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Legendary coach John McLendon dies

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Role models



James Rousseau, center, vice president of community relations and development for Forsyth Technical Community College, listens as veteran mentors talk about their experiences. Rousseau was one of more than a dozen new mentors who graduated into Mentoring for Success, a statewide program that matches successful men with boys in need of role models. For full story see page A3.

Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Wake Forest Divinity School opens

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University celebrated the realization of an old dream inside the dimly-lit confines of Wait Chapel Tuesday night.

The university celebrated with the help of a grand choir – which belted out harmonious sounds from a choir stand below a set of enormous organ pipes – and many of its faculty members, donned in their academic regalia, who looked on from the audience.

It was all to welcome “the new kid on the block,” the Wake Forest University Divinity School, which will open its doors for the first time Aug. 25. The inaugural convocation was one of many events planned to celebrate the opening of the school, which is the first professional school to open at WFU since the opening of the Babcock School of Management in 1969.

Fittingly, “Theology at the

Threshold of the 21st Century” was the theme of the celebration, which stretched on into Wednesday with a host of seminars and lectures. During the convocation, many speakers made mention of the millennium and religion’s role in it. All bets are that the university’s divinity school will be the final divinity school to open this century.

“You deserve congratulations for your bold decision to launch a divinity school at this moment in history,” said Patricia Sullivan,



Angelou

chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, one of many religious and education leaders from around the country who were on hand to praise the new school. “Best wishes to you as you begin this journey.”

The journey to bring a divinity school to Wake Forest began 10 to 160 years ago, depending on whom you ask. The university’s board of trustees approved the formation of the school in 1989, but the board stipulated that adequate funds for the divinity school should be raised before it opened its doors. To that end, the university has been actively raising money for the new school.

The first donation to the school – \$500 – came from First Baptist Church in New Bern, a

church where Samuel Wait, the man who formed the school that would become Wake Forest University in the early 19th century, once served as pastor.

“This is the celebration of a founding purpose,” Thomas Hearn, president of the university said. Currently, the school has \$10 million in pledges and gifts.

Hearn went on to explain the stark changes that have taken place at the university since Wait’s day. In Wait’s day, the school and the church were one, Hearn explained.

Now, the line between the church and the school is solidly drawn and quite visible to everyone.

In fact, Hearn said, trying to find its niche in an “increasingly secular university and culture” will be one of the divinity school’s biggest challenges.

The divinity school’s faculty and staff are vowing that the

See Divinity School on A12

Roundtable discusses how to help Princeville

Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem raises nearly \$40,000 for historic black town

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Some local black leaders discussed raising money for hurricane-ravaged Princeville, one of the oldest black towns in the United States, at a meeting Saturday at Mars Hill Baptist Church.

Ideas suggested include: pooling monetary donations, sending individual monetary donations, looking into having a nationwide telethon and asking local black organizations to contribute to Princeville. The discussions will continue at the Oct. 21 meeting of the Black Leadership Roundtable.

State Rep. Larry Womble, convenor of the Black Leadership

Roundtable, led the meeting Saturday. More than 20 people attended.

Womble said that he and other members of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus toured Princeville recently to see the flood damage. “It is completely wiped away. ... It’s like a ghost town. These people cannot go back until something is done.”

“You might remember that a week or two before Floyd, there was Dennis,” Womble said. “So Dennis had already done some damage to that part of the state....”

“We are here because we need to step up to the plate.... When I say we, I mean African Americans, black people. Too many times, right

See BLR on A13

Carol Skipper, a fourth-grade teacher at Pattillo A+ Elementary School, leads her students to their temporary trailer school, in Tarboro Monday.

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▲ COMMUNITY

Stainback encourages black journalists

Ruff Ryders' first lady speaks out

Easley fights back

Attorney general says idea that blacks don't know PSAs from ads is insulting

BY ANGELA BURRUS
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

RALEIGH – Attorney General Mike Easley has only one regret – not being able to do more for the citizens of North Carolina.

“There seem to be limitations in the district attorney’s office (where he formerly worked) and even in the attorney general’s office,” he said.

Easley’s face is a familiar one – for years his face and voice have warned against a host of social and economic criminals from the scourge of less than honest telemarketers to phony charities and lottery scams.

But it’s his last public awareness campaign – a summerlong barrage in black media against predatory lending – that has raised the ire of Republicans and called into question both the Democratic gubernatorial candidate’s intentions and reputation.

Many have attacked the public service announcements (PSAs) – aimed at the African American community – as political advertisements and have charged that Easley is using taxpayers’ money to appeal to black voters.

Easley was joined in the public service announcements by Harvey Gantt, a former Charlotte mayor and U.S. Senate candidate.

Although Easley expected criticism from his opponents, he was offended by accusations made about Gantt, a well respected political figure.

“All Harvey was doing was responding to a problem,” Easley said. “He has tremendous credibility – tremendous integrity and (Gantt is a person) people would listen to.”

Rep. Leo Daughtry, Republican candidate for governor, recently requested the State Board of Elections to investigate whether the PSAs violate any laws.

“Like most taxpayers, we were deeply offended by this blatant example of abusing taxpayers’ money by spending on public service announcements that look like campaign ads,” he said in published reports.

John Hood of the John Locke Foundation said the announcements’ constant mentioning of Easley’s name constitutes campaign advertising.

See Easley on A10

Steppin' out



Former Patterson Avenue YMCA youth program director Moses "Mo" Lucas teaches a step to members of the Winston Lake YMCA Step Team. For more pictures please see page A11.

Photo by Jeri Young