



**MEAC tickets now available to the public**

-See Page B9



**Red Hat members gather in Winston**

-See Page A11



**City holds annual Veterans Parade**

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Vol. XXXVI No. 11

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, November 12, 2009

## Locals do not expect a backlash

*Fort Hood incident has some Muslims on edge*

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

While Muslims around the nation are bracing themselves for a public backlash after last week's Fort Hood, Texas shootings, those who practice Islam here have faith that their neighbors won't stigmatize them for the actions of someone else.



File Photo  
**Imam Khalid Griggs at the Community Mosque.**

Mosques and Muslim organizations across the nation have received threats since Major Nidal Malik Hasan allegedly went on a shooting spree that left 13 dead and 29 injured last week. Mosques in Chicago and other large cities have requested extra police patrols, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, which condemned the shooting, suggested Muslims and those of Arab descent take special precautions "due to the potential backlash against these communities."

Although those of Middle Eastern or Arab lineage have become the most obvious targets of anti-Muslim sentiment, Imam Khalid Griggs of the Community Mosque in Winston-Salem said such backlashes usually target all Muslims.

"The distinction is not made necessarily about who is an Arab or anything else, it's just anyone who remotely identifies as a Muslim," said Griggs, an African American whose mosque includes followers of every color.

Shahid Chaudhary agrees. A native of Pakistan who has lived in the United States since 1989, Chaudhary says there was a change in how some in this country viewed

See Muslims on A2



*Dr. Cornel West, the noted Princeton University professor, author and great-thinker, speaks at Winston-Salem State University last week as part of the school's three-day conference on health disparities. To read more about the conference, see page A3.*

## Veteran employee named county's budget director

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Ronda Tatum, who has worked for Forsyth County for 16 years, has been named director of the Budget and Management Department.

Tatum was selected from a wide applicant pool to replace Joe Bartel, who retired recently, after more than three decades with the county.

"We interviewed probably a half dozen candidates (for the position)," said County Manager Dudley Watts. "Ronda just stood out as a person who's going to succeed Joe (Bartel) very well. She had the right background, the right work ethic, and she's very dedicated."

Watts, who has been county manager for about three years, said Tatum's work ethic impressed him right away.

"In my time here, Ronda's been somebody who really reaches out to do things really above and beyond," he commented.



Photo by Layla Farmer  
**Ronda Tatum has worked for the county for the past 16 years.**

See Tatum on A5

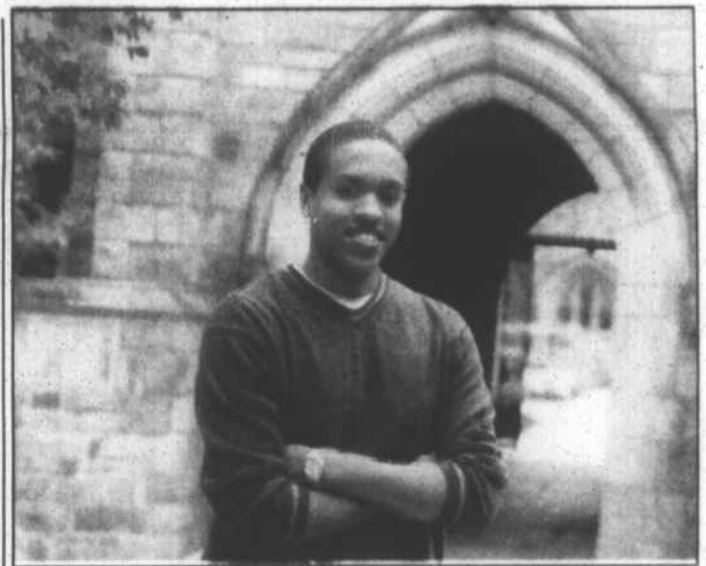


Photo courtesy of Mike Jones  
**Michael Jones will be sworn in this coming January.**

## W-S native Jones wins a seat on New Haven Board

*He credits mom Denise Franklin for opening his eyes, ears to the world*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem native Michael Jones, 20, isn't wasting any time in making his mark on the world.

Jones, a junior studying political science and urban studies at Yale University, was elected to the New Haven, Conn. Board of Aldermen on Nov. 3. Thirty aldermen sit on the board, which is racially diverse and typically includes Yale students.

Though he ran unopposed in the General Election, Jones, a Democrat, faced fierce competition from two other Yale students, Katie Harrison and Minh Tran, for the Ward 1 seat in the primary.

"It feels really good, because it's something that I

put 11 months into," Jones said of the victory. "...To win convincingly was just the validation that a lot of the issues that we talked about ... were also of concern for the residents."

Jones attended local schools, most recently Parkland IB Magnet High School. He completed his high school education at the Durham-based North Carolina School of Math and Science, where he served as president of the Student Council.

He says his Winston-Salem roots remain strong. "Everything that I do is based upon my experiences growing up in Winston-Salem," Jones remarked.

Jones grew up with a



Franklin

See Jones on A9

## Candidates: Low turnout should be addressed



Terry Campaign Photo  
**Evelyn Terry, center, on the campaign trail in September.**

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Despite the best efforts of candidates, voter participation was dismal for the Nov. 3 municipal elections.

Less than 10 percent of the city's more than 186,000 registered voters took the time to cast ballots on Election Day or during early voting.

This year's turnout slipped more than a percentage point since the last municipal election in 2005, when turnout was just over 11 percent.

The downhill spiral represents a trend that has been ongoing across the nation for some time, according to Rob Coffman, director of



Coffman

See Voters on A9

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