



Parkland ready to shine on field

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Hunt speaks to group of youngsters

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Night Out promotes safety, oneness

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Celebrating 82 North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101 Community Journal

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BRIGHT LIGHT EXTINGUISHED

Young drowning victim remembered for talents, love of life

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Carma Miller can scarcely remember a time when her beloved son, Christian, wasn't by her side - comforting her, loving her, encouraging her to go on when she wanted to give up. Now she is forced to endure the most difficult time of her life without him.

"He was always there, always there - no matter what," she said. "He could feel whenever I was down or needed a boost - he would always look at me ... and put his fingers in each corner of his mouth and make a smiley face, and he wouldn't stop until I smiled."

Sixteen-year-old Christian Miller tragically drowned Aug. 3 at Happy Hill Pool. According to the police report, Christian Miller was at the pool swimming with friends. At some point, one of his friends saw Christian at the bottom of the pool, lifeless, and notified a lifeguard. CPR was attempted but it was too late. By the time EMS arrived, Christian was already dead.

A rising junior at Atkins, Christian had showed promise in several areas. He loved writing and had even begun work on his first book. However, he was best known for his compassion for others



See Miller on A15 Christian Miller plays with other musicians at the recent Juneteenth celebration.



Alvin Atkinson heads the center.

Center lands another crime-fighting grant

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

It's hard to miss the revitalization in downtown these days. High priced condos and swanky eateries are cropping up seemingly everywhere, as a result of the tireless efforts of the city and other organizations who care about the area.

Likewise, renewal processes are taking place in other areas as well. Though the changes in these communities may not be as obvious to the untrained eye, they are the only changes that matter.

More of these changes are on the way now that the U.S. Department of Justice has granted the city another Weed and Seed grant. The grant was announced this week by the office of U.S. Rep. Mel Watt, who applauded the decision to give grants to High Point, Charlotte and two other N.C. cities.

"I was happy to support these requests for funding to support this innovative program," Watt said. "This grant focuses crime-fighting resources in high risk areas while addressing the roots of crime that are essential to keeping our neighborhoods safe."

Locals are also excited about the opportunity to initiate change with the grant money. "Obviously, we are very

pleased to have been selected, but it also means that we have communities that need help," commented Alvin Atkinson, interim director of Winston-Salem State University's Center for Community Safety, which spearheaded the grant effort. "We're just thankful for an opportunity to provide some additional resources to areas in our community, both in the east hoods such as Rolling Hills, Lakeside apartment area and also the west area, which has properties along Broad Street and Green and ... pretty much surrounded by the site of the new ballpark."



Watt

As the name suggests, Weed and Seed programs seek to "weed" out problems that plague communities and plant "seeds" of change, through programming tailored for each specific location. The center used its previous grant to implement changes in Salem Gardens.

"The Weed and Seed designation really is a community mobilization effort that utilizes federal funding to help leverage additional resources to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for residents in high crime, low-income neighborhoods," Atkinson explained.

The new Weed and Seed program, dubbed the Twin City

See Grant on A15

Professionals temporarily inherit little siblings

Photo by Todd Luck

Jordan Wright sits beside his "Big Brother," the city's marketing chief, Ed McNeal.



BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Young people on Big Brothers Big Sisters' waiting list got to see everything from football fields to the inside of bank vaults last Friday as part of "Big for a Day."

The annual event pairs children who are waiting to be matched up with a Big Brother or Big Sister with adults who volunteer to spend the morning letting the youngsters shadow them at work. The event culminated in a noontime luncheon hosted by WXII anchorwoman Wanda Starke, who, herself, has been a Big Sister for the past 11 years. The luncheon was held high above

See BBBS on A8

Garden provides both food and life lessons

TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The site of the former Elementary School, across from Shiloh Baptist Church, is now home to watermelons, cantaloups, corn and a wide variety of other vegetables.

Ancestor Acres is the name of the community garden that has sprung to life over the past year thanks to tender loving care from Carter Vocational High School teachers and students. The school is using the garden to give students a unique experience, far removed from the traditional classroom setting they are used to.

"I think students and children ... so appreciate that whole concept of taking

things in the raw state - the seed, the plant - putting it in the ground, giving it some nurture, and watching time and nature work and then doing the harvest, said Francis Manns, who along with fellow Carter faculty member Marguerite Rhodes has guided students at the garden.



Manns

Carter is located miles away from the garden on South Main Street. The school educates local students who have mental challenges. This summer saw tremendous growth in the garden. Seven students have worked tirelessly in the garden for two months. They have received help from Glenn

High School freshmen Kenny Thomason and Stormi Ganzer, who rid the area of stub-

See Garden on A11



Photos by Todd Luck

With lots of care, the garden has yielded beautiful fruits and veggies that have gone to local elderly people.



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