



Reagan hopes for perfection this season

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Ministers support local students

-See Page A3



Jam-packed artist wraps

North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101

-See Page A3

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DID COPS GO TOO FAR?

Questions being asked after police shoot pepper spray, Taser at crowded NBTF event

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

"Nightmare on Cherry Street," that's how local business owner Yusef Suggs describes the events that occurred on Aug. 8 - the last night of the National Black Theatre Festival.

The Winston-Salem Police Department confirms that at least one of its officers used pepper spray in a large crowd of people gathered on both sides of Cherry Street soon after midnight to watch the NBTF Closing Parade. A taser was also used, the department says. It is unclear, though, if the same officer that used the pepper spray also used the taser, which police officers just recently began using after they were purchased with federal stimulus dollars.

Captain Bill Cobb - commander of the Winston-Salem Police Department's Special



Patton



Rountree



Burke

Operations division, which coordinated the officers for the event - said the pepper spray and taser were used to because some in the large crowd were unruly.

"We had a series of fights ... and two incidents

of significant groups fighting," he said. "At the point that we had multiple fights (Saturday night), the event was over and folks were surging, causing a crowd control and safety issue on the street."

Those in the crowd paint a different picture. The Chronicle received calls and an email soon after the incident. Those who contacted the paper said they did nothing wrong but came into the contact with the pepper spray and left what was supposed to be a festive event with red, itchy eyes and a coughing fit.

Suggs is one of the owners of the North Carolina Artists Market, which sits near the corner of Cherry and Fifth Street, just a stone's throw away from where the incident took place.

He and other witnesses say that more than one officer used their spray and that the fumes were so

See Police on A12



Womble

Racial justice bill is finally state law

Rep. Womble fought for bill for several years

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Gov. Bev Purdue signed the Racial Justice Act into law Tuesday, completing what has been a more than three year journey for many of the bill's initial supporters.

In a nutshell, the new law allows defendants who feel that race played a significant role in the prosecutor's decision to seek the death penalty in their cases to have their cases reviewed in a court of law.

The defendant will be allowed to present statistics and other evidence to bolster his or her claim that race played a role. If the court finds race was indeed a factor, the defendant's death penalty sentencing will be amended to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"I'm elated; I'm happy," State Rep. Larry Womble, who has sponsored the Act since its inception, said of its passage. "It's been a long, hard journey, but the reward is seeing something that's going to benefit the state of North Carolina."

See Bill on A12

Interfaith, multi-racial effort to build Habitat home

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Congregations of various faiths and ethnicities will come together this Labor Day weekend to build a Habitat for Humanity house for a local family.

Nine congregations from black, white and Hispanic churches - Dellabrook, Grace, Highland, Llyod, Trinity and Parkway Presbyterian churches and El Buen Pastor - along with the Masjid Al-Mu'Minum and Temple Emanuel are participating in the Fourth Unity Build. Members from the congregations gathered Sunday to celebrate their partnership with a picnic at Salem Lake.

"It's a nice way to get so many people involved in one project," said Sue Kent, a

member of Highland and the build's co-chair.

The build will be jump-started over the four-day Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 2 - 5), but won't be completed.

Volunteers will then continue to work on the home for two days a week until it is finished, which will likely be in December. By the end of the build, well over 400 volunteers will have worked on the house.

Kent said the benefits of the build are two fold. Like all Habitat houses - which are built with volunteer labor - it will be sold, with an interest free mortgage, to a low income family. And volunteers who build it will gain the experience of fellowship.

The first Unity Build was held in 2000 among the six churches in the Presbyterian

See Interfaith on A12



Congregants break bread together Sunday at Salem Lake.

Photos by Todd Luck



Photo by Kevin Walker

Chef Barry Moody poses with his latest creation and product. He has just added a speciality BBQ sauce to his Spice Delight line.

Finger Lickin' Good Success Story

In a few short years, chef went from working for others to working to promote his own products

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Want to know Chef Barry Moody's recipe for success?

It starts with a cup of self-confidence; a pound of determination; a dash of creativity; and a liberal amount of God-given talent.

Less than five years ago Moody made his living working in the kitchens of popular local eateries. The jobs paid the bills, but did not allow Moody - who considers the culinary arts a true form of creative expression - to put his signature on traditional dishes. The Hawthorne Inn and Conference Center gave him

See Moody on A11

READY FOR HIS CLOSE-UP



Photo by Kevin Walker

A fan takes a close-up photo of actor Lamman Rucker during last week's National Black Theatre Festival. Rucker is best known for the film "Why Did I Get Married?" and the series "Meet the Browns."

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

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WS CHAMBER

