



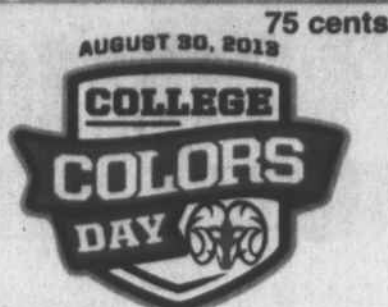
Puryear has lofty goals for Queens College golf

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Contest winner to put art store on wheels

-See Page A3



THE CHRONICLE

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Womble slowly resuming his life of service

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE



Parmon

The past 20 months have not been easy for former State Rep. Larry Womble. The weeks and months that have stretched out since the Dec. 2, 2011 car accident that nearly took his life have been filled with recovery efforts. The road to restored health has been long and arduous, said Womble, who gave up his seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives last year to focus on his health.

"It's slow - very slow," the Winston-Salem State University alumnus said of his recovery. "But then people always remind me, 'In the year or year and a half since the accident to where you are now, it is not slow - it's miraculous.'"

Womble's situation was so tenuous in the early days that his doctor dubbed him the "Miracle Man."

"At one time, I could not talk at all," he noted. "By the grace of the Lord and by the help of a lot of friends, I've made

it this far."

Since the crash, Womble has received an outpouring of support from well wishers from around the world. Kenyan Ambassador and former Prime Minister Raila Odenga even visited him earlier this month. Before the accident, Womble spent part of every year in the African nation. He is credited with starting a donation program that has put books in the hands of thousands of Kenyans and other Africans.

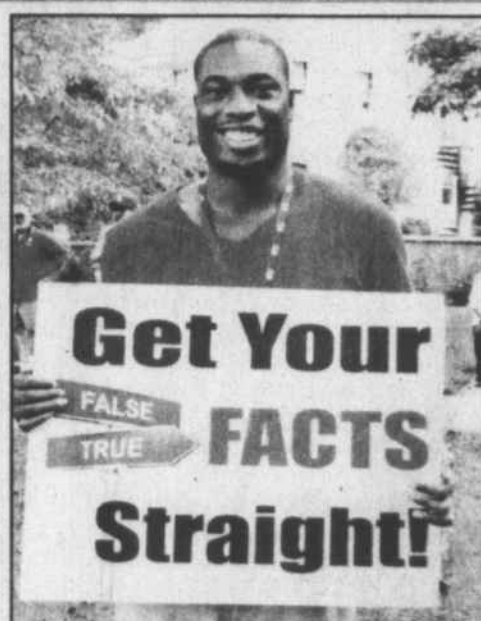
"I keep my spirit up from the people that come in contact with me and communicate with me and talk with me and send me letters and phone calls and come and visit," he remarked. "I'm drawing off of their energy and I'm drawing off of their

See Womble on A8



Photo by Layla Garms

Larry Womble is set to make his first keynote speech this weekend since his near fatal car accident in 2011.



Photos by Layla Garms

Progress North Carolina's Anthony Ross shows his support for the rally.

Teachers: Lawmakers making it hard for us

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

For the past two decades, New York City native Esther Davis has dedicated her life to education.

"I've always loved teaching, from when I was young," said Davis, who has taught at Abraham Elementary School for the past 12 years. "My mother was an educator as well, so the passion was there, and I've always wanted to help people."

Despite her love for the craft, Davis says the North Carolina General Assembly may eventually drive her - and countless others - away from it. The NC Legislature's latest budget includes a variety of measures that many believe are hurting public schools and teachers, from doing away with career status (tenure) for veteran educators, cost of living raises for all educators and stipends for those who pursue graduate degrees.

"I'm still staying in education right now," Davis said, "but when the cost of living keeps on going up and you see all these different avenues where you can make so much more money, it's tempting."

Davis was one of more than 150 area residents who flocked to Grace Court Park on Aug. 14 to voice their frustrations with the state government's treatment of teachers and public schools during a rally hosted by Public Schools First NC, Progress NC and the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE). The rally was the fourth in the groups' six city "Get Your Facts Straight" tour. Organizers says the events drew 1,000 protestors statewide. The tour concluded with a stop in Greenville on Aug. 16. From Charlotte to Wilmington, Anthony Ross, an intern for Progress NC, said the tenor of the gatherings has been the same.

"It's just been a lot of involvement, a lot of



Ellis



Photos by Todd Luck

Freshmen volunteers pack dehydrated meals for Stop Hunger Now on Friday at Winston-Salem State University.

BABY RAMS TO THE RESCUE

Freshmen volunteer to help fight hunger

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

About 200 Winston-Salem State University freshmen spent one of their first days on campus fulfilling part of the school's creed - serving others.

The freshmen packaged 10,000 dehydrated meals last Friday as part of a week's worth of orientation activities. The meals will be



Quanta Perry



Arthia Harris

distributed around the world to those in need by the relief agency Stop Hunger Now.

Students worked in teams in the Campus Hall of the new Donald J. Reaves

Student Activities Center, pouring measured cups of rice, soy and dried vegetables into bags that were then taken away by other volunteers to be packed.

The work went seamlessly after a quick tutorial from Stop Hunger Now's Steve Deal. A gong was banged after every 1000th meal was completed. The freshmen prepared all 10,000 meals in well under an hour.

Career Development Services Director LaMonica Sloan's department oversees

See Freshmen on A7

Trayvon Martin's death sparks local panel discussion

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE



Grace

Trayvon Martin's slaying - and the subsequent acquittal of his killer, George Zimmerman - has raised questions nationwide about Stand Your Ground laws, legislation that many believe allowed Zimmerman to walk.

A panel of community leaders and law enforcement officials convened at Shiloh

See Panel on A7



Photos by Layla Garms

(From left) Police Chief Barry Rountree speaks as District Attorney Jim O'Neill and Sheriff Bill Schatzman sit nearby.

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