

MEAC awards its top honors to players

Reynolds thinking about a four-peat



See B1



See A8



See C1

Church uses holiday to give back

Bank unveils new renovations

THE CHRONICLE

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Class of 2007 will face new hurdles

A new list of high school requirements aims to make students better prepared

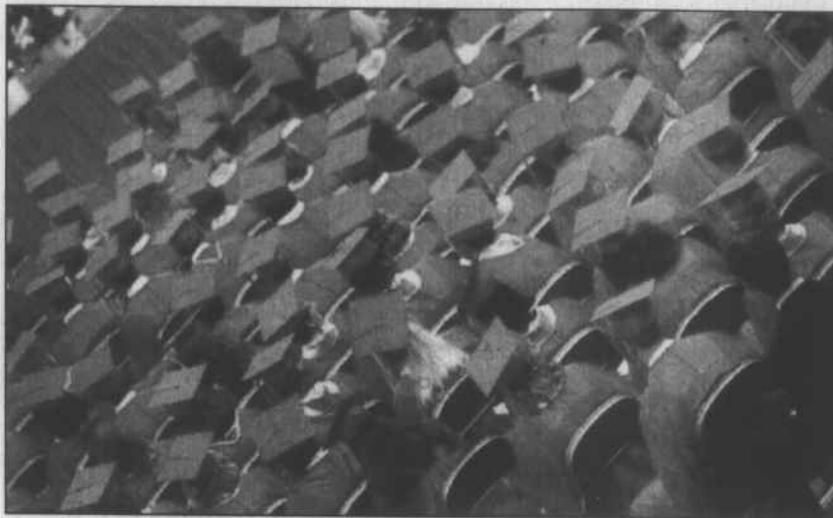
BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system has been holding meetings at high schools about new graduation requirements adopted by the N.C. State Board of Education and the school system, according to the school system's Web site. The new requirements affect students in the Class of 2007 and are part of the state's accountability program.

The State Board of Education has approved four distinct options for students to receive a diploma (beginning with the Class of 2004): career prep, college tech prep, college/university prep, and occupational prep.

Career prep is primarily for students who intend to seek employment after high school. Students select a career pathway (four units) of vocational/technical or arts education, courses that will assist them in their career goals.

College tech prep is for students who are planning to pursue a two-year technical or community college degree program after high school. Students



Local high school students will have more requirements to fulfill in the near future before they get to chance to don caps and gowns in Forsyth County.

in this course of study may also satisfy the college/university prep requirement if they complete math beyond Algebra II (or beyond Integrated Math III) and obtain two units of the same foreign

language.

College/university prep is intended for students planning to enroll in a four-year college or univer-

See Graduation on A9

Prevention study tracked teen suspects, official says

Neighbors, expert say more mentoring and other programs needed to keep youngsters on straight and narrow

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Just one week after the Winston-Salem State University Center for Community Safety (CCS) released a study on community mentoring, five juvenile suspects were arrested and charged with killing local businessman Nathaniel Jones.

Jones was a well-known and respected fixture in the city, having been the only private black owner of a service station in the state.

Like much of the community, CCS was stunned to learn that the murder suspects are so young (none is over the age of 15). The suspects were brought to the attention of CCS once worried neighbors identified them over the last year as part of a group of nearly 30 adolescents considered to be at risk in the Belview neighborhood on the Southside of Winston-Salem.

Sylvia Oberle, executive director of the Center for Community Safety, recalls the time when several residents from that area came into CCS and expressed their concerns over activity by these neighborhood youths. These youths and many other troubled youths in the area became the reason for the mentoring study discussed at the WSSU community symposium.

"The young people who were recently arrested are sort of examples of some of the work that we try to do," Oberle said. "When that happened and it was those young people, we felt like that is exactly the work that we're trying to do, that's exactly the point that we're trying to get across to the community, and it's very much related to the mentoring study that was done."

Earlier this year, CCS commissioned a study that examined current mentoring activities involving middle through high school African-American male youths in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. It revealed that parents in most cases are not linked in substantive ways to programs in which their children are involved and that most of the agencies available to provide positive outlets for teens lack sufficient resources, facilities, funding and personnel.

"We have unfortunately not been able to stop every incident...The incident with Mr. Jones' death just brought it home, brought it right in front of us that this is one of the most, if not the most, important issue that the community needs to deal with," said Oberle, who recalls the time when several elderly residents from Belview came into the center with concerns about some of the youths in their neighborhood.

Only a few days before Jones was found dead outside of his home, the Center for Community Safety brought together agencies and law enforcement

See Teens on A5



Nathaniel Jones



Oberle

School Daze

Saturday meeting latest in ongoing saga of long-awaited East Winston high school

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Black Leadership Roundtable is spearheading a meeting Saturday that will bring school system officials face-to-face with residents to discuss a possible new technology high school off Old Greensboro Road.

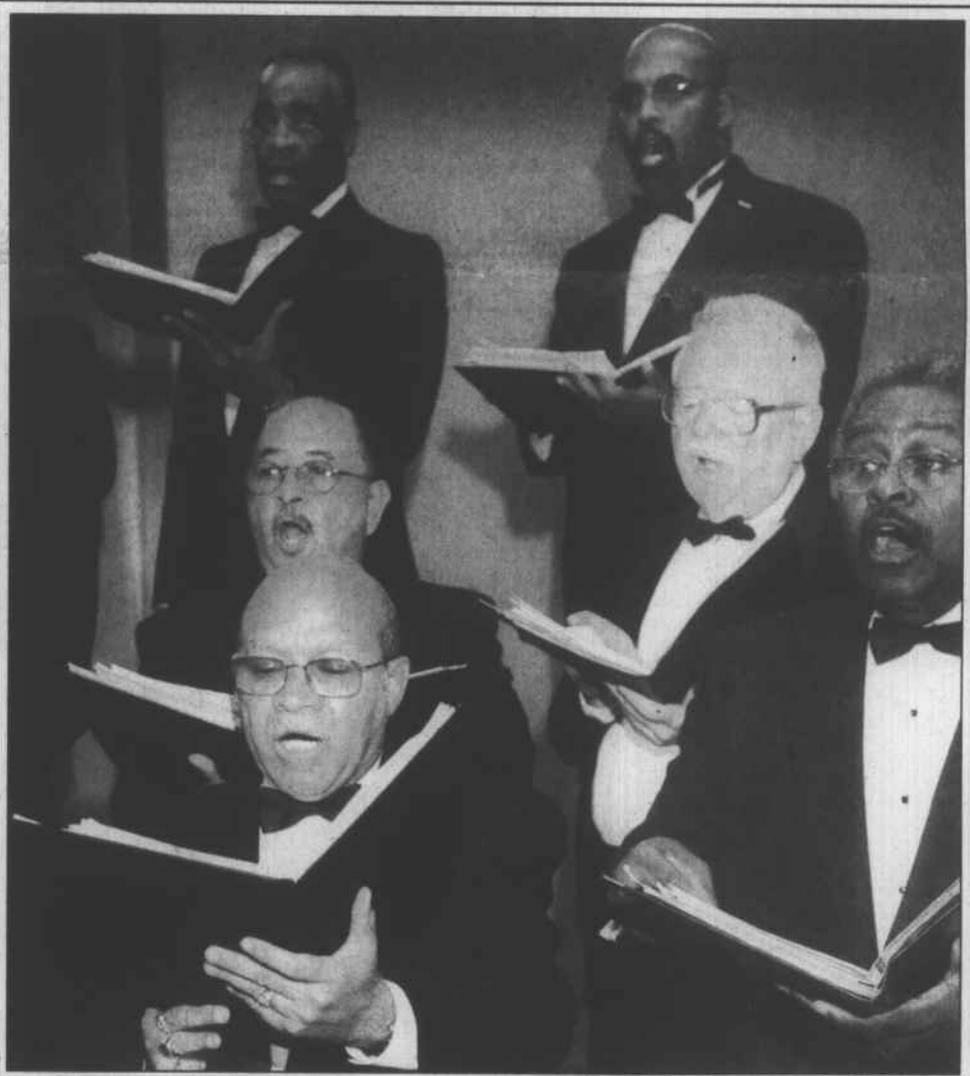
The meeting is a stipulation that was put in place by the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen Monday night. Without the meeting, aldermen said they would not reconsider a deal that calls for the city to turn over 28 acres of land for the new school in exchange for several parcels of school-owned land. Last week aldermen shocked many people, including members of the Board of Education, when they indefinitely put off a vote on the deal.

Alderwoman Joycelyn Johnson suggested the meeting. The land in question is in her East Ward, and she says many residents have questions about the proposed school that need to be answered.

Some aldermen cited environmental concerns since the 28 acres is park land; others said that the school system can afford to pay for privately-owned land instead.

In response to the aldermen putting the issue on the back burner, the School Board voted 5-3 on Nov. 26 to move the site of the school from Old Greens-

See School on A4



Members of the Twin City Choristers belt out tunes Sunday at the Sawtooth Center. The legendary local group entertained a large audience for its annual Christmas concert.

Photo by Bruce Chapman

Library hires staffer to try to lure teen readers

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Area teens will soon have a place of their own at the Forsyth County Public Library's Central Library. Jaleema Nanton was recently hired as teen coordinator for the Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL) to organize Teen Central, a program that will target teenagers with a slew of activities and events just for them.

Atop Nanton's to-do list is to round up a group of teens to form a Teen Advisory Council (TAC) who will help her spread the word about Teen Central to the community. Their input, Nanton said, will keep the program "fresh, innovative and on the cutting edge" of what's happening today.

"The community is on (teenagers') side. We have their back so to speak....I think it can definitely

be an important fixture in Winston-Salem," Nanton said. "I think the library is tremendous because no other establishment really has tried to embrace teens as much as this project is."

FCPL is hoping that its new teen program with monthly themes will garner as much success as children's and adult programming have in recent years. Several FCPL events - such as a block party, mock trial and open mike - aimed at teens in the past have been huge successes and indication enough that the young population was interested in still coming to the library, said Elizabeth Skinner, manager of the FCPL Central Library.

One service that has been available to young Internet surfers is NC Live, (www.nclive.org), which is an online group of databases that was

See Library on A5



Jaleema Nanton will be reaching out to teens for her new job at the library.

Photo by Courtney Gaillard