

Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Community Journal



Pop Warner play comes to an end
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Big Four brings out lots of graduates
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THE CHRONICLE

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Residents and staff rally behind ED

Two board members unhappy with agency leader Reid Lawrence

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Support for the head of the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem from public housing staffers and residents appeared to be unwavering Tuesday, even after they listened to a pair of board members lay out two hours worth of their concerns about the agency's leader.



Naomi Jones

across the city sat side by side with HAWS staffers at the agency's downtown headquarters during a protracted meeting of the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. They came to show support for Reid Lawrence, the agency's executive director.

"The Housing Authority has been good to us," Mattie Young, who is known as the Mayor of Cleveland Avenue Homes, said dur-

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Photo by Kevin Walker

Reid Lawrence, the executive director of the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, gets a hug from Mattie Young, who is known as the Mayor of Cleveland Avenue Homes.

South Ward contest brewing

Molly Leight is hoping to unseat Vernon Robinson

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The South Ward City Council race is already being watched closely by local political oddsmakers.

In one corner is two-term Republican incumbent Vernon Robinson, who talks boldly and loudly about fiscal responsibility and is not immune to throwing a little mud his opponents' way.

In the other is Molly Leight, a grassroots neighborhood organizer who is more accustomed to lobbying elected officials rather than trying to become one.

Leight is new to the race. While most candidates made their intentions to run publicly in July when they filed with the Board of Elections, Leight has only been a candidate since Sept. 28. That is when the Forsyth County Democratic Party selected Leight as its South Ward candidate.

Democrat Charles Bolton Sr., who had filed to run in the ward, withdrew from the race for health reasons.

"I had my arm twisted," Leight said of her recruitment to run in the ward. "Some of the Democrats feel that maybe we have a chance to do something here."

The party hopes that Leight's proven record as a friend of the South Ward will resonate with voters. A retired



Robinson



Leight

Exhibit documents journey of the Hmong

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

An acclaimed exhibit showcasing their history, culture and heartache brought dozens of area Hmong to the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem.

"Hmong at Heart," the museum's first-ever traveling show, opened Saturday at the barely one-year-old facility on Brookstown Avenue. Designed by the Children's Museum of Madison (Wis.), the 1,000 square-foot exhibit takes visitors on an interactive tour of the Hmong (pronounced Mong), from their roots in the mountains of Laos, to their migration to the United States in the 1970s at the invitation of the federal government.

"This is great because we have been looking for ways to communicate with people who don't know us yet," Tong Yang, head of the United Hmong Association, said about the exhibit, which will call the Children's Museum home for the next three months. Yang and more than 60 Hmong traveled from the Statesville area for Saturday's grand opening.

North Carolina has the nation's fourth largest population of Hmong. About 15,000 of them live here; most live in the cluster of counties between Iredell and Buncombe. Like most immigrants, the Hmong have earned reputations as a hardworking, close-knit community. Most of them work in factories and plants, often holding down two or more jobs. But unlike other immigrants, the Hmong were given the green-light by the U.S. government to leave refugee camps in Southeast Asia to settle here.



Photos by Kevin Walker

Webster Hang shows his son, Elbert, some of the gardening tools used by the Hmong in their homeland.

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The exhibit details how the Hmong were forced from Laos by the North Vietnamese during

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See Hmong on A11

See South on A10

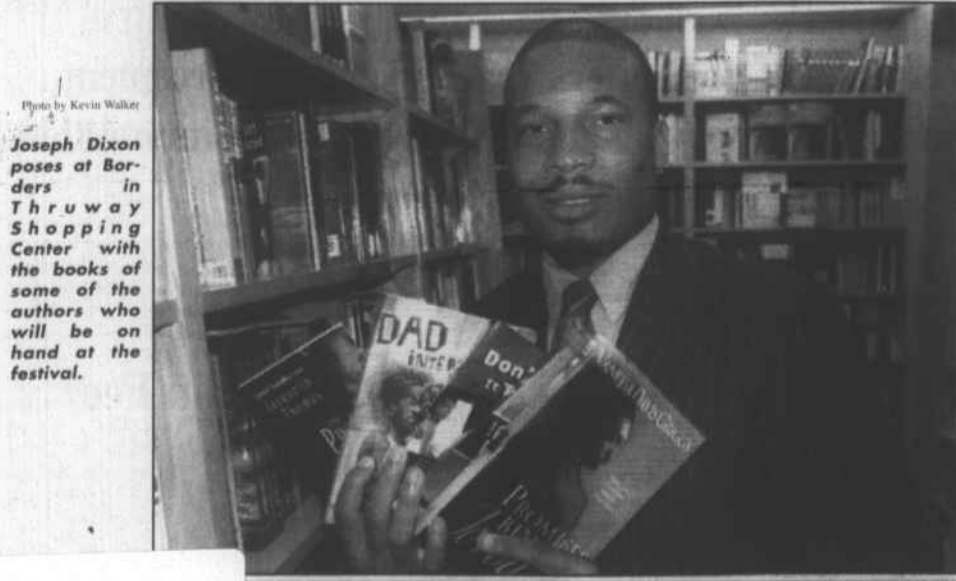


Photo by Kevin Walker
Joseph Dixon poses at Borders in Thruway Shopping Center with the books of some of the authors who will be on hand at the festival.

BOOKS AND A DREAM

Black authors will invade city for festival next year

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Black folks and the arts have somehow clicked in Winston-Salem.

The city's National Black Theatre Festival has earned a worldwide reputation for its star power and high-caliber productions. Joseph Dixon - an ambitious 27-year-old with energy to spare - thinks the city is prime for another festival featuring creative African-Americans.

More than three weeks ago, Dixon began a national push to promote the first-ever N.C. Black Book Festival, slated to be held here March 31-April 1, 2006 at the



Thomas

Sundance Plaza Hotel and Suites. More than a dozen established authors have agreed to be at the event to sign books, meet and greet their fans, and take part in a series of planned panel discussions.

"There are thousands of black readers in this area who never get a chance to meet authors," Dixon said, giving one of the reasons he thought up the festival.

Dixon - a Winston-Salem transplant from Maryland - is among those thousands of black book lovers. Works by black authors have been his refuge, inspiration and salvation for as long as he can remember.

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Not to be taken from this library

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