



Early honor for footballer Cooper

-See Page B8



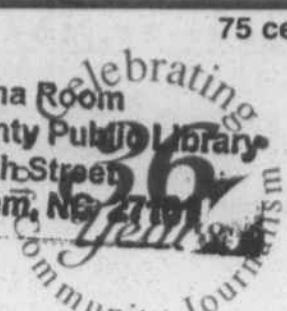
Freedom festival is set for Saturday

-See Page A3



Men use words to inspire others

-See Page B1



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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 nNorthside 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 nation, as thousands of

See Obama '12 on A5



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

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

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

Making the Grade



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

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

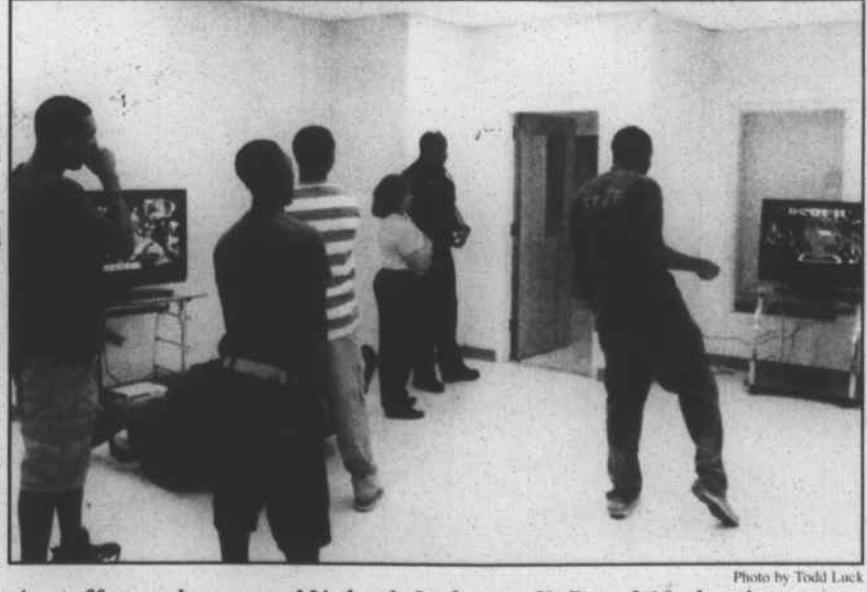


Photo by Todd Luck

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