



Lady golfers earn ACC accolades

-See Page B8



Program trains boys to be men

-See Page A11



Guests readers visit

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

75 cents
Celebrating 35 Years of Community Journalism

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXVI No. 36

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, May 6, 2010

15 120410 1 MEMBERS-DIGIT 27101
N.C. ROOM
FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
660 W. 5TH ST
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27101-2785



Photos by Layla Farmer

Joshua Ricci lights candles during the vigil while local students read passages.

Priest: New Arizona law would make Jesus a target

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

As the debate about immigration rages across the nation, about 100 people took part in the most peaceful form of protest that there is — prayer.

The Candlelight Vigil for Immigrants took place Saturday evening on the lawn near Holy Cross Catholic Church in Kernersville. The vigil was led by the Hispanic Ministries of Holy Cross, in support of the Weekend in Prayer initiative that was observed across the nation on May 1 and May 2 to protest a stern immigration bill passed by the Arizona legislature and signed into law by Gov. Jan Brewer on April 23.

The law, which is widely known as the most rigid and extensive legislation of its kind in decades, would "make the failure to carry immigration documents a crime and give the police broad power to detain anyone suspected of being in the



See Vigil on A2 **Father Paul Dechant speaks.**



Photos by Layla Farmer

Thammaulus Walker stands in front of the new complex.

Welcome Home

Housing complex for people with disabilities opens its doors

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

People with disabilities in Winston-Salem now have a new place to call home.

Local and state officials were among those on hand April 28 for the grand opening of Hunters Hill, a 12-unit supportive housing community on Hutton Street. All of the apartments are affordable for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), organizers say.

"We have created 12 permanent, supportive housing units that will enable residents to achieve a level of security and independence that would not otherwise be possible," said Garry Merritt, chair of the N.C. Housing Foundation, which partnered with the now defunct Center for Homeownership and other local partners to make Hunters Hill a reality.

Thammaulus Walker was the first resident to move into complex. Walker, who suffers from a mental health condition, said he learned of the project when it was still under construction and has anxiously awaited its completion.

Walker, who was living with his grandmother prior to moving into the complex, says his newfound freedom is a welcome change.

"I love it," declared the 36-year-old. "They've got cameras everywhere and everything. It's so quiet and you know it's safe."

Diane Evans, director of Development for NC Housing Foundation, said the partnerships that brought the project to fruition were a key component and an important landmark for local organizations.

"It kind of sets a precedent in the community for future endeavors," Evans said. "It shows how well different groups with different missions can come together and make a (successful project)."

The Center for Homeownership announced earlier this year that it was closing its doors because of budget concerns, after 13 years of service to Winston-Salem.

"I'm very proud of it and very proud of the legacy that our organization is leaving in the community," Jane Milner, who retired as the Center's executive director in March, said in ref-



See Apartments on A9

GROWING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

Community garden brings diverse group together

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Patients at the Downtown Health Plaza on Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. have access to healthier eating habits literally "at their fingertips," as NC Baptist Hospital's Robert Jones puts it.

Jones, who serves as director of Outpatient Clinics (which includes the Downtown Health



Photo by Layla Farmer

Robert Jones watches as Jessica Smith works in the garden.

See Garden on A10

Lawmakers praised as lifesavers — literally

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

State Reps. Earline Parmon and Larry Womble were feted for their work to pass the Racial Justice Act (RJA) during an evening reception on April 28 at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Center.

It was sponsored by People of Faith Against the Death Penalty and The Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity. The reception, which drew about 200 attendees, was filled with local clergy, politicians, activists and community leaders.

Parmon and Womble both spon-

sored the RJA and worked for three years to get it passed. It was signed into law last August and allows defendants who feel that race played a role in their death penalty conviction to have their cases reviewed in a court of law. Defendants can use statistics and other evidence to prove racial bias. If race is found to have been a factor in their sentencing, the defendant will instead receive life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Stephen Dear, director of Chapel Hill-based People of Faith, pushed hard for the Act and calls it "model



Darryl Hunt

See RJA on A5



Photos by Todd Luck

State Rep. Earline Parmon speaks with Larry Womble by her side.

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

BUY LOCAL

