



Mike Grace goes 1-on-1 with Anthony

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Black Cuban writes of struggle

-See Page A3



Urban League hands out awards

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THE CHRONICLE

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Photos by Todd Luck

A line forms outside the Samaritan Soup Kitchen.

Shelters in dire need of help to provide services

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Local homeless shelters are experiencing a record level of demand this holiday season as the economy continues its downward trend.

Samaritan Ministries runs a night shelter, Samaritan Inn, that houses people for up to 90 days. Samaritan also runs a soup kitchen that provides breakfast and dinner for those in the shelter and serves lunch to all who need it. Cathie Dorgan, soup kitchen manager, said that the demand for the agency's services is greater than it has ever been.



Dorgan

The soup kitchen served a record-shattering 10,077 lunches in October. The Samaritan Inn surpassed its 69 bed capacity for most of that month, using overflow mats to accommodate the additional people.

Darren Barrett has stayed in Samaritan Inn for the last two weeks. He says he receives a federal disability check but that it is not enough for him to afford permanent housing of his own. He was staying with a family member, but when that did not work out, he ended up on the street. He spends his days trying to keep warm at

places like the Central Library. He says he is very thankful that he has a place to go at night, especially since temperatures the last two weeks have been the coldest so far this year.

"If it hadn't been for the shelter, I probably would've had to live on the streets, under a bridge ... so I'm very thankful," said Barrett.

Dorgan hopes to see a much-needed surge of giving during the agency's Penny Campaign, Samaritan's biggest fundraiser. The campaign will collect donations at the Thruway Shopping Center on Saturday, December 6.

"We need to raise \$100,000, which we realize is a lot of money, but our costs have gone up just like everybody else's," said Dorgan.

The Bethesda Center runs an Emergency Night Shelter for both men and women. Bethesda also has a day shelter - providing showers, restrooms, telephone access, laundry facilities and a mailing address for those in need. Currently, the night shelter is also being used for the day shelter. That will change when the agency's new Kate B. Reynolds Building opens in early December.

See Shelters on A7



Photos by Kevin Walker

Jeremy Withers and Kattera Logan carry Samuel Byrd's food to a charter bus.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

Clemmons church feeds hundreds for Thanksgiving

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Samuel Boyd's holiday plans give new meaning to the old adage, "Two birds with one stone."

"I am going take it to a butcher," he said, motioning to a large frozen turkey, "and have them slice it in half. I will eat half of it for my Thanksgiving and freeze the other half for Christmas."

Living on a tight budget and often having to stretch every resource to make ends meet, Boyd has learned how to be enterprising.

Agape Faith Church in Clemmons opened its doors and hearts to senior citizens like Boyd and hundreds of others Sunday. For more than two decades, the church's Operation Thanksgiving has helped to ease the burden of those with the very least.

The church handed out about 350 turkeys and bags full of Thanksgiving staples like green beans, yams and dinner rolls.

See Thanksgiving on A7



Ronald Grant with his son, Devon East Grant.

Medals go to stellar volunteers

Residents from across North Carolina honored

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Last week, 20 selfless individuals received the North Carolina Medallion for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

The recipients, who hail from all across the state, received their medals at a luncheon in Colfax. The medallions are given out by the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service to recognize individuals, groups, teams and businesses that contribute significantly through volunteerism. A hundred nominees were submitted.

A panel selected the 20 winners.

Neil Wilkins is the first person from Forsyth County to receive the medallion since the program's inception in 2006. For more than 12 years, she has been volunteering at Cancer Services, which provides free support, advocacy and equipment for those with cancer.

Wilkins is retired from Greyhound, where she "did everything but drive" the bus. Now she rides a public bus for an hour each Tuesday to Cancer Services to volunteer. While there, she sanitizes donated

See Medals on A4



Photo courtesy of N.C. Commission on Volunteerism
Neil Wilkins

ANSWERING THE CALL



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garmis

A member of the Delta Alpha Kappa Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma prepares to spend the night outdoors to raise awareness about homelessness. See the full story on page A12.

NABVETS chapter started in Winston

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Ciat Shabazz never set out to be a veteran's advocate. Yet the chair of the newest chapter of the National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) Advocacy Council and Membership Committee has unwittingly become a symbol of veterans' rights in the local sector and beyond.

Though her unflinching dedication to veterans' causes is well known, the origins of Shabazz's passion are steeped in tragedy.

Shabazz first became involved with veteran's affairs on behalf of her brother, the late Harry Smith, in the 1980s. Smith, a former marine, suf-



Photo by Layla Farmer

Ciat Shabazz and Charisma Brock stand in front of members of the local NABVETS Council.

fered from schizophrenia and a host of physical conditions that Shabazz says were repeatedly misdiagnosed by doctors

in VA hospitals. As his custodian, Shabazz fought for more than two decades to get the medical

care and veterans' assistance the government promises all its soldiers. She founded H2A2R2R4Y (Helping 2 Advocate 2 Respond 2 Research 4 You), a veterans' outreach service, in Smith's honor earlier this year.

"We just want to make sure that the promises that were made upon their recruitment are kept," Shabazz remarked. "(Veterans) have faced, and especially during wartime, so many horrific and horrendous experiences. I think that's the least we can do."

Smith Succumbed to cancer October 1, after a prolonged illness. Just over a

See NABVETS on A4



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Russell Brown

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