



**NCCU warmly welcomes new leader**

-See Page A4



**Leadership change at E. Winston art gallery**

-See Page A2

Celebrating **38** Years of Community Journalism **75 cents**

# THE CHRONICLE

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

Volume 39, Number 25 — WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — THURSDAY, February 14, 2013



File Photo  
**Judge Roland Hayes speaks at his courthouse retirement ceremony in 2002.**

## Hayes set example of excellence

BY LAYLA GARMES  
THE CHRONICLE

Judge Roland Hayes, who passed away last week, was a giant in the community, but there was nowhere he stood taller than in the hearts of those in the city's black legal circle.

"When I think of trailblazer, I think of Judge Hayes," said Frederick Adams II, president of the Winston-Salem Bar Association, which is largely made up of African Americans.



Biggs

Hayes died on Feb. 6, two days after his 82nd birthday. The city native became Forsyth County's first black District Court judge when then-Gov. Jim Hunt appointed him in 1984. He was elected and then reelected several times by the people of the county before a state law that prohibits judges from serving after age 71 forced him into retirement in 2002.



Adams

He continued to serve as an emergency judge, filling in when other judges were absent. The father of three was the "epitome of a servant," Adams said.

"He was retired," Adams pointed out. "He wasn't always getting paid for the work that he was doing, but he was still (at the Hall of Justice) anyway, still doing what he loved to do, which is serving the people of Winston-Salem."

Hayes had a trademark sense of humor. Defendants have been known to leave his courtroom, handcuffed, yet laughing. Adams said he objected to those who mistook Hayes' penchant for lightening the mood in the courtroom for folly.

"He was absolutely hysterical in court,

See Hayes on A10

## Best Christmas Present Ever

*New liver gives local teen gift of life*

BY LAYLA GARMES  
THE CHRONICLE

At a glance, Alexander "Alex" Walker looks like a typical teenager.

Unassuming with an easy smile, the East Forsyth junior belies any inkling of the harrowing year he's had. Alex, who is known for his love of all things mechanical and his uncanny ability to fix virtually anything, had never had any kind of illness, according to his mother, Valerie Simpson, until he awoke in the middle of the night last March, vomiting blood. Panicked, Simpson, a mother of three, rushed her youngest child to the hospital.

"I was freaking out," confessed the city native. "But my first thought, being a praying mama, was I put my hand out and said, 'Lord, take care of Your baby, because I don't know what's going on.'"

After a blood transfusion and a procedure to stop the bleeding, Alex underwent a biopsy, which yielded a result virtually no one expected.

"They came back and said, 'He has



Photo by Layla Garmes

**Marion Winbush kisses her grandson, Alex Walker.**

cirrhosis of the liver,' and I said, 'How? This is a healthy child who barely gets a cold,'" related Simpson, who has worked at the Forsyth County Tax Collectors Office for the past two years. "They can't figure out how a healthy child got this disease."

Alex said he was also surprised and

concerned when he learned of his condition.

"I was just there hoping the doctor could take care of it," he said.

Characterized by a hardening of the liver, cirrhosis is a slowly progressing disease.

See Alex on A7



## Black Moses Returns

Photo by Layla Garmes

**Rev. Jeannette Thomas-Shegog leads a group of Moore Elementary fifth graders around the room during a reenactment of Harriet Tubman's life. The program was part of a program for youth held in conjunction with the "Samplers and Symmetry IV: Pieces by Area African American Quilters" exhibit at Delta Arts Center. Read more on page A3.**



Photos by Kevin Walker

**Christian Davis hauls a box of gift bags last Sunday.**

## Christian Love

*Valentine's outing focuses on giving back*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

A caravan of parishioners left Sunday service at Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church determined to do what they think Jesus would.

The day before, the group, led by Royzetta Cokley, spent hours filling brightly-colored gift bags with sticks of deodorant, tubes of toothpaste, bars of soap and other toiletries. They distributed the bags — pre-Valentine's Day gifts — to those they deemed most in need of the items and a bit of Christian love.

"This is something that we felt was just the right thing to do," Cokley said after she and more than a dozen of her fellow Greater Cleveland members passed out bags at the Bethesda Center for the Homeless. Sunday's distribution schedule also included stops at a local senior citizens' home, Samaritan Ministries and the Central Library, which has become



Cokley

See Bags on A3

## Union Baptist CDC mulling over redevelopment options

BY LAYLA GARMES  
THE CHRONICLE

Members of Union Baptist Church met last week to discuss the future of the community surrounding the massive edifice and how they might work to positively impact it.

Evon Smith, president of Sustainable Community Resources, a real estate development firm, led the meeting, which centered around possible strategic efforts that could change economic climate of the Trade Street/Northwest Boulevard area. Smith, the former executive director of

See CDC on A8



Photo by Layla Garmes

**Evon Smith (left) and Issac "Ike" Heard (far left) address attendees last Friday evening.**



005'009.....CR LOT0077A" C007  
N C ROOM  
FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
660 W 5TH ST  
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2755 60

Personal, convenient, secure, professional self-storage.

**MOVE IN SPECIAL \$25** for first month

**ASSURED STORAGE**  
of Winston-Salem, LLC

**(336) 924-7000**  
[www.assuredstoragews.com](http://www.assuredstoragews.com)  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-3pm  
Gate Hours: 5am-10pm  
4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

