Party
North Carolina Zumba
Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101



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BLACK, FEMALE & IN CHARGE

Current and former judges discuss their challenges and motivations

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Although she was the one in a robe with a gavel, Loretta Biggs said she often felt that she was the one being judged when she became only Forsyth County's second black female District Court judge in 1987.

"I had to prove myself, whereas with the white males, it was assumed they would do a good job," Biggs told a group of Winston-Salem State University students last week.

Biggs, now a noted attorney, would go on to serve on the N.C. Court of Appeals after spending nearly a decade on the District Court bench. She



Attorney Loretta Biggs joined Judges Camille Banks-Payne and Denise Hartsfield.

said she fought hard to never let the doubts of others about her abilities interfere with her job as a judge.

"You've got to be careful not to be disturbed



by that (prejudice)," she said. "You've got to take that on as a challenge."

Biggs and current District Court Judges Denise Hartsfield and Camille Banks-Payne



took part in a panel discussion held in observance of Women's History Month. The discussion was part of the school's Joseph N. Patterson Lecture and

Assembly Series. Camille Kluttz-Leach, general counsel for WSSU, served as the moderator for the hour-long program.

Kluttz-Leach asked the women to talk about their experiences on the bench as women of color before turning the floor over to the students, who were eager to ask their own questions.

Banks-Payne was appointed in January 2008 when she was in her early 30s. She was elected to a full four-year term later that year. She is the youngest member on the District Court bench.

She says her age can also pose a problem when it comes to getting the

See Judges on A2



Frye



Gordon

Candidates seek essential clerk position

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Of all the political races that will be decided in the upcoming Primary and General Election, the clerk of court race is not one of the most publicized, but the job itself is of great import to county citizens, candidates say.

The clerk of court serves Forsyth County in various capacities, even acting as a judiciary in cases involving will probates, the administration of estates, adoptions, incompetency hearings, foreclosures and other issues, according to the Web site nccourts.com.

Democrat Lawrence "Nick" Gordon, who was appointed Clerk of Court last year when former Clerk Terry Holbrook retired, will face some Primary competition from Susan Frye, an arbitration manager for District Court Judge William Reingold. Both Frye and Gordon are Winston-Salem natives with more than three decades' experience in the justice system.

Gordon, an attorney, began practicing in the early 1970s, becoming a partner in several firms before striking out on his own about nine years ago. Leaving his practice behind to take on the clerkship in April 2009 was not an easy decision for him, but Gordon says he is glad he did it. "I took this on as a challenge," he said of the position. "...I had one goal and that was to make the Forsyth County Clerk's Office the best clerk's office in the state."

Gordon says he has made some important strides during his tenure.

"I've strongly emphasized training and cross-training of all of my employees so that they can better serve the people that come to us," he stated. "...I've put a large emphasis on trying to be as open and as helpful to the people that come to the Clerk's Office as we can possibly be."

Gordon believes his legal expertise are

See Clerk on A9

Hospital's Milestone is Young Woman's Life-Saving Miracle

Medical Center's 2,000th transplant recipient happy to be alive

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

A 23-year-old Hickory woman received the 2,000th organ transplanted by Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's Abdominal Organ Transplantation Program.

Marisa Slaton's February kidney transplant, performed by Dr. Robert Stratta, was a landmark event for the 40-year transplant program, but it was even more special to Slaton, whose outlook was gloomy before the surgery.

The transplant was such a life changing experience for Slaton that her mother, Marion Slaton, says her daughter now has two birthdays: the day Marisa was born and Feb. 19, 2010, the day she received her life-saving kidney transplant.



Hairston

The surgery was the light at the end of the tunnel for mother and daughter, following a seven-year ordeal that began when Marisa suffered a debilitating stroke caused by a double aneurysm at age 16. After being rushed to a hospital in Baton Rouge, La., the family's hometown, Marisa suffered a seizure and slipped into a coma, her mother says.

"They didn't think she was going to make it through the night," Marion Slaton related. "...They thought she was brain dead and they were asking me to make decisions I wasn't ready to make ... I remember crawling on top of her and begging her to live."

Marisa survived, but her kidneys did not. Marion Slaton came to her



See Transplant on A5 Marisa Slaton with her mother, Marion (left).

Helping Rams



Local American Red Cross Leader Hugh Quinn, second from right, accepts a check from Rams H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Prosper Everyday) last week on the Winston-Salem State University campus. The funds will be used to aid earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

Church already using new center to its fullest

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Carver School Road Church of Christ dedicated its new Family Life Center on Sunday.

The multi-purpose space can serve as a large fellowship hall or a gymnasium. It features a large kitchen and three upstairs classrooms. The center, which is adjacent to the church's main building, was completed in May 2009 and has already been well used for many events and activities.

The largest area of the Life Center is called the Frank W. Dulin Fellowship Hall. It is named for the church's Elder Emeritus, Dulin, 82, began his involvement with the church in 1955. He taught Sunday School for 45 years and even preached the morning worship service for a short time when the church



Mayor Allen Joines joins church leaders and members in cutting the ribbon.

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