

SPORTS WEEK

All City/All County Team

Toughness sets players apart



See A8



See B1



See A10



See C1

COMMUNITY

Kwanzaa returns to Triad

Chronicle reporter goes caroling

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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Tapping into students' needs

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

The corner of a \$5 bill peeks from the green New Testament Bible on Dennis Felder's desk at Winston-Salem State University.

The money is not for spending, it's for teaching. The \$5 bill is a lesson to his students, he said. It's there to keep them from yielding to the temptation to steal.

"This money has never been touched," he said. Felder often leaves his office open and allows his students to go in and out to get things they might need. His stu-

WSSU department head proud of unique approach to education

dents have never betrayed him in any way. Felder leaves his wallet in a file cabinet and no one has dared to steal from him.

Then again, with Felder there is no need to steal from a man who would give his students anything they need to succeed.

Felder, his students say, is not like any other professor at WSSU. As a matter of fact, Felder,

coordinator of WSSU's Sports Management Department, may be different from any professor at any university.

At any time of day or night, you can find him hunched over his desk, searching for internship opportunities for his students.

To avoid his wrath, students must come to class prepared with neatly-styled hair. If pants are

hanging down to a student's knees, Felder tells the student to pull them up.

"One student needed a belt, because we do not allow students to walk around with their pants halfway down their butt. I told him, 'Look, I'll buy you a belt,'" Felder said.

Poor grades are not allowed and students attend outside functions like job fairs, armed with up-to-date resumes and dressed for interviews.

The rules are all part of Felder's unique approach to teach-

See Felder on A10



WSSU professor Dennis Felder talks with a student before an exam last week. Felder's brand of 'tough love' is a hit with students.

Tearful vigil



Friends and neighbors place a yellow ribbon on a tree for missing McCombs Ligons.

Photos by Kevin Walker

Holidays hard for family of missing man

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Residents of a middle-class East Winston neighborhood took to the streets last Thursday night to lend their support to a search effort for one of their own.

A group of 25 gathered at 1104 Progressive Lane, the home of Johnny Ligons and his family. The house is the last place McCombs Ligons, Johnny Ligons' father, was seen. That was nearly two months ago; there has been no sign of the elder Ligons since then.

Family members say McCombs Ligons, 73, was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and has difficulty remembering the present. He had become disoriented and disappeared on occasions

in the past, the family said, but never for such a long period of time.

"We thought he would show up in a day or two," Johnny Ligons said.

McCombs Ligons' disappearance has made the holiday season difficult for the Ligons family this year. But even as the weeks turn into months, the family says it is keeping hope alive and praying that McCombs Ligons will come back to them.

"It's been very hard on us," Johnny Ligons said, "but we are all hopeful."

McCombs Ligons had lived with his son for nearly two years before his disappearance.

Friends and neighbors of the Ligons held lighted candles on the sidewalk in front of the family's home, braving chilly temperatures and strong winds. They

donned small yellow ribbons on their clothes and placed larger ribbons on several telephone poles on the street.

The group also prayed collectively for the safe return of Ligons. They ended the prayer with an uplifting spiritual, at which point tears fell down the faces of many members of the Ligons family.

"This is a way for us to show love for the (Ligons) family and that we understand," said Tracy Carpenter, the family's neighbor. "We also want to do all we can to help them."

Carpenter's husband as well as many other of the Ligons' neighbors and friends joined the Winston-Salem Police Department in a massive search for Ligons soon

See Missing on A9

Local Adam's Mark slapped with racism suit

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In Winston-Salem, and nearly two dozen cities throughout the country, the Adam's Mark Hotel is known for style, sophistication and elegance.

But a growing number of African Americans and the U.S. government say that there's a quality rampant at the hotel chain that does not get promoted in glossy publicity brochures or on its slick web page - racism.

The U.S. Justice Department filed suit against the hotel chain last Thursday, charging

that Adam's Mark hotels discriminate against African Americans by charging them more than whites, offering them less desirable rooms and requiring more security for them.

The suit also alleges the hotel chain implemented procedures to exclude or limit the number of nonwhite clients in its hotels, restaurants, bars and lounges.

The Justice Department said the hotel chain's alleged practices are in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in public accommodations.

See Adam's Mark on A8

Sprinkle-Hamlin takes helm at library

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Beginning Jan. 1, the Forsyth County Public Library System will have a new director with a new vision for the new millennium.

Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin was named director of the library system Dec. 16. Her title will be official after the first of the year when the current director, William Roberts, retires.

Sprinkle-Hamlin has been with the library for 20 years. She began her career working with children as a children's librarian. Sprinkle-Hamlin said the lessons she learned working with children helped prepare her for this position.

"Working with children is like working with little people," she said. She said she wants to

be sure people realize everything is going to be OK when the leadership at the library changes.

"I want to make sure there is a smooth transition between his (the current director's) leadership and mine," Sprinkle-Hamlin said.

While she does not plan to make sweeping changes right away, she said she plans to build on the "strong foundation" already in place. She said the Forsyth County Library system has the best staff in the Southeast.

"I want all facilities to have the latest in technology," she said. "Some parts of the community (don't have access) to computers. I want the library to provide the computers."

Customer care has always

See Sprinkle-Hamlin on A11

Kids give up guns

Program lets children trade violent toys for games

BY T. KEVIN WALKER AND
FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of young people walked into Happy Hill Garden's William C. Sims Recreation Center with toy guns and knives last Friday evening; they walked out with kinder and gentler toys - dolls, basketballs, books.

The Sims Center carried out its annual "Peace Toys for War Toys Exchange" with much fanfare in the building's large gymnasium.

Ben Piggot, the center's supervisor and the creator of the program, arrived as Saint Nick for the occasion. He helped welcome a host of special guests who were on hand for the exchange. They included Winston-Salem Police Chief Linda Davis, State Sen. Linda Garrou and representatives from the local chapter of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence.

Several uniformed sheriff's deputies and police officers were also present to show their support for the program.

Tragedy led Piggot to start the exchange back in 1991. After his

See Toys on A10



Santa's helper helps distribute peaceful toys for guns.

Residents concerned about their safety

BY JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

Abandoned cars, loitering and decrepit rental properties were among the issues discussed by residents of East Winston neighborhoods during a town meeting last week.

The meeting, one of several held at Hooper Funeral Home last week, gave residents of the Northeast Ward an opportunity to share their concerns with a cadre of city and county officials, including representatives of the police and fire depart-

ments and the city's neighborhood development department.

Dozens of residents representing a host of East Winston neighborhoods attended the meeting.

Tops on their list of items to address with



Burke

See Neighborhood on A10