



Middle school runners excelling

-See Page B10



YWCA gives awards to women

-See Page A4



Smart students feted at gala

-See Page B1

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Community Journalism

# THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXV No. 37

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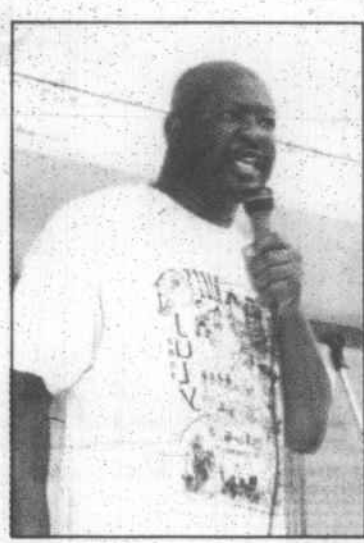
## Piggott is leaving Happy Hill's Sims Center

He will be new director at Carl Russell Center

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

After nearly 20 years as director of the Sims Recreation Center in Happy Hill, Ben Piggott is moving on.

Piggott received word from city officials last week that he would be transferred to the Carl H. Russell Sr. Recreation Center on Carver School Road at the end of the month.



File Photo  
Ben Piggott at a recent Happy Hill Reunion celebration.

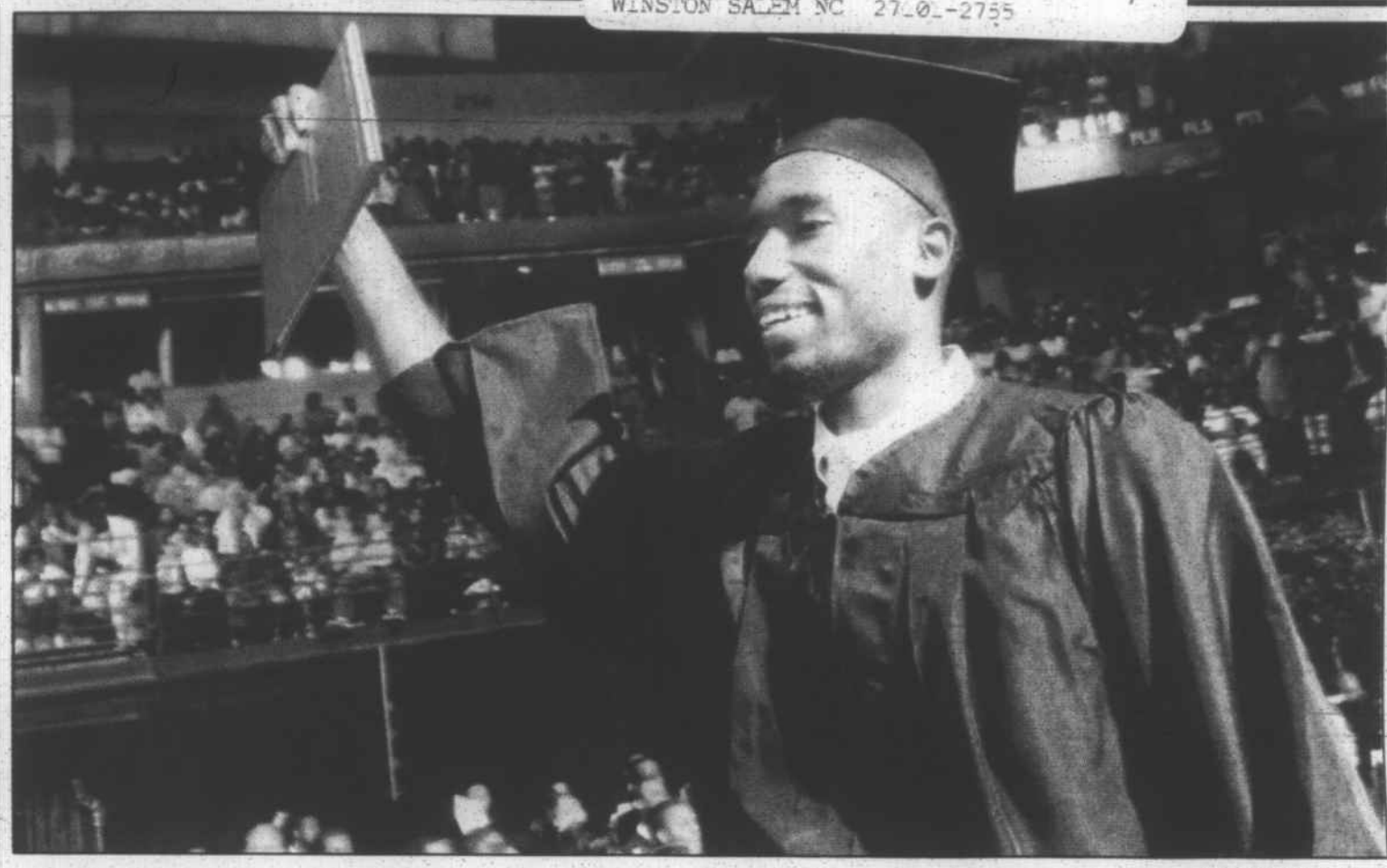
Over the past two decades, Piggott has made his mark on the Happy Hill community, founding innovative programs and positively influencing the lives of countless young people.

"He has been so wonderful, doing different jobs with the children in the community," said Earl Byers, a deacon at Rising Ebenezer Church, Happy Hill's oldest church.

Byers, who has known Piggott for nearly two decades, says the church and community center have established a rapport during Piggott's tenure. He says he is sorry to see Piggott go.

"I don't really like it," he said of Piggott's transfer. "He has been so close to Happy Hill. (If he leaves) it will be a big loss to the community and to the people that know him."

See Piggott on A11



Julian Murphy-Long holds up his degree.

WSSU Photos by Garrett Garms

## MAKING POSSIBILITIES LIMITLESS

Actor uses Obama to tell grads that the sky's the limit

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Actor Hill Harper told graduates at Winston-Salem State University's commencement to think outside of tradition, just as his former college classmate, President Barack Obama, did.

Harper, bucking tradition himself, didn't give his speech on stage, but instead used a cordless microphone and gave his speech walking freely among the sea of 700 graduates seated on the floor of the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Saturday.

Harper, one of the stars of the TV show "CSI: New York," was in the same Harvard Law School class as Obama.



Hill Harper addresses the graduates.

See WSSU on A4



Photos by Felecia McMillan

Annie Mae Medley with her granddaughter, Natasha Lindsey, and great-granddaughter, Bella.

## 100-year-old shares party with other seniors

BY FELECIA PIGGOTT-LONG, PH.D.  
THE CHRONICLE

One would need a calculator to add up the combined ages of the most senior members of Mars Hill Baptist Church's Ladies Working Society. But the extra years have not slowed these inspirational women.

Mars Hill thanked them Saturday for their service during a celebration centered around a belated birthday party for the

Society's oldest member, 100-year-old Annie Mae Medley.



Johnson

Not only did Medley receive gifts and a cake with her name written across it, but so did each member of the Society age 70 or older. The other Golden Girls are:

Dorothy Mae Armstrong, Wyvetra Carter, Bertha Davis, Alma Hart, Marie Robinson, Susanna Roseborough and Alberta Watkins.

Each woman had her own nicely-decorated table, where they enjoyed the celebration surrounded by family and friends.

State Rep. Larry W. Womble was among those who gave special remarks.

"I am honored to stand before such a distinguished group of

See Seniors on A9

## Accomplished Demon Deac eyes graduation, future

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Like most graduating seniors this time of year, Trayonna Floyd is anxiously awaiting Commencement Day. For Floyd, the Monday morning service at Wake Forest University will mark the close of four of the most formative years she's experienced so far.

"It's been a really great experience for me; I've enjoyed every bit of it," the 22-year-old said of her collegiate experience. "Every aspect of my life has been enhanced by my being a student here."

While at Wake Forest, Floyd served as an aide to the school's president, traveled abroad to South Africa, led a service trip to Magnolia, Arkansas; and helped found an intercollegiate conference, among other things. She has decided to stay on at Wake Forest next year, serving in the school's Division of Student Life.

"We couldn't be more fortunate to have her stay on at the university," said



Trayonna Floyd has packed a lot into four years of college.

See Floyd on A11

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