



Early honor for footballer Cooper

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Freedom festival is set for Saturday

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Men use words to inspire others

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

celebrating 36 years  
Community Journalism

# THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, June 23, 2011

## Local volunteers begin efforts to re-elect President Obama

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Nineteen year-old Autumn Banner will vote in a presidential election for the first time in 2012, but Banner, a city native, has been involved in the politics since she was in high school.

"I think it's really important for people to get involved in the political process," commented Banner, a junior at NC State University. "I think there are far too many people who say they don't care about politics when really it runs our lives."

As a high school student, Banner made calls on behalf of then-presidential hopeful Barack Obama. She returned to the effort Saturday, joining a group of local volunteers who canvassed the



Obama for America volunteers (from left) Thomas Cannady, JoAnn Russell and Autumn Banner work in Northside Shopping Center Saturday.

Northside Shopping Center, registering voters and soliciting volunteers for the 2012 Obama campaign.

The volunteers' efforts were mirrored by similar groups across the city and the president's supporters took to the streets as part of the first national Day of

See Obama '12 on A5



## Carver braces for new school in Walkertown

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

There are lingering fears that the new Walkertown Middle/High School, which is set to open in the fall, will negatively affect Carver High School.

About 900 sixth through 10th graders will start the school year at the new school. The school will expand to a 6-12 school in coming years, and has a capacity of 1,600 students. Roughly 200 high school students are expected to attend Walkertown in its inaugural year, 18 percent of whom are African American.

In the initial stages of its construction and planning for Walkertown Middle/High School, some supporters of Carver High School expressed concerns that the Walkertown school, which was supported by a 2006 school bond, was being constructed to provide an alternative to Carver for white students.

Carver, which suffered from slipping enrollment and dubious test scores at the time, was underutilized and many were more than a little concerned that the addition of Walkertown, which draws part of its population from Carver's residential area, would push the historically black high school to closure. Wake County Judge Howard Manning Jr. did call

for Carver to be closed in 2006 due to low test scores, but Board of Education Member Vic Johnson said the school was never in danger of being shut down. Johnson, who has served on the Board since 1997, believes Walkertown's opening will have minimal effect on Carver.

"Most of the Walkertown kids—black and white—don't go to Carver in the first place," he pointed out. "They were going to East Forsyth. As many as 50-60 kids (from Carver's district) were going to East Forsyth each year."

Carver Principal Nate Barber says the number of potential Carver students that choose to go elsewhere is higher than he would like it to be. "It's a trend that has grown through the years," he said of the sloughing off of students. "Some of it is perception and some of it is lack of knowledge as to how great things are at Carver."

Carver, which has a nearly 70 percent black student population, will be gaining a new pool of potential students next year, because Atkins Academic and Technology High School is going to a designated magnet school and is relinquishing

See Carver on A10

## Couple opens faith-based nonprofit agency

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Michele and Stephen Powell share a love for three things: God, their community and each other. The couple, who met in 2000 and married after a whirlwind six-week courtship, have sustained both in recent years through their collaborative efforts to better the lives of their neighbors.

"We're both licensed ministers," Michele revealed. "I think it's in our DNA that we are just compassionate about helping people."

The couple currently operates Transformed Lives, Inc. a faith-based nonprofit that encompasses a community center, a Client Choice Community Food Pantry, and a yearlong transitional housing program to help exoffenders successfully reintegrate into society.

"We just try to go about doing good for people who cross our path and putting a support system around them," Michele said.

The facility, which is located on New Walkertown Road, was designed to help boost health, financial and computer literacy within underserved communities in the city.

"There's a lot of families in this community—especially in the 25th Street area—that don't have computers in their home," said Stephen, the director of Student Centers at Winston-Salem State University. "There are so many companies that are

See Powells on A9



Photo by Layla Farmer

Stephen and Michele Powell have dedicated their lives to helping other people to improve their lives.

## Making the Grade



Photo by Layla Farmer

Rising college sophomores Erin Kenny (left) and Jasmine Simington are hoping to help local teens score high marks on the SAT through their work with the Ivy Insiders program this summer. See the full story page A10.

## Teens get back into 'theMix'

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

theMIX has returned this year to Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center as a place for teens to play, dance and socialize on Friday nights.

Held since 2008, theMix is sponsored by the City's Recreation and Parks Department. It offers a variety of activities for teens, including video games, pool and foosball in the recreation room, and dancing with a live DJ in the low-lit gym. Attendees can also purchase inexpensive concessions, like one-dollar slices of pizza.

Organizer Haley Gingles said theMIX acts as a safe place for teens to go and have fun on Friday night.

"There really wasn't anywhere for kids to go on Friday night or there wasn't anything for them to do," said

See 'Mix' on A10

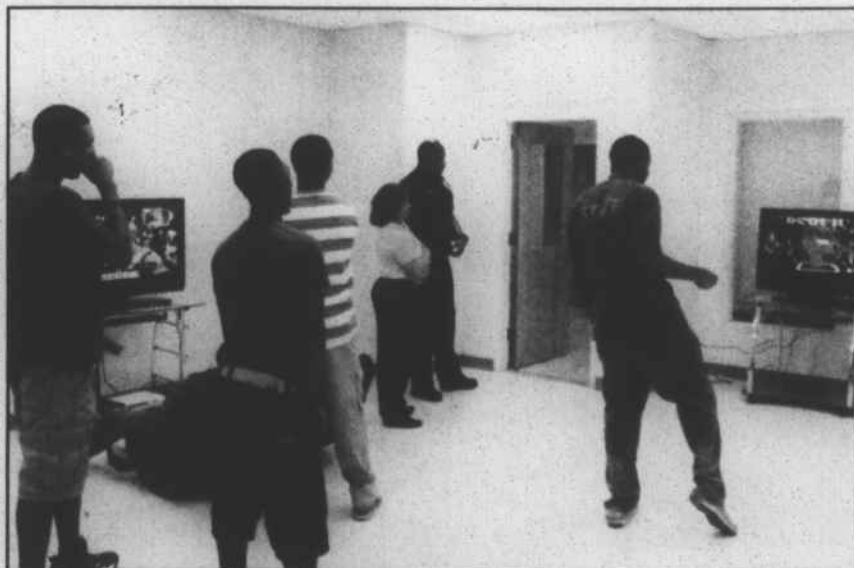


Photo by Todd Luck

A staff member uses Michael Jackson X-Box 360 dancing game as several teens look on.

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