



West wins Lash holiday tournament

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Nonprofit jobs are big in Forsyth

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Black and single hits a new wave

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THE CHRONICLE

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North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2705

Mc'MAKEOVER

Popular East Winston eatery reopens after being completely rebuilt, redesigned

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

After being closed for more than three months for an extreme makeover, the McDonald's on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive is back as a bigger, faster and sleeker restaurant.

The East Winston McDonald's had not changed much over the last three decades, but that changed last September when the old building was closed, completely torn down and rebuilt into a modern McDonald's, one with more room inside for customers, an eye-catching interior and light fixtures and a double drive-thru lane that's designed to cut down on the amount of time customers have to wait.

Customers inside can expect faster service too, said

Restaurant Manager Cynthia Moody. The new restaurant, which opened two weeks ago, has three registers, while the old one only had two. The crew working is also much bigger. While the old restaurant had 35 employees, the new one will have 55 to 60 with about 17 people working at a time. Moody said the increase in employees was needed to meet the higher demand that the revamped restaurant expects.

"With this rebuild, we will show at least a 20 percent increase in sales," said Moody, who has managed the MLK McDonald's for 11 years. The new dining area can accommodate more customers. There is enough room to comfortably seat 115.

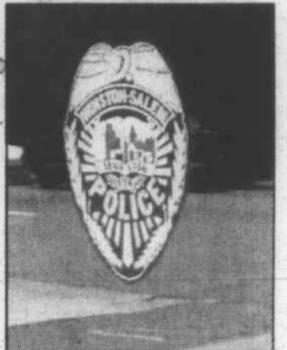
Moody said that the restaurant's owner, Ron Bailey, Jr.,

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The MLK Jr. Drive McDonald's has a new look and style.

Photos by Todd Luck



Residents urged to comment on police

Tuesday's forum part of probe into missteps during Hunt investigation

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Residents will get a chance Tuesday to share their thoughts - good, bad or indifferent - about the Winston-Salem Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division.

An independent security firm will hold a public forum Jan. 8 at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center from 6:30 - 8 p.m. to collect comments from residents, especially those who have had dealings with the detectives who make up the criminal investigation arm of the police department.

The forum is part of an ongoing review by a city-appointed committee that is looking into what went wrong two decades ago when the police department investigated the murder of Deborah Sykes, a 25-year-old white woman, whose body was found off of West End Boulevard in August 1984.

A month later, Darryl Hunt, then only 19, was charged with the crime, based on investigative work by police detectives. The arrest and eventual conviction of Hunt, who is African-American, created a racial divide in the city because most blacks believed that police and prosecutors, in their rush to find someone responsible for the crime, got the wrong man. Most local whites, though, believed that Hunt was guilty, although there was no physical evidence linking him to the crime.

Despite the doubts held by many, Hunt would spend nearly 20 years in prison for the crime. DNA evidence won him his freedom on Christmas Eve in 2003. DNA collected at the crime scene also led investigators to Willard Brown, who confessed to killing



Hunt

See Forum on A12



Photos by Todd Luck

Scholarship winners Brit'ny Towns, from left, Britney Onuma, Joshua Price and Brittani McKnight.

Freedom speaker urges blacks to keep faith, focus

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The new year opened with a celebration of freedom and a commitment to continue to preserve it at the Annual Celebration of Emancipation held Tuesday at Union Chapel Baptist Church.

The service is held at a local church on Jan. 1 of each year by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association. It celebrates the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. The proclamation, signed on January 1, 1863, freed slaves in the rebelling confederate states. The ratification of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, two years later, would formally end slavery.



Rev. Stevenson

The service featured the annual reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by local attorney Dionne Tunstall and singing by Ralph Meadows and the Union Baptist Church Choir. There were also appearances by many community leaders, such as City Council Member Nelson Malloy, who opened the program.

"It's very appropriate we do this every year because in 1863 President Lincoln signed the proclamation freeing the slaves, and we have to be reminded every day of our lives that freedom is not free," said Malloy.

N.C. Rep. Larry Womble used the service to announce that in February a ceremony will be held to complete the

See Emancipation on A12



Photo by Kevin Walker

Luther Jones, a deacon at Union Baptist, hands over the last meal to a thankful man on Christmas Day. Beside Jones are sisters Shawn Brandon, left, and Nekeasha Dover.

A Touch of Love, Indeed

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It was the day of Christmas - and all through downtown - not a business was open ... well - that's not exactly true.

A Liberty Street beauty salon was open Christmas Day and bustling with activity. But there were no emergency perms being performed at A Touch of Love Hair Salon that day, no dye jobs or trims either. For the second consecutive year, sisters Shawn Brandon and Nekeasha Dover spent much of their Christmas Day at their salon handing out "Meals of Love" to the less

fortunate.

"Jesus is the true reason for the season," Brandon said when asked about the motivation for the event. "The best gift is bringing smiles to people's faces."

For several hours, the salon opened its doors and welcomed any and all in need of a hot meal and some holiday cheer. The sisters - with

the help of dozens of their church members, friends and salon regulars - filled close to 400 compartmentalized styrofoam containers with fried turkey, rolls and traditional holiday fixings. As gospel music blasted from inside the salon, volunteers took turns standing outside, welcoming those who passed by to take a dinner. The section of Liberty where the salon sits gets a lot of foot traffic from the city's burgeoning homeless population. Several shelters are in close proximity.

Word of the salon's generosity spread quickly. By

See Salon on A9



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