



**Carver D-Line making heads turn**

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**Black lawmakers to host town hall**

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**Crime-fighting announced by center**

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Sutton replaces Cardwell on BOE

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Long-time community activist Linda Sutton was sworn-in as a member of the three-member Forsyth County Board of Elections Tuesday.

Sutton was nominated by the Democratic Party and approved by the State Board of Elections.

Sutton replaces **J o a n Cardwell**, who had served on the board for nearly 30 years before she recently decided to step-down. For

many of those years, Cardwell was the board's chair. She was the board's first black female member and the first female chair.

"She's just been a first class lady," said board member Eric Elliott, who has served with Cardwell since 2003. "She's been there since '79 so she's sort of a walking history book."

Elliott is now the board's chair. Sutton now takes Elliott's old title of secretary. Jerry D. Jordan is the board's other member.

Sutton, who founded the Voting Rights Coalition in 2004 and registered 2,000 voters that same year, has long been an advocate of the voting process.

"I know she's got a good rep in the community of somebody who's been an advocate for different voting issues," Elliott said of Sutton. "I think her community interest, her perspectives will be helpful. I like the fact that she has had experience as a poll worker which brings a special sensitivity to the needs of poll workers."

Since 1988, Sutton has been active in the voting process in various capacities, from serving her precinct and the Democratic Party, to registering voters and lobbying for voter reform through

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## GUIDED BY FAITH

Well-known man of God leaving pulpit

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

When an infamous local drug dealer died and no one was willing to preach his eulogy, the Rev. Charles Leak was there. When Winston-Salem State University students needed transportation to and from church, Leak was there as well.

For 42 years, Rev. Leak, pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church, has made his mark on this community. He has suffered criticism and opposition for some of his decisions over the years, but Leak has never wavered in his determination to bring people into the folds of Christianity.

Now, as his pastoral career comes to a close, Leak, 74, looks back on a colorful and successful ministry. A former R.J. Reynolds employee, Leak says the church has always been an important part of his life.

"I have been in church all my life ever since I was a boy," he commented. "We had to walk to church - on average about three or four miles. We went to church every Sunday."

He entered the ministry at 32, as an associate pastor at First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

"When I felt the call, I accepted it and ever since that day I've been blessed," he commented, so when a full-time opening came available at Phillips Chapel Baptist Church in 1967, Leak jumped at the chance.

The church was struggling at the time, with approximately 13 members and less than \$14 in the treasury. Leak went to work, boosting membership with a door-to-door outreach in Happy Hill Gardens.

"We invited people to church. If they (were) a sinner, we gave them the plan to salvation," Leak said. "That's how our

See Leak on A10



The Rev. Charles Leak is leaving the pulpit after more than four decades.

Photo by Jason Pitt



## LITTLE VOICES

Photo by Jason Pitt

Members of the Watoto Children's Choir perform last week at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. The choir is made up of children from the African nation of Uganda who have been orphaned by AIDS and war. They sang and danced to a packed house at the church, one of many stops on their tour of the East Coast. To read more about the kids, see page B14.

## Columnist Pitts: U.S. a nation in fear

Pulitzer winner is critical of Bush administration, media during Wake address

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

The home of the brave has become fearful over the last five years, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Leonard Pitts said during his convocation address last Thursday at Wake Forest University.

Pitts, a columnist for the Miami Herald, writes a bi-weekly nationally-syndicated column that tackles every topic imaginable, from race relations to politics. He won the Pulitzer for commentary in 2004.

His convocation speech took the audience back to a time when the Al Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon had just happened, and the public was fearful of what could happen next. Pitts talked about a reassuring statement made by then Secretary of State Colin Powell when he said Americans "don't walk around terrified." Pitts said that Powell was wrong.

"I submit to you, what have we been



Leonard Pitts speaks at Wake Forest.

WPU Photo

since September 11th, 2001, but terrified?" said Pitts.

Pitts said that while most of the country has gotten back on planes and been in skyscrapers and malls since 9/11, Americans have been fearful in another area - their civil liberties. He said freedom of speech, the right to assembly, due process, and probable cause have all been compromised. He stressed the importance of those fundamental liberties.

They are not minor elements of the reason that this country is the envy and the dream and the goal of people around the world," said Pitts. "To the contrary, they are the core of us."

He rattled off a long list of civil liberty violations that he says met with little protest after 9/11, including the massive amount of people, mainly Arab men, held without charge or trial after the terrorist attacks. He also cited the government easesdropping on American citizens in what he said was a violation of federal law. The USA PATRIOT Act allowing the government access to library records, was also a civil liberties offense, Pitts said. He said the pattern has gone beyond fighting terrorism to other areas like the right to protest, which was evi-

See Pitts on A11

## Group: party-less board is needed

Idea of non-partisan races gets chilly response from incumbents

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The grassroots organization **C H A N G E** (Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment) had the full attention of several elected officials and candidates last week as it announced its plans to advocate for non-partisan School Board elections.

The group also wants more voting districts to be created in the county. Currently, members of the Board of Education and Board of County Commissioners are elect-

ed from only two districts and by at-large voting. CHANGE members say that Forsyth is an anomaly in North Carolina

since no major metropolitan area in the state has so few voting districts. The limited number of districts is the reason why the School Board and Board of County Commissioners have been overwhelmingly white and Republican for so many years, CHANGE members said. Each board has only two black members. The African-Americans on each board are also the only



Tackabery

See CHANGE on A10



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