

SPORTS WEEK

City-County football picks
...
... of the year election



See A2



See B1



See B6



See C1

COMMUNITY

FTCC turns 40
...
Crossing 52 presents awards

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THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000



Photo by Cheris Hodges

Wilson instructs Jakia Rhyne how to act out the other students from the Winston Lake YMCA

Program teaches kids joy of trees

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Twenty-five children from the Winston Lake Family YMCA got a science lesson and an art lesson at the same time last week.

The Historic Bethabara Park and Arbor Investment Advisors teamed up with the YMCA to provide children with an opportunity to celebrate National Arbor Day.

According to Bethabara Park assistant director Kathryn McGrew, this event is the beginning of what she

hopes is a long partnership. "Bethabara Park is known for teaming with the community," she said. "This program celebrates Arbor Day and educates the community."

Judi Wallace from Arbor Investment Advisors said working with the park has been wonderful.

"(Arbor Investment) celebrates Arbor Day every year because of its name. We were looking for an activity that we could do in the community that would encourage planting trees.

McGrew said this was a way for

children to learn about art and natural science using the park.

Naturalist Karen Wilson was on hand to provide the children with information about the trees in the park. She took the children to the Arboretum, where they played a game of "tree charades."

"They will be engaging their bodies and their minds at the same time," she said. "(This) will help them gain an appreciation of trees."

The children walked up the hill smiling as they headed over to the

freshly planted trees. "How long have these trees been here?" Wilson asked the children.

"About 10 months," said Jakia Rhyne, one of the students from the Y.

"That's right," Wilson replied as she told the children about the seedlings.

After the children learned their nature lesson, they headed inside the park's welcome center to start on an art project.

Studio artist and teacher Lisa

See Bethabara on A5

fight to tobacco from ruin

Wm Womble and Warren "Pete" Oldham support a bill passed last week by the state that puts a \$25 million cap on bonds that can be used to pay punitive damage

while they appeal punitive damage. The bill applies to all companies, it was especially designed for R.J. Reynolds and other cigarette makers, is a result of having to pay up to \$100 billion in punitive damages stemming from the latest tobacco litigation in Florida. Without the bill, RJR would have to post the full amount of punitive damages for the award, which could have easily bankrupted the tobacco giant.

"It gives Reynolds a fighting chance," Oldham said. He was one of about six legislators who supported the bill on the House side. However, the Senate, led by Sen. La Garrou, D-Forsyth, sponsoring the bill. Oldham said the other House members voted against supporting the bill. He said he voted to protect RJR, a company he says is the backbone of Winston-Salem's and Forsyth County

quite naturally, was RJR....RJR has done so many, and (has) done so much for the community. He added that the company has paid a hefty chunk to the tax base and has provided thousands of dollars toward education and community organizations. The bill was quickly passed by the House. Small tobacco farmers are in jeopardy of extinction.

"It is the economic backbone of a lot of North Carolina communities," Womble said. "It would cripple the tobacco and tobacco farmers if the company loses the business during the appeal."

Oldham said that it would be unjust to make a punitive award, the full amount of a punitive award, without the full amount of a punitive award. "This is a punitive award. It's not fair that any company could go bankrupt while it appealed a civil suit,"

the bill criticized lawmakers for proposing that they say has had a history of philanthropic history, and several others over the years,

See Bill on A4



Photo by Paul Collins

Maxine Jones portrayed Zipporah, Moses' wife.

'Women of the Bible'

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

St. James AME Church's Sarah Allen Missionary Society, combined with Union Bethel AME and Union Baptist, to present "Women of the Bible" Saturday afternoon at St. James AME.

About 29 people were involved in the production.

Director Thelma Bridges, of Sarah Allen Missionary Society, said in an interview, "We're trying to let people know the important roles women played in biblical

days. (The actresses) are telling about their occupations and how they helped the Lord carry the message and how they worked with some of the disciples in the Bible, and the many, many tasks they did to feed the poor. We had the poor then. We have the poor now."

Bridges said this was the second year of the program. "We try to improve on it every year." This year, the organizers added greenery for the Garden of Eden, props representing Jesus' tomb and added Jesus to the cast.

See Women on A4

Biggs tells Atkins students to build good records now

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Loretta Biggs went to the wrong school last week to talk to young people about the law.

The talk was scheduled to take place before eighth-graders at Atkins Middle School. Mixed signals between Biggs, executive assistant U.S. attorney for the state's middle district, and Links Inc., a well known, multifaceted service organization, led to her showing up at another East Winston school - Ashley Elementary.

Biggs' slight tardiness fit in perfectly with one of the many themes she hammered away at during her 40-minute address.

"Adults make mistakes," she said looking out at several hundred students assembled in the school's auditorium. "It's OK to make mistakes as long as we (own) up to them and correct them."

However, some mistakes, Biggs continued, should be avoided at all cost. Although the students greeted Biggs with loads of Camel hospitality, she told the students that she never wanted to run across them in her line of work. Every day, Biggs said, young people are given 20-, 30- and even 50-year sentences for making bad choices.

"You never, ever, ever, ever want to come into federal court," she said. "I want you to understand how easy you can get there."

You don't have to be the direct perpetrator of a crime to end up in court and possibly in prison, Biggs said.

She told the students if they are with a person at the time a law is being broken, they could end up getting the same punishment as the person who commits infractions such as robbing a store,



Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Loretta Biggs quizzes eighth-graders at Atkins about the functions of various courts in the state. Biggs told the students that federal court is someplace they "never, ever, ever, ever" want to be.

smoking marijuana or carrying a concealed weapon.

To that end, she told the students to choose their friends wisely.

"You may think (the law) is not fair; but as long as it is the law, we have to abide by it," she said.

Members of the Winston-Salem Chapter of LINKS Inc. said they wanted Biggs to talk to the students about the law because she not only has a wealth of experience in the field, but also because she has two teen-agers herself, one of whom attended Atkins.

Biggs became a District Court judge in Forsyth County at the unlikely age of 32. She was reelected to her seat several times before going to work for the Justice Department in 1994. Biggs has

See Biggs on A5

concerts have residents dancing in the streets

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The city received a one-two-three-punch in its mid-section late last week, jolting it out of its winter doldrums and sending its residents dancing and frolicking into the streets.

The city's popular summer outdoor music concerts began last Thursday with Alive After Five, an event held between the serene water fountains of Corpening Plaza. BellSouth Jazz and Blues kicked off last Friday, transforming Fourth Street into an open-air food court and fellowship hall.

Saturday's planned Summer of Trade concert was to end last week's musical odyssey, but it was scrapped because of chilly winds and rain. This upcoming Saturday will be the kick-off for that event. For entertainment-hungry city residents, the three weekly concerts have become the holy trinity of social events. "This

is her most favorite thing in the world," Tyka Hamilton said about her young daughter, Kelsey, at Alive After Five. "She has been asking me, 'When are we going back downtown?'" Kelsey and Hamilton's niece, Kayla, did cartwheels in the plot of shiny green grass in Corpening Plaza as a band belted out classic rock tunes on a nearby stage.

Several hundred people from all age groups assembled in thick clusters around the plaza, eating, drinking and socializing. "I work in High Point and a lot of people in High Point come down here, especially (for BellSouth Jazz and Blues)," Hamilton added. "Apparently it's a good place to meet people of the opposite sex, although it's not why I come."

As soon as Rosalind Banner picked her son up from school last Thursday, she headed to Alive After Five. It was her first time at one of

See Concert on A4



Photos by Kevin Walker

Rosalind Banner and son Alexander buy refreshments at last Thursday's Alive After Five in Corpening Plaza downtown.