



Young runner has bright a future

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Artist starting to get notice for work

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Race for the Cure draws thousands

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# THE CHRONICLE

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Vol. XXXIII No. 35

THURSDAY, May 10, 2007

## Poster boy shows disease's new face

Long a black illness, sickle cell now affecting Hispanics

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Sickle Cell Anemia is a debilitating disease that affects one in every 12 African Americans nationwide. The disorder arises from a genetic mutation which causes red blood cells to form abnormally. It manifests with symptoms such as anemia and pain episodes, and is potentially fatal.

Once thought to be a "black disease," cases of Sickle Cell Anemia are rampant in Hispanic populations as well, with one in 16 Hispanics carrying the genetic sickle cell trait.

For decades, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of the Piedmont (SCDAP) - which serves Alamance, Caswell, Guilford, Forsyth, Randolph and Rockingham Counties - has worked to improve the quality of life for those who suffer from the dis-

ease or carry the trait, offering a variety of services and educational resources to help families deal with the challenges that go hand in hand with the disease.

The association oversees a 26-member advisory board, which provides Winston-Salem residents with the support and education they need, hosting fundraisers and other events to raise awareness and support the various programs that the SCDAP offers.

"We have close to 200 clients; both Hispanic and black," said Advisory Board President Doris Herrell. "We have raised quite a bit of money for sickle cell and been able to do a lot for the children especially."

The SCDAP has seen an influx of Hispanic patrons in recent years, according to Executive Director Gladys Robinson, who has managed the association since 1982.

"In Winston-Salem, we have our largest



Herrell

See Sickle cell on A14

## Program wants to feed more children

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Allen Joines and Don Martin, superintendent of Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools, held a press conference in the cafeteria of Carver High School Tuesday morning, to announce their plan to boost the number of children participating in the school system's

"Summer Feeding Program for Hungry Children."

The program has existed in Forsyth County for more than 30 years and is backed by funding from the federal government. The money is mandated to help children who are eligible for free and reduced lunches get the nutrition they need during the summer months.

The school system has the means to feed thousands of children systemwide who are enrolled in free or reduced-lunch programs, but the turnout has been scant in recent years, according to Martin.

"The pool of kids who qualify for the Summer Feeding Program for hungry children is about 24,000," he stated. "We were serving about 1,690 kids (through the summer feeding program) last year on the average."

"If we had 2,500 everyday, or if we had 10,000 everyday, we can staff-up and serve them," he continued. "The barrier has been actually getting students to come."

In an effort to increase awareness about the program and to make it more accessible to those who need it, the mayor's office and the city of Winston-Salem have joined the initiative, along with the Second Harvest Food Bank and the YWCA.

"Hungry kids and Winston-Salem is not two two words that I want to go together," Joines remarked.

Unused funds set-aside for the summer feeding program must be returned to federal government at the end of each summer, another fact that doesn't sit



Corpening

See Meals on A14



Hosea Najaro Jr., a fourth grader at Griffith Elementary, has battled sickle cell all of his young life.

## Impressive class departs to serve

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Four years ago, the world of higher education was Darien Davis's oyster.

California born and Charlotte-bred, Davis - then a high school senior - had high aspirations, a drive to be the best and a transcript to back it all up.

He could have studied business at any school in the nation; he picked Winston-Salem State University. Saturday - as he swam in a sea of praise for being the member of the WSSU Class of 2007 with the highest GPA - Davis said if he has never once regretted his choice. At WSSU, he said, he found professors who not only taught but cared and friends that he grew to love, not just like.

"The school has a great business program, and I was offered a full scholarship," said Davis, who was also influenced by his sister, a WSSU alumnna.

Davis's unmatched 4.0 GPA, earned him time at the podium during the commencement ceremony, which brought out thousands of peo-



Darien Davis speaks at Saturday's graduation ceremony.

ple to the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum to watch a class of more than 400 receive bachelor's and master's degrees. Davis, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Economics, told his classmates and their assembled friends and family members, that there is sparse

time to celebrate and rest on one's laurels after graduation. The challenges of the real world await.

"This is not the end for us," he said, reminding the class that learning is a marathon and not a sprint.

Davis is an example of the high caliber of students that

have helped to bring WSSU - a more than 100 year historically black college - into the 21st century. In this century, the school's campus has undergone a metamorphosis that will soon nearly double its size. The student-body has experienced an equally significant growth. Two years ago,

the school was proclaimed the fastest growing in the University of North Carolina system. And several times over the past seven years, U.S. News & World Report has named the school one of the best in the South. All of these

See Grads on A12

## Postal carriers will pick up food Saturday

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

"Hunger doesn't take a holiday or a vacation."

It is one of Nan Griswold's favorite sayings, and for good reason.

As executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina, Griswold knows the statement holds true here in the Triad. That's why she is so glad to have the help of local mail carriers, who contributed more than 100,000 lbs. of food to the bank last year, during what Griswold refers to as its "dry season."

The food was collected as part of a nation-



Griswold

See Food Drive on A5



Local postal carriers pose with some of the food they collected last year.

### A DAY AT THE THEATRE



NCSA Photo

Students from several local schools got a treat Tuesday as they watched the magic of live theater at the Stevens Center. The N.C. School of the Arts invited the students to a special free performance of its popular staging of "West Side Story," which has been drawing big crowds since it debuted last week. Here Maria Watkins, a NCSA School of Music alumna and a guidance counselor at Philo Middle School, poses with some of her students outside just before show time.



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