



Six-year-old gymnast claims gold medals

-See Page B1



Park for dog owners will soon be opening

-See Page A11



Teacher finally finishes first book

-See Page A9

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

75 Years Community Journalism

19 110807 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101 NORTH CAROLINA ROOM FORSYTH CTY PUBLIC LIBRARY 660 W 5TH ST WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXIII No. 43

THURSDAY, July 12, 2007

Green efforts earn 'Cool' designation for Winston

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The Foothills Group of the N.C. Sierra Club named Winston-Salem a "Cool City" recently for making a commitment to fight global warming through local conservation.

Winston-Salem is the 16th city in the state to be declared a Cool City by the Sierra Club. Mayors of Cool Cities have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Change Agreement, a pledge to work to reduce carbon dioxide pollution. Scientists say that carbon dioxide pollution causes global warming, an increase of the Earth's temperature that could have devastating effects.

The seriousness of global warming — which scientists say could cause deadly hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and the extinction of many forms of wildlife and vegetation — has caught the world's attention. More than 170 nations have signed the Kyoto Protocol Global Warming Treaty, which also calls for a carbon dioxide pollution reduction. The United States has not signed that treaty, despite cries to do so from environmental groups.

The mayor's agreement was started in 2005 by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels to get action on global warming at a local level. So far more than 500 mayors have signed the agreement. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines signed the agreement in March and the City Council passed a resolution in May to perform a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Carbon dioxide is one several greenhouse gases, which, if unchecked, are believed to be the main culprit in the warming of the Earth's surface.

The mayor was presented with a plaque of appreciation from the local Sierra Club. Joining Joines at Grace Court Park, were City Council Members Vivian Burke, Joycelyn Johnson, Molly Leight and Dan Besse.

Besse, who is also a candidate for N.C. Lt. Governor, said the city's energy supply and transportation system are its two big sources of carbon emissions. The city is looking for ways to cut emissions down and save energy, which will not only be good for the environment but also save the taxpayers money, Besse said.

The city took a small step in that direction last year with

See Cool city on A12

Mentoring agency providing summer stimulation



BBBS' Molly Buckley leads kids in a reading activity.

Kids on waiting list take advantage of reading program

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

This summer, youngsters on Big Brothers Big Sisters' (BBBS) waiting list are taking part in a reading program that is honing their reading skills and giving them a chance to experience new and exciting places.

Currently, about 70 children are waiting to get a Big Brother or Big Sister. Most of them are from single-parent homes and are in need of more positive adult role models. The majority are boys. BBBS has a harder time finding men to volunteer with the agency.

Lamaya Williams, a volunteer recruiter with the local BBBS, said that for six years the summer reading program has been giving

ing kids a nice preview of what it's like when they find their Big Brother or Big Sister.

"This gives them the opportunity to get out and have interaction with adults, with positive adult role models, and ... they'd probably be in the house doing nothing, so this gives them a chance to still continue learning from the school year and have some fun," said Williams.

The reading program takes 12 children, ages 8-12, and gives them educational activities to do twice a week for six weeks. The focus is on reading and the children get to keep all the books they read. As part of the program, they take trips that coincide with what they're reading. Field trip destinations have included



Williams

See Summer reading on A11

Well-known music man Reginald McCaskill stands in front of a Habitat house currently under construction.



Photo by Layla Farmer

A REASON TO SING

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Habitat looking for a few good voices for choir

Collaboration breeds innovation, community spirit and success. That was the thinking behind the formation of HabitatForsyth's community choir. The choir is the brainchild of Faith and Community Relations Manager Karen Bell Chandler and funded by a grant from Habitat International. The grant aims to increase the involvement of African American churches in its mission earlier this year, the new, unique ensemble will hold its first meeting next week.

"We ... thought that singing and music was a really particular gift that

African American churches bring, and maybe that would be a wonderful way to engage them," Chandler explained.

So she began making plans to create a Habitat for Humanity Community Choir.

"I just think there is a common language with music," Chandler stated. "There are differences between people all through the community — that's clear — but when we have a common language with music, a lot of those things can be

bridged." Comprised of a diverse representation of Winston-Salem itself, the choir will perform at home dedications and other key HabitatForsyth events. Already, nine churches have agreed to participate.

Traditionally, the organization has served predominantly African Americans in the area, and Chandler says the choir is part of a larger effort to encourage diversity on all levels of the Habitat ministry.

"(Executive Director) Sylvia (Oberle) and other people in the organization, me certainly included, believe that we need to have people of color, to have their pres-

See Choir on A12

BOYS WILL BE BOYS



Photo by Kevin Walker

Vic Johnson's annual youth golf program wrapped up another summer of fun Tuesday at Reynolds Park Golf Course. In between swings, some of the youths occupied themselves by using a stick to unearth worms and other things that crawl. To read more about the golf clinic, see B14.

Push for party-less board begins

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Forsyth County School Board has become a bit of a rarity in the state, as one of the few school boards still adhering to partisan elections.

The issue of partisan vs. non-partisan school board elections has been the subject of debate among community members for some time and now the grassroots organization known as CHANGE (Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment) has decided to headline the struggle to make the elections nonpartisan.

The organization is currently in the throes of a summer long petition drive, which it hopes will convince local lawmakers to amend their earlier decision to keep the elections partisan after a statewide mandate ended it in most counties, according to Walter Joyce, a designated spokesperson for CHANGE's



Lambeth

See CHANGE on A12

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