



Reagan coach turns over a new leaf

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Local kids help set new world record

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Rev. Samuel feted at grand banquet

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## DVD used to warn students

System wants kids better prepared to recognize sexual misconduct

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

In the wake of a recent case where a local teacher was charged with sexual misconduct with his students, the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School system is taking measures to make sure that students are informed about the nature of such misconduct and the avenues they can take to prevent or report it.



Simington

"We just want to make it clear that (sexual misconduct) is not tolerated," said Theo Helm, a spokesperson for the school system. "We want to try to create an environment where kids ... know that if something like this is going on, they should tell somebody so that we can end it."

"Time to Tell," a DVD donated by Learning for Life, a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America, has been distributed to all middle schools in the county. The DVD is to be shown to all current middle school students and to every future middle schooler during their sixth-grade.

The DVD urges all youths to "recognize, resist and report" any form of conduct by an adult that hurts them or makes them feel uncomfortable or afraid. Vignettes illustrate situations where youths are being taken advantage of by trusted adults.

"Protect yourself; it's your right and it's the right thing to do," urges one teen commentator on "Time to Tell." "It's not your fault - break the chain of silence."

Discussions led by school

See DVD on A11

## THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT EVER

More than 350 Rams earn degrees

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University held its largest fall commencement ever Friday night.

Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, the keynote speaker, addressed more than 380 graduates at Joel Coliseum. It was the most graduates ever for the fall graduation ceremony since the school began conducting fall commencements in 2001.

The graduates ages ranged from 21 to 53. About 29 percent of them are non-traditional students, meaning that they're 25 years of age or older. Anita Smith had one the highest GPAs among the class. She's currently working as a pediatric nurse practitioner at the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. She said she was glad to complete her nursing degree at WSSU.

"It's something I've wanted to do for years," she said. In the early 1970's she got



Photo by Jason Pitt

A graduate celebrates as she walks across the podium with her degree in hand.

her associate degree and tried for her bachelors but never completed the degree requirements. She choose WSSU when she decided to finally go

back to school because she said the school offers a wide variety of courses on various days and at different times. She said she would recom-

mend WSSU to any busy person who needs flexibility to continue his or her education. She said she's considering going for her masters degree

at some point in the future. Battista Smith, another non-traditional graduate, has such a remarkable story of

See Graduates on A5

## IT'S A BIRD ... NO, IT'S SANTA



Photo by Jason Pitt

Young people enrolled in the childcare center at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center got a treat Monday when Santa arrived at the hospital in style. While his reindeer rested up for the big day, Santa got on board the hospital's Air Care helicopter, which usually transports ill patients, for his voyage to Winston-Salem.

## Charter school summit inspires and motivates

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

When Andre Norman stepped out of the prison gates in 1999, he knew he had been given a second chance. A product of the streets and poor supervision during his formative years, Norman's rough life had led him astray, with charges for armed robbery and assault, among other things. Norman was determined to make a change in his own life, and in the lives of others.

He now travels the country, sharing his story and offering hope to kids of all ages.

"I feel I'm a success if they're a success, if I can share it and move somebody else," he remarked. "Somebody told me one time, 'A success is not a success without a successor; you're just a fabulous person.' I don't want to be a fabulous person; I want to be a success."

Norman spoke to Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge students last week at the Dennis Bishop Worship Center, as part of the school's annual Youth for Change Summit, now in its second year.

The two day-long summit, held Dec. 13-14, is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction Abstinence Until Marriage Grant. The chief objectives of the event are to promote abstinence until marriage and to deter students from drugs, violence, and gang-related activities.



Photo by Layla Farmer

Andre Norman speaks to kids last week.

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## Dreamers envision a better Waughtown

City money will help with improvements

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

A plan to revitalize the heart of Waughtown got an economic shot in the arm from the city in October when it was awarded a \$674,000 grant to spruce-up declining streets and store fronts in the historic community.

The money went to the Rural Initiatives Project, Inc. (RIPI), a CDC that worked with local Waughtown business owners to create a plan to bring back economic life to Waughtown Street and Thomasville Road. The city grant is one of



several awarded to various communities to make such improvements.

According to RIPI President Angelo Franceschina, the grant will have several different uses. A \$250,000 portion of it will be used for public improvements like streets,

sidewalks and curbs. Another \$250,000 will be used for matching funds that will let businesses improve or fix roofs, do paint jobs, erect signage, perform landscaping or other

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