

**Carver star heading to Naval Academy**

-See Page B1

**Graham honored for success in business**

-See Page A12

**WSPA revives students, parents**

-See Page B7

Celebrating  
**33 Years**  
of Community Journalism

# THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, January 31, 2008

## School marks 10th year of success

*Carter G. Woodson shows that charter schools can work*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

earth, labor and die, but they had hopes and desires for us, those of us who stand here today."

The beat of African drums pulsed in the morning air Monday as the procession moved slowly towards the newest building on the Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge campus. The students waved their pom-poms excitedly as they marched behind the elders, just as they would have hundreds of years ago in the Motherland.

"We must reflect on what got us here; that's why we did the ceremony like we did it; we wanted to ... honor our ancestors who are looking down on us from on high even as we speak today," explained Hazel Mack-Hilliard, who helped found the charter school a decade ago. "There were people who had no opportunity in their own lives, who knew that they would come on this

The celebration marked both the 10-year anniversary of the institution and the opening of its newly-constructed high school facility, which includes a state-of-the-art computer lab and a gymnasium and has been more than two years in the making.

"Everything happens in God's time ... and now is the time for the school; aren't you glad about it?" Lee Faye Mack, the mother of Mack-Hilliard and School Director Ruth Hopkins and a longtime supporter of the school, said, to a chorus of "yeah!" and enthusiastic applause.

The program included performances by the school's concert band and elemen-

See Woodson on A6



Students perform at the anniversary ceremony.

Photos by Layla Farmer



Hopkins

## FROM THE PAGES OF LOCAL HISTORY



NCAE Photo

*Gwen Bailey Coleman, who integrated Reynolds High School and the local school system in 1957, gives the keynote address Jan. 18 during the North Carolina Association of Educators' Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Awards Banquet in Raleigh. Coleman, who now lives in Maryland, was a teacher for 40 years and is an ordained minister. Since 1990, she has operated her own private counseling practice.*

## M&F to students: Money matters

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Mechanics and Farmers (M&F) Bank was founded a century ago by a small group of men who had a vision of empowering their fellow African Americans by creating a financial institution that was accessible to them. Today, the bank continues to reach out to members of the black community, through efforts such as the financial literacy tour, which was kicked off at Winston-Salem State University Jan. 23.

The daylong event featured breakout sessions with local business people and M&F representatives.

Actor Christopher "Play" Martin, formerly of the famed rap duo Kid 'n Play and the current host of BrandNewz.com, shared some of the pearls of wisdom he gained from his experience of becoming financially well off at a young age. The event was attended by more than 200 WSSU students.

"We added the college tour because we recognized that, more and more, our colleges and universities struggle with student populations who ... are on the threshold of beginning their careers (but) they don't have a handle on the fundamentals that they need to be successful in their

See WSSU on A11

## Less downtown jazz planned for the summer

*DWSP says it's reducing acts to concentrate on higher quality*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The popular "Music in the Streets" program will continue this spring and summer, but there will be less music - and not much of it will be played on the streets.

After spending much of last year re-evaluating the popular concert series that it stages, the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership has made several changes that will be implemented when the series kicks-off in May.

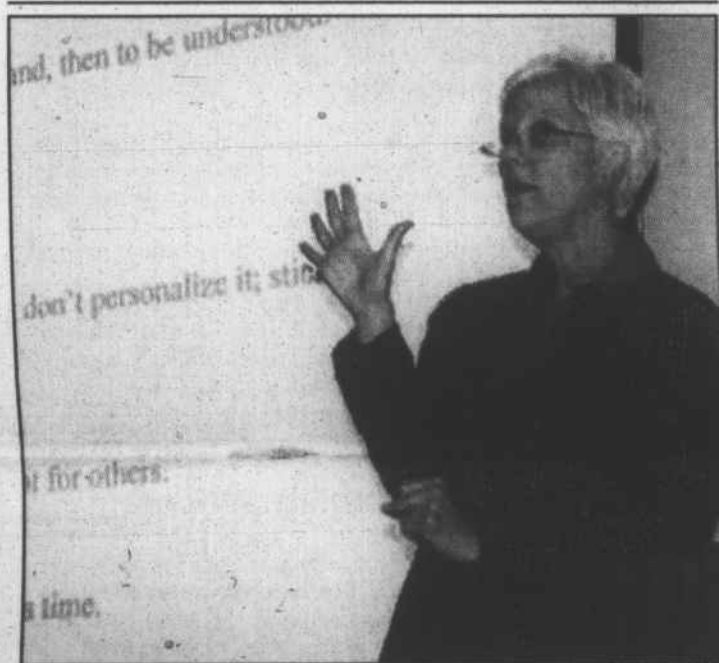
The major changes affect 4th Street Jazz & Blues, the flagship event of the series, which actually has not been staged on 4th Street - downtown's main drag - since the summer of 2006. The concert series will no longer be held every week, but every other week, instead, and in Corpening Plaza, a different venue from last and previous years.

File Photo

See Music on A13



The scene at a 2005 4th Street Jazz & Blues concert.



Photos by Todd Luck

Jill Tackabery addresses the audience.

## New committee seeks input from school outsiders

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

The new Community Advisory Committee of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board allows people to learn about the school system and give feedback to those in charge of it.

The committee held its first meeting last week. The meeting is open to the public and designed for people who don't currently work for or have children within the school system. School Board Member Jill Tackabery, who facilitates the meetings, said 70 percent of people in the county fall into that category. The goal, she said, is to establish communication between that segment of the population and the school board.

There are already school board advisory committees for students, teachers and parents. Tackabery said the School Board values the feedback the committees provide.

"I think their purpose is to give us some input about what's important, whether it be teachers or parents or the community," she said. "I think the two way communication is probably the point of the gathering no matter what it is."

More than 30 people attended last week's initial meeting of the Community Advisory Committee. Roughly one fourth of the crowd was African-American. Among them was Barbara O'Neal, who felt it was important to bring issues from the African-American community to the school board's attention. One of her concerns is the high amount of black students being suspended



Bendetta Goldsboro listens during last week's meeting.

See Committee on A13

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