



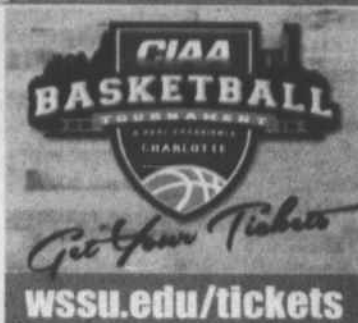
**W-S Prep repeats as Lash champions**

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**Fundraising shopping event held for band**

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Parkland senior's resolve to whip cancer is strong

BY CHANEL DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Alexis Fegan takes two chemotherapy pills every morning before she goes to school; She goes for radiation treatment afterward.

In the 17-year-old's war against cancer, the drugs are her arsenal, but her armor is her indomitable spirit. Alexis doesn't mope. She is not lachrymose.

"My favorite thing about Alexis and being in this journey with her is her messages to me where she sounds so strong, so upbeat and she knows that she's going to beat it. It's really cool for a 17-year-old to have that type of outlook," said Peter Zimmerman, owner of the Sides Branch Road (off Peters Creek Parkway) Chick-Fil-A, where Alexis works.

The restaurant held a "Spirit Night" fundraiser on Thursday, Dec. 18 to help Alexis and her family offset medical expenses. From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Zimmerman donated 15 percent of sale proceeds. Alexis' coworkers came in on their day off to support the effort. They



Alexis Fegan (right) poses with her parents.

designed and sold "A-Team" T-shirts.

Jordan Roels said it is fun working with Alexis, who she says is one of the most outgoing people she knows.

"Every time we work together, it has been nothing but laughs. We are never serious. She is a really good friend to me," said

See Alexis on A8



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garris  
Donald Reaves stands in the heart of WSSU's campus.

## Reaves confident in his legacy

BY DONNA ROGERS  
THE CHRONICLE

It was a long time coming, but Donald Julian Reaves, 68, achieved his desire to lead a historically black college when he was appointed chancellor of Winston-Salem State University in 2007.

"I always said that I would like to lead an HBCU (historically black colleges and universities)," said Reaves, whose decades-long academic career included serving as CFO at both Brown University and the University of Chicago. "This job was kind of the capstone in higher education."

As he prepares to retire Dec. 31, Reaves says he is leaving a solid legacy at WSSU.

"This institution wasn't held in the highest esteem. We think that we made a lot of progress in that regard. We've improved the quality of everything," he said, including the students admitted and and who graduate; the faculty and his administrative staff. "And all of that has worked, I believe, to change the perceptions that people hold about this institution. That's critically important because it speaks to the value that people place on your degree."

During Reaves' tenure, student retention rates jumped from 65 percent to more than 80 percent; the six-year graduation rate increased by more than 10 percent; and the number of students graduating annually jumped from 824 (in May 2007) to 1,600 in May of this year.

The campus has grown to facilitate the burgeoning student body with the construction of several new dorms and buildings, including the student center that bears Reaves' name. Reaves is also credited with bring back dominance to WSSU Athletics.

After a short stint in the Division I MEAC, WSSU returned to the CIAA to rack up 15 conference titles.

"As I look at all the statistics that indicate the accuracy of that direction, I am amazed that so much has been accom-



Miller

See Heroes on A7

See Reaves on A8

Photos by Todd Luck  
(Right) Assistant Police Chief Connie Southern helps a young man shop.

(Below) Sgt. E. D. Branshaw helps his teen shop.



## Officers help kids holiday shop

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Police and firefighters took youth from The Children's Home on a holiday shopping spree at Target on University Parkway on Friday, Dec. 12.

The "Heroes and Helpers" event started after an early morning breakfast at the store, courtesy of Chik-Fil-A. After all were satiated, 17 kids were coupled with a public safety officer. The pairs set off through the store, pushing one of Target's signature red shopping carts.

Each child was provided with a \$150 gift card, provided by the WSPD and Target, and could purchase whatever caught their fancy.

"It's just one way we can work with the community," said Police Chief Barry



Rountree, who was on hand for the event but had to leave for another event after the shopping commenced. "We understand not all people in the community are as fortunate as some of us are."

In addition to Heroes and Helpers, the Winston-Salem Police Department also recently held its "Stuff the Patrol Car" initiative at the

Walmart on Hanes Mill Road to collect new toys for needy families. The WSPD will also be providing precooked meals for some needy families this holiday season.

"All our interactions are not arresting people," he said. "Most of what we do is service, so this is one branch of our service to the community."

Winston-Salem Fire Department Chief Antony Farmer, who also dropped in, said Heroes and Helpers was a "humble and noble" thing for police and firefighters to do.

"It speaks good for our department and our city, and I hope we keep doing it," said Farmer, who is retiring at the end of the month.

Many of the young shoppers made a beeline to the electronics section of the store to explore video games, movies and hi-tech gizmos. Clothing was also a popular choice. Officers, aided by the calculators on their cell phones, helped the kids stay within their \$150 budget and made helpful suggestions on how they could get the most for their money.

The teenage girl teamed

## NEW BUILDING, SAME MISSION TO SERVE

**Samaritan Ministries settles in at new digs**

BY CHANEL DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Samaritan Ministries Soup Kitchen clients saw a change of scenery last week as the agency served its first meals in its new building.

The \$4.1 million, 20,000-square-foot building at 414 E. Northwest Blvd. also houses an 80-bed shelter and special features like a "healing room" for sick homeless clients and computer lab. The building is adjacent to Samaritan Ministries' longtime headquarters at 1243 Patterson Ave.

Executive Director Sonjia Kurosky said both the agency and

See Samaritan on A7



Photos by Chanel Davis  
Kurosky



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