



Rams compete at indoor event

-See Page B8



GEMS helping to nurture youngsters

-See Page A3



BB/BS raises funds by bowling

-See Page B1

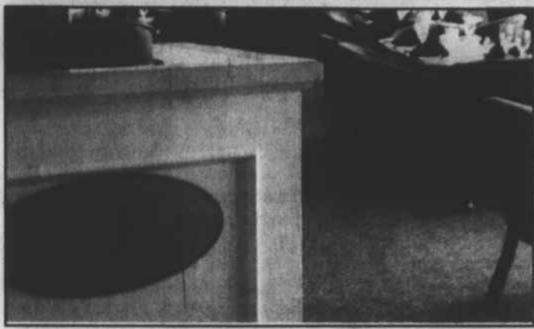
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THURSDAY, March 1, 2012



For 25 years, Club has been colorblind

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

It is no secret that country and social clubs do not readily put out the welcome mat for people of color.

As the Piedmont Club – the posh gathering spot that sits atop the highrise BB&T building – celebrates its 25th anniversary this month, many are lauding the Club bucking tradition to welcome African American members with open arms.

The Piedmont Club officially opened its doors on March 31, 1987, but the movement to create it began more than a decade before, explained city native Richard Davis, immediate past president and a founding member of the Club's Board of Governors.



Photo by Layla Farmer
Richard Davis at the Piedmont Club.

Davis, a retired accountant, says plans were made to start the organization like the Piedmont Club shortly after he was elected to Winston-Salem City Council – then the Board of Aldermen – in 1970.

"For the first time in history, blacks comprised half of the Board (of Aldermen)," Davis explained. "There were some people saying we should do more to fully integrate the city."

Though much of the city had been integrated years earlier under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, private clubs were exempt from the ruling, and continued their discriminatory practices well into the 1970s and '80s, Davis said.

"All of the private clubs in the city were segregated," said the married father of one. "We did not have private clubs that were admitting blacks, Jews and other ethnic groups."

Beyond being left out of the social scene, Davis said minorities in the city felt that they were being excluded from many important gatherings that impacted their own families and communities.

"There were people who felt like a lot of things went on at those clubs that actually had control over our lives," he noted. "People would go to private clubs and make decisions that affected us ... We could not take part in that discussion."

The movement to create an inclusive club was backed by African Americans and Caucasians alike and was well-

See Club on A9

Meet Lawrence Joel

Family launches campaign to educate public about history-making soldier

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

As the daughter of a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Dr. Deborah Joel was afforded opportunities most people never get in a lifetime.

"I had a rich childhood because of him," said Dr. Joel, the daughter of the late Lawrence Joel, the decorated soldier for whom the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum is named. "I've been to the White House five times, shaking hands with presidents. I've experienced things that really empowered me in life and helped me to become. I think, more patriotic. It's been a rich reward of inheritance from him."

This year, on what would have been her father's 84th birthday, Dr. Joel, a resident of Maryland, returned to her father's birthplace to share some of her inheritance with the community. The Lawrence Joel Luncheon attracted dozens from across the state and beyond to the LJVM Coliseum on Feb. 22.

Dr. Joel said the luncheon, which was accompanied by a museum exhibit showcasing a variety of trinkets and artifacts related to her father's service, was a celebration of Black History

See Joel on A10



Dr. Joel



From left: Drs. Calvin Howell, Andrea Lawrence, Erich Jarvis and Godfrey Gumbs at SciWorks.

Photos by Todd Luck

Scientists share their career paths

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Four African-American scientists visited SciWorks last weekend to encourage local children to follow in their footsteps.

Drs. Calvin Howell, Andrea Lawrence, Godfrey Gumbs and Erich Jarvis spent last Friday and Saturday at the science museum, giving presentations, demonstrations and discussing their professions with local resi-

dents, including students enrolled in Winston-Salem State University's NC-MSEN (Mathematics and Science Education Network) Pre-College program and the YWCA's Best Choice Center after school program.

The scientists' visit was part of the ScienceMakers, a science and technology initiative of the nationwide African American oral history project HistoryMakers.

See Scientists on A5



A Family Affair



Photo by Layla Farmer

Ed Hanes Jr. (center) poses with his father, Ed Hanes Sr., his wife, Traci, and daughters, Madelyn and Evelyn, at an event Tuesday to announce his run for the N.C. House. Read more on page A12.

'First' Ladies Speak

Sprinkle-Hamlin, Evans talk about making history

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Mütter Evans and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin talked about their places in history last Friday morning at the Central Library.

Evans became the first black woman in the country to own a radio station when she purchased the legendary Winston-Salem-based WAAA in the 1970s. Sprinkle-Hamlin is the first African American to ever head the Forsyth County Library System, which includes the Central location and numerous other branches. The program was among the Library's expansive Black History Month offerings. Librarian



Photo by Todd Luck

See First on A2 Trailblazers Mütter Evans and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin.



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