



Local speedskater making big waves

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Legend Barnes singing at breakfast

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Protestors gather on the grounds of the LJVM Coliseum on Sunday.

Protestors target gun show

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Gun owners say they are not the problem. Protestors say enough is enough. Both viewpoints were highly visible Sunday at a gun show put on by Blacksburg, Va.-based C&E Gun Shows Inc. at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum Education Building.

More than 5,000 attended the weekend-long gun show, which is held regularly in Winston-Salem. More than two dozen protestors lined the walkway leading into the building, staging a silent protest in hopes of calling attention to the danger they say many of the weapons that are sold at the show present.



Rev. Paul Lowe takes part in Sunday's protest.

"We're just an ad-hoc group that can't take it anymore," said Gail McNeill, a retired professor who served as the spokesperson for the protestors. "... The Newtown massacre was a tipping point for this particular group." McNeill and her husband Hayes have been calling for stronger gun regulations for more than two decades. Mrs. McNeill attended 2002's Million Moms March in Washington, D.C., which advocated for gun control among other issues, and the couple has amassed the handprints of hundreds of local school children for their "Hands without Guns," where kids pledge never to use guns. Mrs. McNeill said she ran a seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners in 2010 because she opposed the Commissioners' decision to allow concealed weapons in county parks.

"Do you know how many people got murdered in North Carolina by guns last year?" she questioned. "Three hundred thirty five, that's just in North Carolina. It's over 8,000 a year in this country."

Mr. McNeill, a retired assistant to the president of Wake Forest University, said stricter laws are needed in order to protect the American people from tragedies such as the shooting in Newtown.

"To me, the real danger is most people think that there are reasonable gun laws in place but there's not," he said. "... I have to sign in the drug store to get antihistamines, but I can get 100 AR-15's with no record."

North Wilkesboro resident Danny Howard, a salesman and grandfather of one, is an avid gun collector who owns several weapons that he says would fall into the "assault type weapon" category that the protestors want to outlaw.

"My daddy taught me when I was old enough to stand

See Guns on A8

Local advocates troubled by singers' reconciliation

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Singers Rihanna and Chris Brown have seemingly moved on from their violent past and rekindled their relationship. The couple was photographed



Acevedo

enjoying a Los Angeles Lakers game on Christmas Day, and both celebrities posted photos on Instagram showing them cozying up as they brought in the New Year.

While both have chided the public for critiquing their private lives, local domestic violence advocates worry that Rihanna - an international super-

See Singers on A7



REUTERS/Danny Moloshok

Rihanna and Chris Brown get cozy courtside at the Dec. 25 Knicks versus Los Angeles Lakers game.

The Thread that Binds

Photo by Layla Garms

Imani McClure, a senior at Parkland Magnet High School, poses with authentic African fabric. She plans to use the fabric to create original clothing to showcase in a fashion show this spring. Proceeds from the show will benefit the nonprofit The Pocket Project. More about the project will be featured in the Jan. 17 issue.



Program for active seniors seeks newcomers

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Eighty-five-year-old Sarah Brooks is one of hundreds of local seniors getting ready for this year's Piedmont Plus Senior Games.

Brooks has played in the games for the last two decades, accumulating too many medals and good memories to count.

She was drawn to the olympic-style sports competition for competitors 55 and older by a recommendation from a friend. Brooks had just moved to the Twin City from New York to be closer to her daughter.

She said the competing was a great way to get to

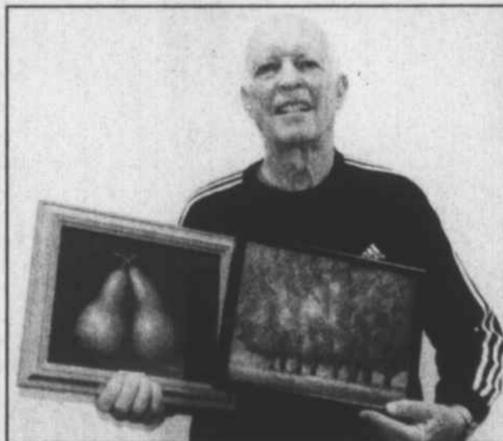


Photo by Todd Luck

Bill Gramley holds two of his paintings.

know Winston-Salem. "I've always been athletic, I've always been involved in community affairs," said Brooks, a retired educator, "and it is

fun and you meet a lot of people."

Other seniors who want to shine in dozens of sports and arts/crafts events or who simply want to be social are being invited to join the Piedmont Plus Senior Games family. An open house of sorts for this year's competition will be held Friday, Jan. 25 at from 10 a.m. to noon at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center, 501 Reynolds Blvd. Seniors will have an opportunity to sign-up for events and learn more about the games. The event will also feature games, refreshments and booths manned by repre-

See Seniors on A8

City proactive in eliminating landfill waste

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Solar powered trash cans are among the newest tools being used by the City's Sanitation Division to make Winston-Salem more environmentally kind.

"Big Belly" trash cans, named for their large capacity, compact the trash that is tossed into them, allowing them to hold up to five-times the amount of waste as a traditional trash can.

The cans let sanitation workers know how full they are

See Waste on A2



Britton

Photo by Todd Luck
This Big Belly trash can and recycling unit sit alongside Main Street.



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