



Former college star takes on coaching

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Recycling project will benefit school

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Camille Banks-Payne will be sworn-in later this month.

Newest judge ready to serve

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Almost as long as she can remember, Camille Banks-Payne has dreamed of becoming a judge - she just never imagined it would happen so soon.

"It's hard to even put it into words; it's a surreal feeling, but at the same time, I truly believe that it's a calling on my life. I truly believe that this is what God had for me," Banks-Payne, 32, said of her appointment to the 21st Judicial District Court bench in Forsyth County.

Banks-Payne will be the county's tenth district court judge. Last year, the General Assembly voted to give Forsyth another a judgeship to handle the large volume of cases that are heard in District Court - everything from misdemeanor criminal cases, to divorce and child custody proceedings.

Gov. Mike Easley was charged with picking the person

to fill the newly-created judicial seat, and several local lawyers reportedly expressed interest in the appointment. Last week, Easley's office announced that he had selected Banks-Payne for the Forsyth bench, making her the youngest judge in the county.

Banks-Payne, who grew up in Winston-Salem and attended local schools, was a good fit for the position, according to Easley, who also last week appointed lawyers to new judgeships in Guilford and Cumberland counties.

"As an assistant public defender and Winston-Salem native, Camille Banks-Payne knows the courts in this district well," the governor said in a statement. "Her experience and community involvement will make her a fine addition to the District Court bench in Forsyth County."

Banks-Payne is humbled by

See Judge on A11

ETERNAL TRIBUTE

Oldham sisters start WSSU scholarship in honor of their parents

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Few people have been as immersed in college life as sisters Donna Oldham and Leslie Winbush.

They remember climbing trees on the campus of Winston-Salem State University as children and strolling along the shaded walkways with their parents -

Warren "Pete" and Gladys Oldham - both of whom spent much of their careers there.



Pete Oldham

Dreams were born and cultivated on the campus, young minds nurtured, lessons learned. There were commencement ceremonies and snow days spent in the cocoon that was the campus community to the Oldham sisters.

Their parents first met on the grassy quad where the sisters would later play as children; Donna Oldham later became an alumna and Winbush an employee.

"I love the university; it is part of who we are," commented Winbush, an academic advisor at the university for the past 11 years. "We feel like we were born on this campus."

But if the institution felt important to the Oldham sisters, it was even more deeply ingrained in the lives of their parents, who spent nearly 60 years between them as part of the WSSU staff.

"Our parents were lifelong teachers. My father started his career as a history teacher, coach and physical educator; my mother's dream was to teach at the university level," commented Oldham. "They always stressed education, their love for



Donna Oldham, left, and her sister, Leslie Winbush, stand on the WSSU campus.

Photo by Layla Farmer

the university and how important it was to prepare good teachers."

When Pete Oldham, who would eventually become a respected member of the General Assembly and a devoted community servant - passed

away nearly two years ago, it didn't take the sisters long to think of an appropriate way to honor his memory and the legacy of their mother, who is still living but suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

"That was probably the third

decision we made after he died - that we wanted to go ahead and endow the scholarship and turn that sadness for us into something positive for somebody else," Oldham said. "Flowers are wonderful, but they die. We

See Oldhams on A4

THE PARTY'S PARTY

Democrats come out in force for gala

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The top two Democratic contenders for the state's highest office both agree that education, the economy and health care are the most pressing issues for most North Carolinians.



Lt. Gov. contenders Hampton Dellinger and Dan Besse at Saturday's gala.

But their perceptions of these issues differ. One sees the state's glass as half full, while the other believes it is darn-near empty.

"This has been our dirty little secret, and we can't keep sweeping it under the rug," State Treasurer Richard Moore said of

the state's dismal high school drop-out rate. Moore spoke to a crowd of several hundred Saturday during the Forsyth County Democratic Party's "Road to a Blue

See Dems on A6

OL' SKOOL



Dancer "Syph," of the OTD Crew Breakers, performs last week at a Winston-Salem State University hip hop gathering. The event is among many planned for Black History Month at the school.

Photo by Jaesem Pitt

Heart patients take to runway

February is American Heart Month

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Local survivors of heart disease strutted their stuff last week at Hanes Mall to raise awareness of heart health issues.

The annual Red Dress Fashion Show was sponsored by Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's Heart Health Center, BestHealth and Belk. All the models were survivors of a cardiac event such as a heart attack, stroke or a heart defect. The event kicks off American Heart Month, which is this month. During February, Wake Forest

Baptist's BestHealth, located on the second floor of Hanes Mall, will feature free screenings, heart healthy cooking classes and seminars devoted to cardiovascular health.

Red Dress organizer Kari Crawford, a nurse practitioner for cardiac pediatric surgery at Wake's Brenner's Children's Hospital, said events during American Heart Month serve an important purpose.

"In your lifetime you will know somebody who has suffered from a cardiac event, so none of us will be spared from that. So the more that we spread community

See Heart on A11



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