



'Walking Dead' party to be held on Sunday

-See Page A10



Forsyth County native turns 105

-See Page A7



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WSSU helps kids improve reading skills



WSSU student Nichelle Caudle with her tutee, Sabriyah Johnson.

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Eight year-old Shailinn Morales has always loved to read.

"Since I was a little girl, I have had a real interest in books," said Shailinn, a second grader at Easton Elementary. "Like, I really connect to the book."

Once a week, the aspiring pre-kindergarten teacher gets the chance to bone up on her reading skills and enhance her educational pursuits through the I-RISE (Initiative of Reading Improvement for Students Everywhere) Literacy Academy, a new program led by students and faculty in Winston-Salem State University's Maya Angelou Institute for the Improvement of Child and Family Education and the School of Education and Human Performance.

The program focuses on schools with a high number of students from low income homes. Jamilla



Pemberton

See I-RISE on A7



U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan addresses the crowd at the Benton Convention Center.

Hagan: I still work, meet with Obama

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan on Saturday stumped through the Community Service Awards Gala, an annual event sponsored by *The Chronicle*, delivering a short message tailor-made for the largely African American audience of several hundred.

"I continue to work with the president and meet with him regularly," she averred, contradicting the Republican narrative that she's distancing herself from Obama as she battles uphill to win a second term.

The state's junior senator was among those who latched onto Obama's long coattails in 2008. His landmark victory in this traditionally red state helped Hagan — then a Guilford County state senator — to an improbable victory over venerable incumbent Elizabeth Dole. In recent months, though, as the approvals of both the president and Hagan have nosedived, the relationship between the two has been ostensibly abstruse. She was a no-show for the president's last two visits to the state and oblique when asked if the president would join her on the trail this election season.

"The president is always welcome to North Carolina and to campaign," Hagan said after her public remarks.

From the gala rostrum, she inveighed against the Republican-heavy General Assembly's decisions to truncate the early voting calendar and institute a voter ID law, asserting that such measures are a slap in the face of the Greensboro Four and others who fought and died for equal rights.

"I am pleased that our U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder decided to take action in our state," said Hagan, who was among those who urged the Justice Department to mount a legal challenge to North Carolina's new voting laws.

Hagan said her focus in Washington remains on turning around failing schools (Her STARS Act would infuse the lowest performing schools in each state with funds and resources.) and raising the minimum wage to an hourly \$10.10.

"The families I talk to, they are working hard ... They are working longer, and they are falling further behind," she said.

She made no mention of the Affordable Care Act during her public remarks, which were delivered on a day that several Democratic members of the Winston-Salem City Council sponsored an ACA enrollment

See Hagan on A8

Transitioning

WSSU Photo by Garrett Garms

Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Donald Julian Reeves tells students, faculty, alumni and others on Friday, March 21 of his decision to step down at the end of the year. Reeves, who has led WSSU since 2007, will remain at the university as a full professor with tenure in the Political Science Department.



Reservist thanks his support system

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

For more than 15 years, Winston-Salem resident Charles Allen has devoted his life to serving others, both as a firefighter and as a member of the Air National Guard.

The New London native was just a teenager when he lost his best friend in a fatal car accident. After that, he decided to dedicate his life to helping as many people as possible escape similarly tragic fates.

"From that day forward, I knew I wanted to help people," said Allen, who has served the Winston-Salem Fire Department since 2002. "...Before I knew it, I was in the profession."

Allen, who launched his career as a fireman in 1998, took his commitment to service one step further the following year, when he joined the Air National Guard, where he serves as personnel craftsman.

"You don't know the impact that you make on somebody until you find them in their worst state," said the father of three.



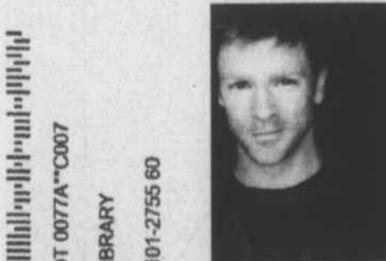
Charles Allen (third from right) poses with (from left): Stephen Jones of the N.C. Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, Fire Battalion Chief Sandy Sheppard, Mayor Allen Joines and Human Resources employees Sherri Gauthier and Hilda Clark-Bell.

"That's really what keeps me going, knowing that I may have made a difference today, whether it's riding in a fire truck or sitting behind a desk in the (Air National Guard's) Human Resources office."

Allen, an alumnus of Livingstone College, says none of the work he does would be possible without the caring and contentious support of a network of city

See Awards on A10

Budding Triad filmmaker seeking a wider audience



Jenkins

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Alamance County resident Cornelius Muller is endeavoring to change the world, one film at a time.

"My stories are (meant) to inspire people to change their lives for the better," said the independent filmmaker and Brooklyn native.

Muller recently wrapped filming of his third project, "Sacred Kind of Love," an inspirational feature he wrote, co-

See Muller on A7



Cornelius Muller (center) appears alongside fellow cast members in "Find a Way."

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