



Local man played for streaking Patriots

-See Page B1



Agency gets grant to fight speeding

-See Page A3



Doctor experiences heart failure

-See Page A13

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

RAMS TO THE RESCUE

Students say they will never forget spring break in New Orleans

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

For many college students, spring break is a time to go on vacation and have fun. Four students from Winston-Salem State University ended up spending their spring break a little differently. Instead of putting on their bathing suits for fun in the sun, they put on body suits with masks to go inside of houses with blackened walls covered in mold so they could sift through storm wreckage.

This was what WSSU students Thomas Jenkins, William Miller, Monica Skipwith, and Latoya Perry spent their spring break doing, as they stripped houses in New Orleans that were decimated by Hurricane Katrina. They rode to New Orleans with over 20 students from N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro. The group of students gutted houses as part of the Katrina on the Ground initiative, which brought students on

See New Orleans on A5

Photo provided by WSSU

Monica Skipwith and Latoya Perry work in New Orleans earlier this month.



Officials tackle teen drinking

Most local high schoolers have used alcohol

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

Alcohol is the drug of choice among youth. According to 2004 statistics from the National Research Council Institute of Medicine, more young people drink alcohol than smoke tobacco or use marijuana. Each day, more than 5,400 people under the age of 16, consume their first alcoholic beverage. Current data for Forsyth County shows that 64 percent of high school seniors have indulged in drinking alcohol.



Jordan

The problem of underage drinking was discussed Tuesday night during a town hall meeting at the Forsyth County Health Department. A three-member panel spoke to a small crowd about efforts being put into place to combat this trend. The Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention sponsored the meeting.

Through a slide presentation, Kathy Jordan, a member of Safe and Drug Free Schools in Winston-Salem Forsyth County, explained why alcohol was the drug of choice for young people. She said research suggests that the use of alcohol makes young people feel more sociable and outgoing. Research shows that the affects of alcohol on older people is much different, causing hangovers and sedation.

Jordan said the effects of drinking are real and often deadly. Half of all teen car crashes involve alcohol. There are other negative factors that relate to alcohol use as well.

"The problems of unwanted pregnancies and violent situation is often related to the use of alcohol," said Jordan. "But if we're concerned about the implications from chemical dependency down the road, what the research tells us is that youths who use alcohol before the age of 14 are more likely to develop a problem with alcohol and other drugs."

Last year, the Winston-Salem Forsyth County school system received an alcohol reduction grant from the U.S. Department of Education in excess of \$1.7 million. The grant is aimed at implementing programs to reduce underage drinking among middle and high school students. One such program, Project

See Alcohol on A5

TWO OF A KIND



Photo by Jason Pitt

Judge Denise Hartsfield and Jim Shaw congratulate each other after Saturday night's Chronicle 23rd Annual Community Service Awards Banquet at the M.C. Benton Convention Center. Shaw and Hartsfield picked up the Man and Woman of the Year Awards, respectively. She is the county's only African American District Court judge and one of this town's most well-known and beloved public servants. Shaw is a tireless volunteer who devotes countless hours to helping to improve the blighted Liberty Street Corridor and raising funds for the local NAACP branch. To see photos of all of this year's winners, see page B14 of this week's issue.



Photo by Sandra Isley

Shirese Adams has been a firefighter since 1999.

'BURNING' DESIRE

Adams becomes city's first black female Fire Department captain

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

Shirese Adams extinguished her secretarial duties after 10 years in order to carry a heavy hose and ride in a red fire engine.

She became a city firefighter in 1999. Seven years later, she has made local history by becoming the first African American woman to obtain the rank of captain.

In a male-dominated profession, Adams has excelled. She was promoted to captain Monday at Fire Station #3, off of N. Liberty Street.

Fire chief John Gist said that Adams' work ethic was the only criteria considered for the promotion.

"We did not do it because she was black. She's a very good employee and she works very hard," said Gist.

Adams' dream of becoming

a firefighter materialized while she was working as a medical secretary at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. She longed for a change and a challenge.

"I was in a job that I got tired of working 8-5 as a medical secretary and I wanted something different, something spontaneous and exciting, but also a challenge," said Adams. "And fire-fighting gives you every bit of that and more."

The requirements to become a firefighter was her first challenge. As

part of the training, a recruit must pass an agility test that involves running a half-mile, climbing up a flight of stairs with a 50 pound hose and doing a simulated ax chopping exercise. Trainees even have to drag a 175 pound dummy for 100 feet.

The fact that Adams was

See Adams on A12



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