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 Community Jobs



Athlete makes grade off the field

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Students dine in style at tony club

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Memory trees planted to honor founders

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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2006

Candidates debate education

School board member, pastor spar over integration

BY SANDRA ISLEY
 THE CHRONICLE

Candidates seeking election or reelection to the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School Board of Education addressed a series of concerns Monday night during a forum sponsored by the Winston-Salem Voting Rights Coalition, Crossing 52, the Black Leadership Roundtable and the NAACP Political Action Committee.

The forum was held at the YWCA on Glade Street. Candidates talked about the possible closing of Carver High School, funding for education and the segregation that has been created by the system's redistricting plan.

Candidates on hand for the forum were incumbents Victor Johnson, a Democrat representing District 1 and Marilyn Parker, Jeannie Metcalf and Jill Tackabery, all Republicans representing District 2. The school board hopefuls present were Democrats Jimmie Bonham, Chenita Johnson and Republican Diana Williams-Cotton, all of whom are seeking seats in District 1; Democrats Donald Dunn, Ross Smith and Republican Jeffrey Frumkin, who are all seeking seats in District 2; and at-large candidates Republican Tony Deans and Democrats Elisabeth Motsinger and Irene Phillips.

Moderator Katherine Didow, a member of Winston-Salem Voting Rights Coalition, started the discussion by giving each candidate a minute to talk about Carver, which a state judge has threatened to shut down if the school's test scores do not improve.

The majority of the candidates agreed that low test scores for many students didn't just began the day they enrolled at Carver.

"We all must take responsibility for Carver," said Motsinger. "But the problem just didn't begin there. Carver students went to a middle school before that and an elementary school even before that. We need to look at all parties involved."

Some of the black candidates said that closing Carver would send a message that economically-challenged students can't learn.

See Schools on A12



Photos by Sandra Isley
 Left: Some of the Ladies of the Red Hat Society pose with Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who was made an honorary member Tuesday.

Below: Linda Robinson of the Cherry Tarts chapter shows off her award-winning hat.

A TOUCH OF RED

Chapters of fun-filled society gather in Winston-Salem

BY SANDRA ISLEY
 THE CHRONICLE

Having fun, that's what the Red Hat Society is all about. Members of the self-proclaimed "dis-organizational" social club gathered Tuesday in the Food Court at Hanes Mall to celebrate the Red Hat Society's eighth birthday. The social organization for mature women was formed in 1998 in California by "Queen Mother" Sue Ellen Cooper, who got the idea after sending a gift to a friend. The gift consisted of a red hat and a copy of the poem "Warning," written by Jenny Jgseph. In the poem, the poet talks about an older woman who decides to wear purple attire and red hats after she reaches a certain age.

Hundreds of Red Hat Society chapters have sprung up around the world over the years. Members of chapters from across the state made the Food Court a sea of red. Many of the women donned massive red hats made of feathers, flowers, tutus and other material. Some matched their head wear with red or purple boas.

Members call the organization a "dis-organization" because of the society's lack of rules. The basic rule is to make as few rules as possible within each chapter. The main requirement is the dress code. If a member is over the age of 50, she must wear a red hat and a purple ensemble, while those under 50 must wear a pink hat and lilac-colored clothing. The outfits color scheme is reversed for a member during her birthday month. Chapters mainly dress-up and take part in festive social outings, but members also give their time and money to worthy causes and nonprofits.

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke talked about the society's great contributions to the community before she read a proclamation that declared April 25 International Red Hat Society Day in Winston-Salem.

"When God created woman, it was excellent," said Burke. "I am so happy to be here and to say to you on behalf of the citizens in this community how much we appreciate what you do around the world."

See Red Hats on A11



Civil rights leaders address challenges

BY TODD LUCK
 THE CHRONICLE

Leaders of four national civil rights organizations sat down at N.C. A&T State University Friday to talk about the direction of the civil rights struggle.

"Beyond Rosa Parks: Civil Rights in the 21st Century" featured National Urban League President Marc Morial; Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Executive Director Wade Henderson; NAACP Legal Defense Fund Executive Director Ted Shaw; and Barbara Amwine, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

The forum used Rosa Parks and the beginnings of the civil rights movement as a starting point but quickly moved forward to today's hot-button civil rights issues.

The panelist agreed that the idea of the struggle for civil rights is alive and well today but that it's not necessarily a movement anymore.

See Leaders on A12



Panelists Barbara Amwine (from left), Marc Morial, Wade Henderson and Ted Shaw.

Ogletree: Civil Rights gains are in jeopardy

Harvard Law professor gives WSSU Atkins Lecture

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

Justice — unlike a carton of milk or a grocery store coupon — has no expiration date, at least that is what Charles Ogletree believes.

He told a crowd of about 200 last week at Winston-Salem State University about his work to right wrongs that date back decades and even centuries. Ogletree, an acclaimed Harvard Law professor and author, is among a team of legal eagles fighting for reparations for the descendants of slaves. Ogletree says any money won should be used to create a fund to help the "poorest of the poor" with things like education and health care. Ogletree is also working to win some sort of settlement for



Professor Charles Ogletree

See Ogletree on A5

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822 Carl Russell Ave.
 (at Martin Luther King Dr.)
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 Fax (336) 631-8268
 russhome@bellsouth.net

