



Lady Deacs to kickoff golf season

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Unique effort to find volunteers

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Atkins classes hold a reunion

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75 cents
Celebrating 85
North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Community Journalists

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, September 9, 2010

The 103-Year-Old Birthday Girl

Mother Brady praised as God-fearing and big-hearted

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Ethel Washington Brady recently celebrated a birthday that few are privileged enough to see: her 103rd.

Brady, who was born on Sept. 5, 1907 in Winston-Salem, was feted on her special day at the Family Life Center of Piney Grove Baptist Church, where she has been a member for nearly 60 years.



"I feel good," the centenarian said during the celebration, where dozens showed up to mark the occasion. "I love the church. I came up in the church, in a little bitty (church) and I don't miss a Sunday, because it helps me."

Brady, who was the youngest of five children, grew up in a three-room log cabin.

She has outlived most of her family, including her husband, Joseph Brady, and five of her seven children.

"My father passed away in 1951," explained her only daughter, Dilcy Brady. "She was a mother and she was a father to us. She kept us all together until we were able to



Photos by Layla Farmer

See Brady on A2 **Ethel Brady poses with her two surviving children, Charles and Dilcy.**

Teenagers teed-up to cast votes

New law allows 16-17-year-olds to pre-register with BOE

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

This month is Citizens Voter Registration Awareness Month in North Carolina, and election officials are targeting the youngest potential voters ever.

A state law that went into effect on Jan. 1 allows 16-and-17-year-olds to pre-register to vote by filling out voter registration forms. Once pre-registered, the teens will be automatically registered and eligible to vote once they turn 18. The law requires county Boards of Election to work with school systems to conduct high school voter pre-registration drives once a year.

Veronica Degraffenreid, a voter liaison with the N.C. Board of Elections, said the goal is to increase participation among young voters.

"Normally younger people or younger citizens don't vote at the same rate as those of us who are a little bit older," said Degraffenreid.

Democracy North Carolina advocated for the law, which had bipartisan support in the Legislature. The non-partisan group advocates for increasing voter participation and the reduction of big money's influence in the political system. Democracy North Carolina Director Bob Hall said the state is only the third in the nation to allow students who are not yet 18 to pre-register. He said 16 is a prime age for pre-registration since that's when many students study civics in school.

"It's a very tangible way to get a sense of what citizenship is and how to get involved," Hall said about pre-registration and the voting process.

Sixteen is also when teens get driver's licenses. The N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles will now aid the effort by offering teens the opportunity to pre-register to vote at driver's license offices.

Nearly one third of 18-25 year-olds are not registered to vote, compared to only 10 percent of those over 40, said Hall, who hopes to see those figures change as a result of the pre-registration push. Hall said there



Sutton



Degraffenreid

WSSU taking steps to fix financial aid gripes

A number of students were purged from classes last month

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

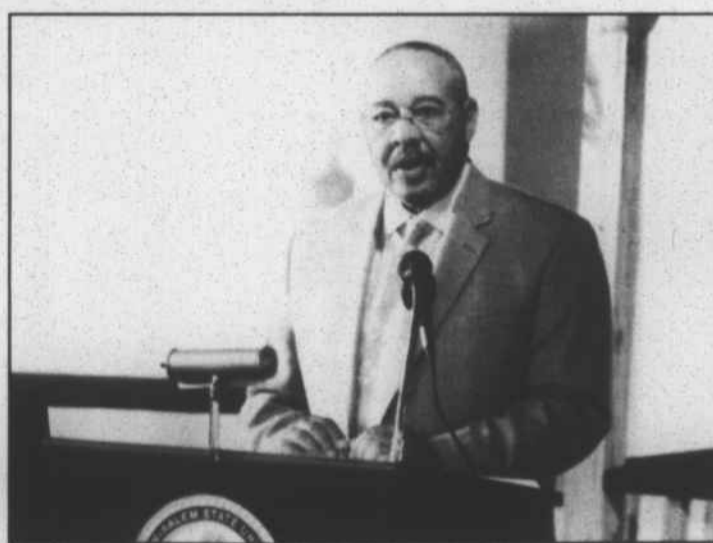
Hundreds of Winston-Salem State University students returned to campus last month and learned that they had been purged from their classes because of issues with their financial aid.

Purging is a customary practice for WSSU — where 90 percent of student receive some kind of financial aid — and many other schools when students do not settle their outstanding tuition by a given date, but the number of students affected by the initial Aug. 18 purge was larger than usual.

According to WSSU officials, a

variety of factors contributed to the mass purging this year. Nearly 70 percent of WSSU financial aid recipients were selected by the federal government for verification — an added step in the process — because their information was incorrect or incomplete, according to WSSU Chancellor Dr. Donald Reaves. In addition, the state of North Carolina did not finalize tuition increases until late July. The school was waiting to get the final numbers so that students could get the maximum amount of financial aid coverage, school leaders said.

Because some of the factors



WSSU Photo

See WSSU on A9 **Chancellor Donald Reaves says students are to blame for many of the recent problems.**

Successful program in need of volunteers

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

A local mentoring collaborative is looking for adults who can spare a small amount of their time to fight a big issue.

"Graduate. It Pays." is seeking 100 volunteers to serve as mentors for high school students this school year. Mentors meet with students for one hour a week at the schools, to provide encouragement, advice or simply a sympathetic ear for the students to help them persevere and stay in school. The overall aim of the initiative is to get more students to complete high school without dropping out.

"This is something that everybody should care about. It is in all of our best interest," said Sheryll Strode, volunteer leader for Graduate. It Pays., which is powered by about 30 community organizations. "We're all better off when all of our young people realize their potential."

Unlike dropout rates, which measure how many students stopped attending school in their senior year, graduation rates follow students from their freshman year to see if they achieve graduation either four or five years later. Officials began examining graduation rates in

See Graduate on A5



Photos by Layla Farmer

Program Participant Jakenya Samuels.



Strode

Tomatoes as Textbooks?



Photo by Layla Farmer

Third grader Tyler Cannon was among a group of Old Town Elementary students who got a crash course in biology with the help of tomatoes Tuesday. See full story on page A2.

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