

North Carolina Room
 Forsyth County Public Library
 660 West 5th St
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101
 75 cents



Local trainer looks to make stars

-See Page B1



Mother graduates just before her son

-See Page A 9



Celebration put on for YMCA legend Lucas

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Public housing residents thank cops

BY SANDRA ISLEY
 THE CHRONICLE

The residents and management of Piedmont Park held dinner last week in honor of the city's Police Department.



Jones

Chief Pat Norris, Assistant Chief Ronnie Abernathy and a dozen more law enforcement officers were the guests of honor at the event, which held in the community building of Piedmont Park, a public housing development off of

Liberty Street.

Residents wanted to thank the department for its efforts to make their community safe. The department has stepped up its patrol of the area. The increased police presence has changed Piedmont Park, according to residents.

"You have cleaned this place up.



Chief Patricia Norris and Asst. Chief Ronnie Abernathy hold an award presented to them by Ken Nelson and Shirley Young.

Piedmont Park is not the way it used to be when I first moved here," Ken Nelson, the community's Residents Council president, said in a speech to the officers. "Believe me, because if it was (the way it used to be), you wouldn't be sitting here eating my food."

Capt. David Clayton was a patrol officer in Piedmont Park in the 1980s. Today, he oversees the district that includes the community. When Clayton worked the neighborhoods, he said it had become a victim of the crack/cocaine epidemic.

"At that time, violence was on the rise a little bit. Then it got progressively worse, now it's getting better. I think 1985 just saw the violence really begin up here and now we're seeing a downward trend because of everybody working together. That's what I'm so thrilled about," said Clayton.

Norris was presented with a plaque from the neighborhood that she said will be displayed at police headquarters for everyone to see. The chief did not take credit for the turnaround.

"All the accolades that you all have

See Police on A5

Bailey wants to right wrong

Commissioner says he will fight for money for health plaza

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

County Commissioner Beaufort Bailey, who now freely admits that he made a mistake recently when he voted to approve the county's budget, wants to right his wrong by lobbying his colleagues



Bailey

on the Republican-controlled board to reconsider their decision to eliminate its funding for the Downtown Health Plaza.

Bailey joined about two dozen faith leaders June 28 outside of the health facility for a news conference organized by the grassroots community group CHANGE. The pastors said they too would ask commissioners to reconsider funding the plaza, which serves people of all income levels but has especially been a lifeline for the uninsured and underinsured.

Publicly, the faith leaders said they will hold onto faith as they ask the commissioners to reconsider. Privately, they said they will not hold their breath waiting for commissioners to come back to the budget table. Even Democrat Bailey, who said he planned to reach out to Republican commissioners to see if some money could be allocated to the plaza from the county's contingency fund, expressed doubts about new budget talks.

After the news conference, Bailey expressed his frustration over being one of just two Democrats on the Board of County Commissioners.

"It is very hard to get

See Bailey on A5

Library adds software for those with limited vision

Programs available at only a few branches so far

BY SANDRA ISLEY
 THE CHRONICLE

New assistive technology for the visually impaired is now being offered at various branches of the Forsyth County Public Library.

The new tools consists of three programs:

- JAWS, a fully voice synthesized system, reads text aloud for patrons while they are surfing the Internet. It also reads e-mails, Microsoft Office programs, and other items that appear on the computer screen;



Photo by Sandra Isley

Sandy Shaw sits at a computer workstation with her guide-dog nearby.

off the Internet, can read to them their e-mail, can read to them a book, can read to them any piece of print they bring in, is a huge deal for any library."

The library had an older version of JAWS that wasn't user friendly. She said with the updated version and the other two programs now available, training others to use the software will be an easier task.

Sandy Shaw, who's visually impaired due to an eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa, also spent time demonstrating to the public and staff how each program worked. She's worked with JAWS for more than six years as an administrative assistant with Wells Fargo in Minnesota. She now lives in Winston-Salem. She has now become a whiz with Kurzweil, as well. The programs, she said, have tremendously changed her life.

"If I need something read off the back of a box, if I am cooking

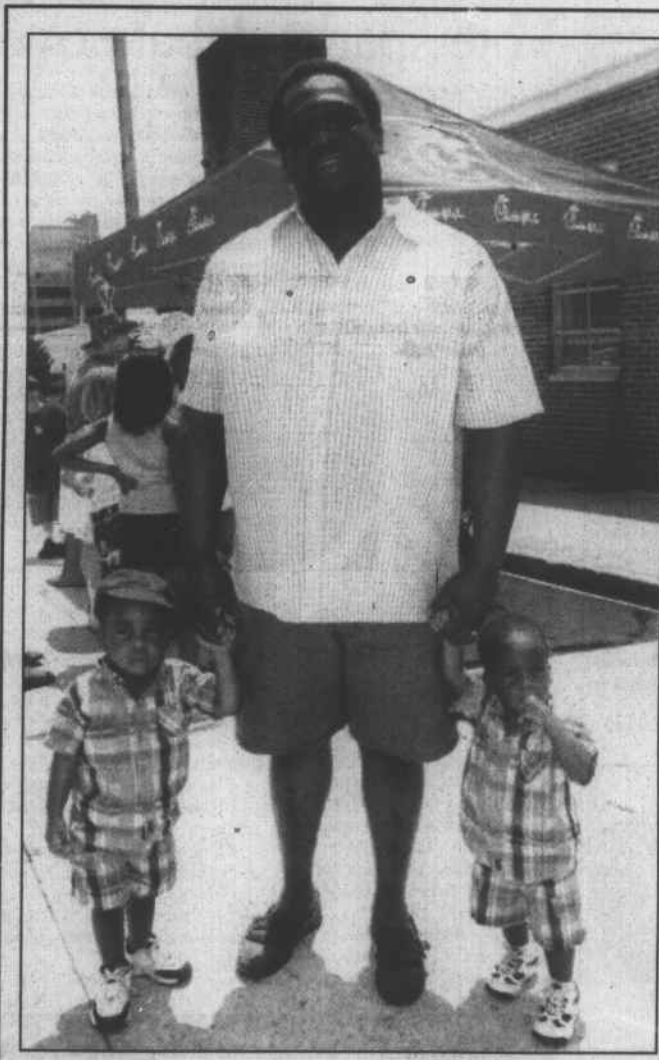
See Library on A9

- Kurzweil works via scanner. It allows patrons to scan materials such as books, magazines, bills and other documents into a computer and then reads it aloud to them;

- Zoom Text magnifies text and pictures.

A demonstration and training sessions were held last week at the Central Library, where two computers are equipped with the programs. Paul Loveall, an employee with the N.C. Division of Services for the Blind in Raleigh, trained library staffers.

"That's big," said Cindy Jones, library support services manager, "when you have people who are visually impaired, when you have software that can read to them anything



OUT WITH THE BOYS

Photo by Kevin Walker

Billy Burton took his twin sons to the recent outdoor festival put on by the Forsyth County Public Library. Elijah is on the right and Gabriel is on the left. The boys are 21-months-old.

Alarm sounded about second-hand smoke

BY TODD LUCK
 THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County Health Director Dr. Tim Monroe announced the findings of a report on secondhand smoke last week outside of the Celtic Cafe, a Stratford Road eatery that recently banned smoking.

The report, put out by U.S. Surgeon General Richard Commona, concluded that secondhand smoke is a "serious health hazard" and called for completely smoke-free buildings and public places.

Monroe summarized the findings of the surgeon general's report.

"Secondhand smoke is a dangerous contaminant to the air we breathe, it effects not just the individuals who smoke but effects those individuals who, not by their choice, have to breath secondhand smoke," he said.

The report says that secondhand smoke, which contains more than 50 cancer causing chemicals, can cause heart disease and lung cancer in nonsmoking adults. The report also concluded it can cause sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and respiratory problems,



Photo by Todd Luck

Dr. Tim Monroe speaks to the media as teens from the Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention hold up a sign.

ear infections and asthma attacks in children and infants.

The report also says that ventilation systems and smoking sections did not completely protect patrons from secondhand smoke and only a smoke-free environment could do that. The report estimated that nearly half of

See Smoke on A9



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