

Child care teachers honored by Smart Start

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Last month, Smart Start of Forsyth County (SSFC) honored the teachers at child care facilities currently enrolled in its Quality Improvement Program with special gifts and prizes. The program is designed to improve the quality of child care through guidance and technical assistance to child care centers in Forsyth County. All licensed child care centers in North Carolina are rated on a one to five-star scale by the state. In order



Teacher Christine Smith receives a gift from Cynthia Dunston, right.

to participate in the improvement program, a facility must be committed to increasing its star level. Staff at SSFC organized an appreciation tea to thank all of the facilities for their participation in the Quality Improvement Program. The participants got a chance to socialize with other facilities and win prizes, provided by Smart Start's Community Outreach division. "It's important to recognize those that are striving to make improvements," said Chuck Kraft, executive director of Smart Start of Forsyth County. "It takes a lot of effort and hard work to meet the state's standards and we appreciate when centers go above and beyond to give our young children the best learning experiences possible." The facilities in the Quality Improvement Program have access to the expertise of several staffers at Smart Start of Forsyth County. Smart Start of Forsyth County is an organization that administers programs to improve the quality, affordability, and accessibility of child care, as well as provide access to health services and necessary family support to the community. For more information on Smart Start programs, call 725-6011 or visit the Web site at www.smartstart-fc.org.



Smart Start Technical Assistance Specialists Olivia Summers and Cynthia Dunston with teacher Dione McCullough.

Celebration for Ishi Pentecostal Temple's Usher will start tonight

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Ishi Pentecostal Temple of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. will celebrate the fourth anniversary of its pastor, District Elder Patrick L. Usher Sr., starting on July 24 and 25, when Bishop William A. Ellis of Chicago's Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Morgan Park, will preach at 7 p.m. on each night. On July 26, Ishi Temple will host "An Evening with Pastor Usher" at 5:30 p.m. at the St. John CME Family & Life Worship Center, 350 Northwest Crawford Place. The celebration will conclude on July 27 with the 11 a.m. Sunday morning service with guest speaker Elder Adiera Black, of Columbia, S.C., an anointed young preacher who has been mentored by Pastor Usher. Usher, a native of Houston, Texas,



Usher

came to Winton-Salem on July 21, 2004, as the eighth pastor of Ishi Pentecostal Temple. Prior to being called here, he was the pastor of St. John's Holiness Temple in Society Hill, S.C. Pastor Usher was also a national evangelist for the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World Inc., and traveled extensively, preaching the word of God across the United States and in the Caribbean. He continues to be in great demand to preach throughout the country. Often referred to as a "preaching machine," you can see and hear this man of God each Sunday on Time Warner Channel 53 at 4:30 p.m. and on www.streamingfaith.net. On Truth Broadcasting 1340, this preacher can be heard at 12 noon each Wednesday. While so many churches in the city



Ellis

remain dark on Sunday nights, God led Pastor Usher to start what he calls "Sunday Night Live," a ministry that draws people from all over the city, surrounding areas, and many times as far away as Charlotte, Virginia and Georgia. He also sees great potential in young people and reaches out to enhance and enlarge their potential through example and mentoring. In addition to being an anointed preacher, he is also a gifted musician. Usher is the son of Minister Edward and Evangelist Lorena Usher of Houston. He has been married to Marviette Usher for 14 years. They have a 14-month-old son, Patrick Jr., known as "P.J." Ishi Pentecostal Temple is located at 1319 Excelsior Street.

Pugh is NSHSS member

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy student Richelle Pugh has been inducted into the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence. The announcement was made by NSHSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.



Pugh

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Richelle Pugh has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Nobel. "Richelle Pugh is now a member of a unique community of scholars - a community that represents our very best hope for the future." Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of bene-

fits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, membership resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items, and publicity honors. "Our vision is to build a dynamic, intentional organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources and opportunities," stated NSHSS President James Lewis. "We aim to help students like Richelle Pugh build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community." Formed in 2002, The National Society of High School Scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and encourages members of the organization to apply their unique talents, vision, and potential for the betterment of themselves and the world.

Caesar


now the Shirley Caesar Outreach Ministries receives countless calls everyday from people who need food, clothing, shelter and medicine. "Every dime that we realize in these conferences, after we pay all the bills, everything goes right back into the community to help someone who finds themselves in an emergency," said Sanders. At last week's honorary banquet, others paid tribute to Caesar with musical and preaching gifts. Singer Marcus Cole, a former member of the gospel group Commissioned, performed a song, and Melanie Hill played a violin solo. Wanda Turner preached an impassioned

sermon on dealing with life's troubles. At various points during the banquet, an overjoyed Caesar would clap her hands, shoot up out of her seat and thrust her hands in the air. Gina Miller, of Light Records, honored Caesar with a framed plaque containing her latest hit CD, "After 40 Years: Still Sweeping Through the City." Miller said she's been a Caesar fan since she was young girl. She couldn't believe it when Nashville, Tenn.-based Light Records formed a partnership with Caesar's Shu-Bel Records. She said she was honored to be affiliated with Caesar, whose work she so admired. "This, I know for sure, the life, legacy and music of the irreplaceable, incompressible, inimitable, (Shirley Caesar), will not be forgotten in any life-

time," said Miller. At the banquet's end, Caesar finally spoke. She thanked everyone for their support of her music career and her ministry. She said she brought the conference to Winston-Salem because of her roots in the community

(she has many relatives in the city and her husband has a long-time affiliation with a local church). She said she hopes that her struggles and service to God inspires others. "I want my life to be a living example," said Caesar.

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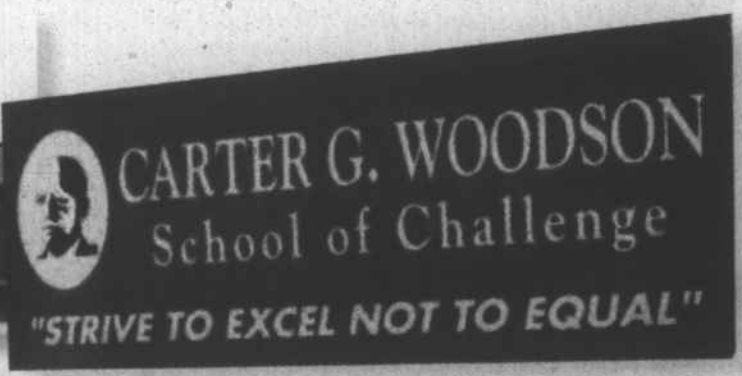
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