

Recovery program recognizes graduates

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Locals attend election night events

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THE CHRONICLE

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WBMC Photo
A leaf honoring the life of Lori Ann Hawks on the Tree of Life.

Hospital's tree fetes organ donors

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

This has been a devastating year for Rockwell resident Carol Cook.

She buried her husband of 25 years and her 19-year-old son, Morton Michael Cook II, three months apart. Her husband, Morton Michael Cook, succumbed to a massive heart attack and died in her arms in February. Morton II, whom Mrs. Cook describes as "lovable, handsome and intelligent," was killed when he was thrown from the bed of a friend's pickup truck.

"He loved hanging out with his friends, being with his family and riding his horse," his mother recalled. "He was just learning to ride his father's motorcycle ... and he was getting ready to go back to school. He was going to start law school."

Morton II was among the 26 organ donors whose memories were honored Oct. 30 on the Tree of Life in the Davis Memorial Chapel at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Each year, organ donors' names are engraved on metal leaves that are placed upon the Tree of Life as a stately reminder of the sacrifices organ donor families make.

"The ceremony today is a celebration of the gifts of organ and tissue donation, in recognition of life saving donations given by so many in the face of tragedy," said Dr. Robert Stratta, director of the Abdominal Organ Transplant Program at the medical center. "...Organ donation is about the resilience of the human spirit, about having something good come out of something terrible... We must constantly remember that the need is great, the choice is painstaking, and the reward is priceless."

The ever-expanding number of names that appear on the tree each year is bittersweet.

See Tree on A9



Four More Years

UPI/Kevin Dietsch

The First Family - (from left) First Lady Michelle Obama, First Daughter Sasha, President Barack Obama and First Daughter Malia - wave to a crowd of thousands at Chicago's McCormick Place in the wee hours of Wednesday, Nov. 7, just before the President delivered his second election victory speech. Read about local election results on page A3.

Atkins courts named for local tennis legend

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

When James Ewers convinced his father to get him tennis balls and a racket so he could practice at the courts at the old Skyland Elementary School, he never imagined that he'd someday break tennis records, win championships, meet celebrities and, as of last week, have tennis courts named in his honor.

"To see this now resulting in tennis courts being named in my honor is just unreal," Ewers said Friday after the dedication ceremony for the "Dr. James B. Ewers Jr. Tennis Courts" at Atkins Academic & Technology High School on Old Greensboro Road.

Ewers is an alumnus of the original Atkins High on



Photo: Todd Luck

James Ewers stands in front of the tennis courts that are now named for him.

Cameron Drive. He was a tennis champion there and earned a four-year tennis scholarship to Johnson C. Smith University, where he holds the school record of 34

consecutive singles victories. Ewers said he first picked up a racket to break from the norm.

"I didn't see a lot of people in my neighborhood play-

ing tennis," he said. "Everybody in my neighborhood played football and basketball. I just wanted to try something different, do something different."

Over the course of his three-decade tennis career, he has won local, state and national titles and rubbed shoulders with celebrities like Bill Cosby, Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and Muhammed Ali.

"I never asked the Lord to let me win," he said. "I asked Him to let me do my best."

The 64-year-old still plays tennis for fun, but much of his time is devoted to his other passion: education. The former public school teacher is now the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Edward

See Ewers on A5

NONPERISHABLE TREATS

Salem students collect for food bank on Halloween

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

A group of Salem College students put a new spin on a time-honored Halloween tradition last week.

About 15 members of the college's Rotaract Club donned colorful costumes and dispersed to three neighborhoods on the evening of Halloween to "trick-or-treat" for canned goods and nonperishable food items to donate to Second Harvest Food Bank.

"I am looking forward to it. It seems like a really interesting idea, a unique way to get nonper-

See Treats on A12



Photo by Layla Garms

Rotaract members (from left): Megan Taylor, Barbara Sostaita, Meredith Barnes, Shannon Salzman and Helen Fowowe pose for a photo before heading out to trick-or-treat.

Eureka House living up to its name

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Ten years ago, Josue Cruz was a different person. "I've had a whole lot of personal growth," said Cruz, one of the newest members of the Men's Choir at St. Paul United Methodist Church. "My family can tell you (that) I'm a whole different person than I was 10 years ago. It's just been a blessing because 10 years ago, you wouldn't catch me 10 feet from the front stage of the choir."

Cruz, 33, says the metamorphosis began when he was

See Eureka on A7

Photo by Layla Garms

Josue Cruz poses outside the Eureka House.



Harold Smith

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