



CIAA honors trio from WSSU

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MSNBC host returns to WFU

-See Page A7



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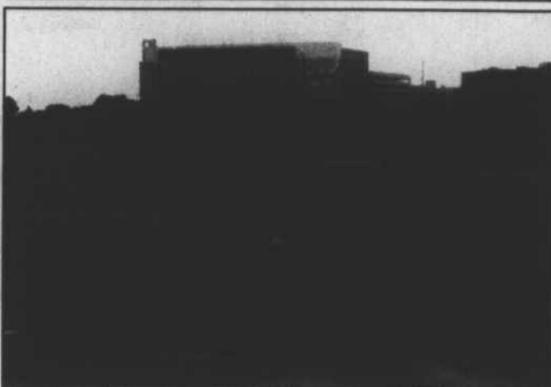


Photo by Layla Garms

This barren area will soon be a lush green space.

PTRP project may benefit East Winston

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

The sea of gravel and construction machines adjacent to the Piedmont Triad Research Park (PTRP) near the union of Business 40 and Highway 52 won't stay an eyesore for long.

The city is currently partnering with the Research Park - home to a number of innovative technology and bio-tech firms - to create a two-acre storm water retention pond, according to Mayor Allen Joines. The pond, which will occupy the southern corner of the park closest to the two highways, will have a practical use for the city and Research Park tenants, preventing flooding and erosion in the area. But Joines said the two groups decided to make the most of the project by turning it into a community amenity as well. While the water won't be able to be used for recreational activities such as fishing or swimming, it will be a strong aesthetic anchor for the city and the park, Joines said.

"The lake itself is part of the storm water retention system, but we're going to make it an amenity with landscaping and a walking

trail around it," he explained. "...We felt like if we could make it an attraction and an amenity, it could be a good thing for the city and also something folks from downtown and East Winston could come and enjoy."



Joines



Womble

The proposed walking trail encircling the pond will connect to a second initiative, the Rails to Trails project.

Rails to Trails aims to repurpose unused NCDOT-owned railroad tracks owned by converting them into bike and walking greenways. In this case, with city, state and PTRP funding, Rails to Trails would connect the proposed park walking trail to the existing Salem Creek Greenway, a 4.5-mile trail that extends from Peters Creek Parkway to Salem Lake and is popular among bikers and pedestrians alike.

Winston-Salem resident Ralph Womble is one of the Rails to Trails project's biggest proponents. Womble, a member of the NCDOT's Board, said the project would be an asset for local residents for both recreational and transporta-

See PTRP on A5

Ex-offenders can exercise their right to vote

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Nationally, laws denying people with felony convictions the right to vote are keeping an estimated 5.85 million people from the polls, even though they have already paid their debts to society, according to the policy reform organization the Sentencing Project.

Here in North Carolina, the laws are friendlier to ex-offenders. Those with misdemeanor convictions may vote even while incarcerated, and those with felony convictions only lose their rights temporarily, said Linda Sutton, chair of the Forsyth County Board of Elections and a field organizer for Democracy NC, a nonpartisan voting rights organi-



Sutton

zation.



Photo by Layla Garms

Bobby Wilson holds a voter registration card that he helped a fellow ex-offender obtain.



Photos by Layla Farmer

Senior Delights (front row, from left): Faye Ivey, Julius Watson, Olinzie Johnson, Geraldine Dula, Clara Summers, Isabell West and (back row): Helen Cameron, Jeanette Benjamin, Christine Scott, Geneva Badger, Carolyn Bland, Louise Sewell and Director Brenda James-Stanback.

Annual OES gathering returns

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of women and men from across the state convened at the Benton Convention Center Sept. 6-9 for the 111th Grand Session of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The annual gathering brings members of the historic group, whose history in North Carolina stretches back 133 years, together from across the state. The event has been held in Winston-Salem for the past six years.

Grand Worthy Matron Margaret Dixon convened the meeting of Eastern Stars, one of the largest fraternal organizations in the world.

"My theme has been consistent since I came on board."



Grand Worthy Matron Margaret Dixon

See OES on A5

Winston Lake Y offers first outdoor class



Photo by Todd Luck

From left: Tiffany Martin-Clark, Jolyn Roberts, Linwood Skinner and Mike Chambers prepare to ride.

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Members have a new nature-friendly exercise option at the Winston Lake Family YMCA.

Its new outdoor biking class is being billed as a break from treadmills, ellipticals and other traditional fitness center machines. Riders depart the Winston Lake Y and pedal their way to various bike-friendly sites around the city and then back to the Y.

The Y has seven new mountain bicycles and helmets it can loan to participants; riders are also welcome to use their own bikes.

Winston Lake Y Program Director Jolyn Roberts frequently leads the rides and said that the class, which is free to YMCA members, has been a hit, attracting up to seven riders per session and many regular participants.

See Bikes on A8

A Sweet 9/11 Tribute



Photo by Layla Garms

Police Officer Claudia Morgan shares a hug with Enrichment Center student April Anders during a Sept. 11 ice cream social that the Center hosted for local first responders. More about the event will be featured in the Sept. 20 issue.



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