



West takes a beatin' from NW Guilford

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Cate Edwards speaks at WSSU

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Play focuses on Peter Oliver

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Pageant brings out kids of all ages

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And I am telling you....



WSSU student Charmaine Williams' mother lives in Snow Hill and was unable to come to campus last week to hear a lecture by powerhouse vocalist Jennifer Holliday. So Williams dialed her mother up and asked Holliday to say a few words to her. The gracious singer agreed. Read more about Holliday on A11.

Community celebrates facelift

Residents thank CDC that made it possible

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN, PH.D.
THE CHRONICLE

Simon Green Atkins founded Slater Academy, now known as Winston-Salem State University, and served as the president from 1892-1904. Atkins was known as a devout community leader who sought the betterment of his community. The Simon Green Atkins Community Development Corp. was named in his honor.

With major funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and construction financing by the city of Winston-Salem, the CDC aims to revitalize four once-thriving African-American neighborhoods along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive corridor: East Winston, Skyline Village, Columbian Heights and Columbian Heights Extension.

The Columbian Heights Neighborhood Association sponsored a block party in honor of the Simon Green Atkins CDC for the work that has already been done on Excelsior Street within the 1200 block. The CDC revitalized underuti-



Members of WSSU's Inspirational Voices Choir gather around Bethany Robinson, a Columbian Heights resident.

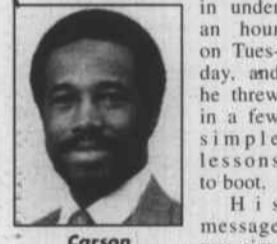
See CDC on A5

Noted surgeon: Work hard and be nice

Dr. Ben Carson overcame tremendous odds to be respected in medical field

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Nationally renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson summed up his life from inner-city Boston to becoming one of the top neurosurgeons in the country in under an hour on Tuesday, and he threw in a few simple lessons to boot.



Carson

His message was simple: Work hard, be nice and dream. The director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University gave a comical keynote luncheon address on day two of the Faces of a Healthy Future National Conference to End Health Disparities hosted by Winston-Salem State University's School of Health Sciences. WSSU is the first HBCU (historically black college or university) to host a national health conference of this kind.

Who knew that Ben Carson was a distracted and mischievous young student in elementary school whose nickname was Dummy? Provoking classmates, shooting spitballs and throwing rocks at cars in his neighborhood were common practices for the future world famous surgeon.

"Most people hated going to the doctor, but for me to see those needles and syringes (was fascinating)...Going to the hospital was the best of all," said Carson, who is also a professor at Johns Hopkins as well as the co-director of the Johns Hopkins Craniofacial Center. Carson became the youngest physician, at 33, to

See Carson on A9

Ex-felons being encouraged to vote

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Pastor Stephan Jordan walked into the Forsyth County Board of Elections Friday just like any other county resident. He walked up to Jimmie Nickell's work station and after greeting her he stated his purpose. "I would like to register to vote," he said.

With those words, Jordan made a step that many ex-felons have not taken, either because they are reluctant or uninformed. Today, Jordan is the pastor of House of Faith, a burgeoning ministry that he founded in Morning-side. But he would be the first to tell that faith did not always play such a prominent role in his life. He has been in and out of jail since he was a teen, at one point serving 16 years for breaking and entering. Drugs and alcohol were also demons that Jordan had to battle.

Like all of those convicted of felonies in North Carolina, Jordan lost his citizenship rights, which included his right to vote. But while in some states, ex-felons lose their voting rights indefinitely, in this state that right is restored automatically when a person completes his or her sentence (including parole), is unconditionally pardoned, or completes the conditions of a conditional pardon.

Out of jail and out of trouble for more than five years, Jordan met those requirements long ago. By registering to vote and going to vote in November, Jordan hopes to show others like him, that even ex-felons have a vote that is just as important as anyone else's vote. Jordan says voting and taking full advantage of being a



The Rev. Stephan Jordan fills out a voter registration form last week at the Forsyth County Board of Elections.

citizen is also one of the best ways to counter the culture of prison, where those incarcerated have no say whatsoever.

"When you are locked up, they let you know every day that

you have no rights, that you belong to the state. It takes away your manhood. It lowers your self-esteem," Jordan said. "For me, the happiest period was not when I was released from jail, but

when I got a letter letting me know that my citizenship had been restored."

Although Jordan got a letter informing him that he was again a full citizen, voting rights advo-

ates have long complained that not enough is being done to educate ex-felons about their right to vote. Adam Sotak, field organizer and public outreach coordinator,

See Ex-felons on A9

Rest home holds party for its oldest resident

Mammie Waiters turned 100 on Monday

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Decked in an elegant burgundy gown with white accessories, Mammie Waiters looked every bit the part of the birthday girl.

Waiters turned 100 on Monday, and her friends and the staff at the Golden Lamb Rest Home did not let the momentous day pass without fanfare. A noon-time birthday bash was held in the rest home's cafeteria to honor the facility's oldest resident.

Age has slowed down Waiters' body (she gets around with the aid of a wheelchair), but her

spirit is just as lively as that of a woman half her age.

"She is a sweet lady, but don't get her mad. She is a firecracker," joked Sean Price, one of the nurse's aids at the rest home. Waiters has called Golden Lamb - a well-kept and acclaimed facility tucked away off of 14th Street - home since 1996. She was born in Cleo, S.C., and has lived in Winston-Salem longer than anyone can remember. Waiters spent much of her life working as a domestic.

Waiters never had children of her own and her husband passed away long ago, so old

See Waiters on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

Mammie Waiters hugs Brandon Holmes during her 100th birthday party Monday. Holmes' class at Quality Education Institute made Waiters birthday cards.



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