



WSSU Rams open season on top

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Group readies voters for big changes

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THE CHRONICLE

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Principals: We're winning the battle

Schools taking special measures to keep graduation rates solid

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Four-year graduation rates are up in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School District. The rate reached 82.1 percent in 2013, an improvement over its 2012 rate of 80.9 and a jump of more than 11 percent over the rate in 2008.

While all high schools have seen some improvement, those with large African American and Hispanic student bodies continue to experience struggles. Carver High School still has the lowest four-year graduation rate in the county, although its rate, 73.8 percent, is more than a percentage point higher than it was in 2012. Jacket Academy, a specialty education program within Carver's academic structure, enjoyed a 100 percent graduation rate for the first time in its history. Carver Principal Ron Travis said looking at the two schools' rates independently is misleading, because most of the Jacket Academy students are integrated into the regular Carver instructional program as well.

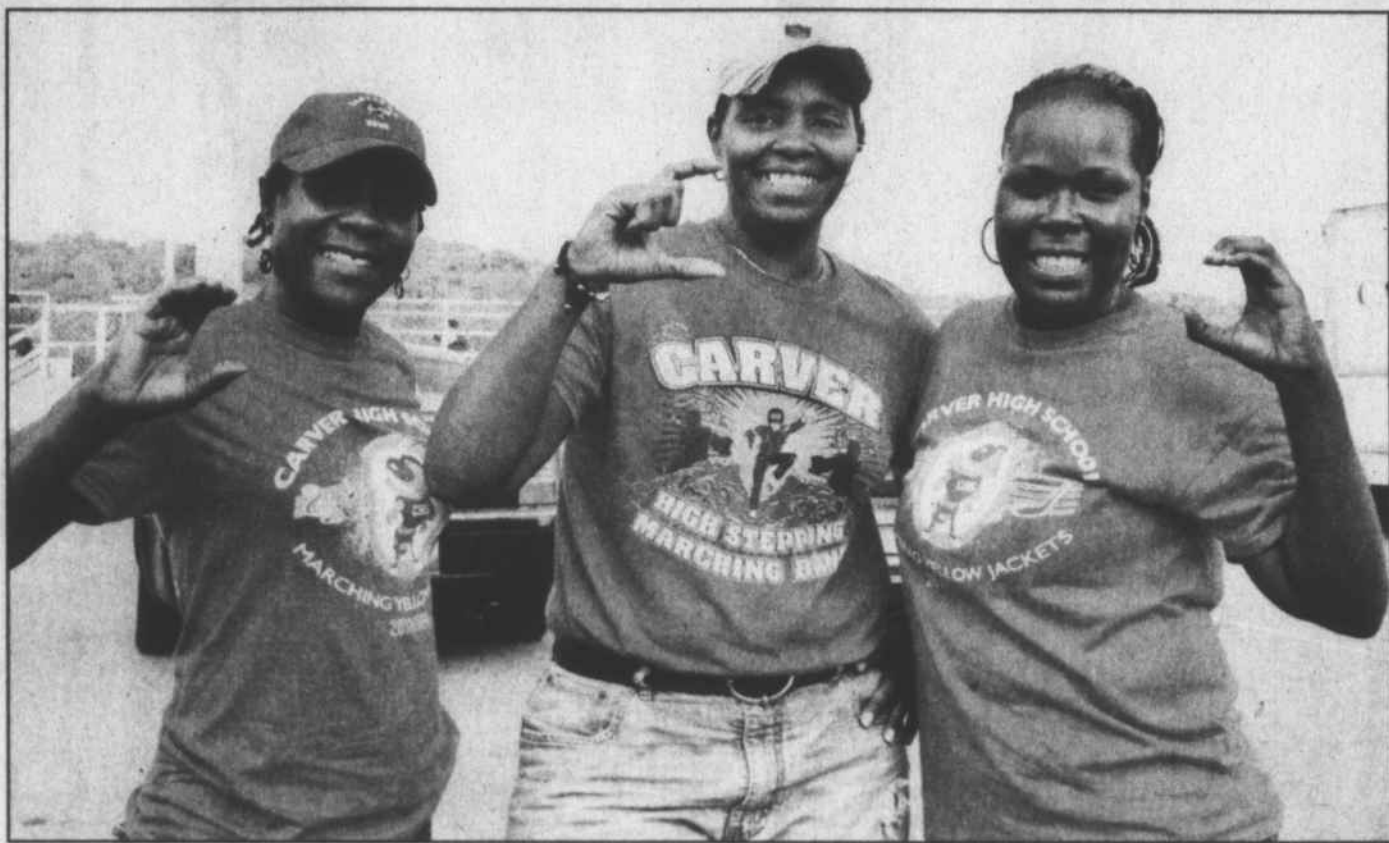
"It's not a separate entity; the teachers share those kids," Travis explained. "These students were hand picked from the Carver body of students ... because (academically) they were middle of the road to high fliers at that time."

Combined, the Carver Complex achieved a 78.1 graduation rate, still the lowest in the county, but within striking distance of R.J. Reynolds and the Middle College, which reached 80.6 percent and 80.3 percent, respectively. Travis says that number is even higher for students who spend their entire high school career at Carver, adding that the school's rate is sometimes hurt by students who start out at Carver but transfer elsewhere and don't finish, as schools are held responsible for all students who start there in the ninth grade, regardless of where they finish.

"The kids here are graduating for the most part. If Carver gets a ninth grader - a true freshman - there's more than a 90 percent chance that that student is going to graduate in four years," he said. "...Although we do have some concerns, overwhelmingly we have good, solid students here who go on to a two-year and four year colleges or to the military."

Carver is striving for a 100 percent graduation rate. Seniors meet with school counselors two to three times a year to identify and address any issues that may keep the students

See Graduation on A8



Carver Band Boosters Micheala Fair, Crystal Thompson and Mary Glenn show off their 'Jacket pride.'

Photos by Layla Garms

Safe & Sound

Carver Nation comes to school's defense

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Faculty members, students and alumni of Carver High School have begun picking up the pieces following an Aug. 30 shooting at the school.

"Carver is a safe school," Superintendent Beverly Emory said at the school Monday morning. "This incident could've happened anywhere."

She was joined by members of the "Carver Nation," School Board Member John Davenport and Police Chief Barry Rountree, who said last week's shooting, which resulted in one student sustaining non life-threatening injuries, arose from a conflict between two students with a "past history and disputes."

"Based on our investigation, the incident that occurred this past Friday was an isolated incident."

See Carver on A7



Board of Education member John Davenport speaks as (from left) Principal Ron Travis, Superintendent Beverly Emory and Police Chief Barry Rountree look on.

Church's bold plan for homeless vets

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Whole Man Ministries has launched an ambitious project to help local veterans get - and stay - on their feet.

Five duplexes on Cameron Avenue will soon be home to as many as 10 residents through the Home for Our Heroes program, a permanent housing solution for area veterans.

"It was a concern of mine when I saw a number of vets not having a place to stay," said Whole Man Pastor Barry Washington, who volunteers at Samaritan Ministries several times a year and operates food and clothing ministries through the church. "With the way the economy has turned, so many people have gone through difficult times, and we found that there's more people who are homeless because of that, but it's stressed even more when you're talking about somebody who has served."

See Vets on A10

Photo by Layla Garms

Whole Man Ministries Pastor Barry Washington (right) with ministers Kenneth Holly and Pecolia Breathette.



Grads still feel Camel Pride 52 years later

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

They were 18 - or close to it - when they received their diplomas from the venerable Atkins High School in 1961. Last week, many of them came together again to celebrate a very different milestone - their 70th birthdays.

The Class of '61's reunion this year dou-

See Atkins on A11



Claudette Cook-Womack with Doris Duncan Taylor



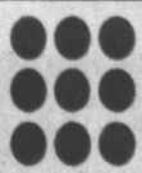
Photos by Todd Luck

Members of the Atkins Class of 1961 Reunion Committee.



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