

The real great pumpkin?



Loses



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Victor Johnson Jr. gains high honor

Longtime educator awarded Order of the Long Leaf Pine

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

During the school board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10 longtime local educator Victor Johnson Jr. was awarded the highest honor a civilian in the state can receive, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Johnson, a 1961 graduate of Winston-Salem State University, has served more than 30 years in the Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS)

system as a teacher, principal and administrator. Johnson is also the longest serving member of the WS/FCS Board of Education. As a youngster, Johnson was one of 21 teens who helped integrate lunch counters here in Winston-Salem at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Johnson was also a standout athlete as well. He is currently enshrined in the Atkins High School Sports Hall of Fame and the Winston-

Salem Sportsman Hall of Fame.

Although he has racked up countless awards over the years, including a street marker with his name on it in East Winston, Johnson's greatest accomplishment is the hundreds, if not thousands, of students he has impacted over the years.

Before presenting his former colleague with the award Tuesday evening, Donny Lambeth, who represents the 75th District in the State House and is a

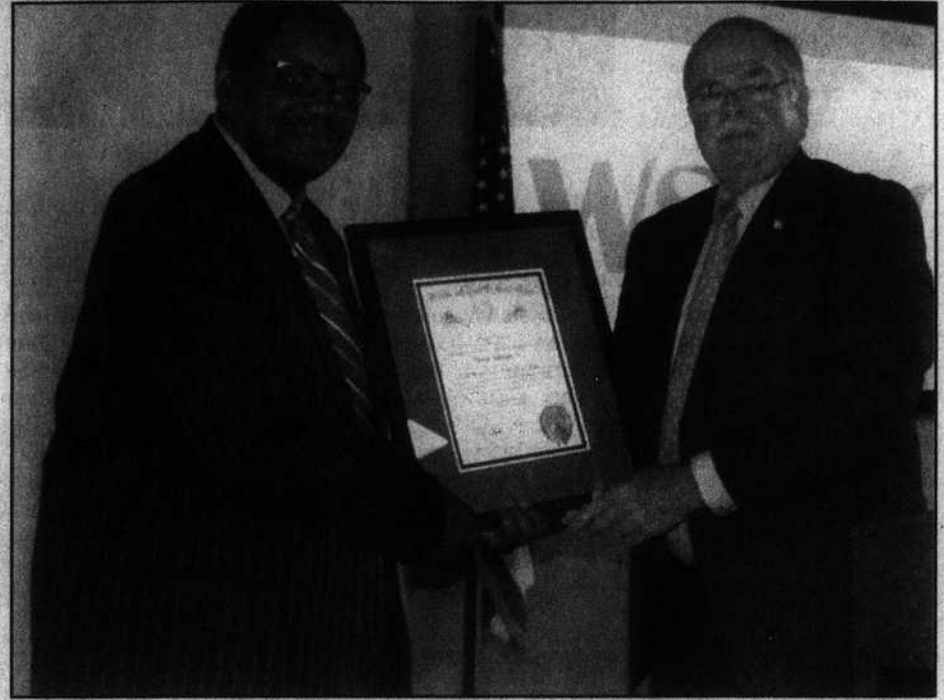


Photo by Tevin Stinson

Donny Lambeth, right, a member of the N.C. General Assembly, presents Victor Johnson Jr., left, with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine during the school board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the highest honor that can be presented to a civilian in the state.

former member of the WS/FCS Board of Education, said, it was an honor to be the one to present Johnson with such a

prestigious honor.

"Anyone who has lived, worked, or attended school in Winston-Salem recognizes the name Vic

Johnson. "Throughout his life he has served to make life better for the citizens of Forsyth County," contin-

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Head Impacts in youth football increase



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Head impacts in youth football are a major cause for concern for many parents, while others are confident with improvements the sport has made in recent years.

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

Recently Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center conducted a study on the number of head impacts in youth football players as they move up in age and weight-based levels of play. Head injuries, have been a big topic in football on all levels, which has been a cause for concern for some parents, while other parents have less worries.

The Wake Forest Baptist study employed in-helmet sensors to record head impacts in youth football players. They collected the number and location of impacts and the linear and rotational acceleration they caused to the heads of 97 players, ages 9 to 13 in one youth football organization.

They recorded more than 40,000 head impacts,

which is the largest collection of biomechanical head impact data for youth football to date, according to study author Jillian Urban, Ph.D. The study shows a

"There is nothing that I see that protects the players and there is no longevity in that sport."

-Julius Reese, former Division I football player from the University of North Carolina

trend of head impact exposure increasing with increasing level of play, but with variability within levels of play.

The researchers also found that while approximately two-thirds of all head impacts in the study

occurred during practice, the percentage of high magnitude impacts was higher in games and the number of such impacts in games increased with the

level of play.

The parents on both sides of the equation have very strong convictions about letting their children play football at such an early age. Julius Reese is a former Division I football player from the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and he will not allow his son to play football because of the injuries he sustained while playing.

"Me, being a former football player, I can't see any future in the way they treat youth athletes as they progress in youth football," said Reese. "There are a lot of rules, stipulations and equipment in place now for football that is not protecting the players; it's protecting owners against lawsuits.

"There is nothing that I see that protects the players and there is no longevity in that sport," he continued. "Many times the coaching aspect at the Pop Warner level is not up to par, and when you have these inexperienced coaches out here teaching kids, it can lead to a lot of injuries."

For Reese, he says he

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Spearman elected new president of N.C. NAACP

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — The N.C. NAACP elected a new president last weekend to touts, "I'm woke, and I ain't skerd," letting advocates and adversaries alike know that just because Bishop Dr. William J. Barber II has finished his 12-year tenure as leader, doesn't mean the state's oldest civil rights organization will cease its aggressive battle



Photo by Cash Michaels

Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman is the new N.C. NAACP president.

for freedom, justice and equality.

"If we're going to be a justice organization, we're going to be a justice organization," the new president, Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, said to applause.

"We've got work to do, and it's time to roll up our sleeves and do the work fighting the real adversaries and enemy."

Dr. Spearman, who is also senior pastor of St. Phillip's A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, and presi-

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