



Black college sports' best selected

-See Page B10



Local golf standout has great 2010

-See Page A3



Gospel rapper spreads the Word

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



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THURSDAY, December 23, 2010

Diamond in the Rough?

Library fights misperceptions of East Winston branch

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

After nearly a decade of requesting funding from Forsyth County Commissioners to improve the county's libraries, Forsyth County Library Director Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin is breathing a sigh of relief after procuring the financial backing that she says the libraries direly need.



Sprinkle-Hamlin

Thanks to a bond referendum approved by voters last month, the library system will see \$40 million in new construction and renovations.

"I'm really happy that it happened," noted Sprinkle-Hamlin, who has helmed the library system since 2000. "It's something that I felt should've happened and I'm glad that the community agreed."



Reid

The money will be used to rebuild or completely renovate the aging Central Library on Fifth Street and branch locations in

both Clemmons and Kernersville. The bond will also provide for repairs and improvements at other branches, including Carver School Road, Rural Hall and the Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center, the branch in the heart of East Winston.

Sprinkle-Hamlin says it has not been determined yet how much will be allocated for each project, but Kernersville and Clemmons branches could get as much as \$6 million for renovation or rebuilding, and the Central library could get as much as \$28 million. Library officials hope to use rest of the money for necessary repairs and improvements at other branches, including new ceilings, windows and a new elevator at Malloy/Jordan, according to the county Web site. Sprinkle-Hamlin did not know how much the repairs at Malloy/Jordan will cost.

See Library on A11



Charles Hicks waves to his family after receiving his degree.

WSSU Photos by Garrett Garmis

GIFT OF EDUCATION

WSSU hands out pre-Christmas degrees

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Nearly 500 Winston-Salem State University graduates walked across the podium last Friday to receive their degrees.

A crowd of thousands watched their shining moments from the stands of the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Literally making it to graduation day was more of a challenge for some students than others.

Graduate Vera Jordan, for example, had a heart attack in 2005. The 55-year-old said the experience actually served as motivation to savor life and work hard to achieve her dreams.



Dr. Jones

See WSSU on A9

The Unsinkable Noel Miller

Businessman's motto: If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Fifteen years ago, Noel Miller embarked on a longtime dream of his: becoming an entrepreneur.

From the outset, Miller says he vowed that nothing would stand in the way of the purpose that he believes God commissioned him to fulfill. Through a harrowing storm of challenges, setbacks and heartbreaks, Miller has stood by his word.

He named his store in Silas Creek Crossing, "Maximus" after the character in the 2000 film "Gladiator."

"Maximus" was a general over an army," explained Miller, 41. "He was considered a very brave man, and I look at myself as being a very brave man. I've been through the same trials."

Miller, a native of Kingston, Jamaica who grew up in Jamaica Queens, N.Y., had his share of brushes with the law as a young man. In the mid 1990s, while he was incarcerated, Miller says he felt called to take his life in a better direction.

"It was like God was pricking my heart and saying, 'I've

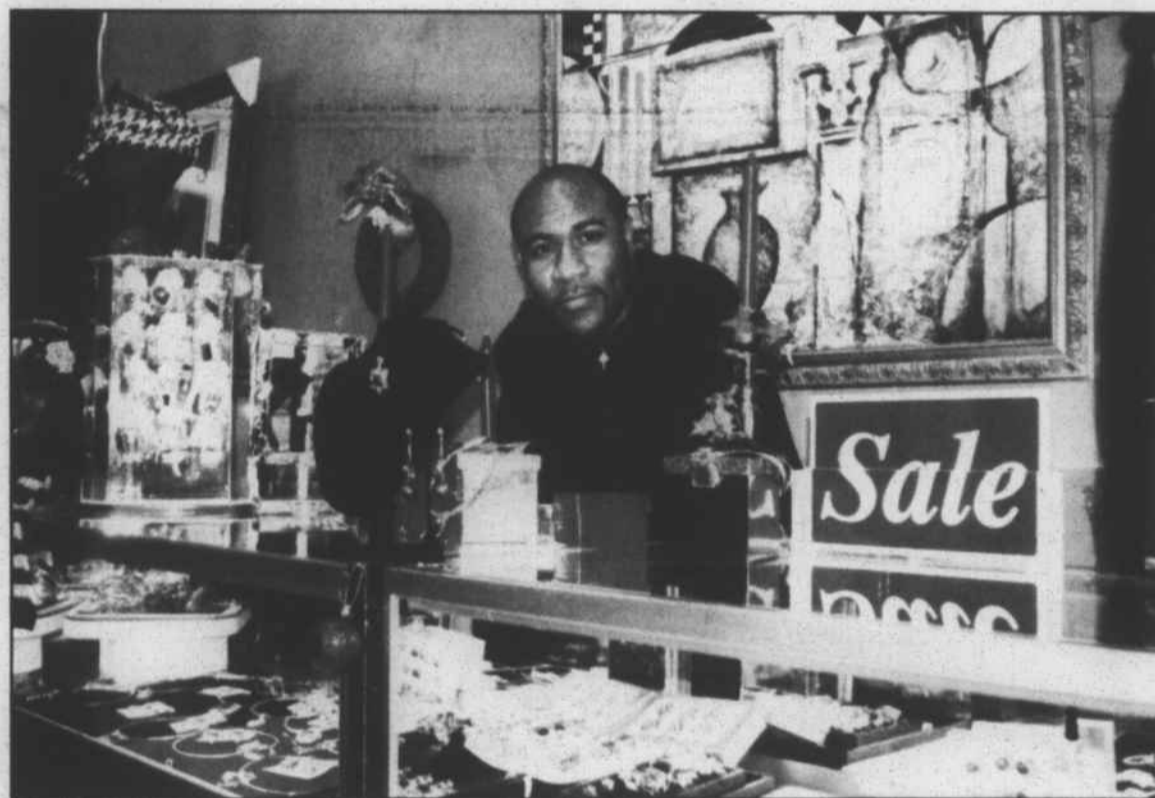


Photo by Layla Farmer

Noel Miller has overcome many hardships in his quest to own a successful business.

been calling you' ... and I submitted," said Miller, who is also a reggae artist. "I made a vow (then). I told God if I ever left that life alone, I wouldn't turn

back."

Miller set his sights on opening his own boutique. He started out small.

"I started in the flea market,

with one table and a dream," he stated. "Everything I had started from scratch. It was just me and God."

See Miller on A5

A GIVING TREE



Photo by Todd Luck

Students and teachers in the ESL Academy at Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy pose with a Christmas tree that they built last week from more than 1,000 non-perishable food items collected during a school-wide food drive to benefit Crisis Control Ministries. See the full story on page B1.

Kwanzaa events begin Sunday

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds are expected to attend citywide events in observance of Kwanzaa, the non-religious holiday that celebrates African American heritage by observing a different principle on each of the seven days immediately following Christmas.

The history of the celebration in Winston-Salem dates back to 1977, when a group of families gathered to observe the holiday together. Since that time, Kwanzaa - observed around the world from Dec. 26-Jan 1 - has grown to encompass the entire community. Triad Cultural Arts has organized the event since 2007. The organization has also hosted



File Photo

A young woman lights a kinara at a local Kwanzaa event.

a smattering of other cultural events, including the annual Triad Juneteenth Celebration.

"I just love it when you have an opportunity to

express your history and your culture." TCA Founder Cheryl Harry said of Kwanzaa. "Our ancestors

See Kwanzaa on A10

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

BUY LOCAL



WS CHAMBER



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