



**West team looking to take stand this year**

- See Page B1



**Problems in Sudan come home**

- See Page A4



**Red Cross sets high goal**

- See Page A9



**Church crowns kings, queens**

- See Page C1

# THE CHRONICLE

75 cents ADMINISTRATION FORSYTH CNTY PUB LIB 660 W 5TH ST WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

39 071405 \*FIRM\*CAR-RT-LOT\*0022 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 Vol. XXXI No. 1

## Controversial Blair coming to WSSU



*Jayson Blair was the talk of the journalism world last year when it was discovered that he made up many of his stories while a reporter at the New York Times.*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The chairman of the mass communications department at Winston-Salem State University said he hopes that a scheduled appearance by Jayson Blair later this month will help his students avoid the pitfalls that have made Blair a pariah in the field of journalism.

"We are looking for this to be a positive learning experience for our students," said Chairman Brian Blount. "We always seek opportunities to teach students their fields through the experiences of people and case studies."

Blair is slated to speak to print journalism students at the school on

Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. Blount doesn't expect Blair's talk to be a "how-to" lesson but rather a cautionary tale that will leave students determined to stay clear of the path that Blair followed.

"We do not condone Mr. Blair's past performance. What he did was a very dishonorable thing....Our goal is to help our students be their best," Blount said.

Blair's name became infamous last year when it was discovered that he plagiarized—or completely made up dozens of stories while a reporter at the New York Times, the nation's most respected news institution. Blair, who resigned from the paper when his editors discovered inconsis-

See Blair on A5

## Step Up wants to get city walking

*Residents encouraged to form teams for two-month initiative*

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

Lace up your sneakers and hit the walking trails because Forsyth County residents have been challenged by the Forsyth County Department of Public Health and the Be Healthy Coalition to step up their health.

Step Up Forsyth! is an eight-week communitywide walking initiative Sept. 12 through Nov. 6. People are asked to form



Bogan

teams that will commit to walk at least five days a week for 30 minutes a day for eight weeks.

"This program was mainly put into place to make people aware of obesity and other chronic illnesses like diabetes, asthma and heart disease which are affected by obesity," said Sheila Bogan with the FCDPH Health Promotions. "We also want people to realize that you don't have to belong to a gym (to exercise). We have several amenities here in the county, particularly the greenways and the parks, where you can go out and be active."

Physical activity strengthens the heart and lungs, improves circulation, prevents heart attacks and strokes, reduces obesity and high blood pressure, among other health benefits.

Teams or individuals are asked to log their walking minutes—inside or outside—over the course of the eight weeks. Bogan says people

See Step Up on A9

## Bowles rally attracts big crowd

*Senate hopeful emphasizes getting out the vote*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

It started with loud hand clapping. Then came the cheering and the yelling. Signs—some homemade, others produced by the campaign—went up next. Then there was the chant started by state Rep. Larry Womble that everyone took an immediate liking to.

"Win with Erskine. Win with Erskine," they shouted rhythmically.

U.S. Senate hopeful Erskine Bowles got a hero's welcome here Saturday at a rally held in his honor. He may have also picked up a catchy campaign slogan that he can use until the November election.

"I'm 59 years old. I have been looking my whole life for something that rhymes with Erskine," Bowles told the crowd before thanking Womble for creating the chant.

A crowd of about 200 people packed the auditorium at Kennedy Learning Center for the afternoon rally. They were young and old, black and white, and many were fed up with politics as usual. Bowles promised them that he was the real deal, a candidate who will do what he says and work on both sides of the political aisle



Erskine Bowles takes time to talk to 94-year-old Annie Mae Medley about his plans for health care.

Photo by Kevin Walker

in the Capitol.

"I want to go to Washington and take this knowledge I have, and I want to work for y'all," Bowles said. Bowles

has made job creation and health insurance for all children among his top priorities. Included in Bowles' hefty job creation plan is talk of stop-

ping all trade agreements until the United States starts to enforce trade agreements already on the books. Bowles is also calling for the repeal of

all tax breaks that encourage companies to take jobs overseas. He told the crowd Saturday that he is flabbergasted

See Bowles on A10

## Employees show they care through service to agencies

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

We all know that these are days of terrorist alerts, fear and overwhelming pessimism. But a couple thousand employees from local companies showed last week that these are also days of caring.

The employees abandoned their usually 9-to-5 obligations last Thursday and Friday to take part in the United Way's ninth annual Days of Caring. The program assigns employees to United Way agencies to do volunteer work, everything from painting and landscaping, to preparing meals and sanding playgrounds.

Employees from nine companies—Piedmont Natural Gas, Vulcan Construction Materials, ECOLab, Novant, Krispy Kreme, Corn Products, Microfibres, Computer Credit and Wachovia—rolled up their sleeves at about a dozen

United Way-funded agencies. Thousands of other employees from Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco will do their part for Days of Caring events in the weeks to come.

United Way spokesperson John Conrad says the employee volunteers provide much-needed services for the agencies, performing tasks that would cost a pretty penny if agencies had to pay for them out of pocket.

"A lot of what they do probably would not be done if it was not for the volunteers," Conrad said.

The employees left many agencies looking better than they found them. For example, the house that Group Homes calls home on West First Street got a fresh coat of paint thanks to volunteers, as did the conference room at the Mental Health Association's

See Caring on A4



Photos by Kevin Walker

Jojo Soloc and Todd McDade prepare chicken breasts on a portable grill at The Fellowship Home last Thursday. The men were among the hundreds of local employees who took part in the United Way's Days of Caring.



**In Grateful Memory of Our Founders,  
Florrie S. Russell and  
Carl H. Russell, Sr.**

"Growing and Still Dedicated to Serve You Better"

**Russell Funeral Home**

Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support

822 Carl Russell Ave.  
(at Martin Luther King Dr.)  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
(336) 722-3459  
Fax (336) 631-8268  
rushome@bellsouth.net

The Only Choice for African-American and Community News