



Sluggish start for Reynolds JV team

-See Page B10



Story of Bethania's blacks told in new book

-See Page A3

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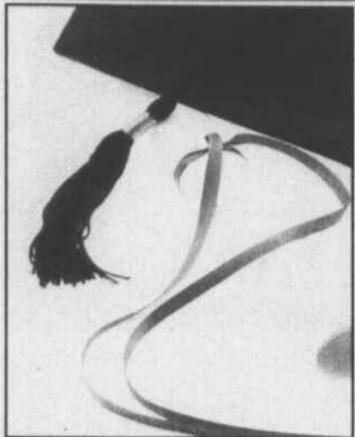
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Graduation rates slip at Parkland and WSPA

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Countywide, graduation rates increased for the seventh straight year, but Parkland High School and Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy saw their rates slip from 2013 to 2014.

The drop was significant at WSPA, from 94.4 percent in 2013 to 75.6 percent this year. The school's rate has ebbed and flowed. It was 100 percent in 2012 and 77.1 percent the year before that.



Hardy



Taylor



Watts

"This year we took a drop, but if you go back and look at our overall rates, we have had good rates, and then we bounce back, and we are going to bounce back," said Principal Richard Watts.

Watts said that because the school is so small - only 236 students - one or two students not graduating has a huge impact of the graduation rate.

"We have to make sure the freshmen stay with us, graduate with us," he said. "We have to do a better job of keeping our freshmen on target, which means that if our freshmen are at a 1.5 grade point average, we have to do something different to make sure they get their grade point average up to a 2.0."

Parkland saw only a small decrease, from 82 percent to 79.3 percent, which is still better than its rates from 2008 through 2012.

See Schools on A2

More cops being equipped with small body cameras

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Officers of Winston-Salem Police Department will soon be recording more of their interactions with the public with body cameras, Police Chief Barry Rountree announced Aug. 28 at an East Winston community meeting.

"We are in the phase of updating our camera project and training our officers," Rountree said. "In-car video only captures about 85 to 90 percent of what an officer does. Most of his or her activities are going to be out of the vehicle. This (the body camera) is priceless because in certain situations we can say, 'Yes this happened' or 'No, it didn't happen.' We have an unbiased witness with the video recording."

Local officers with the Downtown Bike Patrol division, D.W.I. Task Force and Traffic Enforcement Unit have been using Axon Flex Body cameras since 2012. Ninety-five additional cameras have been purchased on top of the 35

already in use. The new cameras will be used by school resource officers, the K-9 division and officers in the patrol division and street crimes unit.



Sgt. L. Scott Wright wears a camera on his sunglasses.

Photo by Chanel Davis

Made by Taser International, Inc., Axon Flex cameras are about the size of a thumb drive and can be affixed to an officer's sunglasses, shirt collar or a shoulder mount. Officers also carry a pager-size

device that must be pressed to actuate recording.

"This camera goes with me anywhere I go and captures the event from the beginning to the end," said the Support Services Bureau's Sgt. L. Scott Wright, who has been using a camera since 2012 and is now charged with training officers on camera usage and procedures.

The cameras cost about

\$500 a piece and can store up to 12 hours of video at a time. The video captured is uploaded after every shift and stored on a Cloud-like system. Officers can't edit or alter the video. The videos will be kept for at least 90 days.

The camera does require manual activation by the officer and has a 30 second buffer

See Cameras on A8

Photos by Chanel Davis

Ben Tennille from H.O.P.E. of Winston-Salem speaks with Ariyonia McCain.

Below: Jamaal Bowden speaks with Natasha Lawrence about the Life Line Shoebox project.



Agencies seek a few good Rams

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

To help those who are looking to help others, Winston-Salem State University held its annual Fall Student Involvement Fair on Aug. 27.

Representatives from several agencies in need of volunteers set-up displays near the breezeway of the Thompson Student Services Center. Some universities require students to complete volunteer hours as a requirement of graduation.

Although students in the the WSSU Honors College must complete 30 hours of volunteer service a year, there is no general volunteering requirement at the school.

LaMonica Sloan, director of Career Development Services, said Rams have always been good about volunteering on their own.

"We never have an issue of students completing service," Sloan said. "Last year, for those that reported it, there were

See Volunteers on A7

Pharmacist is offering customers an alternative

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

At Southside Discount Pharmacy, Ahunna Freeman wants to change the way pharmacists deal with customers.

"I was a retail pharmacist for nine years, and I realized that more could be done than what the chain was offering," Freeman said. "People need help understanding their medicines. Some people actually wanted to know more but the biggest problem was the time. (I wanted to) take the time to



Ahunna Freeman

See Freeman on A2



Photos by Chanel Davis

Southside Discount Pharmacy is located in Southeast Plaza.

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