



Reynolds' Peterson goes 1-on-1

-See Page B3



FTCC seeks support for bond

-See Page A4



Black history rolls into Winston

-See Page B7

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

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXV No. 7

THURSDAY, October 16, 2008

21 110808 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101 NORTH CAROLINA ROOM FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY 660 W 5TH ST WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

Obama camp: Vote early in N.C.

Ballots can be cast starting today

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Who could blame State Rep. Dan Blue for being a bit anxious about today's start of early voting in North Carolina.

The Wake County representative and scores of his Democratic colleagues fought long and hard for residents to have the ability to register and vote on the same day. The true spoils of their victory will be gauged in the next two weeks. Blue is praying for an early voting turnout like this state has never seen before. Blue says this election year - with the addition of same day registration/voting - there are truly no excuses. He dreams that 40 to 50 percent of registered voters will vote early so that they can spend Election Day (Nov. 4) rounding up their friends, neighbors and colleagues and getting them to the polls.

"There is no reason why that can't happen," Blue said Tuesday of possibility of record early voting turnout.



Blue

Blue and U.S. Rep. Mel Watt joined representatives of the Obama for President campaign in a teleconference with black media organizations Tuesday to urge North Carolinians to take advantage of early voting, which will be available to voters through Nov. 1 at more than 360 sites throughout the state, including 14 in Forsyth County.

North Carolina is one of a handful of states with an already unprecedented amount of new voters. The number of new registrants is expected to increase even more with the same-day initiative. The high numbers of fresh voters headed to the polls has Team Obama excited about the possibility of the unthinkable: a

'Black' fund looks to hand out first grants

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Do-gooders in the African American community may be eligible for additional funding to support their efforts, thanks to the creation of the Black Philanthropy Fund at the Winston-Salem Foundation.

The Fund was birthed by the WSF's Black Philanthropy Initiative (BPI), which was established in 2000 as a vehicle to promote charitable giving in and for the black community. Led by



Clements

a group of African American philanthropists, the BPI amassed \$44,000 in donations over the past eight years to form the Fund. "One of the things we've discovered is that the concept of philanthropy within the black community is seen very differently," said Michael Clements, vice president of Community Investment for the Winston-Salem Foundation. "The idea behind (the creation of the Fund) was trying to identify this as a vehicle of support for the community."

Up to five, \$5000 grants will be awarded to local organizations this year to support education-focused programming in the black community. Recipients of the grant will be selected by the BPI's 13-member Black Philanthropy Initiative Advisory Committee.

"It makes us a more powerful community and a more effective community by identifying key issues," Clements said. "Certainly, there is a need to address some of

See Voting on A11



Voting starts today at the Board of Elections.

BLR again hopes to be a rising phoenix

Grassroots group has been low key as of late

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

It's been either feast or famine for the Black Leadership Roundtable (BLR) over the past 25 years.

The grassroots social action organization sprung to life in the 1980s to bring attention and action to issues that affect the African-American community. For a time, interest in the organization's mission and causes was high, as was its membership. But all of it was short-lived, and the BLR simply disappeared without a trace.

It was resurrected in the late 1990s, and again, the organization thrived for a time, says Imam Khalid Griggs, a former co-convenor of the reincarnation of the BLR.

"Events in the city helped the organization to be relevant," Griggs related. "I felt that the Black Leadership Roundtable filled a very important void



Members of the Black Leadership Roundtable hold a news conference in 2003.

at that time."

Indeed throughout the late 1990s and the first few years of the 21st Century, the Roundtable was on a roll. The group fought and

won a battle against City Hall to save New Evergreen Cemetery, the city's popular, premier African-American graveyard from being closed. It was also responsi-

ble for getting city leaders to adopt guidelines for the use of pepper spray by police officers.

And in 2003, the BLR called for the city manager

to fill the vacant chief of police position with an African-American, arguing that a black chief could better bridge the divide

See BLR on A13

See BPI on A12

LIVING TO TELL ABOUT IT

Reunion brings together stroke survivors

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

More than 100 survivors gathered at Forsyth Medical Center (FMC) Tuesday afternoon, to take part in the hospital's first annual Stroke Survivors Reunion.

The reunion was designed to encourage survivors by exposing them to others who had suffered similarly and overcome many hardships; and to celebrate the many triumphs each survivor has had during the long recovery process.

"For a lot of our patients, things are never back to normal," said Dr. Chere Chase, director of the stroke program at FMC. "It's a lifelong process."

Chase says she got the idea for the reunion from a similar program the hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit hosts.

"It was what I wanted it to be,"



Photo by Liliana Hines/FMC

Fardill Holly with Dr. Chere Chase and Gwen Holley.

she said of the reunion. "I was hoping that they would share (their stories) and laugh... It's a time to celebrate being tough. People are

rewarded for a lot less. Fighting back from a stroke is an incredibly heroic thing to do."

See Stroke on A4

CROWNING MOMENT



Photo courtesy of N.C. A&T

Miss North Carolina A&T State University Tanisha Shavone Fordham is crowned Miss NBCA (National Black College Alumni) Hall of Fame at the recent Queens competition in Atlanta. Fordham is a senior mass communications major and a member of the university's Richard B. Harrison Players.



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 rusfhome@bellsouth.net

