



David Thompson makes Hall of Fame

-See Page B10



WSSU student meets Obama

-See Page A3



City's first black officer honored

North Carolina Room Celebrating 35 Years of Community Journalism

17 120410 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101 N.C. ROOM FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY 660 W 5TH ST WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2755

THE CHRON

Vol. XXXVI No. 27

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, March 4, 2010

Primary challenge looms for Rep. Parmon

Military veteran Gardenia Henley says it's time for a change

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

In Forsyth County's District 72, the race for the N.C. House of Representatives seat is on.

Incumbent Earline Parmon will face Gardenia Henley in the Tuesday, May 4 Democratic Primary. No Republican has filed, so the Primary winner will face no opposition during the Tuesday, Nov. 2 General Election.



Parmon

Henley, 54, is a retired diplomat of the Department of State and a Winston-Salem native who recently managed Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke's latest successful re-election bid.

Henley, who helped organize an African tour by then-President Clinton during her time at the State Department, said her experiences with the Burke Campaign prompted her to run for the House seat.

"When I was out canvassing, people were telling me things that needed to get done ... at the state level," said Henley, who said Burke supported her decision to run. "I heard what they were saying and I knew that I could help in a positive way."

Henley spent more than two decades working for the Executive Branch of the federal government before her retirement in 2005. She served in the Inspector General's Office, a watchdog agency that prevents and detects fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement in governmental agencies. She believes her background will serve her well



Henley

as a state representative.

"What I did for almost 23 years was make sure that your tax dollars are spent efficiency," related Henley, who did a tour in the Air Force before obtaining her undergraduate degree from Shaw University and graduate degree from Southeastern University. "That's what I know."

Parmon, 66, has been an elected official for two decades. She served on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners before winning the District 72 seat, which was formerly occu-

See 72nd on A22



Daryl Wade stands in front of the movie theater complex on the UNCSA campus.

Producing Results

UNCSA student leader winning praise for his efforts

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Daryl Wade has yet to make a splash in the world of cinema, but on the campus of UNC School of the Arts, he's already made his mark.

Wade, a 21-year-old senior studying film production, is serving his second term as president of the school's Student Artists Association (SAA) - the school's version of a student government association. At a school that historically hasn't seen much involvement in student government, this fact alone sets the Baltimore, Md.-native apart from the crowd, but it is the work that Wade has done as president that makes him truly remarkable, school leaders say.

"He is making the school a leader in student government, which has never happened before," noted Chancellor John Mauceri.

Wade, who also serves as vice chair of the UNC Association of Student Governments, says he ran for president because he wanted to see his fellow students become more engaged.

"I'm definitely not into politics by any means. (My candidacy) was more of just providing my school with a voice and giving the student body something to be involved in outside of the art ... and giving a little bit of school pride back to the school," he commented.



Mauceri

Wade, whose responsibilities also include working as dormitory resident advisor (RA), is proud of the work that has been done so far on his presidential watch.

"We laid a lot of groundwork that wasn't there, just trying to build some type of trust between us and the administration and also between us and the students," he said.

Student involvement has not been a hall-

See Wade on A9

Urban League to test for STDs

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Urban League has added STD testing to the many services already offered at its downtown headquarters.

The Urban League, best known for its employment services and economic empowerment efforts, has partnered with the Forsyth County Health Department's P.O.S.S.E. (Prevent Ongoing Spread of STDs Everywhere) program to offer testing. HIV and syphilis screenings will be conducted at the Urban League, which is located on the corner of Fifth and Trade Streets, on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, starting March 23.

Health Department HIV/STD Outreach Supervisor Patrice Toney said it is important to set up screening sites in the community for those who are either uncomfortable with or incapable of going to the Health Department, where free screenings are regularly offered.

"We know there's a segment of the population that will never set foot in the Health Department (and) may not have insurance to go to doctor's offices," said Toney, whose staff often goes to colleges, churches, homeless shelters and even prisons to conduct screenings. "We find that building relationships in community settings that are convenient to people, that are accessible to people, really makes a difference in people actually deciding to get screened."

On Tuesday, POSSE and the Urban League kicked off

See STDs on A2



Grandberry



Toney

Happy Hill Cemetery slated for facelift



BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

To most, it may look just like an overgrown lot, but to Maurice Pitts Johnson, the historic Happy Hill Cemetery is a tangible link to a proud history.

The graveyard, which is off Willow Street, holds special significance for Johnson, 76, as two of her grandparents are buried there. Happy Hill is the oldest black community in the city.

"There's a street named for my grandfather (Columbus Christopher Pitts)," she proudly related. "He was the second settler to the property in that area."

Over the years, Johnson, who

retired from the Enrichment Center at Winston-Salem State University, says she has tried several times to galvanize the community around a cemetery reclamation effort, but to no avail.



Dr. Hartley

"It may not matter to anyone else, it's just dear to (our family)," Johnson, a former member of the Happy Hill Community Association, said. "But I'm feeling that somebody else may feel the same way."

Johnson's luck changed recently, when she was contacted by Dr. Michael Hartley, director of archeology at Old Salem Museum and Gardens, which

See Cemetery on A5

Pure Drama



Performers Ramon Dickenson and Shakari Hudgins help to bring Katori Hall's titillating play "Hoodoo Love" to life at Winston-Salem State University's K.R. Williams Auditorium late last month. It was one of many events WSSU held to commemorate Black History Month.

WSSU Photo by Garrett Grooms

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

BUY LOCAL

