



QEA unstoppable against noted team

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Former inmate shares his past

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THE CHRONICLE

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CHAMPIONSHIP SWAGGER



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The Winston-Salem Tiny Indians hold their championship trophy on Saturday after winning the Cadet Division II Championship of the Piedmont Youth Football and Cheer League. The squad beat the Greensboro Giants 13-0. The Indians' Junior Peeewe team also won the championship in their division, beating the Winston-Salem Grayhounds 40-31. The Cadet and Peeewe squads will be back in action Saturday at North Forsyth High School for the state championships.

Submitted Photo



Antonio McKoy talks about YouthBuild. Photos by Todd Luck

Jobs program pushes to fill roster

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

YouthBuild, a new City of Winston-Salem program, is giving high school drop-outs a chance to earn their GEDs while learning the lucrative construction trade.

YouthBuild is targeting drop-outs ages 16 to 24 who meet at least one of the following criteria: is a youth or adult offender; is a low-income city resident; are a current or former foster child; is a disabled resident; has an incarcerated parent; or is a migrant farm youth worker.



Daiquan Adams shares his YouthBuild experience.

During the six month program, participants take GED classes and courses that will lead to certifications needed for entry-level construction work. Along the way, they will rehab a house that the City's Housing Rehabilitation program will convert to an affordable housing unit. Participants will be paid while in the program, which operates under the

auspices of the Office of Community and Business Development and is funded by a three-year \$1.1 million U.S. Department of Labor grant.

City Council Member James Taylor helped to bring the national program to Winston-Salem. He said it will provide second chances to many local residents.

"This takes young men and women who may have dropped out of high school, who may be experiencing some problems with the juvenile justice system, and gives them something productive to do, and then you get paid for it and learn a trade all at the same time," Taylor said.

Last week, YouthBuild held information sessions at several recreation centers. Applications for the program's second class, slated to start at the end of the month, were also accepted. Program Manager Antonio McKoy, speaking at the Sims Rec in Happy Hill last Thursday, told prospective applicants about some of the program requirements, including passing math and reading assessments, a drug test and an interview conducted by a panel of City officials. After that, there is a trial work week, when participants will take part in the program's six hours of daily sessions. The city will track the progress of those who successfully complete the program for up to a year.

"If you want it, you've got to earn it yourself, right?" McKoy asked. "The good thing is we provide you with the opportunity to do that."

See YouthBuild on A8

Fashion Foward (and Reverse)

Mobile clothing boutique making the rounds

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Meka Harrell is hoping to become a "driving force" in local women and children's fashion.

The Baltimore native is the proud owner of Pink Culture Inc., billed as the Triad's first fashion truck. She opened the doors to her vibrant "Barbie pink" Chevrolet Step Van in August during a Greensboro event, officially embarking upon a dream that began more than a decade ago when she got her first job working in her godfather's clothing boutique.

Harrell said she was a tomboy prior to starting at the boutique, but she quickly fell in love with clothes and fashion there.

"Honestly, I worked for clothes when I was 16," confessed the 32-year-old. "I worked and bought clothes ... I was kind of like a walking billboard for my godfather's store."

Fashion was a positive escape from the harsh realities of Harrell's youth. She grew up on the wrong side of the tracks. Her father was murdered when she was four, and her mother was addicted to drugs. Many of her friends had dropped out of school by the time they reached eighth grade. Never one to follow the crowd, Harrell, who relocated to Winston-Salem during her senior year of high school, earned her diploma and then became the first person in her family to earn a bachelor's degree after completing her studies at Livingstone College.

"I'm always asked the question, 'How do you do that when you don't have any positive influences around you?' I've always had this motivation to be successful," related Harrell, who also holds an MBA from Pfeiffer University. "I think it's weird, but I always believed, I felt like God told me to be successful."



Photo by Layla Garms

See Harrell on A7 **Meka Harrell sits at the entrance of her "store."**

Election Night 2013 offers no surprises

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Election night went off without a hitch for City Council incumbents.

Across the board, Twin City residents favored veterans over newcomers, reelecting every incumbent on the ballot for another term by a comfortable margin. Incumbent Molly Leight in the South Ward and Dan Besse in the Southwest Ward easily reclaimed their seats with more than 71 and 81

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Molly Leight with Council Member-Elect MacIntosh.



Photos by Layla Garms
Mayor Pro Tempore Burke poses with her son, Judge Todd Burke, and daughter-in-law, Barbara.

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