



A&T to host NCAA track event in 2010

-See Page B10



Poetry slams drawing crowds

-See Page A3



Chris Paul returns home

-See Page B1



75 cents

THE CHRONICLE

16 0316101 *FIRM*****5-DIGIT 27101
ADMINISTRATION
FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
660 W. 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2705

Vol. XXXVI No. 5

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, October 1, 2009



Rev. Carlton Eversley speaks as Chief Scott Cunningham sits to his left.

Forum finds chief and minister at odds over DA

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

There were tense moments between the chief of the Winston-Salem Police Department and the president of the city's Ministers Conference during a forum held to discuss racial diversity.

The Rev. Carlton Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church and the leader of the ministers' group, asked two of his fellow panelists at last week's Beyond Soul and Salsa community discussion to join the Ministers Conference and several other grassroots organizations in condemning recent comments by Forsyth County District Attorney Tom Keith, who told a local publication that statistically African-Americans are more likely to commit crimes.

While neither Police Chief Scott Cunningham nor Winston-Salem City Manager Lee Garrity strongly rebuked Keith's statement, Garrity tepidly challenged them, stating that anyone could use statistics to pretty much make any point he or she wanted to.

Cunningham chose to stay clear of the issue altogether. "I don't know what he did or did not say," said the chief, who added that the forum - held each year by the city's Human Relations Commission to address issues of importance to blacks and Hispanics - was not the appropriate venue to discuss the matter.

What Keith actually said to *Yes! Weekly* reporter Keith Barber has been a subject of contention. The Greensboro-based publication was forced to clarify its original story, which quoted Keith as saying that blacks by "instinct" were more prone to commit crimes. The DA had actually said based on "statistics."

Either way, Eversley said, the statement was racist and dangerous coming from the man who single-handedly determines who is prosecuted in Forsyth County and to what extent. Since the Police Department works in hand-in-hand with the District Attorney's Office, Eversley told Cunningham that his silence on the subject was a missed opportunity to "set a

See Forum on A5



Keith

Johnson says Montgomery had lots of help, advantages

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

City Council Member Joycelyn Johnson is bowing out gracefully but not silently.

She spoke out publicly last week about her loss to Derwin Montgomery in the Sept. 8 Democratic Primary.

Although Johnson was the four-term incumbent, she said Montgomery, a senior at Winston-Salem State University, had advantages in the primary that she and the other two Democrats in the race did not. Her comments



Johnson



Montgomery

came last Thursday evening at the Gateway YWCA during Beyond Soul and Salsa - a forum held by the city's

Human Relations Commission each year to address issues pertinent to blacks and Hispanics.

WSSU junior Carolyn Merritt brought up the issue of the recent primary in Johnson's East Ward, and the fact some have criticized Montgomery for orchestrating his win entirely by appealing to his fellow students - who turned out in droves to support him. Merritt said the criticism was hypocritical since so many people applauded WSSU students just a few months ago when they clogged polls to vote for Barack Obama.

Seemingly, when Merritt made her statements, she did

See East Ward on A10

A Simple, Extraordinary Life

'Ma Vance' recalls a century of living

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

One hundred years ago, when Cleo Vance was born, the world was a very different place. The first Lincoln penny had just been minted and workers in Panama had just begun pouring the concrete for the Panama Canal. There were only 10 miles of paved roads in the continental US, and lynchings accounted for more deaths than automobile accidents. The average worker took home less than \$13 for 59 hours of work, and the life expectancy for African Americans was only 33.

Looking back, Vance says she never imagined she would defy the odds so stunningly, by making it all the way into the next century.

"I was just happy when I was younger, and I just enjoyed life," she related. "I didn't know how things would end up; I just thought I would wait and see."

Despite growing up in a treacherous era for African-Americans, Vance, who celebrated her centennial birthday on Sept. 25, remembers her childhood fondly. She spent her formative years in Anderson, S.C.. Her father, who passed away when Vance was a youngster, built bridges - literally.

The family believes he contracted pneumonia from the long hours he spent standing in the water during the builds.



See Vance on A11 Cleo Vance with her daughter, Pearlie.

Photo by Layla Farmer

City of Sisterly Love



Photo by Todd Luck

Mayor Allen Joines poses with Mayor Alexandru Ambros of Ungheni, Moldova on Monday before the two toured some of downtown's hot spots. Ungheni is one of Winston-Salem's Sister Cities. The nation of Moldova lies between Romania and the Ukraine.

Reasons to Celebrate

Men and women tell how agency turned their lives around

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Bethesda Center for the Homeless celebrated its 22nd anniversary on Sept. 23 with a modest, poignant ceremony.

Bethesda was founded as a day shelter in 1987 and is still the only shelter in town that provides a daytime sanctuary for the homeless. Bethesda has seen many changes over the last two decades. It is now a night shelter as well, with the capacity to house up to 100 men and women. Substance abuse treatment programs, case management and other supportive services have been added to help clients get back on their feet.



Photos by Layla Farmer

Goler Memorial's Joyce Henry (second from left) poses with Bethesda Center success stories Tonya Mack, Anthony Williams and Mary Holman.

See Bethesda on A5

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

BUY LOCAL



6890763243917