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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2005

Alumni dedicate new Atkins High



School officials and alumni take part in the ribbon-cutting.

Former White House cabinet member Togo West on hand

BY TODD LUCK FOR THE CHRONICLE

The ribbon was cut Monday on the Simon G. Atkins Academic & Technology High School, the first school built in East Winston-Salem in 50 years and the first school in the state to house three separate high schools under one roof.

The school, located at 3605 Old Greensboro Road, is a 199,000-square-foot building that houses at least 60 classrooms containing three schools: The School of Biotechnology, The School of Computer Technology, and The School of Pre-Engineering.

The school takes its name from Atkins High School, which was the only black high school in the city during segregation when it was on Cameron Avenue. The school is named for Dr. Simon Green Atkins, a son of former slaves, who went on to become an academic giant. He founded Slater Industrial Academy, which is now Winston-Salem State University.

The ceremony was one of two dedications for the



West

HAWS waiting game is ongoing

ED says he is still on the job

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Employees and residents of the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem were still calling Reid Lawrence "executive director" Tuesday before The Chronicle went to press. Lawrence confirmed Tuesday evening that he was still leading the agency, which has been the subject of increased criticism over the past few weeks.

"Nothing has changed. I am still here working," Lawrence said. He said he was not at liberty at the time to talk about whether his employment status might change in the days to come.

A HAWS official said this week that the agency's board of commissioners had offered Lawrence a financial package in exchange for his resignation. Lawrence is said to be mulling over the offer. Recently, some commissioners have expressed doubts about Lawrence's ability to lead the agency.

Lawrence has led HAWS for about six years. Ironically, he was deputy director of the agency when commissioners fired the last executive director, citing numerous issues with her management of the agency. On Lawrence's watch, HAWS has seen its best days. In 2003, the agency was halfway done with one HOPE VI redevelopment project when it received a second HOPE VI grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. At the beginning of the year, HAWS, for the first time, was designated as a "high performer" by HUD for its overall management.

There have been bumps in the road recently for the agency, though. A high-ranking



Lawrence

Habitat reunion lauds success

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

The word "homecoming" has taken on an entirely new meaning for Latoya Williams since she became a homeowner three years ago. She has a homecoming celebration each time she

walks into her three-bedroom, two-bath house. "I feel so blessed when I walk in the door. It is a dream come true," she said. Williams' homeownership dream became a reality through Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, which has put more than 200 low-income families in safe,



Diggs



Jaquan Wright, whose family resides in a Habitat home, gets his face painted during Saturday's homecoming.

Photos by Kevin Walker

Raymond has big challenge in Merschel

Candidates for NW Ward see most issues differently

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

They say that the third time is a charm. Ken Raymond is hoping that they are right.

The 41-year-old Republican tried to win the Northwest Ward City Council seat in 1997 and then again in 2001. He failed to make it out of the primary both times.

"I was discouraged," Raymond said about his losses. He was so beat down over the results of the elections that he decided in 2001 that he would never run again.

But Raymond is a contender once

more. With no primary this year, Raymond's path to the Nov. 8 general election has been facile, but a victory surely won't be. Raymond will have to beat



Merschel

popular two-term incumbent Wanda Merschel, the head of the council's crucial Finance Committee.

Raymond said he was persuaded by residents to run again - folks who he said were dismayed by the council's decision

in 2003 to annex several areas adjacent to the city and its approval of nearly \$19 million in economic incentives for Dell. Raymond was against both deci-



Raymond

sions. The Dell deal got under his skin, particularly, because the same year the council voted for the Dell incentives, members contended that there was no money in the 2004/2005 budget to give police officers and firefighters pay increases. The council's most recent budget does include raises of up to 7 percent for public safety officers, but Raymond - who for 18 years has worked as a records specialist at the city's Police Department - says it is too little too late.

See NW on A11

SHE WILL BE MISSED



Photo by Jeff Kowalsky/AFIP/Getty Images
 The world lost a true treasure Monday when civil rights icon Rosa Parks passed away in Detroit, which had been her home for many years. Parks, who was 92, has been known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" because she refused to give her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus in 1955. Her actions sparked a successful bus boycott that ushered in the end of Jim Crow. Here, Parks waves to the crowd in 1999 at a ceremony where she received the Congressional Medal of Honor.



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