



Rams will hold Bash on Saturday

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Jets player has many diverse tastes

-See Page A3



Kids hear music from yesterday
 1st Carolina Room
 Forsyth Public Library
 10 West Fifth Street
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101



THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXVI No. 29

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, March 18, 2010



Barnes



Bonham



Brown



Cotton-Williams



Johnson



Vic Johnson

Six are vying for the two District 1 seats

BY LAYLA FARMER
 THE CHRONICLE

The ballot for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education will be crowded this election year.

The 2010 season marks the first time in the county's history that school board elections will be nonpartisan. The General Assembly passed a ruling in 2009 to make Forsyth County's elections nonpartisan, yielding to considerable pressure from community groups such as CHANGE (Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment), which lobbied to change the election format in Forsyth, one of the last major counties in the state with a partisan school board.

In District 1, incumbents Vic Johnson and Geneva Brown are facing heavy competition. Four challengers — Regina J. Barnes, Jimmie Lee Bonham, Chenita Barber Johnson and Diana Williams-Cotton — have thrown their hats in the ring for one of the two seats in the District.

Both Bonham and Williams-Cotton made unsuccessful bids for the Board in 2006, and Chenita Johnson ran unsuccessfully in 2004.

Bonham says his chief concerns are the school system's high dropout rate and the number of long term expulsions that take place across the system.

"Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools is the fifth largest system in the state, but we have the highest suspension rate in the state," he said. "We don't have a good arm around discipline."

Bonham, 55, a native of Winston-Salem and owner of Hair by Jimmie, believes his hometown roots will serve him well as a school board member.

Williams-Cotton, a consultant, says she will focus on improving parental involvement if elected to the board. She proposed holding monthly meetings in the district to keep parents abreast of the issues the school board is considering as a means of

See Election on A5

Winston-Ghana Lifeline sees positive results

BY TODD LUCK
 THE CHRONICLE

This week, Dr. Emmanuel Srofenyoh, head of Ghana, Africa's Ridge Regional Hospital OBGYN section, paid a visit to Forsyth Medical Center, one of the institutions that has helped his hospital to greatly reduce the number of women and infants that die in childbirth.

Srofenyoh was in this country to discuss Ridge Regional's progress at a conference in Nashville. He stopped in Winston-Salem to thank local doctors and tell them of all the positive things that are happening.

Ridge Regional has seen a 36 percent decline in maternal deaths and a 34 percent decline in stillbirths in the last three years, thanks to the efforts of Kybele, a non-profit that uses medical education partnerships to improve childbirth conditions worldwide.

Kybele was founded by Dr. Medge Owen, a physician at Forsyth Medical's Sara Lee Center for Women. Kybele has made a way for medical professionals from Forsyth Medical and other medical facilities to visit Ghana to teach medical

See Ghana on A5



From left: Karen Bartoletti, vice president of the Sara Lee Center for Women's Health with Dr. Medge Owen, Dr. Emmanuel Srofenyoh and Center Director Ann Smith.



Photos by Layla Farmer

Chancellor Reaves addresses the crowd.

Reaves tries to mend fences, build bridges

BY LAYLA FARMER
 THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Donald Reaves has seen his share of criticism. His less than three-year reign of the institution has been marked by controversy. His decisions to move the university's athletic program back to Division II after just a short stint in DI and to close an on-campus childcare center have rubbed some alumni and WSSU supporters the wrong way.

The chancellor faced his critics and supporters head-on Tuesday evening, during a community forum hosted by the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity at Union Baptist Church.

The Ministers Conference wholeheartedly supports Reaves' vision for the school, according to President Carlton Eversley. Local ministers felt that Reaves needed a forum where community members could hear first hand about Reaves' plans and goals for the institution, he added.

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"The thing that has impressed us about the chancellor is he has a heart for our institutions," said Eversley, who serves as an adjunct professor at WSSU. "We're very confident that when you hear from him, you'll be as impressed as we are."

Reaves addressed the audience candidly. He told the story of his personal rise to the top tier of academia, from his humble beginnings in segregated schools in Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked as a supermarket clerk and a truck driver before beginning work toward his undergraduate degree at age 24. A first generation college graduate, Reaves went on to obtain his master's and doctoral degrees and serve in key leadership positions at Brown University and



Bill Hayes takes a question.

See Reaves on A2

AIDS cuts a death sentence?

BY LAYLA FARMER
 THE CHRONICLE

Recent budget cuts across the state are hitting home for individuals with HIV/AIDS who depend on the assistance from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to pay for their medications.

On January 22, the state stopped new enrollment for the program, which provides vital medication to people who are uninsured or of low-wealth and living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, the state has discontinued funding for medications that fall under the Tier 2 and Tier 3 categories, which are generally used to treat conditions that often accompany HIV.

For local resident Richard Cassidy, the cuts mean he will not be able to re-enter the workforce as he had initially hoped. Cassidy, who was diagnosed as HIV-positive in the mid 1990s, says he had stopped taking his HIV medications because he was unable to afford them. In the fall of 2005, Cassidy, now 41, developed a form of cancer that often attacks HIV patients whose immune systems are weakened with the disease. By winter, Cassidy says the outlook was bleak.

"Around Christmas of 2005, (the doctors) called my parents and told them ... 'If you ever want to see your son again, you have to come now,'" he related.

But Cassidy fought back, and after years of illness, has finally battled his cancer into remission. He had hoped to go back to work, but says he would lose his Medicaid coverage if he did so.

Without the safety net of the ADAP pro-



Richard Cassidy depends on the program to work.

See Cuts on A10

DELIVERING INTEGRITY



Photo by Layla Farmer

Mail Carrier Jessica Webster is being praised this week for a heroic save she made while on a routine delivery route. See the full story page A 10.

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