



WSSU coach, player earn kudos

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Program to push for more gardens

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Freedom celebrated on first day of '11

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 6, 2011

## WSTA embracing technology

Customers can soon track exact location of their hybrid bus using cell phones

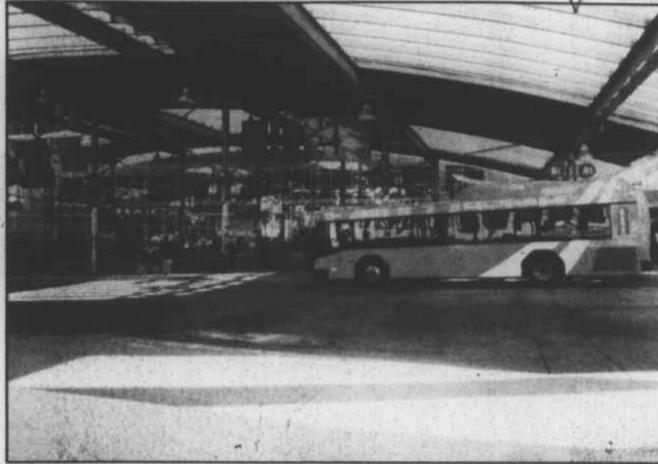
BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

The wait is almost over for those who use public transportation.

Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) riders will soon be able to track the arrival time of their bus down to the minute through smart phones, the WSTA Web site, and even by using on-site computer systems that will be set up at select locations.

All of it will be made possible when WSTA starts using the Real Time Passenger Information System (RTPIS), which should be fully operational by the end of 2011. WSTA General Manager Art Barnes anticipates that the high-tech system will allow riders to better plan their activities without having to factor in variables such as a bus that is running late due to heavy traffic.

Although Barnes said that WSTA has a 98-99 percent on-time rating, he believes the RTPIS will enhance



One of the city's 20 hybrid buses docks at the Clark Campbell Center.

Photo by Layla Farmer

potential customers' overall perception of the bus system and willingness to utilize it.

"It'll make people a lot more

comfortable in respect to catching the bus and knowing that it will be on time," he said. "I think it'll have a positive effect in terms of people

utilizing the system and depending on it."

The idea appeals to 26 year-old Tremaine Springs, a business administration student at Forsyth Technical Community College who uses the buses several times a week to get back and forth to school and work. Springs, a city native, says he sometimes waits as long as 30 minutes to catch the bus. He said that being able to check the exact location of his bus using a computer or cell phone could cut his wait time.

"It will help a whole lot, for the simple fact that, with the weather changing, you won't have to stand at the bus stop (for long)," he related. "It'll make me feel a lot better about riding the bus."

WSTA is one of four Triad-area transit systems that will adopt the RTPIS software, which was developed by NextBus Inc. The Greensboro Transit Authority, Piedmont Authority for Regional

See WSTA on A5



## New magnet schools to launch

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

When the magnet school enrollment period opened Jan. 1, parents and students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system had more choices than ever before.

Three new schools - Kennedy Learning Center, Konnoak and Brunson Elementary schools - will offer magnet school curriculums beginning in the 2011-2012 school year.

Magnet schools are equipped with unique courses and programs designed to draw a wide array of students from throughout the county.

Kennedy, which began a restructuring process this school year, will offer a Career Technical Education (CTE) program focused on restaurant management, health care, construction and design and creative enterprises.

Konnoak will adopt a theme of international languages and technology and offer a Mandarin Chinese language immersion program, a first for the school system at the elementary level. Brunson will become a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) magnet school.

Each school will use fed-



Morrison

See Schools on A9

## Noted artist Tompkins relocates to Twin City

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

America's greatest pencil artist now calls Winston-Salem home. Lee Tompkins, who is also an acclaimed musician, moved to the Twin City last year. The 47-year-old said that he was looking for a change of pace from his native New York City.

Tompkins' road to artistic fame began in Brooklyn, where his mother raised him and his seven siblings. His family's modest finances didn't stop him from pursuing his love of art. Pencils and paper were always the first things on his Christmas wish list.

"That's all I wanted was a number two pencil and a blank sheet of paper," said Tompkins. "I didn't want a bicycle. I knew we couldn't afford it."

His mom did buy him the art supplies that he needed, including a pencil set that came in its own little box. Today, he still uses that box to hold the pencils that he uses to create black and white drawings that sell for thousands of dollars. Tompkins is best known for his popular photorealistic black and white work with pencils on tile board, but he has also created watercolor portraits, still lifes and landscapes on paper.

Growing up in the Big Apple gave Tompkins the opportunity to



Tompkins uses a keyboard generator to create his instrumental music.

See Tompkins on A2



Photos by Todd Luck

Lee Tompkins holds one of his watercolor prints.

## Mother, daughter featured in Oprah's magazine

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

LaShonda Stone started off 2011 with a bang.

Stone, a full time student at Salem College, and her daughter, LaQuisha Stone, a senior at Carver High School, are prominently featured in the January edition of *O: The Oprah Magazine*.

The three page article by Stephanie Pearson details the mother-daughter team's trip to Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain, last spring. The trip was funded by Hanesbrands, Inc. which footed the bill for Stone, LaQuisha and Carver Guidance Counselor Theresa Hamer to trek to the mountain's base camp - at an elevation of over



17,000 feet - as part of its Expedition Hanesbrands. LaQuisha was chosen based on an essay she authored detailing her "personal Everest," becoming a successful music producer.

Stone, a single mother of two, agreed to accompany her daughter on the 21-day excursion in remote

Nepal.

"I had to kind of prepare myself mentally for it because neither one of us knew what we were getting into," she admitted, "but I was still anxious to get there."

The team, which included Pearson and a handful of native Sherpa guides, trekked for 13 days through the treacherous terrain to reach the base camp. It was not an easy journey for Stone, who suffers from an irregular heartbeat and a thyroid condition that can cause shortness of breath.

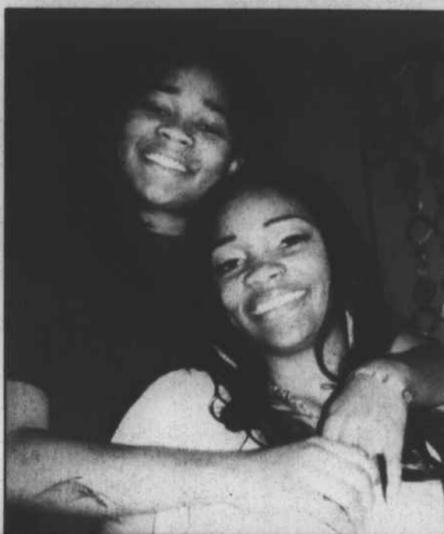
"They had to get a horse for me (to ride) because I was struggling, but I didn't care," related Stone, an interior design major. "If one person couldn't make it, the whole

See Stone on A2

Photos by Layla Farmer

City native LaShonda Stone (right) with her daughter LaQuisha, 18.

Far right: LaQuisha poses on Mt. Everest in this photo at the start of the "O" article.



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