



**Annual JV b-ball tournament set to start**

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**Winter brings extra help for the homeless**

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Holiday Tradition Continues

**Popular Black Rep production starts tomorrow**

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company is gearing up to open its most popular show of the season.

Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity," which the company has produced annually for the past 13 years, will open tomorrow (Friday, Dec. 6) at the Arts Council Theatre.

"It is our most popular show because it's fresh every year," said Wende Walker, audience development manager for the Black Rep. "The



**Kennethia Mason and Wayne Jones as Mary and Joseph.**

choreography and music is what keeps people coming back."

The exuberant production fuses elements of gospel and traditional African music and

and showcases an array of costumes and choreography, said Artistic Director Mabel Robinson.

"The gospel music sounds and the African beats and the colorful costumes and the movement and all the voices, all add each of their spark," noted Robinson, who directs the holiday production. "All the elements that come together make it so exciting."

The show, which regularly sells out, draws audiences from across the state and beyond, Walker said.

"It is one of the most dynamic performances that we do as a company," she said. "By word of mouth, we have people coming from Virginia and South Carolina

See Black Rep on A3



Photos by Layla Garms

**Winston-Salem Police Officer Tim Wilson poses with his latest honor.**

## More love for hero cop

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Police Department officer who apprehended a shooter at Carver High School this fall has again been saluted for his bravery.

State Sen. Earline Parmon presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Officer Tim Wilson, a 25-year veteran of the department, Monday at the Public Safety Center. Wilson received the department's Medal of Valor on Oct. 16, joining an elite group of WSPD



Parmon

employees who have received the honor, which is reserved for those who perform "unselfishly without regard for personal safety in a manner that far exceeds department standards and prevent an imminent loss of life or serious injury." He will be honored Dec. 11 by the

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8.

Wilson sprung into action Aug. 30 at Carver High School after a student discharged a firearm during a fire drill, injuring another student. Wilson identified and apprehended the shooter immediately, preventing any further fallout from the violent outburst.

"It's not often that we get the opportunity to honor the people that protect us in our community for doing such positive things," said Parmon, who presented the award on behalf of the Forsyth County Legislative Delegation, which she chairs. "...It was heroic what he did and the way that he handled the situation and I just felt it was important that the state recognize him with this award."

As part of the honor, Wilson's name will join the ranks of other Certificate of Appreciation honorees, whose names are enshrined in the Senate archives, Parmon said. His appropriate and timely response in a time of upheaval are indicative of a level of professionalism Parmon says she has often observed among WSPD employees.

"I think we have one of the best police departments in the State of North Carolina," she declared. "Officer Wilson exemplifies one of the

See Wilson on A8

## THANKFUL TO GIVE



Submitted Photo

**Members of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Pan-Hellenic Council pose with some of the items that they placed into Thanksgiving care packages for local families. Council members also served breakfast to those in need on Thanksgiving Day. Read more on page A3.**

## Fans flock to premier wrestling event

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Wrestling fans got up close with legends of the ring Saturday at the Benton Convention Center.

The Wrestlecade Fanfest brought out the likes of Jake "the Snake" Roberts, Diamond Dallas Page, The Rock and



Myers

Roll Express, Ivan "The Russian Bear" Karloff, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine and others. The event - which gave fans a chance to chat and get autographs and photos of their favorites - was a

lead-in to the main Wrestlecade event held later that day. It featured several matches, some pitting legend against legend. Fanfest whetted attendees' appetites with live wrestling that took place during the event in a conspicuous ring.

Tracy Myers, owner of Frank Myers Auto Maxx, founded Wrestlecade last year. The inaugural event drew 55 wrestlers and 1,200 fans; the meet and greet was so popular that it was extended



Photos by Todd Luck

**Greg "The Hammer" Valentine prepares to sign DeAndre Houston's t-shirt. DeAndre is with his mom and sister.**

from one hour to four hours and dubbed Fanfest this year.

"If you're going to do something, don't do it small," said Myers. "Let's don't do the little bingo show, nothing wrong with those; let's see how big a show we can put on."

Proceeds from the event benefitted the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive, which provides gifts to families in need.

Myers said last year's event raised \$5,000 for the charity.

Fans came from across the state and beyond to experience one of the biggest independent wrestling events in the Southeast. Deidra Stewart drove from Greensboro with her son, DeAndre Houston.

See Wrestling on A8

## Retirement begins next chapter for Billy Rich

Photo by Layla Garms

**Billy Rich has served the city for 24 years.**



BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

One of WSTV-13's founding fathers has left the fold. Video Production Specialist Billy Rich retired on Nov. 30, closing out an eventful 24-year career with the City of Winston-Salem.

"I just thought it was time to go," said Rich, 63. "It's time to let this younger generation (take over)."

Over the last near quarter century, the grandfather of four has become synonymous with WSTV, which was in its infancy when he joined the city staff in

See Rich on A9

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