

SPORTS WEEK

Coaches, players ready for Lash

Johnson could pack a punch as owner



See B1



See A2



See C1

COMMUNITY

Kids get gentler toys at exchange event

Magazine names top schools for blacks

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Shelters appeal for help as it gets colder

Recent closing of popular ministry has created even bigger problem

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

More people are staying at Samaritan Inn – Samaritan Ministries' men's shelter – this year than last year because of the troubled economy and the closing of the Lighthouse Ministries' shelter earlier this year, said Jeff Hardin, development director for Samaritan Ministries.

Sonjia Kurosky, executive director of Samaritan Ministries, agreed that demand is "high."

Hardin said there has been a 7 percent increase in men staying at the shelter this year. "We have a 69-bed shelter....By the end of this year we will have provided about 25,000 nights of shelter. That is the number of men in the shelter per night times 365....That's not a record, but

it's in the upper range of our all-time service." He said Samaritan Inn was busy even before the Lighthouse Ministries' shelter closed during the summer. "We've been busy all year."

Samaritan Inn provides men a place to sleep and then breakfast the following morning and dinner that

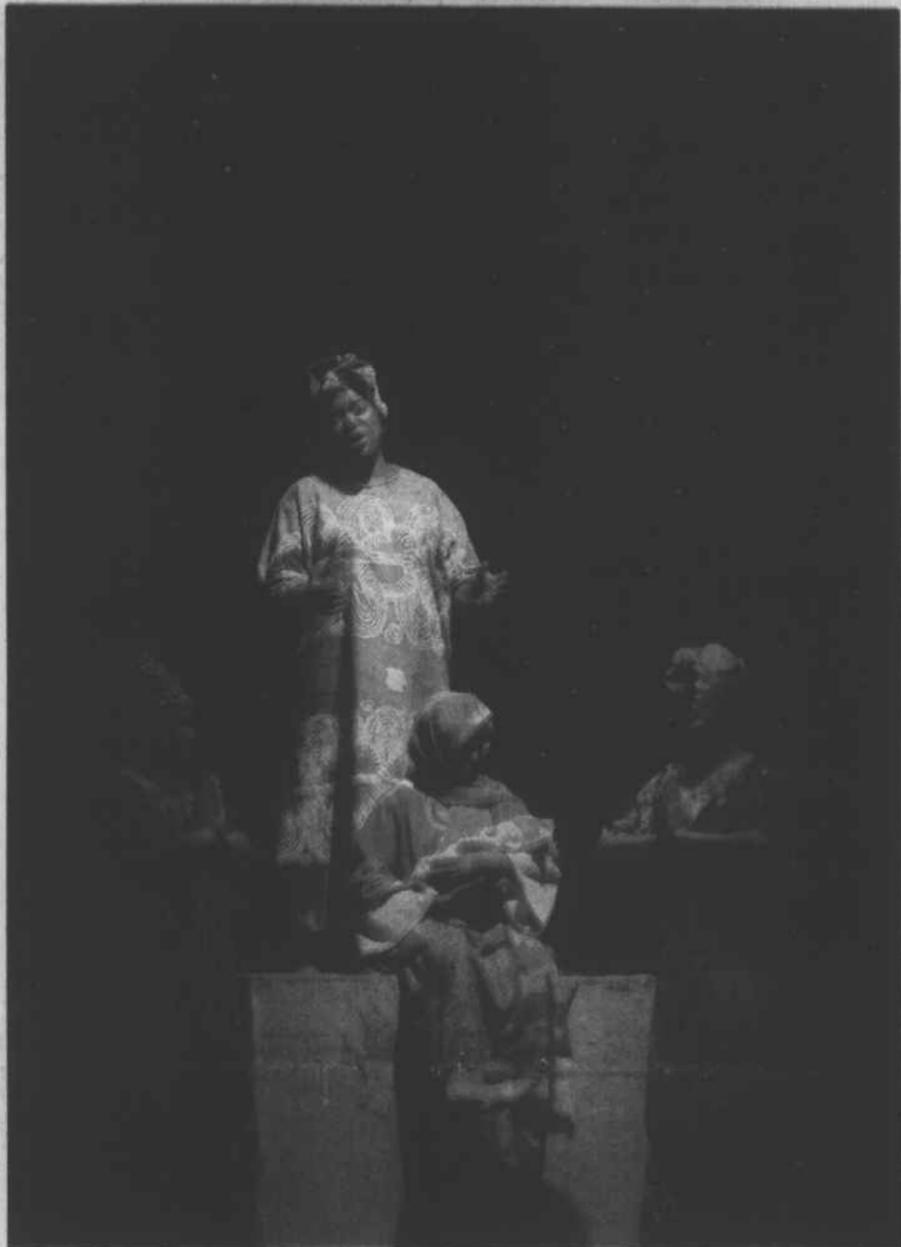
night if they continue to stay. The shelter does not allow men to stay there during the day. Samaritan Ministries also offers the men some limited case management. A counselor will ask the man what issues caused him to become homeless and how Samaritan Ministries can assist him in not being homeless any longer. The counselor will help the man lay out an action plan – perhaps getting job training or job resources, or finding a job and saving money in order to get out of the shelter. A man can stay 90 consecutive days at the shelter and possibly get an additional 30 days (for a total of 120 days) if the man is making good progress on his action plan.

Samaritan Ministries actively works with other agencies – such as CenterPoint Human Services for mental health needs or agencies to provide needed medications for health problems – to help the men get on their feet, Hardin said.

He also said Samaritan Ministries has seen an increase in the number of meals served at its soup kitchen – up 26 percent over the last three years. "We just probably, in the last week or so, surpassed our all-time record for meals served in a year. We'll probably, by the time the year's over, be right at 130,000 total meals served. That's lunch, which is open to anyone in the community, no questions asked; and then dinner and breakfast to our guests in the shelter."

"Not only are we in recession, but also the manufacturing base of our economy has been dwindling over the last several years," Hardin said. "We're dealing with the people who don't have as many jobs to compete for any longer

See Shelters on A8



Local actors wow a crowd on the opening night of *Black Nativity* Dec. 13. The show, which is produced by Larry Leon Hamlin's N.C. Black Repertory Company, has become a local holiday favorite. Billed as gospel Christmas musical, *Black Nativity* has three more runs at the Arts Council Theater. Tomorrow and Saturday the show will be presented at 8 p.m. and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. For information about ticket prices and availability, call 336-723-2266.

On the shoulders of angels

Denise Hartsfield sworn in as District Court judge

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of people packed a courtroom in the Forsyth County Courthouse last Thursday to look on as Denise Hartsfield was officially sworn in as the newest District Court judge in the 21st Judicial District. There were so many people, in fact, that those who came in late had to stand along walls. But the attention of Hartsfield and many of her supporters was on a person who, physically, was not in the packed room.

Delray Hartsfield, Denise's father, passed away in March. He was 82, and he and Denise's mother, Doris, had



Judge Roland Hayes swears in Judge Denise Hartsfield.

See Hartsfield on A7

New head of NAACP takes oath

Stephen Hairston is a former Winston-Salem police officer who has been active with the organization for many years

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The work of the NAACP chapter president is never done. There are countless meetings with everyone from business leaders to elected officials; hundreds of phone calls to respond to, many from people who feel they have been victimized or discriminated against; and then there is the never-ending fight for economic, educational and social parity.

Stephen Hairston is ready and willing to stand on the front lines here in Winston-Salem. He was officially sworn in Dec. 17 as the new president of the city's NAACP chapter. He takes over for long-time NAACP head Bill Tatum, who has said that the full plate of being NAACP president was hard to balance along with his regular job.

Hairston, 48, doesn't anticipate having that problem. He retired as a sergeant from the Winston-Salem Police Department two years ago after nearly 20 years on the force.

"I really have the time and the effort to put forward," he said.

Hairston has been involved with the NAACP off and on for the better part of his life. He was a member when he was a teenager. At that time his uncle, Patrick Hairston, was president of the local chapter. Stephen Hairston became active in the organization again in the mid-1990s when he was working in the foot patrol division in public housing. Hairston began to devote much of his time to the NAACP after retirement, often helping Tatum at the office and in the field.

Although problems revolving around education and economics loom, Hairston says his first goal is simply to reach out.

"I plan on starting at square one, and square one to me is getting out in the community. We have got to see (what) their concerns are, work with their concerns."

By listening to concerns and responding appropriately to them, Hairston hopes to attract new members to the chapter (there are currently about 600 members) and

See Hairston on A3



Officer Tony D. Cagle holds the certificate he was awarded last week by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Cagle earned the honor by pulling over a car that contained three suspects wanted for a rash of robberies. Read more about Cagle on C4.

On a Rolle

Former drug addict and prostitute graduates with honors from WSSU

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Janet Taylor Rolle was among the 214 students who graduated from Winston-Salem State University on Dec. 13. The day was a high for Rolle, but in her life she has also experienced many lows.

Less than 10 years before Rolle earned a bachelor's degree in English, she was living on the streets as a prostitute who was addicted to crack. How did she transition from a crack addict to a cum laude college graduate? Rolle credits her faith, foremost.

Rolle was first introduced to drugs by a friend in 1985 when she was 27. At the time, she

See Rolle on A7



Janet Rolle celebrates after receiving her degree from Winston-Salem State University. Rolle plans to find work as a schoolteacher and continue to minister to others.