



Player overcomes serious injuries

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Racing degree coming to WSSU

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Black funeral directors get accolades



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# THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina Room  
Forsyth County Public Library  
660 West Fifth Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101



Bedsworth

Dills

## Judge, attorney vie for seat

Bedsworth is only District Court member in competitive race

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Three Forsyth County District Court judges are on the Nov. 7 ballot, but George Bedsworth is the only one facing a challenger. Local attorney Jonathan Dills says he choose a head-to-head with Bedsworth rather than judges Denise Hartsfield or Lisa Menefee because Bedsworth is the newly on the local bench.

"I went with who had less incumbency," said Dills, who runs his own downtown law firm and a burgeoning real estate business.

Bedsworth was appointed to the bench by Gov. Easley two years ago when Forsyth County was granted a ninth District Court judge. All judicial appointments serve only a partial term before they have to run in an election to keep their seats.

Bedsworth had run for District Court in the 1980s but did not make it out of the Democratic primary. He has practiced law for close to three decades, most of those years have been spent here in Forsyth County in District Court, where everything from criminal cases to child custody matters are decided.

"I didn't really have a tough time making the transition," Bedsworth said of his move from in front of the bench to behind it.

Dills, a Forsyth County native who earned two undergraduate degrees and a law degree from the University of North Carolina, also knows what it is like to lose an election. He ran for the N.C. House in 2004, losing in the Republican primary.

Neither Dills nor Bedsworth will have a party affiliation by their names this time around. Judicial races in North Carolina have been nonpartisan for several years now. Bedsworth thinks it should be that way.

"I think it was a small step in the right direction," he said of the change. "I don't think that judges should be politicians."

Bedsworth said he doesn't deny that he is a Democrat; but it is not information, he says, that he offers freely. Dills, though, has not shied away from being a conservative

See District Court on A5

## STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Medical students pitch good health, exercise at local school

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Obesity is a growing problem in America. The digital age lends itself to sedentary behaviors, rendering many to lifestyles that are significantly less active than that of their predecessors. Children aren't being spared in the obesity epidemic.

As part of the N.C. Albert Schweitzer Fellowship program, eight Wake Forest University Medical School students have decided to take a stand against obesity and promote healthy living with the implementation of Inspiration Perspiration, a program being held this week at Hill Magnet School. The Schweitzer Fellowship program focuses on the implementation of health-oriented programs that target underserved populations. The program supplied Hill with



Hodges



Photos by Jason Pitt

Students check out their pedometers during gym class on Tuesday.

pedometers for all of the students to wear during gym classes. The children with the most steps recorded

will be rewarded at a special program at the school on Friday. "This is a chance for them to set

fitness goals for themselves," said Laura Heringer, a second-year med-

See Hill on A7

## Hospital to take unique breast cancer approach

Program will allow survivors to help current patients

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

African American and Hispanic women in this community are dying of breast cancer at alarming rates - two times higher than that of their Caucasian counterparts.

Although there is programming in place to provide support and other services to breast cancer patients, those hailing from underserved populations still somehow seem to fall through the cracks.

"There's clearly a disparity there," said Dr. John H. Stewart IV, an assistant professor in the department of Surgical Oncology at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. "We need to implement programs such as these to ameliorate that disparity."

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center has recently



Photo courtesy of WFURMC

Dr. John H. Stewart IV with Avon's Mary Quinn.

announced the formation of a new program to address the vast disparities in breast cancer and other areas of health care. Survivors In Service, or SIS as the program will be called, was funded with a \$125,000 grant awarded to the hospital by the Avon

Foundation. The grant is one of four grants the foundation awarded this year with the proceeds from its two-day 39 mile Walk for Breast Cancer.

"It fits right in with the work that we do at the Breast Care Center," said Ann Hopkins, assistant director

of the the Philanthropic Communications Development and Alumni Affairs at the medical center. "Everybody here is thrilled."

The program will provide guides to minority breast cancer patients, to help them navigate the complex health care system properly.

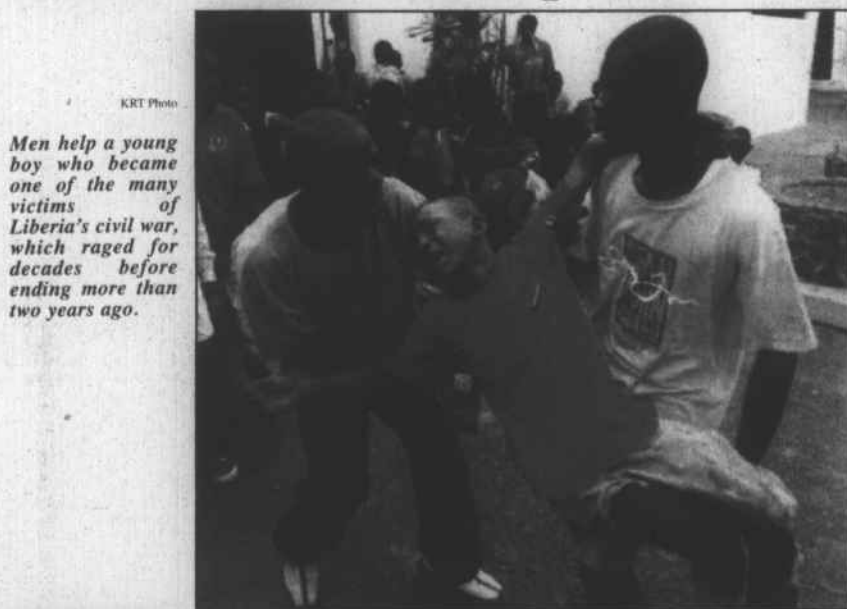
"A study that was published in the journal for our clinical oncologist showed that the (turnout for) follow up treatment in ... Hispanic and African American women is lower than would be expected," explained Stewart, who is also SIS's medical director. "Some groups have suggested that if you help women navigate the system, (or) assign them individuals who are responsible to make sure they show up to the clinic on time, make sure that they show up for radiation and chemotherapy on time, that that should improve outcomes."

Although SIS is modeled after existing programs in other municipalities, Wake Forest's version has one distinct component.

"Our program is unique, howev-

See SIS on A14

## Local commission plans to raise millions for African nation



KRT Photo

Men help a young boy who became one of the many victims of Liberia's civil war, which raged for decades before ending more than two years ago.

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Last week the Friends of Liberia-North Carolina Commission announced its goal to raise \$25 million dollars to help rebuild the war-ravaged African nation.

The commission operates under the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont, a local nonprofit organization with a history of helping Liberians and others through charitable works. The commission was formed in response to Liberian President Ellen Johnson-SirLeaf's request to the international community for help in rebuilding Liberia.

Commission members include many prominent local people such as Ed Wilson, provost emeritus of Wake Forest University; N.C. Rep. Larry Womble; and Goler Memorial Pastor Seth O. Lartey, a native of Liberia.

The commission plans to request financial and in-kind donations from local businesses, educational institutions, religious organizations and even from the state government.

"We are working to raise these dollars, both in-kind and cash, to restore Liberia to what it used to be," said Lartey. "Many years ago, when you think

of the most peaceful Democratic country in Africa, you always think of Liberia."

Liberia, a country founded by freed slaves from the United States in the 1800s, is Africa's oldest independent republic. Its economy and society were devastated by 14 years of civil war. The fighting ended in 2003. Liberia is now led by the democratically-elected President Johnson-SirLeaf, who was sworn-in in January.

Though Liberia is rich in natural resources like timber, diamonds and rubber, Johnson-SirLeaf faces many challenges in rebuilding her country. The civil war scared many businesses away from the country. Recently lifted U.N. sanctions meant to deprive warring factions of money have also deprived the country of many moneymaking exports. A U.N. sanction on diamond exports is still in effect. The country has an 80 percent poverty rate and a 2003 estimate put its unemployment rate at 85 percent.

Lartey expressed confidence that Johnson-SirLeaf has the skills to rebuild Liberia if she's given the resources. He said that several members of the Liberian Organization went to see Johnson-SirLeaf



Hunder

See Liberia on A7



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