



Carver names football coach

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Pam Grier accepts RiverRun film honor

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NAACP honors students at its gala

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Celebrating 33rd Anniversary
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Community Journal

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'Human frailties' of legal system get attention

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Law students got real life lessons on how innocent people can sometimes become victims of the flawed legal system.

Their teacher one evening last week was Darryl Hunt, who knows first-hand of the subject. Hunt spent nearly 20 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.



Photo by Todd Luck
Dean Blake Morant

The discussion took place at Wake Forest University School of Law and explored the importance of innocence projects, which seek to exonerate the wrongly convicted.

Hunt now has an innocence project of his own. Part of the mission of his Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice is to fight for those who are behind bars for crimes they did not

commit. Innocence projects don't necessarily have to be well-known and well-financed. Hunt reminded the audience that local ministers and concerned citizens formed a coalition that worked for his freedom for two decades.

For those in prison unjustly, Hunt said innocence projects are a lifeline.

"If you been where I been, one day in there is one day of hell because you never know if you're going to live or die in the next second" said Hunt. "If you can imagine yourself somewhere and you know that you don't belong there, then can you feel the pain that so many people feel that are innocent and crying out for help."

Duke University Law School has a well known innocence project, which involves students and professors working on behalf of people they feel have been wrongly convicted. The project is now working to free Calvin Michael Smith, a black man who was convicted of a violent assault on a white, female employee of a Winston-Salem floral shop in 1995. Wake Forest Law began an innocence project of its own last fall.

Ronald Wright, the school's executive dean for academic affairs, works with Wake's innocence project. Already 36 law students are working on 12 open cases. Wright was a part of the last week's panel discussion, as was Mark Rabil, the attorney who helped win Hunt's

See Law panel on A4



Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Sen. Barack Obama speaks at a campaign event in the Joel Coliseum Annex.

Obama says he won't be a sore winner or loser

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

During a campaign stop in Winston-Salem Tuesday, Sen. Barack Obama admitted that being a hop, skip and jump away from the Democratic Presidential nomination still takes some getting used to.

"We have been successful beyond our expectations," the Illinois senator told a small group of publishers, editors and reporters from black-owned newspapers throughout North Carolina. "I wouldn't have gotten into this race if I did not think that we could win, but obviously, the odds were long. And for us to be here as the Democratic frontrunner in the nomination, I think is extraordinary."

Obama held a nearly hourlong, round table pow-wow with members of the N.C. Black Publishers' Association before his noontime rally in the annex of

the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Members of the association held a similar talk with Sen. Hillary Clinton, Obama's rival for the nomination, on Monday in Greensboro. Tuesday, North Carolina voters will move either Obama or Clinton one step closer to the nomination and a fall showdown with Sen. John McCain, the presumptive GOP candidate.



John Hope Franklin

Obama's Winston-Salem event was billed as a "town hall meeting" instead of a "rally," but someone forgot to tell the thousands of attendees, who whooped, hollered and chanted as soon as the senator bolted onto the small makeshift stage. His ability to attract diehard supporters is one of his hallmarks - a political gift that has been pondered, debated and editorialized.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, the legendary author, educator and Presidential Medal of Freedom

See Obama on A6

Summer feeding program returning

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

"If one child in Forsyth County is hungry, it's one too many," declared Nan Griswold, executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina, at the Gateway YWCA last Friday afternoon.



Martin

"The need is here, we're responding to the need, but we need the total community ... in order to feed our hungry kids."

The purpose of the April 25 event was to announce the return of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Summer Feeding Program for Hungry Children.

"(Childhood hunger) is a tremendously serious problem in our community," said Mayor Allen Joines, who has worked closely with the program since its inception in 2006. "As we're moving our economy towards a more knowledge-based economy, we've got to make sure that our young people are successful. This program here will contribute to that."

The summer feeding program employs federal grant money and the efforts of volunteers to provide free meals to the more than 24,000 children across the county who qualify for free or reduced lunch during the regular school year.

An average of 1,690 children were fed daily during the 2006 summer season - less than 10 percent of those eligible - and the school system was forced to return \$6 million in unused grant dollars to the federal government.

A breakfast program was added to the 2007 roster and the

See Meals on A11



Photo by Jeffrey Toomey/City of W-S
Simona Allen accepts her award from Vivian Burke, left, and Jennifer Norwood of Visit Winston-Salem.

A WOMAN'S WORTH

Annual awards pay homage to female leaders

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

"Women are really stepping forward and making such a difference in our community," Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke told the group of honorees and well wishers at the 2008 Outstanding Women Leaders Reception last Thursday evening. "You would not imagine the impact that they make when it comes to generating money back to this community."

Burke has sponsored the ceremony since its inception in 2003, along with Southern Community Bank and Trust and Visit Winston-Salem. Nine women were honored for their leadership and commitment to the community this year.

"It just (never) ceases to amaze me; it always humbles me when people do give me an award," commented Police

Chief Pat Norris, one of the evening's honorees. "It just really does make me feel great to know that a little bit of what I'm doing is making a difference," added the chief, who will be retiring in June.

Sylvia P. Adams, executive director of the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Winston-Salem, was also recognized.

"I felt really honored to be among the distinguished women," she later said. "It makes me want to go out and do even more for our community and look at how we can partner with

other agencies, again among some of the distinguished women here. We've already talked about how we're going to collaborate and do things for our community."

Honoree Simona Atkins Allen is a retired music teacher and one of the founding members of the Delta Arts Center.

"I've been involved with it throughout its history and I'm still involved with it," she said of the center. "I'm not involved on a day-to-day basis, but I'm very pleased with it."

Florence Corpening, chief executive officer of the YWCA of Winston-Salem, was also honored at the event held at the Brookstown Inn; as were Beverly Graham, owner of Medicap Pharmacy; Rev. Yvonne Hines of the Mount Sinai Full Gospel Deliverance Center; Susan



Ivey

See Women on A4

In Memory of **Charlene Russell Brown**

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