

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

Also Sports, Religion and Classifieds

JUNE 16, 2011

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IFB turns 75

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind (IFB) celebrated its 75th anniversary last week.

Started by the local Lions Club in 1936, IFB began in a two room workshop on Trade Street. It's grown to become the nation's largest employer of the blind.

IFB has 400 blind or visually-impaired employees working in its facilities in Winston-Salem, Asheville and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. The workers produce a wide range of products, including mattresses, eyeglasses, parachutes and military clothing.

Employees at IFB's North Point Boulevard facility took time to celebrate the anniversary last Friday morning. IFB Executive Director David Horton credited employees for the organization's longevity and success.

"You all are what makes IFB so special," Horton told employees gathered in the building's break room. "The hard work, the quality, the dedication, it's just amazing."

Mayor Allen Joines stopped by to read and presented a proclamation honoring the anniversary and a video was shown that featured a congratulatory message from Governor Beverly Perdue.

The employees also heard from Mike Buddie, a former Wake Forest University and Major League pitcher, who said he was impressed by the people and the work at IFB.

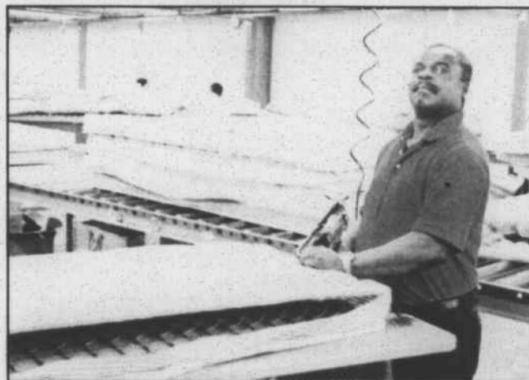
"I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by multimillionaires who came to work everyday and were miserable," Buddie said of the Major Leagues. "...Then I walk through the plant today and I see a bunch of smiling faces, every person that I met had a huge smile on their face."

That night, the baseball theme continued at BB&T Ballpark. Before The Dash game, the crowd witnessed a



Employees make military clothing at Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind.

Photos by Todd Luck



Eustace MacThompson puts together a mattress.



Dan Kelly poses with a military helmet and shirt, both were made at IFB.



Workers take a break for the 75th anniversary celebration.

demonstration of beep ball, a form of baseball played by blind players using a beeping ball. The game's first pitch was also thrown out by

IFB employee Mark Murray, who won the honor though an employee essay contest.

Murray, who lost his sight to cancer at an early

age, is a beep ball fan and participant. Murray said he worked other jobs before coming to IFB in 1991, but



Mike Buddie speaks to employees.

See IFB on B2



Community Calendar

B-ball leagues

The Winston Lake Family Y will offer two adult basketball leagues beginning next month. An 18 and over competitive league play and 30 and over recreation league play will be from July 7 - Aug. 21. The 18 and over league will play games on Sundays at 4, 5 and 6 p.m. The 30 and over league will play on Mondays at 7 and 8 p.m. The fee is \$40 per player or \$400 for a team of up to 12 players. For more information, contact Program Coordinator Hansel Hentz at 724-9205 or via email at s.gabriel@ymcanwnc.org.

Family extravaganza

Rainbow Child Care Center, 3215 Edgefield Road in Greensboro, will have a fun family extravaganza on Saturday, June 25 from 12:30-3 p.m. Games, food, tours and a raffle to win \$50 gift card are among the activities planned. For more information, contact Shonette Lewis at 336-665-9848 or greensboro@rainbow-ccc.com.

Reynolds High School Reunion

The 1971 Class of R.J. Reynolds High School will hold its 40th year class reunion on Saturday, July 30 from 6-10:30 p.m. at BB&T Ballpark, home of The Dash. For questions, contact Marshall Jeffries at 655-4103.

Davis to speak at Wentz's Men's Day

Bishop Sherwood Davis, senior pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, will deliver the keynote address for the Men's Day Service at Wentz Memorial Congregational United Church of Christ, 3435 Carver School Road, on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, at 11 a.m. The theme for the Men's Day Service is "Men of God: Be Strong and of Good Courage." The public is cordially invited to attend. The pastor of Wentz Memorial is Rev. Renée Griffin. For more information about the Wentz Men's Day service, call Rudy Anderson at 336-744-0048.

Atkins fundraiser

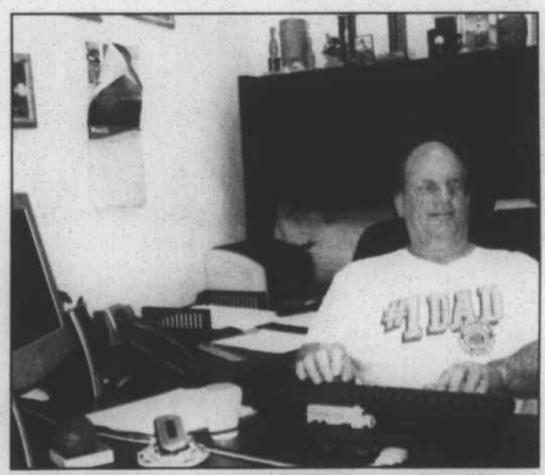
The Atkins High School Class of 1961 will sponsor a Flapjack Breakfast on Saturday, June 25 from 7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. at the Applebee's Restaurant, 4690 North Patterson Avenue. For questions or ticket information, call Edna Smith at 336-748-9008.

Aviation camp enrolling students

The Liberty CDC is presenting the Tom Davis Ace Academy Summer Camp to give students the opportunity to learn how planes work. Participants will meet aviation professionals, and tour jets, planes and helicopters and assemble model planes and rockets. The camp for high school students is June 20-24. The middle school camp is June 27-July 1. The camp runs from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and breakfast, lunch and snacks will be served. The camp is \$50 per child. To enroll, call the CDC's Jim Shaw at 336-721-9020. To learn more about the camp, go to www.ncaviationeducation.aero.



IFB Employee of the Year Art Saunders works on the sewing line.



Longtime IFB employee Mark Murray works in his office.

Right: IFB Executive Director David Horton addresses his employees

Far right: Some of the hundreds of mattresses that IFB produces every day.

