



WSSU runners give their all at meet

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Twins cited for service to others

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Play used to tackle anti-Islam movement

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THURSDAY, April 14, 2011

Ball Park to honor blacks of West End

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The BB&T Ballpark will pay homage to the storied and little known past of its locale Saturday, with the unveiling of a historical marker for the African American West End on its grounds.

The African American West End was an insulated community situated within the larger Caucasian populace that is most often associated with the West End moniker.



Brown

Seventy-five year-old Julia Page Brown, who was born on the street where the stadium now sits, remembers the black West End community fondly.

"We had a lot of unity there," she said. "Everybody knew everybody and we just did things together."



Bailey

The ballpark was not the first large scale construction project to change the landscape of her former home, Brown said. "I-40 (Business) came through there and it took a lot of our community," she said. "A lot of my friends and family had to move."

Together with the more than 35 members of the West End Reunion Association, Brown has staged an annual gathering to bring her old neighbors together since 2005. She said the construction of the ballpark was bittersweet for many former residents.

"We hated to see our land go, but we are proud that something's out there for everyone to see," she said. "We were very proud that something positive was being done with our land."

Brown says the marker is a great way to remember her childhood home.

"I went for it all the way. I said, 'This will be nice,'" she related. "People that stop at the stoplight can read it and we're going to be proud of that. I wish my parents and all of the other members whose parents are deceased could see it. They would be proud."

The Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission was responsible

See West End on A9

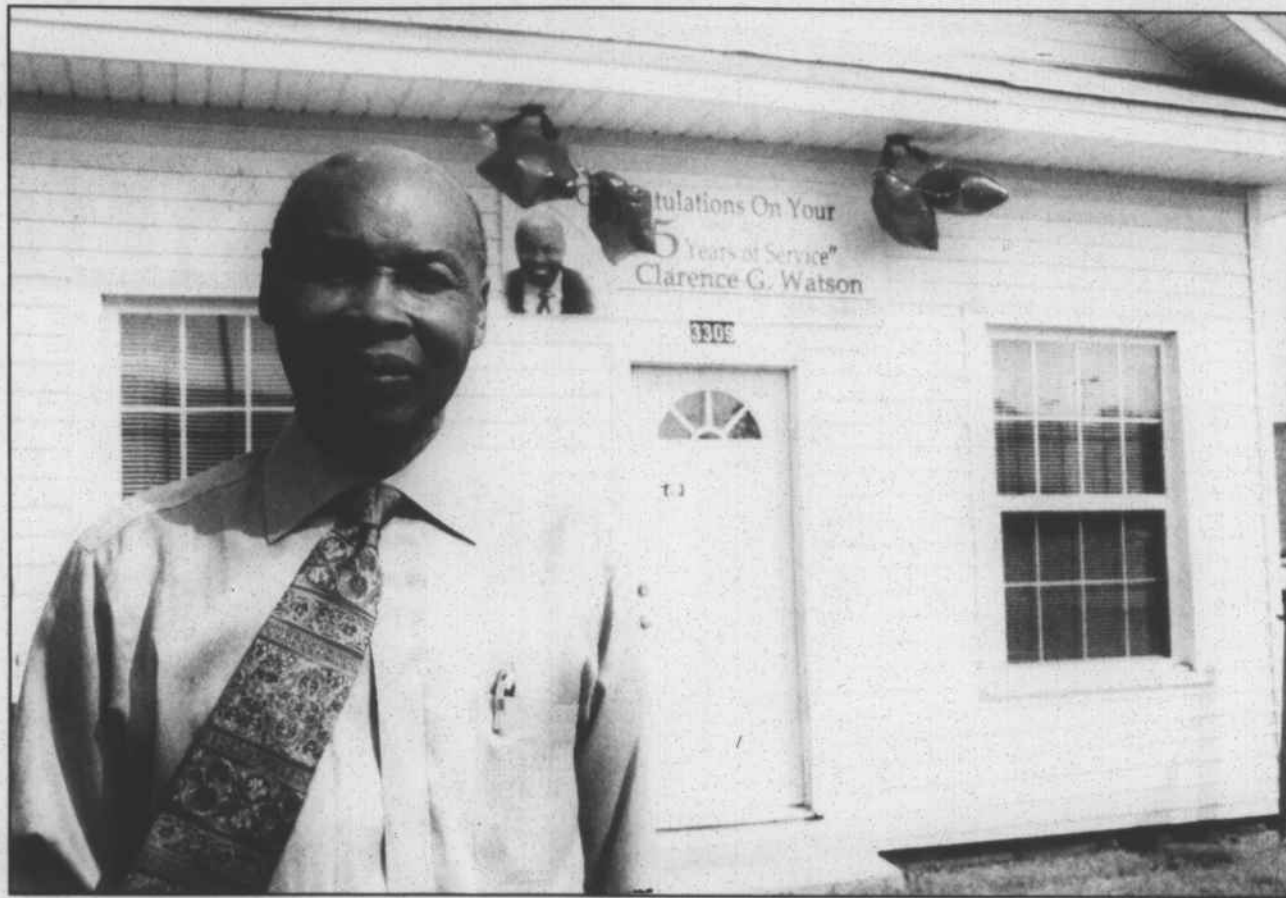


Photo by Layla Farmer

Clarence Watson stands in front of CG Watson & Associates, Inc. at 3309 North Liberty St. The veteran accountant is set to retire in June after more than 40 years of service.

'11 tax season last for Watson

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Clarence Watson still has the records of the taxes he prepared in 1968, and he still has many of his clients from that era, too.

But the 2011 tax season will be the last for Watson, owner of CG Watson & Associates, Inc. on Liberty Street. He is retiring in June, after 45 years of service to the community.

Watson, a native of Clemmons and graduate of Winston-Salem State University, said he kind of fell into tax preparation.

"When I first got married, I went to have my taxes filled out and he charged me to fill them out and then I had to pay Internal Revenue, so I said, 'If I have to pay for this, I'll do them myself,'" he said with a grin.

Watson didn't go into taxes immediately, at least not full time. He used his education degree and took a job teaching seventh grade in Virginia for several years before returning to the Twin City, where he worked for R.J. Reynolds and later Goodwill Industries as director of Student Services. For years, he juggled his full time career and his passion for working with numbers.

"I started out on my own; it was a small clientele. I still have some of them with me," he stated. "...I'd go to Goodwill in the day and work eight hours and after I went to Goodwill, I'd work in the tax office, sometimes until midnight."

Finally, Watson had made the transition to doing taxes full time.

"It was a switch, but you're still dealing with people and you try to help them," he said. "...During that time, it wasn't a real big challenge (to start a business) because if

See Watson on A11

Ex-inmates get job interviewing tips

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Michelle Johnson was educated with a good job and a nice house to raise her two sons in. But one mistake changed everything.

Johnson, a native of Washington, DC, said she was arguing with her son's father one evening when things escalated and she accidentally shot him in the leg. Johnson said it was six months before the charges against her were dropped. By that time, she had been dismissed from her job as a customer service supervisor because of the case. Since the charges were dropped in 2007, Johnson says she has struggled to find permanent employment. Although she was never convicted, the charges



Photo by Layla Farmer

Brent Bailey addresses participants.

she once faced still appear on her record when potential employers run a criminal background check.

"It's frustrating because my financial situation has plummeted," Johnson related. "I've gone

from a 780 (credit) score to bankruptcy. It really has been rough because I'm the sole provider for my kids."

The 47 year-old Morgan State alumna said she has been piecing together temp jobs to make ends meet, but the prolonged nature of her situation has been a heavy burden to bear.

"I've had to use all of my 401k; I've depleted every asset that I have, even my oldest son's college account, trying to hold onto my house," she said. "I feel like everything on the news applies to me, and it's not that I don't want to work, it's because I can't find a job."

Earlier this week, Johnson took a different approach, by enrolling in a three-hour work-

See Interview on A10

ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT



Photo by Todd Luck

Jayleen Mack receives a certificate of achievement from Diggs Gallery's Belinda Tate. He is one of many high school seniors whose art is now on display at Diggs. To read more, see B1.

HARD-KNOCK LIFE

Exercise shows students how hard it is in the real world

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Childcare or cable? Dropping the cell phone or getting a second job?

Those are the kinds of questions adults ask themselves everyday when caught between an economic rock and hard place. Students at Philo Middle School were put into adult shoes and faced with similar dilemmas last week. The United Way of Forsyth County's Women's Leadership Council (WLC) brought the "School of Hard Knocks" to Philo on Friday.

Eighth graders got a taste of adulthood as volunteers from the Council helped them figure out if the income generated from specific careers would be



Photo by Todd Luck

Christopher Littlejohn at one of the tables at "School of Hard Knocks."

See Hard Knocks on A5

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