



**Youth conference meets at WSSU**

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**Local talent honors to be presented**

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# THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, June 19, 2014

## Joyous remembrance planned

BY CHANEL DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Teaching the angels in heaven how to play basketball. That is what Donna Burgess imagines her 16-year-old daughter, Celeste, doing right now.

"Even though she is gone, I can hear her saying right now, 'Ma, I'm fine. Stop crying, I'm good.' She was a young lady that I am so proud of," Burgess said. "I wish she was still here, but I thank God for giving her to us for 16 years."



Celeste Burgess

The rising high school junior basketball star died in June 2013 in Alabama after a minivan crossed the centerline and collided with the car in which Celeste was a passenger. She was traveling to Auburn University for a basketball camp.

Tomorrow (Friday, June 20) will mark one year since her passing. Instead of mourning her death, the



Donna Burgess holds a framed tribute to her late daughter.

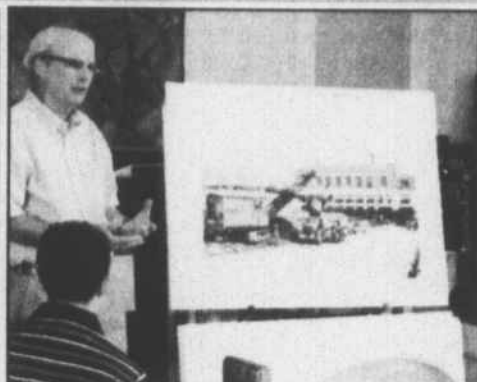
Burgess family will celebrate her life with a cookout.

"It is for anyone that wants to come," Burgess said. "If we are going to think about her, I would rather we all come together and have lots of laughter

instead of being sad. She would not want that."

The first Celeste Burgess Memorial Cookout will take place in Rural Hall at Horizon Park. The event will kick-

See Celeste on A3



Rence Callahan speaks to the meeting.

## City gets Union Station feedback

BY CHANEL DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

East Winston residents voiced their opinions about the future of Union Station, a historic building along Martin Luther King Drive that once housed the city's train station.

For the past several decades, the building, which is on National Register of Historic Places, had been used as an automobile garage, before the city purchased it in 2012 with intentions to rehab it as a transportation hub that will offer rail and bus service.

The city held a public forum Tuesday night at the Ishi Pentecostal Temple, which is on Excelsior Street and adjacent to Union Station. Rence Callahan of the architectural firm Walter Robbs Callahan and Pierce discussed renovation plans and sought input from a crowd of about two



Byers



Carter

dozen residents on how free space in and around Union Station could be used.

Callahan said initially, the station will serve as a regional bus hub, most likely for PART (Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation) vehicles.

"In the foreseeable future there will not be any trains coming in," Callahan said. "We need to think about that possibility down the line. It is not going to be a relocation of the downtown transit center but there could be transfers."

Callahan kicked-off the forum by showing old photos and floor plans of the original Union Station, a three-story building that was built in 1926.

On the bottom level of the 12,000-square-foot building was the loading area for freight and passengers boarding the trains. The middle floor, which Callahan said was in good condition, held office space and a kitchen area. The top floor, which has two entrances, still has the original center ticket station and concession area.

See Station on A8



James Wilhelm is now WSSU's head basketball coach after serving as an associate coach.

## HIS TURN

Wilhelmi has prepared well for head coaching challenge

BY CHANEL DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University introduced the Rams Nation to its eighth men's basketball coach last Thursday afternoon.

But no formal introduction was needed for James Wilhelm; he has been a part of the school's basketball program since the summer of 2011. As associate head coach under former Head Coach Bobby Collins, Wilhelm helped the Rams compile a 60-27 record, a CIAA championship and two NCAA Division II regional playoffs.

During his media roll out last week, Wilhelm said his road to head coach was a

long one. He thanked players, fans, alumni and previous coaches and choked up while acknowledging his own family.

"They have been with me through the thick and thin, the highs and lows, and they have always given me pep talks and encouraged me," he said.

Collins left WSSU earlier this year to head the basketball program at Maryland-Eastern Shore, a Division I MEAC school. He had led the Rams since September 2006.

WSSU Athletics Director Tonia Walker said 52 candidates applied to succeed Collins. Wilhelm's recruiting track record while at WSSU was one of the reasons she decided he

See Wilhelm on A7



Walker

## AME conference attracts faithful

BY LYDIA DERR  
THE CHRONICLE

"Our going to church on Sunday is like placing one's ear to another's chest to hear to unquenchable murmur of the human heart," remarked writer Richard Wright.

Though it was not Sunday, such was the case Friday, the last day of the 121st Session of the Western North Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal



Kawimbe



Photo by Lydia Derr

Dancers perform during the Closing Ceremony on Friday, June 13.

See AME on A8

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