



Prep to debut in varsity football

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Kids get revved-up about racing

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THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, July 31, 2014

Not in Our Backyard!

Petition calls for motel to be shut down

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

An online petition at Change.org is calling for the closure of the Royal Inn. The nearly 500 people who have signed it call the 200 South Broad Street motel a public nuisance.



Vickers

Brandon Vickers, who lives near the motel in the West Salem neighborhood, started the petition on Tuesday, July 22. He said the 57-room Royal Inn is notorious for being a hub of illegal activity, everything from drug dealing to prostitution. He has posted crime stats at Change.org that he says back-up those claims.

According to the Winston-Salem Police Department, in the last year there have been 149 calls for service on the motel's block, most attributed to the Royal Inn's address. Drugs were the most



Photo by Todd Luck

The Royal Inn is the focus of residents' ire.

common offense.

Vickers, the former president of West Salem Neighborhood Association, met with the motel's owners and city and police officials at City Hall last April about his concerns. He said he's seen little change since that meeting and still

feels unsafe walking past the motel when he and his family go to games at the nearby BB&T Ballpark.

"Over the last three months, we've seen more prostitution activity," he said. "We've seen a steady increase in both

See Petition on A8



Photos by Chanel Davis

Tomesia Barnes helps Chad Royster pin a badge on his father, Charles.

Retiring chief gives charge to new recruits

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

As one of the newest members of the Winston-Salem Fire Department, Charles Royster is in the same class with Spider-Man, Batman and Mutant Ninja Turtles in the hearts of many children. But he's most proud to be his son Chad's biggest hero.

"He graduated from pre-kindergarten last summer. At his graduation, he said that he wanted to be a fireman," Royster said. "I decided to try (to join the WSFD) so that I could be his role model. Maybe we will start a legacy that will continue on down the line."



W-S Fire Chief Antony Farmer speaks.

Six-year-old Chad was one of many on hand at the Benton Convention Center Friday morning to watch as his dad and 14 others joined the venerable

WSFD ranks. Though several graduations have taken place on Antony Farmer's watch as chief. Friday's was significant. Farmer is retiring in December; Recruit Class XX was the last he'd welcome as the man at the helm.

He gave the keynote, imploring the graduates to remember who they are, what they represent and what is involved in the art of firefighting.

"You are public safety personnel that hold customer service in high regard. You represent your families and the city of Winston-Salem," said Farmer, who called firefighting one of the most important fraternities in the world. "Maintain your integrity; be sound ethically, and you are also expected to do your best to make the best better."

Taking such lessons to heart have served Farmer well. He is a 31-year veteran, who, in 1983, began where the graduates are

See WSFD on A7



Photos by Kevin Walker

Young helpers Kyan and Symiyah pose with (from left) Sgt. Tim James, Officer Latrina Leak, Capt. Natoshia James, Kenneth Burton, Officer Chris Paige and Officer Fontae Kilpatrick.

Cops serve lunch to folks in need

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE



The groups serves hotdogs.

"To protect and serve." That's their idiom.

On Sunday afternoon, though, local cops took the "serve" part to an entirely different level.

For nearly 200 men, women and children, lunch was on members of the local North State Law Enforcement Officers Association who spent about an hour at the corner of Northwest Boulevard and Patterson Avenue, serving hotdogs, chips and bottled water to anyone who wanted them. The location was across from the Samaritan Ministries Inn and Soup Kitchen and a block away from the Bethesda Center for the Homeless. Officer Latrina Leak said the homeless were the primary focus of the outreach initiative.

"We learned that there are really not a lot of (food) options for

See North State on A2

CENTENARIAN STATUS

Macie Sibert was born at the start of WWI

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE



Montgomery

Pretty in pink and aglow with vim, Macie Sibert on Saturday was the quintessence of the grand matriarch her family says she had long ago become.

Her 100th birthday celebration attracted friends and relations from as far away as California. Guests were

See Sibert on A8



Photo by Kevin Walker

Tom Jones praises his aunt Macie Sibert (seated, center). Also pictured are Priscilla Parker and Rev. Timothy Fogle.

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