



St. Aug to have on-campus football

-See Page B10



School opens outdoor classroom

-See Page A3



Festival draws many seniors

-See Page A1

Celebrating 37 Years of Journalism

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

THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, October 13, 2011

Another Place to Prosper

Liberty Street home to latest Center

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Folks who live along the Liberty Street Corridor and in the surrounding area now have a new place to turn for financial services and employment assistance, thanks to the creation of Prosperity Center North, which was slated to celebrate its Grand Opening yesterday.

Born of a partnership among the United Way, Goodwill Industries, Consumer Credit Counseling Services and others, the Prosperity Center is a free resource for any and everybody in the community who desires assistance, regardless of income. The Center is the second of its kind to serve the Winston-Salem Community. The original Center, now known as Prosperity Center South, opened at its location on Waightown Street in 2008 and has provided assistance



Prosperity Center employees from left: Career Connections Specialist Marilyn Robinson, Bryant King, Jason Hall and Tanika Hawkins (South location).

to close to 4,000 clients to date, said Coordinator Tanika Hawkins.

"I feel like it's been very successful. The combina-

tion of vocational and the financial literacy is a winner every time," Hawkins, a mother of four, said of Prosperity Center South.

"...Where they can go from there is pretty limitless."

Both Hawkins, who is

See Center on A12



State Rep. Brandon speaks at a community event.

History-making lawmaker to show his PRIDE

State's first openly gay black legislator will be grand marshal of gay rights parade

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

When he serves Saturday as grand marshal of the PRIDE 2011 parade, State Rep. Marcus Brandon will simply be taking what many see as his rightful place at the helm of the gay rights movement.

During his 2010 campaign for the N.C. House, the Greensboro native pledged to champion the causes important to his predominantly African American Guilford County constituency — issues like programs for ex-offenders, education reform and solutions to alleviate poverty. Brandon — the state's first openly gay black male member of the General Assembly and its only current openly gay member — did not focus on his sexual orientation, but the 35-year-old says he was also careful not to deny it.

"It was a hard choice to make," he said of coming out, which he did publicly at the start of his campaign. "But at the end of the day, I

felt a responsibility to the younger folks who are still struggling with these (sexuality) issues. I felt it was important that I didn't live in that shadow, that I didn't live in the closet if I became a public figure."



Jamie

Once he took office last November, Brandon, a Democrat, found himself unwittingly at the forefront of the gay marriage debate as lawmakers tussled over the Defense of Marriage Act, which the Republican-controlled General Assembly recently passed. State voters will now decide next year if North Carolina should alter its constitution to definitively classify marriage as an act for between a man and a woman.

"It became very personal to me," Brandon said of the gay marriage debate. "It's not really about marriage; it's about dignity and it's about human rights, whether you plan to be married or not... It's an injustice, and that's where the fight came to me, because I know what that LGBT youth feels like."

See PRIDE on A12

STILL FIGHT LEFT IN HER

As lady champ contemplates retirement, Ewell turns her attention to helping others

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

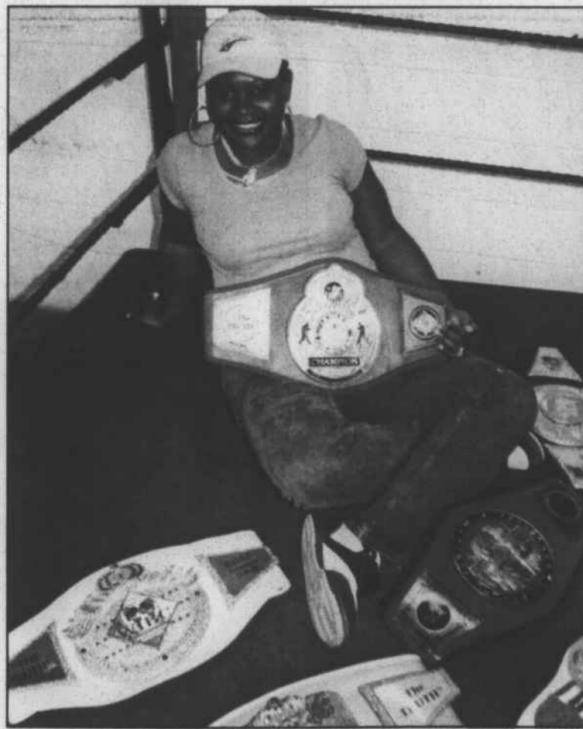
When World Champion Boxer Carlette "The Truth" Ewell is preparing for a fight, she draws on memories of her past. She dredges up the hardships she's experienced, from the setbacks of her childhood to the physical and mental abuse she's suffered at the hands of loved ones. There are also images of being sent to The Children's Home as a teen because her adoptive parents became ill. She also thinks about her life as a professional boxer — the meager salary she makes in comparison to her male counterparts — and before long, she's mad, really mad.

"The majority of the time, you just be so doggone upset that you just want to demolish whoever gets in the ring with you," said the 40-year-old city native.

Ewell, a domestic violence survivor and the co-owner of Triad Boxing and Fitness Club on Vargrave Street, says boxing has been an unlikely refuge from the anger, helplessness and frustration she has experienced. The sport has also transformed her.

"I'm just so much more peaceful now," said Ewell, a peer support specialist by trade. "Now, I love me. At one point and time, I knew nothing about how to love me ... that's so important."

She hopes to use the Club, which she and her trainer Eddie Gregg opened earlier this year, to instill a sense of empowerment and self-worth in those who walk through its doors.



Carlette Ewell shows off some of the many belts she has won.

See Ewell on A12



From left: Red Hat CEO Debra Granich, Ladies of Elegance Queen Mother Pearlina Howard and Jo Elliot, Red Hat manager of member experience.

Red-Hat Affair

Popular social group meets in Winston

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

More than 200 women from all over the state converged on Winston-Salem last weekend for an event devoted simply to having fun.

The Red Hat Society's Tenth Annual Funvention was held Friday through Sunday at the Sundance Plaza Hotel. The Society is a social club for women 50 and older with 70,000 chapters in 30 countries. It's known for the fancy and sometimes outrageous purple and red outfits — complete with their signature red hats — that its members don.

Pearline Howard, the queen mother (or president) of the Winston-Salem Ladies of Elegance Red Hat chapter, said the organization is so popular because the ladies know how to let loose.

"It's just a bunch of ladies who get together, enjoy life and have fun," said Howard, whose chapter hosted the statewide convention.

See Hatters on A11

A Furry Friend



Catharine Lowe gets chummy with a friendly, furry character at the Dixie Classic Fair on Sunday. Lowe was among the hundreds who enjoyed The Chronicle's Gospel Fest at the Fair. The concerts drew large crowds and featured some of the area's top gospel acts.

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