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MEAC action is set to begin

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East Forsyth students shine

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Vol. XXXVII No. 27

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, March 3, 2011

Taylor pushes for more inclusion

Freshman Council Member says City should require a 10 percent rule for minority businesses

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

As a city that prides itself on being an inclusive community, Winston-Salem is falling short in its support of local minority/women-owned businesses.

That is the charge of City Council Member James Taylor Jr., who was elected to represent the Southeast Ward a little more than a year ago.

Taylor, one of four black members of the nine-member City Council, says he has been calling for changes in requirements for city contracts since he was elected, but has not made much headway so far.

"The bottom line is putting minorities and women to work and I don't think we're doing the best job we can do with that," Taylor stated.

He is asking the City Council to implement a 10 percent Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) participation minimum requirement for consideration on contracts for projects awarded by the city, meaning that at least 10 percent of the dollars awarded to a company/contractor would be spent on the services of a minority- or woman-owned company. If there is no M/WBE company in the area that is capable or qualified to do the work, the prime (main) contractor must present documentation of this fact to the Council, showing that it made a good faith effort to include M/WBEs in the process, Taylor said.

"This is simply a goal, not a mandate," he explained. "We hope to reach it, but we don't necessarily have to reach it."

The state of North Carolina requires 10 percent minority and business participation, as does Forsyth County, Taylor said, but the City of Winston-Salem has no set minimum. Based on what he's seen, Taylor says 10 percent participation is a realistic goal.

Ruben Gonzales, coordinator of the city's

See Taylor on A5



Taylor



Delores McGregor is overcome with emotion as students honor her on Friday.

Photos by Layla Farmer

Everyday Heroine

Longtime educator honored during Black History celebration

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Every February, students at Kimberley Park Elementary School honor black icons from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Booker T. Washington, Rosa Parks and Langston Hughes. This year, the school added another name to the list of notable African Americans, that of Delores McGregor, a longtime educator who has spent nearly three decades at the school.

McGregor was surprised

See McGregor on A10



City Council Member Denise "DD" Adams congratulates McGregor.



Common chats with De'Noia Woods after his speech in Wait Chapel.

Photos by Todd Luck

COMMON KNOWLEDGE

Rapper advocates for greatness

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Rapper/actor Common encouraged students to aspire to greatness during remarks he gave last Friday at Wake Forest University.

"Greatness" was the theme of his address, which the Chicago native used to talk about some of the people who inspired and motivated him. They included his mother, a math teacher and an uncle who coached his youth basketball team. The rapper said they each encouraged him to find his path in life.

"One of the most beautiful things ... about once you find your path, is that work is not really work anymore because you really are passionate about it," said Common. "This is something you would do even if you weren't getting paid."

Born Lonnie Rashid Lynn, Common is known as the "King of Conscious Hip Hop" for his thought-provoking musical messages.

See Common on A5

PASSIONATE MESSAGE



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garms

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, an author, Columbia University professor and one of the most sane voices on the Fox News Network, gets animated during his recent remarks at Winston-Salem State University. Hill gave the keynote address on Feb. 17 at Black Men for Change's 7th Annual Black Male Symposium.

'Iron Woman'

Stroke survivor inspires others with her commitment to fitness

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Her nickname might be Cotton, but Willie Conrad is anything but soft.

The 62 year-old city resident's workout schedule rivals that of a part time job, one without the benefit of many off days.

On Monday and Wednesday mornings, the Newberry, SC-native can be found at the Rupert Bell Recreation Center, taking part in its Sittercise classes. She returns to the center in the evenings, to participate in Power Workouts. The rest of the week,

she's at the Winston Lake Family YMCA, where she has become a fixture in the kettlebell, spin cycling and hula



classes. Occasionally, Conrad says she'll work out on an abbreviated schedule on Saturdays and Sundays or take a day off to give herself a break, but she doesn't like to be away from the gym long.

"I love it," she said of working out. "If I miss my exercise, I feel like 'Oh my goodness, something is missing' ... it's got to really be something (major happening) for me to just miss my exercise."

In the fitness classrooms, Conrad is

See 'Cotton' on A10



Photos by Layla Farmer

Cotton Conrad leaves the Winston Lake Family YMCA, where she works out several times a week.

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