



Piggott making good impressions

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Homeless effort marks successes

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Toys provided for local families

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THE CHRONICLE

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Ministers elect new president

Eversley has been one of group's most outspoken members

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Rev. Dr. Carlton Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, has been elected president of the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity, the oldest and largest predominantly black ecumenical clergy organization in Forsyth County.

He will take office Jan. 13. Eversley, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., has been an active member of the Conference since he moved to Winston-Salem more than two decades ago. The Conference is one of the premiere organizations in the local landscape, he believes. "I think the Ministers Conference, reflective of the role of the black church in any black community, is a central organization," he said. "We are one of the few voices that's not beholden to white institutions; we can feel free to criticize whoever."

Eversley will succeed Dr. Linda Beal, who made history in 2007, when she became the first female president of the Ministers Conference in its more than 70-year history.

"I think it's wonderful," Beal said of his election. "He can take the Conference to another level." Eversley previously served under Beal as first vice president of the organization. Beal believes he is well prepared for the job.

"Carlton has been on the forefront of education... he promotes a lot of justice and equality not just for our (African American) students,



An excited graduate celebrates during last week's ceremony at the Joel Coliseum.

Photos by Garrett Garms/WSSU

Grads get early gifts: Their Degrees

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

More than 5,000 people were in attendance for WSSU's Fall Commencement at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum Friday afternoon, to witness a moment those on the floor will look back on for a long time to come.

"It's people like you who are going to leave this institution and go out into the world and make a difference,"

keynote speaker Vivian Burke sagely advised the graduates. "Think about your character, think about how courageous you can be," added the mayor pro tempore. "You have to be in charge of your own destiny."

Like any graduating class, those who marched across the stage last week represented myriad stories; stories of determination, of strength, of sheer will and, finally, of triumph.



Mayor Pro Tempore Dr. Vivian Burke speaks.

Magna Cum Laude Graduate Juanita Penn described herself as "overjoyed, overwhelmed, excited and thanking God!"

Penn, manager of the Red Room dining facility, which serves WSSU faculty and staff members, said she had long desired to enroll in college, but her own insecurities held her back.

"It was just a dream from

years back (but) ...I didn't think I was what they call, 'college material,'" she admitted. Thanks to the support of many of the professors she worked with, Penn finally found the strength to pursue her dream and enrolled in college at age 57.

"I think being a nontraditional student, you will be more focused and more disciplined."

See WSSU on A12



Joel Cruz Cartegena stands by as a student hits a piñata.

Photos by Layla Farmer

¡Feliz Navidad!

Children celebrate Christmas, Mexican style

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The piñata burst and pandemonium broke out in Tia Cain's second grade classroom at Ashley Magnet Elementary School Friday. The children dove to the floor, eagerly scooping up every morsel they could find.

The piñata that now lay in pieces on the floor was carefully crafted by the children, with the help of a few dedicated parents, earlier that week, as part of a special class project centered around Christmas in Mexico.

"We wanted to integrate another culture (into our holiday celebration)," Cain explained. "I have two Hispanic children, and every time a holiday comes up, it's about how we do things in (America); so I invited our Hispanic parents in to tell us how



Tia Cain

See Christmas on A11



ELF ON THE RUN

Photo by Kevin Walker

Janet Moss is spending many of her pre-Christmas days dressed as one of Santa's elves. It is all in the spirit of fun as she visits day care centers and senior citizens facilities to spread some holiday joy. Here she is at a toy giveaway last week at the Sims Rec Center. Read more about the program on B8.

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of free Christmas trees arrived in the homes of overjoyed families last Saturday as part of Operation Christmas Tree.

For 20 years, the Christmas tree giveaway has spread holiday joy. Every year, volunteers gather trees, wreaths and garland from Christmas tree lots across the county on the Saturday before Christmas. In past years, the trees and accessories have been taken to the parking lot of Ernie Shore Field. This year, the giveaway moved to its new location in the nearby parking lot of Lawrence Joel

TREE-FOR-ALL

Program provides Christmas staple to local families



Bettie Wardlow with members of her family.

Photo by Todd Luck

Memorial Coliseum Annex. Those needing a tree simply come by and volunteers help them pick out one, carry it to their vehicle and secure it for the ride home.

Ted Freshwater started Operation Christmas Tree. He's had tree lots offer him more trees than he could transport this year. He said it was a win-win for the lots, since trees that would normally be discarded end up in people's homes. He said the joy he sees in the recipients makes it worth it.

"The best reward we can get is the wide eyes of the children to see these (trees)

See Trees on A11



In Memory of
**Charlene
Russell Brown**

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Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support

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