

North Carolina Room
 Forsyth County Public Library
 680 West Fifth Street
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101
 Community Journalism
 75 cents



NBA star gives back to his hometown
-See Page B1



Former justice speaks to local crowd
-See Page A15



68th Annual Cultural Festival downtown
-See Page B16

17 110806 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101
 NORTH CAROLINA ROOM
 FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
 660 W 5TH ST
 WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2755

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXIII No. 5

THURSDAY, September 28, 2006

Age has not slowed 100-year-old Panel explores health, poverty



Cora Warren is greeted by her pastor.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

It was hard to spot the birthday girl at the lighthearted party held Saturday in her honor.

At 100-years-old, Cora Warren was, by far, the most senior person in the fellowship hall at Zion Memorial Baptist, a church that sits just across the street from her East Winston home. But with the skin of a woman half her age and the witty personality of a teenager, Warren looks far from a card-carrying member of the centenarian club.

"She is just a blessing to have as a neighbor," said Frances Strickland, who has lived across the street from Warren for nearly the past 10 years. "She is still very active. She is always in her garden, and she still does ironing and washes clothes."

Every now and then in the summer months, Strickland even catches Warren trimming her shrubs with hedge-clippers. Strickland planned Saturday's party, which was held on Warren's actual 100th birthday. Neither Warren or Strickland attend Zion Memorial. Strickland chose the site because of its proximity to their homes.

Warren is still an active member of United Progressive Baptist Church. Her pastor, the Rev. Lewis Devlin, was among the four dozen who came to celebrate her long life.

During an opening prayer, he said it was clear that God has "kept his arms of protection around (Warren) for all these years."

Panel explores health, poverty

BY LAYLA FARMER
 THE CHRONICLE

Poverty is an undeniable aspect of every culture. For those who live in such unfortunate conditions, it adversely affects nearly every aspect of life, including health.

A program Monday at Salem College drew definite connection between poverty and well-being.

"Poverty - whether rural poverty or urban poverty, is very strongly correlated with poor health," said Dr. Tim Monroe, the director of the Forsyth County Health Department.



Monroe

Monroe was joined by two other panelists - attorney Andrea Kurtz, a victims' advocate for the Forsyth County Domestic Violence Center; and Peter LaRoche, president and C.E.O. of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Forsyth County. The panelists broached a variety of related topics, including the current debate over living wages and domestic violence, which Kurtz said can be related to money issues.

"Many of my clients, when I was practicing law, would complain that they had no access to their income or their partner's income," said Kurtz, who was a Legal Aid attorney for 10 years. "It traps them into a relationship that they otherwise would not have chosen."

Other more prevalent health concerns often occur once the victim is "financially trapped" in such a relationship. Kurtz said domestic violence can lead to a bevy of other health issues.

See Panel on A13

Gay activists evoke city's great sit-in past

Protest ends with arrests

BY TODD LUCK
 THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Nine people were arrested last Thursday in a sit-in conducted at the Army Recruitment Station on Merritt Drive. They were protesting the military's 13-year-old Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, which forbids openly gay individuals from serving in the military.



Jessica Arvidson is arrested by a Greensboro police officer.

Similar sit-ins at military recruitment centers have been happening all over the country organized by Soulforce, a gay rights organization. Each protest has had openly gay individuals apply at military recruitment offices, followed by a sit-in after the applicants are rejected on the basis of their sexual orientation.

"I'm not participating in this protest to stir the pot," said local participant Alex Nini. "I believe in what I am doing, the fact that I should be able to enlist and, if I am allowed, I am ready and willing to go into the military."

Nini, Matt Comer, Jessica Arvidson and Stacy Booe went into the Greensboro recruiting office last week and told a recruiter that they would like to serve in the military but will not hide the fact that they are gay. The recruiters refused them as a matter of policy and they promptly began a sit-in along with six supporters in the lobby of the station.

The police were already there in anticipation of the widely-publicized protest. When the protesters refused to leave, a plain clothes police officer told them they would be arrested for trespassing.

Booe left because she did not wish to be arrested. The remaining nine protesters were escorted away by the nearly two dozen police officers at the site. Each protester had his or her wrists bound

See Sit-in on A5

HEALING SOUNDS



Photo by Kevin Walker

Nella Silverspear, a noted shaman, healer, intuitive, teacher and minister, plays one of her hand-crafted flutes during a recent peace festival held on Trade Street. Silverspear, who has sold her flutes to people all over the globe, says her instruments have healing powers.

Groups asks city to pay its workers fairly

BY LAYLA FARMER
 THE CHRONICLE

Food or rent, health care or heat - it may not be a decision you have ever had to make, but for many among us the reality is that these choices must be prioritized because not all of them can be afforded. It is a dire circumstance and community groups say it happens right here in Winston-Salem everyday.



Garrity

Several organizations are coming to the aid of local workers who they say are being inadequately compensated for the jobs that they do.

The Black Leadership Roundtable, the NAACP, CHANGE, the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem, the Advocacy for the Poor, the Forsyth-County Healthy Community Coalition (FCHCC) and the Right Choice have formed the Living Wage Campaign Coalition.

The coalition's objective is for Winston-Salem to join 140 cities nationwide in pass-



Photo by Layla Farmer

Linda Sutton speaks at last week's event.

ing an ordinance that requires all employers to pay their employees a living wage - a wage high enough to maintain a normal standard of living. The coalition believes the city should set the example by first paying all

city workers a living wage. "If you could hear the stories they tell us, (city employees are) having to work two and

See Wages on A11

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
 russhome@bellsouth.net

6890763243