



Belew's Street area gets place in history

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Advocates push sound schooling

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THE CHRONICLE

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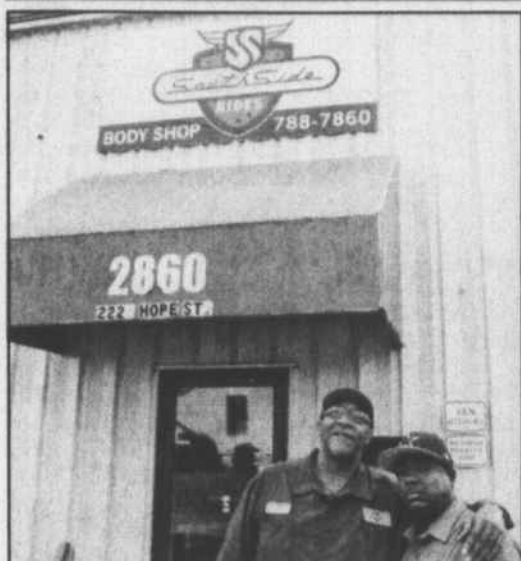


Photo by Todd Luck
Dave Moore (left) stands with Charles Hall outside of Southside Rides.

SOAR aims to help former inmates

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The city has made a \$100,000 investment in Successful Outcomes After Release (SOAR), a program that mostly focuses on helping ex-offenders find gainful employment.

Half of the funds will be used to launch a temporary jobs program that will begin next spring. The other half has been used to give grants to programs and agencies that assist the formerly incarcerated.



Taylor

Southeast Ward City Council member James Taylor has championed and spearheaded SOAR, which he said was inspired by residents' suggestions at the "Stop the Violence Rally" he held in February. Many said the answer to ending violence is giving those

with criminal records the opportunity to make a living legally. Taylor said the program is a good investment.

"I want this thing to get as big as it can get because, again, we're reducing crime and providing opportunities for those who need it the most," said Taylor, who also led the charge to bring YouthBuild, which helps young people earn a GED while receiving construction training, to Winston-Salem last year.

SOAR funds are already being used to effect change. The Southside Rides Foundation has been granted a \$10,000 grant. Dave Moore founded Southside Rides in 2004, after his own drug-related stint in prison, to teach ex-offenders and wayward youth the lucrative auto-body repair trade. He teaches and inspires at his Woughtown Street area shop and during the classes he leads at the Forsyth Correctional Center, a prison off Cherry Street.

Moore's program has been praised for changing the fortunes of many young men, but adulation has not translated into funding. He said he will use the SOAR grant to pay stipends to students who work on cars at his shop, where customers who allow supervised students to perform their repairs receive discounted rates.

Southside Rides alumni say the city made a

See SOAR on A9



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garris
At the check presentation are (from left) Kirby Thompson, Evelyn Terry, Earline Parmon, Jamaal Womble, Larry Womble and Donald Reaves.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Larry Womble makes hefty donation to start WSSU scholarship in honor of his parents and grandparents

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Former State Rep. Larry Womble presented his alma mater with a \$25,000 check last week to create a scholarship named for his grandparents and parents.

The Henry and Viola Gwyn, Dorothy Gwyn and Owen Luchion Womble Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide need-based awards to local students majoring in Elementary Education.

Womble hopes the money will provide opportunities for those who thought higher education was impossible.

"For many of our students, this is their first time going to

a higher learning institute. For many, they could be the first in their families," he said. "Many of them don't have the resources that others have, so it is up to us as alumnus to try to bridge the gap, because if it wasn't for Winston-Salem State, I would not have achieved many of things that I have."

Chancellor Donald Reaves accepted the gift in his office on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

Womble said he wanted education to be the scholarship's focus because of WSSU's well-known link to the field: it was the first historically black college in the nation to offer a degree in elementary education. Womble also worked in education for years, starting as a teacher and retiring as an assistant principal.

"Thank you for your gift, generosity and support that you have provided to this institution year in and year out," Reaves told Womble, who graduate from WSSU in 1963.

With his son and friends by his side, Womble said he will contribute often to the scholarship fund; he would like to see

See Womble on A7

Mom joining MS fitness program started by son

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

MSFit will soon offer free exercise classes at the Gateway YWCA to help those with multiple sclerosis improve their lives.

The new program, which begins in January, will also provide free nutrition and wellness classes to people battling MS, a disease that causes a variety of physical and psychological setbacks as it attacks the central nervous system.

Brain Murrill's creation of the program was inspired by his mother Patsy, who has lived with MS since 1995. He led an information session about MSFit at the YWCA on Oct. 20. Those who enroll in the free program will receive memberships at the sprawling facility.

"Once a person participates in MSFit, they have access to the benefits of the YWCA, not just the actual (MSFit) classes ... a full membership," he said. "They will have a home in MSFit for programs that cater to their specific needs."



Photo by Todd Luck

See MSFit on A8 Brain Murrill with his mom, Patsy.

Big 4 alumni pack worship service

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The crowd was standing-room-only last Thursday evening at St. John C.M.E. The church was so packed that when the gospel-singing and preaching started, the hand-clapping and amens could be heard from the parking lot.

The worship service has become a central part of the annual Big 4, a weeklong reunion and celebration of the city's historically black high schools. The service's attendance numbers rival



Rev. Walker

See Big 4 on A2



Photos by Kevin Walker
The Young Ladies of Voyage perform.

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