



Coach of Lady Aggies honored

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Welcome MEAC Fans



Students prepare to take to the stage

Celebrating 34th Anniversary North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, March 12, 2009

High hopes for hoops tournament

City puts best foot forward for MEAC

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The MEAC Basketball Tournament has landed in Winston-Salem and local leaders have rolled out the red carpet.

The city and local business community lobbied hard last year to catch the eye of MEAC officials who were in search of a new home for the tournament.



Photo by Layla Farmer

Morgan State's Todd Bozeman accepts Coach of the Year honors from ESPN's Jay Harris, right, on Monday night.

Winston-Salem hosted the MEAC once before, in the early 1980s, and the CIAA Tournament for several years in the 1990s. Both tournaments abandoned Winston for larger cities with larger arenas.

Mayor Allen Jones said Monday during the MEAC Kickoff Banquet that the return of the tournament could not have come at a better time.

"It fits very well with what we're trying to do with our economy," he said. "Traveling tourism is a key part of how we're trying to keep our economy strong."

Thousands are expected to be in town this week for the tourney, which not only includes games at Joel Coliseum, but also a plethora of social events. MEAC events actually began on Sunday with a Community Day at Hanes Hosiery Community Center that was attended by more than 600 people.

"It was a great turnout; we had a good time," Center Director Art Blevins said of the event, which included MEAC officials, games and lots of giveaways.

Last month, the MEAC announced its READ with MEAC initiative, a challenge to local school kids to read more books. Hall-Woodward Elementary, the school that won the competition, was rewarded on Monday with a visit from players from MEAC men's and women's basketball teams. The community projects MEAC supports are every bit as important as the athletic competition it fosters, said MEAC Commissioner Dr.

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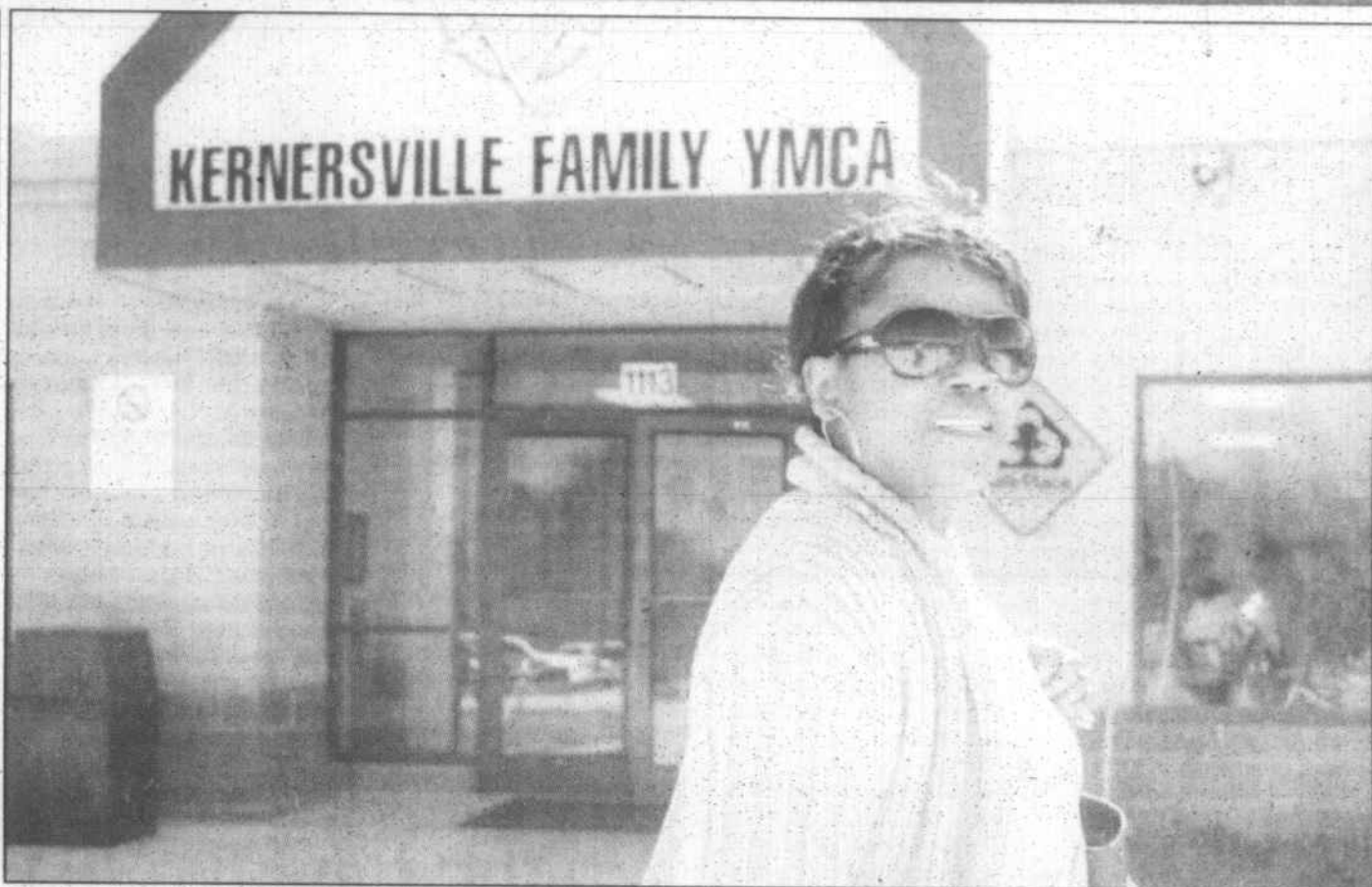


Photo by Layla Farmer

Dr. Ruby Strickland prepares to walk into the Kernersville YMCA.

Creating tech-savvy seniors has become volunteer's mission

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Senior citizens are being brought into the 21st century through a free technology skills program offered at the Kernersville Family YMCA.

Backed by an Accelerator grant from AT&T, Y Wired is an eight-week course designed to promote computer literacy among those 50 and older. Classes meet weekly at the Y on West Mountain Street, and cover the basics of everything from e-mailing to creating word processing documents and even surfing the Internet.

Ruby Strickland, Ph.D. is the lead volunteer for the program. A retired adminis-

trator from the Prince William County School system in Northern Virginia, Strickland has taught Y Wired for more than two years and estimates she has led more than 40 groups of students to date.

"I enjoy people. I think that's why I stayed in some phase of teaching for so long," said the Livingstone College alumna who joined the Y three years ago and has since volunteered in several capacities since.

"I like to help. I'm always willing to

help somebody else. I'm grateful for what I have, and I'm grateful that somebody gave me a push in the right direction. That's what you do in gratitude - you pass it on."

Though it is a program of the Kernersville YMCA, a Y membership is not required to participate in Y Wired. Strickland has even led classes away from the Y facility, including some at Kernersville's Robinwood Senior Living Center.

Strickland's students say the instruction has been beneficial. Ken Swift is currently enrolled in a class. A retired process

See Y Wired on A7

Liberians fighting once again for citizenship

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

For most people here in Winston-Salem and across the nation, March 31 is likely to be an unremarkable day. However, for Liberian nationals under Temporary Protection Status (TPS) from the U.S. government, it is a date that looms over them, casting a dark shadow over their lives.

Temporary Protection Status is extended to immigrants who flee to America in



James Hunder

order to escape civil unrest, environmental disasters or other designated dangerous conditions in their native lands.

Thousands of Liberians who call the United States home came here in the 1980s and 1990s to escape a blood-civil unrest in the West African nation.

John Crawford is one such person. Crawford, who served as a pastor in his native country, set his sights on America two years ago, believing the Land of Opportunity indeed

had something valuable to offer him. Today, he is among the unfortunate lot of Liberians and other foreign-born U.S. residents who will face deportation at the end of this month, unless the federal government grants them extensions on their TPS status.

"I don't really know what we would do," said Crawford, who supports his wife and seven children back home. "I have no hope anyway; I just have my faith in God."

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Stoves reignited at popular cooking school

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The famed Chef Don McMillan is ready once again to teach local folks how to prepare culinary delights.

McMillan has reopened The Stocked Pot, which taught popular cooking classes for more than two decades beginning in the 1970s. He closed the business in 1998 to focus on other ventures. It reopened last December, and just in time, McMillan believes.

"People, when they're on a budget, had rather be at home more than eating out at restaurants," he said. "Now we find most people want to eat their meals at home and they can come to the cooking school and learn how to cook good meals." The Stocked Pot offers class-



Photo by Todd Luck

Chefs Don and Andrew McMillan work in the classroom kitchen at The Stocked Pot earlier this week.

es mostly on weeknights and Saturdays. McMillan and his son, Chef Andrew McMillan, each teach classes on everything from general cooking techniques to how to prepare specific dishes.

Classes cost between \$22 and \$85. Some involve simply watching the chef prepare the meal, while others are hands-on experiences. No previous cooking experience is required. There are even classes for children.

"Our first sell-out class was how to use a knife ... something as basic as how to hold a knife and how to use it," said Don McMillan.

Technology has advanced greatly since The Stocked Pot was last open. Students can now view and sign-up for classes online, and ask the chefs follow-up questions via e-mail. The traditional ceiling mirrors that once gave students an overhead view of food preparation have been replaced by ceiling-mounted cameras and a large-screen tele-

See McMillans on A4

GUARD UNGUARDED



Photo by Todd Luck

Jim Albright, a former guard at Alcatraz, holds one of the cell keys from the infamous prison. Read more about him on page A3.

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