

SPORTS WEEK

AKAs host annual golf event
Local gymnast does well in regionals



See A3



See B1



See C3



See C1

COMMUNITY

Historic bridge club celebrates milestone
Household dangers uncovered

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

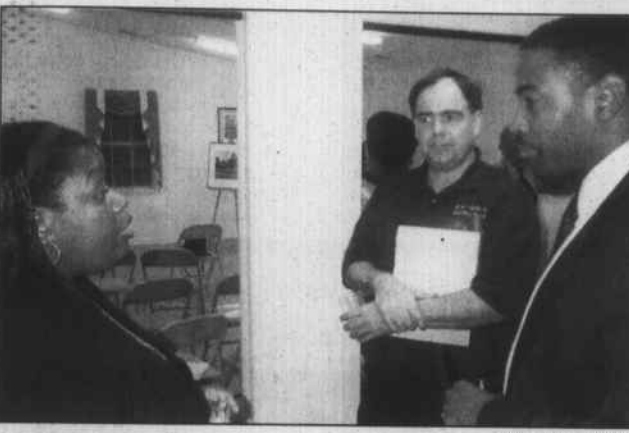
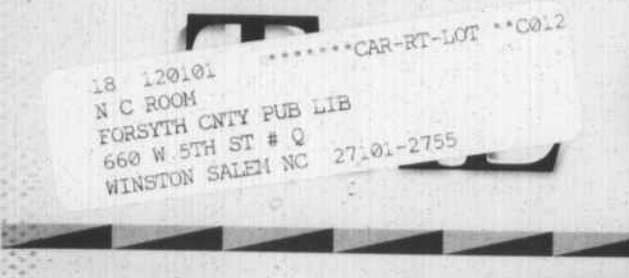
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Octavia Rainey, a vocal critic of the payday lending industry, talks with Johnny Smith, a local pay lender, as Smith's business partner, Tim Brewer, looks on.

Payday lenders in limbo

General Assembly to decide fate of controversial industry this summer

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

The controversy behind payday lending came to light last week during an event billed as an "educational forum" on the topic of thriving industry.

Supporters and opponents of payday lending pitched their arguments to a group of local residents at the AKA Clubhouse at Ivy Arms Apartments. Blown-up pictures from "Too Much Month at the End of the Paycheck" served as the back-

drop for the discussion. The book claims to tell all sides of the payday lending story, capturing pictures and quotes from those who have used the service to those who own the business. A roving exhibit of photos from the book has been making its way around the state.

Forsyth County General Assembly members Larry Womble and Pete Oldham lobbied for the exhibit to come to Winston-Salem. Both men attended last week's forum.

They and other members of the General Assembly will have to

decide the fate of the payday lending industry in July.

That's when a bill approved by the General Assembly in 1997 to give payday lending a test run in North Carolina will expire. The General Assembly can either decide to renew the bill and allow the industry to continue as is or refuse to renew the bill, which would make it harder for payday lenders to operate, but not impossible. The General Assembly also has the option of renewing the bill but tagging on

See Payday on A8

Building Futures

City graduates its latest crop of construction workers

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Women dominated the latest class to complete a construction training program administered by the city.

Of the six graduates who received certificates last week during a ceremony that feted their hard work, patience and dedication, four are women and are mothers, hoping that their new training will help hedge a path toward better lives for them and their families.

The ladies got a jolt of inspiration from Tadzia Treadwell. A 1998 graduate of the program, Treadwell admits to being lost in life before entering the class. The young mother said she was searching for change when she noticed people about her age working construction at a site near her home at the time. Today, Treadwell owns her own home and is an inspector for the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem.

She was chosen to keynote the 2001 ceremony. Her sendoff to the graduates included three words of advice - "listen, watch and pray."

She singled out the ladies in the class with another piece of advice. "Women in nontraditional jobs are looked down upon...I wanted to prove that I could wear a hard hat, nails and still be a lady," she said.

Success stories like those of Treadwell are quite possible through the program, says Reginald McCaskill, coordinator of the construction program.

The graduates have already passed the first test with flying colors, McCaskill said, simply by sticking with the year-long course of study, which is partly administered by Forsyth Technical Community College.

Sixteen people started the course, but only a fraction of them walked away with certificates of completion last week.

"What you see is what can happen if you put your all into something," McCaskill said, referring to the six who stuck with the program.

The city started the program six years ago through funds from Com-

See Construction on A5



Sparks

Should you have another cup of java?

BY PAUL COLLINS THE CHRONICLE

Millions of Americans have a hard time getting going in the morning without their coffee, and some continue to drink it during the day.

But what are the health effects from drinking coffee in moderate amounts?

Here are some findings and opinions from CoSIC (the Pan-European Coffee Science Information Centre) and some other sources. We asked Mindy Nichols, R.D., L.D.N. C.D.E., a dietitian and nutritionist for Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, to comment as well.

CoSIC - established in the United Kingdom in 1990 by the Institute for Scientific Information on Coffee, which is based in Paris - gave this summary on coffee and health:

"Thousands of scientific papers have been written about the relationship between coffee drinking and health and the overwhelming bulk of evidence shows that moderate coffee drinking is perfectly safe - and is in no way a health risk.

"There is no sound scientific evidence that modest consumption of coffee has any effects on the outcomes of pregnancy or on the well-being of the child. Bone health is not affected by coffee drinking. Adverse effects in some published studies have been attributed to aspects of lifestyle that are often shared by coffee drinkers, such as smoking and inactivity.

"There is no evidence that coffee drinking is a risk for the development of cancer. For several types of cancer there is disagreement between studies but again, other aspects of lifestyle may be implicated. There is even a strong sugges-

See Coffee on A8



Paola Tartarello, left, and Veronica De La Rosa get their first look at the book. Below, Emeory Cornelius signs her name beside the poem she contributed to the anthology.

New Dawns

Forsyth Tech venture spawns dozens of new student authors

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Many of the people who recently packed an auditorium in West Campus of Forsyth Technical Community College have worn many different titles over the years. Some have been high school dropouts; others have been addicted to drugs and alcohol; and others have been branded dumb or stupid.

But the only title that mattered last week was the newest one they picked up - author.

Students enrolled at programs on or based at the campus received crisp copies of "Awakenings," a book of poems, short stories and personal narratives penned by students and a few staffers. It was the second version of "Awakenings" that the school had put together. Last year marked the debut vol-

See Authors on A2



Melvin and Cassandra Moore pose with their adoptive children.

Rally aims to inform would-be parents

BY COURTNEY L. HILL THE CHRONICLE

There is an urgent need for foster and adoptive families in Forsyth County and currently early 80 children are waiting to be adopted. The first-ever awareness campaign promoting adopting in Forsyth County will kick off Saturday at the First Assembly of God church on University Parkway. The event will start at 3 p.m. and is spearheaded by Families for Kids Rally, a wing of the Forsyth County Department of Social Services.

The campaign theme asks the question, "Will You Love the Children?" To answer that question, the event will include a video discussing adopting and feature adopted families in Forsyth County.

"When individuals and couples leave the rally, we want them to

have a renewed insight about adoption," said Dawn Perdue, Families for Kids Program Coordinator. "We believe that it does take a village to raise a child and we want the children to believe that a village does exist."

Perdue believes that there is something everyone can do to get involved in a child's life. "If you can't foster or adopt, you can volunteer as a special friend to a child who is waiting. It takes all of us to raise our children."

Organizers plan to also use the event as a massive information session, educating those who are thinking about adoption and dismantling myths that have kept some from pursuing it.

The Forsyth County DSS has hired an Asheville marketing company to design eye-catching billboards and church leaflets to push adoption to the forefront in the

See Adoption on A3

WSSU moves into high-tech age

School hopes new technology will alleviate long lines at campus offices

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University took some giant steps forward in the computer technology game last week, unveiling a dual Web-based technology that will help students and staffers perform tasks and get information.

With Rams Online, students will be able to perform such tasks as registering for classes and access financial aid accounts from computers on or off campus. The software package will also allow prospective WSSU students to submit admissions applications and apply for financial aid, via the Internet.

Such services have been available at other schools in the UNC system for years. Chancellor Harold Martin said WSSU is now catching up and looking toward the future.

"With these tools we are able to provide excellent electronic services for our students, services that we should have been able to provide some years ago," he said. "This is very, very important in the life and future of Winston-Salem State University."

The school has paid special attention to its technology needs within the last year, Martin said. Computer access in classrooms



WSSU student Kevin Henry accesses Rams Online.

Photo by Kevin Walker