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Muscle man's success story

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Starting kids off the right way

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, October 22, 2009



The lovely honorees.

Photos by Layla Farmer

BESIDE EVERY GOOD MAN ...

First Ladies from more than 20 churches feted for their service

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The women behind, beside and alongside the men of the pulpit had their time to shine on Saturday.

More than 20 distinguished ladies were feted at the First Ladies of Prominence Luncheon at the MC Benton Convention Center, where they were honored for being wives, mothers, community leaders and the matriarchs of their congregations.

"Nobody hears about the women who stand up and stand behind these great men of the church," said District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield, who served as mistress

of ceremonies. "It is my privilege to be able to come give them some gratitude today."

The luncheon was organized by Delta Visions Inc., a subsidiary of the Winston-Salem chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

"First ladies to me are unsung heroes. They have to support their husbands at home and at the church. Sometimes, it can be an awesome task," luncheon Co-chair Olivia Swinton said of the organizations' motivation to honor the first ladies. "...I hope that (through the luncheon) they will feel like somebody else in the community loves them and appreciates

See First Ladies on A11



Pastor Timothy R. Williams with First Lady Emily Williams.

Payton: Obama racists a concern

NAACP Legal Defense leader says Civil Rights fight far from over

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

John Payton told an audience at Winston-Salem State University last Thursday night that America is far from a post-racial society.

Payton, the director-council of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, gave the school's annual J. Alston Atkins Memorial Lecture in Constitutional Law in the Anderson Center.

He posed to the audience the question that many ask about racism being dead in the country now that Barack Obama has been elected president. He said the notion of a so-called post-racial society is so premature that he had trouble even saying it seriously.

Payton said even after Obama's win, minorities still face great disparities in education, employment, criminal justice and health care. He, however, didn't dismiss or diminish the significance of the election of President Obama.

"His election was not symbolic, it was real," he said.

But Payton also said Obama's election has stirred racists and racism.

He pointed to a recent a Facebook poll that asked "should Obama be killed?" an Arizona pastor praying for Obama to "die and get to hell;" and angry protesters carrying anti-Obama signs with racial overtones.

"Hatred and suspicion are the emotions on parade," said Payton.

He said television, the



Payton

See Payton on A10



Mayor Allen Joines gives Ruth Lyons her award.

Photos by Todd Luck

READY & ABLE

Awards go to special residents

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Those with disabilities and those who work with them were honored Tuesday.

The Winston-Salem Mayor's Council for Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) Annual Awards Luncheon was held at Holiday Inn Select on University Parkway. The MCPD is an all-volunteer organization that has advocated for those with disabilities since 1948. Amber Terrase, MCPD vice-president, said the Council has pushed for expanded accessibility throughout the city for those with disabilities.

"I think we've made great strides, but there

See Awards on A4



Winner Melinda Gentry with the mayor.

Domestic violence victims remembered

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Anna Cannon, Sue Jessup and Wanda Martin are still trying to cope with the tragic death of their sister, Janet Harris.

The 58-year-old was found shot in her home in June. C.H. Harris, her husband of more than three decades, was charged with the crime.

The Harris's three sisters were among the throngs of people in attendance Monday evening at a vigil honoring the memory of lives lost to domestic violence. The event took place at the Family Services Gateway headquarters.

"(We came) for healing that you never get," related Martin. "Each day, you think it'll be easier and it's not."



Sisters Sue Jessup, Wanda Martin and Anna Cannon.

Photo by Layla Farmer

Though the pain of their loss is very fresh, Jessup says the women were glad they attended the service. "I'm glad I came," Jessup

remarked. "It just brought back everything, but I think it was a good thing to try to get you on the path to

See Vigil on A12

BLIND AMBITION



Photo by Layla Farmer

Industries for the Blind employee Richard Barber stands beside his work station in the facility's Optical Department, which produces more than 600 pairs of prescription eyeglasses a day. See page A11 to learn more about IFB.

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