

North Carolina Room  
 Forsyth County Public Library  
 660 West Fifth Street  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
 37 Years  
 of Community Journalism



**Boxer is fighting his way to the top**  
 -See Page B1



**School gives out awards for journalism**  
 -See Page A 5



**Caregivers treat a day of fun and rest**  
 -See Page B14

33 110806 1 \*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT-LOT\*\*C022  
 NORTH CAROLINA ROOM  
 FORSYTH CTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 660 W 5TH ST  
 WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

# THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXII No. 38

THURSDAY, May 18, 2006

## School plans lasting tribute to girl



Photo by Todd Luck  
 William and Tammy Phillips hold a picture of their daughter, Jasmine, who was only six when she passed away last December.

BY TODD LUCK  
 THE CHRONICLE

Tomorrow, the Downtown School will remember the life of a first-grader who died last year. Students, teachers and faculty will plant a Carolina Jasmine, a vine which sprouts bright yellow flowers, by the school's main entrance in a newly-cleared garden. It will serve as a lasting tribute to Jasmine Phillips, a six-year-old who died Dec. 17. The area around the vine will be decorated with stones engraved with a story written by Jasmine. "Get a dress. Get a crown. Get a castle. Get a guard. Sit like a lady," reads Jasmine's story, "How to be a Princess," which she wrote and illustrated for a class. Jasmine wanted to be a princess and a whole lot of other things, including a doctor, lawyer, singer and superstar, according to her parents, William and Tammy Phillips. Tammy Phillips said that her daughter had never been sick. After many autopsy tests, she was told it was heat failure that claimed the life of her daughter. She said the mysterious death was something that might happen to one in a million, and Jasmine just

See Jasmine on A14

## More than jobs offered to teens

**Urban League program will put 200 youths to work**

BY SANDRA ISLEY  
 THE CHRONICLE

Applications are now being accepted by the Winston-Salem Urban League for the Youth Leadership Institute summer jobs program. Young people between the ages of 14 to 16 are eligible to apply.

The Urban League has run a popular summer employment program for youths in the past, but officials say the Youth Leadership Institute is vastly different. They hope to one day make it a year-round endeavor. The summer jobs is only one component, said Keith Grandberry, who heads the Urban League. "As the Urban League, we're supposed to be empowering communities and changing lives," he said. "One of the first things you're suppose to do when you talk about changing lives is get to the young people and give them opportunities to become leaders in the communities." As its name implies, the Youth Leadership Institute will stress leadership skills and responsibility. Those who are selected to take part will be required to learn lessons in areas such as life skills and financial literacy.



Grandberry



Rowe

Only 200 young people will be selected to take part in the summer jobs component of the program. Applicants must be Winston-Salem residents and meet certain family income requirements. Three reference letters are required, as is a 300-word essay in which the applicant will describe why he or she deserves to be selected for the employment program. Those selected will work four hours a day, five days a week, earning a biweekly paycheck.

The Urban League doesn't yet know all of the employers that will employ the young people. They will include local non-profits and businesses. The Urban League has already recruited several businesses and institutions that will work with program participants through the mentoring portion of the program. Winston-Salem State University, Forsyth Technical Community College, Wachovia Bank and the Human Relations Department with the City of Winston-Salem have all signed

See Jobs on A7

## Education leader discusses Carver

BY SANDRA ISLEY  
 THE CHRONICLE

It takes a village to raise a child and according to Howard Lee, chairman of the N.C. Board of Education, it also takes a village to properly educate children as well. Lee spoke at a forum last week to promote Connecting the Village, a program designed to get parents, religious institutions, educators and others involved in finding educational solutions



Lee

for children. The program took place at the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools Administrative Building.

Several community and religious leaders were on hand for the event. During the meeting, Lee implored churches to get involved with schools in their communities in order to help at-risk students succeed. Lee said the school can't do it alone. He said, "What made schools so successful in the past, is that the village was involved."

He also lashed out at Wake County Superior Court Judge Howard Manning, who earlier this year wrote a letter to Lee and other state education leader threatening to close several low performing schools, including Winston-Salem's own, Carver High School. "I'm not in the business of closing schools," Lee said. "Governor Easley is not in the business of closing schools. And I don't think Judge Manning really wants us to close schools. What he really wants is for us to recommit ourselves in turning these schools around."

Lee acknowledged that there are at least 44 schools in

See Lee on A9

Photos by Kevin Walker

Teacher Karin Binkley helps her students place a peel-off warning label on a storm drain.

Below: Daniel Rodriguez stomps on one of the storm drain labels to make sure that it is secure.



## Students become environmentalists

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

Students at the Arts Based Elementary School have added recycling to the three R's.

Tuesday afternoon, more than three dozen fourth-graders set out to cleanup a portion of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Liberty Street, an area adjacent to their school.

The kids put any discarded paper and bottles they spotted as they walked into oversized trash bags. They stamped storm drains with buttons that warned people against pouring anything down the drains. Similar information was contained on pamphlets the students placed on the doors of area businesses.

Arts Based Elementary is assisting the city in its ongoing effort to educate the public about protecting the environment. Tuesday's project was just a warm-up. Beginning June 1, students from kindergarten to fifth-grade will use their love for the arts to entertain and educate the community at an environmental fair. They will dance, sing, act and showcase their artwork, all for the sake of raising awareness of environmental issues that affect local residents, especially those who live near the



school along Liberty and MLK.

"They are not only interested in the environment, they are passionate about," Mary Siebert, the school's arts coordinator, said, referring to students.

Next month's event is

being put on in conjunction with the city's Brownfields Job Training Program, which since 2001 has given more than 70 local people the skills needed to turnaround brownfields, which are usually abandoned blighted properties that face redevelopment hurdles

because they are contaminated with hazardous materials. Long abandoned gas stations are among the sites considered brownfields. Tim Binkley, the city's Brownfields Job Training Coordinator, said dozens of sites that are considered brownfields line Liberty Street. Some, though, have been cleaned-up in recent years.

The EPA grant that funds the city's brownfields training requires the city to do some type of public awareness project. The environmental fair at the school will fulfill that requirement and give youngsters lessons that Binkley hopes they will share with others and remember for life.

"This is great example of starting at the grassroots," Binkley said as he made the trek with the students down Liberty Street. "The best way to teach them environmental lessons is actually to show them."

The kids indeed got an eye-ful. They were in awe after finding some storm drains that were packed full of trash; one even had a large bush sprouting from it. They were disgusted when they learned that the water that travels down and through the drains makes its way into local streams and rivers and then eventually

See School on A9

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 russhome@bellsouth.net