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Kappa Magic is victorious again

School system to hold Hall of Fame event



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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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Miracle on 14th Street

Families set to move into new Habitat houses along a once-run-down stretch of road

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

A couple of years ago, Odella Conrad set a goal for herself. She vowed that by the time she reached age 35, she would abandon apartment living for good and be the owner of her own home.

Conrad can cross that goal of her list now. Sunday, her new home and the houses of six other families were dedicated during a special ceremony hosted by Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County.

Conrad beat the time she set for herself by more than a year.

"I am a year and a month ahead of my own schedule," she

managed to say in between receiving congratulatory hugs from a throng of Wake Forest University students. Conrad is a much-loved cashier at the cafeteria at the school. Dozens of the students to whom she has endeared herself to showed up for the dedication, many bearing dish towels and other housewarming gifts.

"This is just a great day," Conrad said with a smile.

That sentiment was shared by many - from the thousands of local Methodists who raised money and volunteered to build the seven homes along a once dilapidated stretch of 14th Street, to people like Conrad who will soon move into the attractive three-bedroom houses.

The Winston-Salem District of the United Methodist Church and Habitat have a long history with the area, which is sand-

See Miracle on A4



Odella Conrad waves to supporters from the porch of her new home. To her left are her two children, Gregory and Shyree, and the family's dog, Tyler.

Photo by Kevin Walker

Bennett lands Cole for top job

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Johnnetta Cole was named Bennett College's 14th president Saturday. The school's board of trustees' decision was unanimous and was announced at the Anne Merner Pfeiffer Chapel to a crowd of students, faculty and alumnae who graciously gathered to welcome and support their new leader.

Cole, a 65-year-old retired Presidential Distinguished professor and college administrator, has received high accolades for her superb leadership and fund-raising efforts at Spelman College in Atlanta. Spelman's financial and academic status shot up the national ranking under Cole's 10-year reign as the first African-American woman president of Spelman College.



Cole

Aware of the recent turmoil that the school has endured, from building renovations, enrollment quotas and money matters, Cole's remarks were very frank but promising for the future of Bennett College.

"To whom much has been given, much is required," Cole said. "So, my sisters, y'all live in a high-rent district. You have to pay serious rent for the privilege you have in being here."

Gloria Wilson, a Bennett alumna who heads the Winston-Salem alumnae chapter of the school, was on hand to hear Cole's statement after word was announced of her appointment. Wilson, a research and development associate in toxicology for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., shares in the excitement of the addition to the Bennett College family.

"All of the sisters are just elated," said Wilson. "(Cole) delivers a message that is so clear, you can't help but want to be on her team. She has a charisma about her and such a wonderful, warm smile. The students (at Bennett) will be happy under her leadership."

Wilson anticipates it will take some time

See Cole on A4

Sangin'

Photo by Kevin Walker

Aqita "Boss Lady" Dean was not scheduled to perform at the gospel train concert April 14, but during a break in the action, she picked up a microphone and treated the crowd to a powerful rendition of a gospel classic. Dean, a well-known on-air personality on WAAA, serves as mistress of ceremonies for the popular monthly gospel train events, which are hosted by Brother Bill Pratt and the Gospel Crusaders, a well-respected local gospel act with roots here that go back more than three decades.

Pratt is trying to bring gospel back to the forefront in Winston-Salem, a city that Pratt says used to be a great gospel town. Read more about the gospel train and about the history of the group on the Community Focus page (C1).



Locals weigh in on the Middle East conflict during emotional forum

Mosque says that media are not telling both sides of the story

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Adel Srour was 8 years old when the Israel War of Independence came to his small Palestinian town. It was 1948 when soldiers invaded his hometown. Srour told a crowd at the Forsyth County Main Library last week.

Srour, a Palestinian Christian who now lives in Winston-Salem, said that several Palestinians were killed during the Israeli conquest of the land. But when he tried to tell the crowd that his own brother was one of the casualties, he lost his ability to speak clearly and tears fell from his eyes.

His wife, Victoria, then spoke on his behalf.

"We are living proof of what happened to Palestinian children," she said with one eye on her sobbing husband. "There are so many Palestinian children in 2002 going through more horrific stories."

The Srours were among a



Abdul Hanif Derious looks at images from Middle East conflict.

panel of local residents who spoke during "America's War on Peace," a forum sponsored by the Community Mosque and designed to raise issues that organizers say have been ignored by the media and governments throughout the world in regard to the current Middle East conflict and America's much-talked-about War on Terrorism.

The forum had an unabashed Pro-Palestinian

theme. Dozens of recent pictures showing devastation caused by the Israeli army served as a backdrop for panel speakers and literature showing the amount of money Israeli lobbyists reportedly funnel to U.S. politicians was passed out and referred to several times during the forum.

About 100 people attended. Like the panel, the crowd was diverse, with African

See Forum on A10

Wake Forest creates award to honor deceased student

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Although the time LeVar Antwain Hairston spent at Wake Forest University was limited and usually at a distance from his hospital bed, the impact he made on those who had the chance to work with him in and outside of the classroom was monumental. The Calloway School of Business has decided to honor and recognize Antwain's courage, faith, dignity, grace and tenacity by establishing The LeVar Antwain Hairston Pursuit of Excellence Award.

The award is to be given to a Calloway student who, like Antwain, overcomes great hardship in pursuit of their degree. The Pursuit of Excellence Award's first recipient was Westley Britt, a WFU senior who attended college despite a younger sibling's battle with cancer and the unexpected death of his father. Britt received the award last week



LeVar Hairston



Stephen and Iona Hairston were presented with their son's degree last week during a special ceremony at Wake Forest.

and will graduate from WFU in May with a degree from the Calloway School of Business.

Hairston was born with sickle cell anemia, a disease in which red blood cells take on a sickle-like shape; therefore, making blood difficult, which results in excruciating pain for

those who suffer from the ailment, was becoming too much to handle.

Stephen Hairston, Antwain's father, a retired city police officer, tearfully shared that he and his wife, Iona,

See Hairston on A11