



WSSU
accepted
back into
the CIAA

-See Page B8



Program
teaches
dangers
of gangs

-See Page A3



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THURSDAY, August 12, 2010

Teen to share her sad tale in TV spot

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

A local teen is using a personal tragedy to warn others about the dangers of tobacco use.

Seventeen year-old Destini Donaldson, a rising senior at Parkland Magnet High School, lost her father, James Donaldson Jr., a longtime smoker, to lung cancer in December 2009. She will share her story with residents across the state beginning this fall, when a series of 30-second television commercials sponsored by the anti-tobacco group TRU (Tobacco.Reality.Unfiltered) are slated to hit the airwaves.



Destini Donaldson

"I love it. It's a way for her to reach out to other teens," commented Destini's mother, Patricia Donaldson, a jail STD screener and lab assistant for the Forsyth County Department of Health's POSSE program. "It's a relief for Destini, because the more she talks about her dad, the better she feels, because she can go on and get it off her chest."

Destini is no stranger to the fight against tobacco. She has been a member of the local TRU YAC (Youth Advisory Council) for nearly three years, and currently serves as the group's vice president.

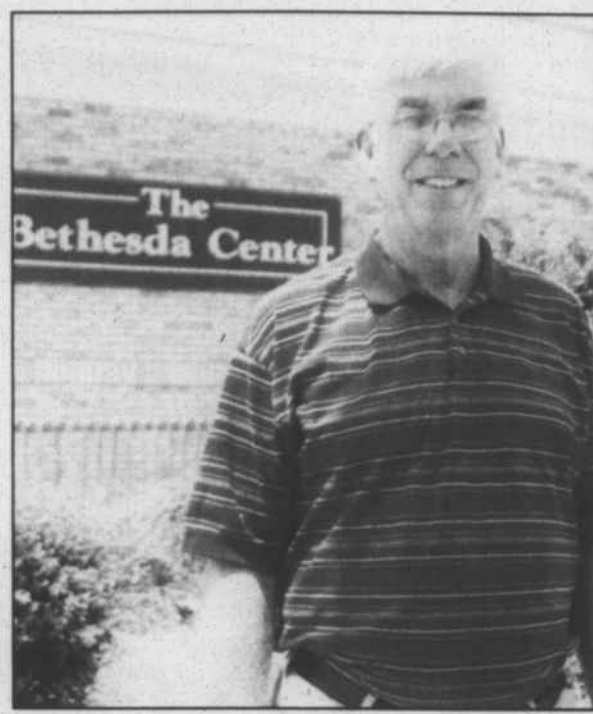
TRU, which focuses on youth outreach, is known for its no-holds-barred approach to tobacco prevention. The campaign often utilizes real life stories in its commercials to grab the audience's attention.

"Our strategy since we've been doing the TRU campaigns has been to feature real North Carolina people who have been affected by tobacco," explained Barbara Moeykens, director of Social Marketing for the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund, which funds TRU. "These are the kinds of things that help teens to realize that this is very real; this is something not to be taken lightly."

TRU officials found Destini after they solicited the coordinators at each of its 50 county agencies last spring, in search of new folks to highlight in the commercials. Destini's story piqued their interest in part because her father was relatively young, Moeykens said.

"Teens ... often think that they'll quit

See Destini on A5



Mike Ryan stands in front of the Bethesda Center.

Homeless to stage protest at shelter

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Former and current residents of the Bethesda Center for the Homeless say they will stage a peaceful protest on Saturday to bring attention to what they see as major flaws at the facility.

The North Patterson Avenue Center runs a shelter that houses up to 100 homeless men and women each night. It also runs a day shelter that provides things like showers and restrooms, telephone access and laundry facilities.

Bishop Bennett Alexander is the main

organizer of the protest. Once homeless himself, Alexander founded Gospel Express for the Homeless, a musical performance group made up of homeless men and women. Gospel Express uses its music to aid and uplift the homeless and needy.

Alexander said that many Bethesda clients have come to him with complaints about conditions such as mold and bugs within the center and of unfair treatment of clients by the Center's staff.

Alexander said that he's raised these

See Center on A2

Neighbors Get Neighborly

National Night Out brings the best out of East/Northeast Winston community

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the East/Northeast Winston Neighborhood Association gathered at Harambee Park on the corner of Jackson Avenue and 14th Streets on the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 3 to take part in the 27th Annual National Night Out.

Observed by neighborhood associations across the country, National Night Out is a community gathering that is designed to increase crime and drug prevention awareness, while fostering goodwill between communities and law enforcement agencies.

"We're all in this together - economically, spiritually, and we need to continue to work together," said Marva Reid, president of the East/Northeast Winston Neighborhood Association. "We need to come together and make the entire Winston-Salem a better place, rather than ... isolated sections."

This year was the second time the Association has hosted the event, which it opened to the entire city. The group won an award from the city last year for having the largest attendance of any National Night Out event in the city, Reid said.

"What we did was just do it on a grander scale and just welcome everybody," Reid said of the event, which drew 200 people last year.

The three-hour event included a vigil for all those who were killed in Winston-Salem in the last year; free food and exhibitors from a variety of community organizations.

Elvenia Johnson, Beatrice Lindsey and Joy Adams of Mount Zion Baptist Church's Health Ministry were on hand to offer free blood pressure checks and health information to attendees.

"With our programs, it's a lot of education as well as monitoring, because we feel that's going to make a difference in people's health," explained Lindsey, a retired nurse practitioner.

The group holds similar events at the church twice a month, and has lent its



Marva Reid addresses attendees.



Photo by Layla Farmer

See Night Out on A2 Youngsters throw around horseshoes.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE

Photo by Todd Luck

Sam Gray (second from right), and a group of young volunteers paint a mural on the side of Yodi International on North Liberty Street under the direction of artists Jennifer O'Kelly and Millicent Greason-Spivak. The effort is part of the Reclaiming Liberty Mural Initiative, which aims to beautify buildings and prevent graffiti by creating works of art on the sides of Liberty Street buildings.



Locals learning to fight back against bad health

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth Medical Center is seeking out patients in need of preventative health measures that could protect them from heart attacks and stroke.

Armed with a grant of more than \$160,000 from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and additional funds contributed by the hospital itself, FMC launched the "Heart and Wellness Community Initiative: Improving Access and Preventative Care for Disparate Groups" last sum-

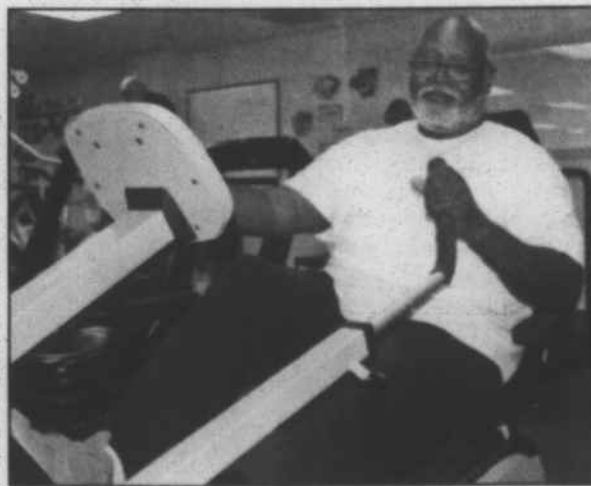


Photo by Layla Farmer

See FMC on A9 Paul Moses works out in the FMC gym.

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