



High school star makes his choice for college

-See Page B1



U.S. Rep campaigns for Obama in W-S

-See Page A4



Young people aided by...

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

22 110808 1 NORTH CAROLINA ROOM FORSYTH CTY PUBLIC LIBRARY 660 W 5TH ST WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXIV No. 32

THURSDAY, April 24, 2008



James Grissom

Life of AIDS advocate recalled

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Last week, people gathered to honor the life of James Grissom, who became known throughout the city for his efforts to spread HIV/AIDS awareness.

Grissom was open about his on AIDS status. He had contracted the disease through sharing needles for drug use. For more than a decade, he lived with HIV/AIDS. He died April 9 of cancer-related complications at age 53.

A memorial service was held last Thursday at Centenary United Methodist Church, where Grissom was a member.

The Rev. Laura Hamrick, a former minister at Centenary, said Grissom stood out at the church, not because he was a black man in a predominantly white church, but because of the way he lived. He touched the lives of many, she said. He will be remembered for the many talks he gave in churches, colleges and all around the community on HIV/AIDS.

"Some have said that James perhaps single handedly changed the attitude of our community towards HIV/AIDS," said Hamrick.

Grissom wasn't always a hero. Prior to coming to Winston-Salem, he was an alcoholic and a drug addict. He had been diagnosed with HIV and many other health serious prob-

See Grissom on A4

Clinton hopes bridges to black community have not been torched

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

A year ago, it was unfathomable that the wife of the nation's first black president - as writer Toni Morrison once famously called Bill Clinton - would be at odds with many in the African-American community.

But this presidential election year has proven that anything is possible - even Sen. Hillary Clinton and black voters being on opposite sides. Clinton's opponent for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. Barack Obama, has been trouncing Clinton among African American voters from coast-to-coast. The possibility that Obama could become the nation's first black president is undoubtedly largely credited with his popularity. But many say Sen. Clinton and the former president have aided Obama's popularity among blacks by their words and actions.

In January, Bill Clinton rubbed many blacks the wrong way when he referred to Obama's campaign as a "fairy tale." Around that same time, Sen. Clinton made comments that many saw as disrespectful to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and other black civil rights leaders. The Clintons have repeatedly said their comments were misinterpreted and twisted for political purposes. But last Friday, Sen. Clinton predicted that when all the primaries are over and the Democrats have their nominee, all hard feelings will evaporate, and she and her husband will continue to enjoy a cozy relationship with the black community.

"I do not believe that will or should happen," Clinton said of the possibility that campaigning may damage the Clinton reputation among African-Americans. "I think it is a tribute to



WFU Photo

See Clinton on A14 Sen. Hillary Clinton answers audience questions last week.

Men accept school's invitation to lead

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Officials at North Hills Elementary School were hoping to draw at least 40 dads to the school for their inaugural Doughnuts with Dads event. More than 80 men showed up to support the students on the morning of April 16.

"I see all of you here, I am pleasantly surprised," said Principal Nathaniel Barber. "I am ecstatic about it."

Doughnuts with Dads is a new program the school has implemented in an effort to reach out to underrepresented male parents and grandparents.

"Each school has to show that they are inviting parents in and making them a part of the education process of children," explained fifth grade teacher Patricia Bitting, one of the organizers for the event. "Because we have not had the success with having the male population come in, we decided we were going to do something special in April for the dads."

The program, which Bitting



Photos by Layla Farmer

Dozens of men spent time with kids at North Hills last week.



Nathaniel Barber

says the school hopes to make an annual event, is loosely organized to allow the children and men to interact freely with one another.

"We have asked them to sit and read to the children or, if the children are working, just assist them with the work," Bitting related. "If a child needs to go out and just talk to somebody, I want them to take that child out ... just hold that child's hand, look into that child's eyes and just let them

See North Hills on A13

THERE SHE IS



Photo by Kevin Walker

Erica Dunlap, Miss America 2004, performs a country tune Saturday during a birthday celebration for Maya Angelou. See page B7 for more on the event.

THE (FREE) DOCTOR IS IN

Dedicated physician donates years of service to clinic

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The medical clinic at the Community Mosque of Winston-Salem is cluttered. Bottles of medication crowd the shelves. Boxes of samples line two of the small office's walls. But that's the way Dr. Muhammad Athar likes it.

"It's very haphazard here because I am the only one who comes around and does this," he stated. "We give (the patients) as many samples as we can."

Athar, a native of Hyderabad, India, has been practicing medicine for more than 30 years. He is now in private practice in Mt. Airy, with his wife, Asima, a physician's assistant. He has made the trek monthly from Mayberry to the clinic

See Doctor on A13

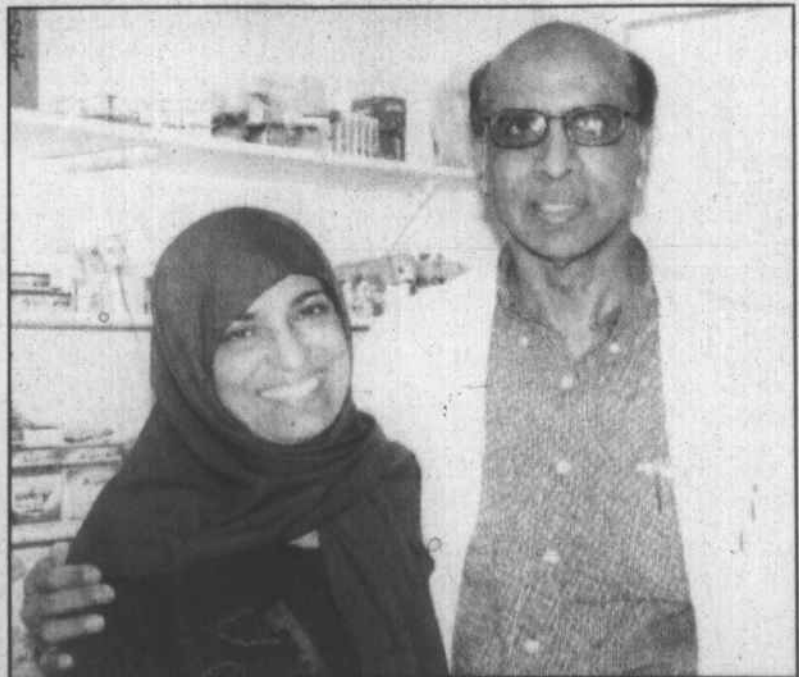


Photo by Layla Farmer

Muhammad Athar - pictured her with his wife, Asima - has devoted his time and skills to those who need medical attention.



In Memory of Charlene Russell Brown

"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

