



Lash Tourney will start Saturday

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W-S lawyer running for Senate

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Kids Cafe opens at Gateway YWCA

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THE CHRONICLE

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Photos by Layla Farmer

Derrick Dease with sons, Derrick Jr. and Cameron.

Graduates take on job market with new skills

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Even in this economy, there are jobs to be had.

That is the premise under which Forsyth Technical Community College and Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina entered into a partnership earlier this year. The two organizations forged a collaboration to expose job seekers to occupational fields that are actively recruiting employees. Through the "JobsNOW: 6 in 12" program, job seekers can get training in any of the 12 occupations in the healthcare and skilled trade fields in six months or less.

Forsyth Tech supplied instructors and developed the curriculum for JobsNOW, while Goodwill handled admissions and provided classroom space. The Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments also lent its support to the program, by providing information about labor trends and employer needs and providing Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and other stimulus funding for JobsNOW students.

The program is in keeping with the three organizations' missions, said Dr. Gary Green, president of Forsyth Tech.

"All the organizations that are participating tonight are in the business of providing opportunity and access to opportunity in our community, as a way of giving people hope in times when things might look particularly bleak," he commented.

Eighty-four individuals have completed JobsNOW to date.

See Jobs on A9



Photos by Kevin Walker

From left: Tahirah Smith works with Tahari Abdus-Salaam and Ashley Douglas.

Digging In

Kids battle the elements to give East Winston early Christmas gifts

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

While iPods, PlayStations and Plasma screens have their places this holiday season, there are some gifts that defy trends - presents that will quite literally weather most of life's storms.

East Winston - and the thousands who live and work in the community - received such timeless gifts Saturday in the form of more than a dozen freshly-planted trees along the Bowen Branch Trail on New Walkertown Road. The dedicated staff of the city's Vegetation Management division and an equally-determined group of teenagers from the Winston Lake Family YMCA's Youth Achievers program were the gift-

See Trees on A10

Census has begun to hire local folks

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

For local residents hurting in this crippled economy, the 2010 Census could not have come at a better time.

State leaders estimate that next year's federal effort to count every resident of the United States will mean 25,000 temporary jobs for North Carolinians, with as many as 1,700 coming from right here in Winston-Salem.

The city's 2010 Census Office on Hanes Mill Road, which officially opened on Tuesday, is already starting to fill with local residents who have landed jobs.

Frank

Pantano

has

been

hired

as the

assistant

manager of

technology.

Pantano, 2008

graduate of Wake

Forest School of Law, left the

fast-paced life of a

Washington, D.C. attorney

behind in search of the peaceful

existence he had known in

Winston-Salem.

He resettled here with his

wife and stepson at around the

time the economy had begun to

falter. Pantano was unemployed

for eight months before coming

to the Census Bureau.

He says the work has allowed

him to feel more connected

with the community.

"When you're unemployed,

it seems like people sort of lose

connections with the working

world," he remarked. "The

Census gets you back out, gets

you working with people again."

Gale Kuhnenbecker has

been hired as a supervisor. She

found herself unemployed when

the school where she worked

was closed. She pieced temporary

jobs together to try to make ends

meet, but says she was growing

anxious by the time she was

hired by the Bureau last spring.

Obtaining employment has



United States Census 2010



FTCC's Sue Marion presents James Shaw with his certificate.

PUTTING IT IN PARK

Colleagues honor longtime bus driver at retirement celebration

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The school system is losing one of its most dedicated bus drivers.

Bernard Thompson, affectionately known as "Mr. B.," is retiring after 35 years with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Transportation Department. During his tenure he has served in a variety of roles, starting as a bus driver and ending his career as an assistant supervisor.

Nearly 90 his of colleagues bid him a fond farewell Saturday, during a celebration at the Winston Lake YMCA. At the event, which included a catered dinner paid for by Thompson's co-workers, those who love and respect Thompson paid tribute to him



Photo by Todd Luck

Retiree Bernard "Mr. B" Thompson.

through song, drama performances and by recounting their fondest memories.

Bus driver Vickie Lindsay, who organized the event, said Thompson deserved such a grand send-off.

"He's a great supervisor," said Lindsay. "We're truly going to miss what he has to offer transportation."

Jeff Banner, a retired supervisor, said that he was always impressed with the leadership skills of his assistant - Thompson.

"No matter what kind of madness was always happening, I knew Bernard was there to keep things running," said Banner.

Spencer Glenn, a retired transportation department

See Thompson on A2



Anthony "AJ" Askew pours mulch.

See Census on A5

ALL DOLLED UP



Photo by Pamela Harper

The ladies of the Phenomenal Woman program pose for the camera after they were pampered and made-over on Saturday. To read more about the program and its Divine mission, see page B1.

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