



National titles claimed by local teams

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YMCA legend dee jays at party

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THURSDAY, December 19, 2013



Dan Parsons (left) greets Drs. Dorothy Bethea (center) and Chinyu Wu.

Photos by Layla Garms

Community bids adieu to Rescue Mission leader

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

After more than a decade at the helm of the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, Director Dan Parsons is retiring, relinquishing the reins of the steadfast homeless shelter and substance abuse treatment program.

An open house event at the Mission's Oak Street location last week served as an informal bon voyage celebration for Parsons, who was hired as the agency's director in 2000.

"I've enjoyed working with Dan," said Mayor Allen Joiner, one of the dozens of guests who came out to thank Parsons for his service to the community during the reception. "We've fought a few battles together and I've just always been so impressed with his commitment to helping these individuals. His heart is so big and we're going to miss that."

Dan Horton, a longtime Rescue Mission Board member and pastor, said losing Parsons to retirement is bittersweet for

many of those who have worked alongside him over the last 13 years.

"I feel a sense of loss," confessed Horton, who has led the congregation at Calvary Community Church in Statesville for more than 40 years. "But I'm glad for him and hope he'll just do well and everything, get along well."

The Christian-based treatment program the Mission offers has been credited with transforming the lives of myriad

See Parsons on A9



Saunders

Triad hopefuls eyeing Watt's seat

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

With U.S. Rep. Mel Watt's confirmation last week to head the Federal Housing Finance Agency, there will soon be a new face representing the state's 12th Congressional District for the first time in 20 years – and there's no shortage of candidates vying for the seat.

Watt is expected to formally resign from Congress this week to take the housing job, for which he was hand-picked by President Obama. After he bows out, Gov. Pat McCrory will call a special election that may occur as early as February. Since the 12th District is overwhelmingly Democratic, whoever wins the Democratic primary is expected to take the seat.

The district snakes its way from Charlotte, Concord and Salisbury to the Triad and includes portions of Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point and Lexington.

State Reps. Alma Adams and Marcus Brandon, both Democrats who represent

Guilford County, have announced that they will run to succeed Watt. As of last week, the seven other candidates who have announced plans to run all hail from the Charlotte area, where Watt launched his successful run for Congress two decades ago.

It doesn't surprise John Dinan, a professor of politics and international affairs at Wake Forest University, that most of the 12th District hopefuls live in the Queen City. While a quarter of the 12th District's population is in Guilford County, a full half live in Mecklenburg, giving candidates from the county an advantage, Dinan said.

"Especially when you have a district that's spread out so much, name recognition is crucial," he said. "...It's very difficult for officials to have name recognition across all those areas, and so the first thing election analysts look at is who's making up the bulk of this district – well, it's Mecklenburg County; it's the Charlotte area."

Greensboro resident Adams said her 30 years in politics has made her well known throughout the state, including Charlotte, where she says she has been involved with many organizations.

The former Guilford County School Board and Greensboro City Council member is serving her 11th term in the General Assembly, where she said one of her biggest successes was the 2006 fight she helped lead to raise the minimum wage for the first time in a decade. She said she plans to take that type of fighting spirit to the U.S. House.

"We need someone who really stands up for middle class families and women's rights, health care, protecting voting rights. All those



Adams



Brandon

JARRED INTO ACTION



Photo by Layla Garms

Megan Shuford is using her birthday this week to spread a little cheer to strangers through an innovative program called the Love Jar Project. Read more about Megan and her efforts in the Dec. 26 edition of *The Chronicle*.



Photo by Layla Garms

Principal Kenyatta Bennett stands outside his school.

The Only Way is Up

Principal seeks to create a new culture and attitude at newly-merged Philo-Hill

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Macon, Ga.-native Kenyatta Bennett has always enjoyed a chal-

lenge, and serving as principal of the newly-merged Philo-Hill Magnet Academy comes with more than a few of them.

Since Bennett took the helm in July, his mission has been to change the culture, atmosphere and reputation of the school.

"It's been fast-paced," he said of his first six months as principal. "It's

See Bennett on A3

Graduates receive unfiltered lessons from the Bible

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Sovereign Grace Bible Institute graduated its fourth class on Sunday.

The commencement ceremony took place at Sovereign Grace Chapel. The small Bon Air Avenue church has offered classes through the Institute since 2006. The year-and-a-half long course offers students a deeper understanding of the Bible through twice-weekly lecture discussions. Several books of the Bible

See Institute on A3



Elder Burrell



Photos by Layla Garms

Graduates (from left) Pastor Ricky Pouncey, Amanda Gordon, Tony West, Clayton Douglas, Antonio Fries, and Malcolm Gadson.

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