

SPORTS WEEK

AKAs hold annual golf tournament

Basketball camp teaches art of game



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See C6



See A2



See C1

COMMUNITY

WSSU students stage day of fun

First Waughtown celebrates 100

cents

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Boy walks out of local school unnoticed

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

When Robin Wilborn dropped her two children off at Petree Elementary School last Tuesday, she didn't think anything would happen to either child.

But she got a startling shock when she went to pick her children up and found the police combing the neighborhood for her son, Randall.

"Randall was missing for 15 minutes before anyone noticed," she said.

And, Wilborn added, to make matters worse, when she arrived at the school no one was in the office to tell her what was going on.

Wilborn said she found the person who was supposed to be watching the office in the school's gym. When she asked the woman about her son, Wilborn said the woman laughed at her.

Wilborn said she asked the woman if she had any

children and how would she feel in this situation. The woman apologized and said she only laughed because she was so shocked that Randall was missing.

She said that she was frightened when she found out her son had walked away from the school on Old

"I do not allow my children to walk across the street by themselves."

-Robin Wilborn

Greensboro Road, Wilborn said that street has a lot of speeding cars and illegal activity.

"I do not allow my children to walk across the street by themselves," she said angrily.

Randall had walked nearly a mile and a half to get to his grandmother's house near the school. The boy was found unharmed. But Wilborn wanted to know why her son was allowed to walk out of the front door of the school in the first place.

According to Petree principal Denny Rutledge, Randall was misbehaving in his music class. The teacher (whom the school would not name) called the office and told the principal that she was going to send Randall to the office.

The teacher did not walk the little boy to the office, as the school policy says. Rutledge said he and the assistant principal had students in their offices and could not meet Randall in the hall.

"This type of thing happens two or three times a year at a lot of schools in the system," he said. "People make mistakes."

But Wilborn feels as if this is a mistake that could

See Missing on A10



Photo by Cheris Hodges

Robin Wilborn and Kristy Hairston color at their home. The mother pulled them out of Petree Elementary School last Tuesday when she discovered her son, Randall, had walked out of the school undetected.

Community unites

Tobaccoville residents take nostalgic walk during weekend-long celebration

KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The black men and women who toiled in the fields of Tobaccoville during slavery didn't have much, material wise, to pass on to their children and grandchildren.

What they did pass down, according to Madolyn "Jeanette" Norwood-Williams, was "roots and wings."

Norwood-Williams said the descendants of those who built the tiny community, located in northwest Forsyth County, have their roots to keep them grounded and a constant source of pride and connection. She said they have used their wings to fly to heights that their ancestors couldn't imagine.

"We have become ministers, educators, entrepreneurs, realtors....," Norwood-Williams boasted.

Connecting the past and present was

one of the main objectives behind last weekend's Tobaccoville Reunion. Norwood-Williams was behind the weekend-long event, which brought together people with ties to Tobaccoville.

Several years ago, she envisioned a celebration of the community's people and culture after learning that other small enclaves have had success with staging similar reunions. Norwood-Williams and the steering committee for the event sent out more than 300 invitations to people with Tobaccoville ties.

The reunion festivities, which included a gala banquet at the Ramada Inn Saturday night, drew people from as far away as California.

The banquet brought out several hundred people. Many of them still call Tobaccoville home today. Others have since left

See Tobaccoville on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker

Ninety-year-old Eva Payne addresses the crowd at a banquet Saturday for the Tobaccoville Reunion. Payne and other elders of the community helped construct a video timeline for Tobaccoville.

County jail inmates earn GEDs

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

According to records at the Forsyth County Detention Center, inmates who complete their GED while incarcerated are less likely to return to jail or end up in prison.

So when several inmates at the detention center earned their GED, their teachers from Forsyth Technical Community College took their celebration behind bars.

"It inspires them not to come back," said Officer Brenda Manley, the manager of the partnership with FTCC. "When they are released, they can get back into the community."

Manley said Forsyth County Sheriff Ron Barker and Maj. Wayne James, director of the jail, are very supportive of the program.

FTCC provides the classroom books and the instructors for the classes. According to Ronnie Valenti, coordinator of the project, the inmates are offered classes in African American history, English as a second language and many others. She said the school plans to apply for a grant so that they can get video college classes to the inmates at the detention center.

Currently, inmates cannot take college courses until they are transferred to a state corrections facility.

"A lot of our GED graduates go on to take college classes," Valenti said.

Inmate Thomas Flanagan was presented with his GED.

Valenti said the classes offer more than just education to the inmates. The classes help to build their self-esteem and self-respect.

"I have people say to me all the time, 'If my teachers in high school cared the way you guys do, I might not be here today,'" she said.

Valenti added that these classes give many

See Bostonians on A11

See Jail on A11

Bostonians share experiences with locals

LECIA P. MCMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

The Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond, pastor of Bethel AME Church in Boston, Mass., physician, and chairman, Ten Point Coalition, shared the successful crime reduction strategies from the Boston Church Cluster Model with a group of more than 50 community leaders, including clergy, on Tuesday night at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

From 1991 to 1998, Boston saw more than a 70 percent decrease in juvenile and gun violence. This reduction is attributed to the collaboration of the Ten Point Coalition working along with probation officers, police officers, service providers and street workers in Boston. They have done phenomenal work," said Loretta Land Biggs, executive assistant U.S. attorney. In

October 1999, the U.S. attorney's office sponsored a trip to Boston to observe this model. We were so energized by that visit that we wanted to bring some of the people we met there here. It was Rev. Hammond that our clergy asked us to bring down."

Several staff persons from the U. S. attorney's office went on this mission. Biggs was joined by U. S. Attorney Walter C. Holton; SACSII project coordinator Sylvia Oberle; and Assistant U.S. Attorney Rob Lang.

In that trip they took members from Winston-Salem and High Point who are involved in violence reduction strategies, including chiefs of police Louis Quias from High Point and Linda Davis from Winston-Salem; the head of Juvenile Services, Walter Byrd; clergy from Winston-Salem and High Point, Rev. John Mendez, Rev. William Fails and Rev. Ellerbe; the city manager from High Point, Strib Boyton; and a variety of others. The

purpose of this trip was to see first-hand how Boston had used successful strategies to stop juvenile violence.

Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church and a leader in the SACSII Clergy Coalition, explained the purpose of Tuesday night's meeting. "We are a very diverse group from different locations in the country, especially the northeast part, but we have a common interest, a common sense of destiny," said Mendez. "We are all moving in the same direction, trying to build a community that represents the best of all of us. We are pleased to have your different perspectives around the table..."

"I feel good about the SACSII Initiative because we have our hands on real situations, real people, and we see that we can make a difference. We have continued in a path that has led us all around the table."

WFU has first graduation for minorities

T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In an event filled with laughter and tears, the young men and women who will make history at Wake Forest University's upcoming commencement, celebrated years of struggles and achievements in less than two hours.

Wake Forest's Office of Multicultural Affairs held its first Multicultural Graduation ceremony last week at the university's campus. Next week, 93 minority undergraduate students will receive their degrees at a school's graduation ceremony. A record for Wake Forest, which is out 88 percent white.

Last week's send-off was in part to celebrate that record, but more important, said the director of Multicultural Affairs, it was a way to

bring the school's minority population together for an evening of "reflection" and "encouragement."

"There is no kind of ceremony that allows the ethnic minority population to have a special celebration," said Barbee Oakes. "It was a way for them to have that special bonding."

Underclassmen and members of the university's faculty and staff were also on hand to cheer on the graduates.

Oakes provided words of encouragement to seniors. She challenged them to embrace new challenges and dream new dreams. She said the class was filled with talent, energy and a slew of success stories.

"I see writers, doctors, dentists, lawyers....You name it we have it in this class," she said.

It's a class that Oakes admits she

shares a special bond with. It's the first class she recruited after taking over the reigns at the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The office is no longer responsible for recruiting minority students.

Some of the students and Oakes go back to the students' senior year of high school.

"When I accepted the position as director of Multicultural Affairs five years ago, my greatest challenge was to see both an increase in the number of minority students enrolled at the university and to see an improvement in the academic performance of those students," Oakes said.

The Class of 2000 made both of Oakes' dreams a reality. The class has the highest five-year graduation rate, 78 percent, of any minority class in the history of the university; and

Wake Forest's total undergraduate population includes a record 470 minority students, 12 percent of the entire undergraduate population.

Oakes juxtaposed those figures with the ones from 1976, when she was a freshman at Wake Forest. Then the school had just 130 minorities on its campus. And worst of all, Oakes said, only about half them graduated within a five-year period.

The ceremony paid special attention to the diversity of the school's multicultural makeup. Entertainment for the event was provided by an Indian student who danced in shimmering traditional Indian attire. One of the few Asian staffers of the campus thumbed a guitar and sang the words to a poem she penned for the occasion, and an African Ameri-

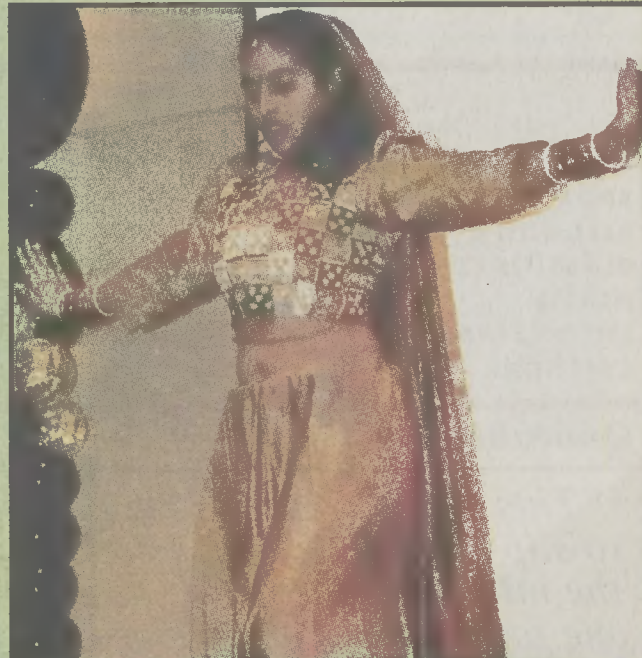


Photo by Kevin Walker

Vaishali Patel performs an Indian dance last week at the first annual Multicultural Graduation and Awards Ceremony at Wake Forest University.

See Graduation on A10