



NCCU Women travel to Jamaica

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Night to remember for local students

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Local golfer to hold Jr. Clinic

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## Outreach to be key for new health chief

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Department of Public Health will soon have a new leader.

The Forsyth County Board of Health announced last week that it had unanimously selected Marlon Hunter — administrator of the Gadsden County Health Department in Quincy, Fla. He will be the county's first black health director.

Board Chair Dr. Linda Petrou said the Board was attracted to Hunter, 38, in part because of his penchant for establishing connections between the Health Department and the community. She is hopeful that he will use that skill to raise awareness of the many programs and services that the Forsyth County Health Department provides.

"We've thought for a long time that the Health Department is invisible. It's seen as a place for poor people, and that is not the case," said Petrou, a Pittsburgh native who is in her second term on the Board. "...One of the things he is going to do is raise the visibility of the Department because there's a lot of things available, for people in East Winston and in Buena Vista."

Petrou said she and the other Board members - who selected Hunter from a pool of nearly a dozen highly-qualified applicants who responded to a nationwide search last spring - were impressed with the initiatives that Gadsden County has implemented under Hunter's leadership.

"He's all about public health; he's all about involving the community," Petrou said. "He's just got some great ideas on how to do things without necessarily spending a lot of money."

Hunter, the father of an 11 year-old daughter, has spent the last 16 years in the health care field, including serving as an industrial hygienist for Carolinas HealthCare Systems in Charlotte. Among Hunter's proudest accomplish-

See Hunter on A9



Hunter



Popcorn Fanatic's Sharon Debnam teaches U.S. Rep Mel Watt the art of making gourmet popcorn.

## Popcorn & Politics

Watt likes President Obama's chances in '12

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Rep. Mel Watt made stops in Winston-Salem and other towns and cities in his 12th Congressional District this week as part of his 15th annual Trading Places tour.

When Congress is in recess, Watt uses the tours to work alongside his constituents at their places of business to hear their perspectives and gain their insights on the issues he tackles in Washington.

This year, Watt's local stops included serving as an environmental consultant at Volt Energy on Town Run Lane and as a salesperson at the Popcorn Fanatic in Silas Creek Crossing shopping

center. "If you're on an assembly line beside an employee, they'll talk to you about things they'll never come to your office and say," he said of Trading Places. "Ninety-nine percent of America is the silent majority ... but if you ever get them in their setting, in their comfort zone, you'll find out exactly what's on their mind, and that's the fascinating part."

After he had served samples to a handful of guests and even sold a bag of popcorn he dubbed "Watt Pop," at the Popcorn Fanatic Monday afternoon, Watt spoke about the problems that Washington is tackling.

The Democrat believes talks

See Watt on A10

## Racing to the Head of the Class

Track club prepares kids for victories in the classroom

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

The Next Level Track Club of Winston-Salem helped local students prepare for the new school year this week during its annual Jump Start program.

Held at the W.R. Anderson Recreation Center, Jump Start is a free, three-day program that pairs youth of all ages with tutors to brush up on their academics just before the start of school.

The program, which is now in its fourth year, was initiated by Learmond "Buddy" Hayes, one of Next Level's founders, and sponsored by Golden State Foods.

"What we wanted to do was combine the academic path with athletics," said Hayes, a grandfather of four who has coached youth track for more than 25 years. "Instead of just being a track team, we wanted to take it to the next level like our name says."

Next Level athletes recently completed the outdoor track season, and Hayes said he felt it was important to help the athletes and other youth shift their focus back to education after a long summer break. He modeled the Jump Start program, which focuses primarily



LaQuanda Quick, a teacher and coach at West Forsyth, works with Jump Start students.

on language arts and math skills, after a similar initiative at a local private school.

"We need to do more than just give these children an outlet through athletics," he said. "We should involve learning just as much as we involve athletics."

Jump Start attracted around 110 youngsters in its first two days, said Center Director Bryant McCorkle. Many of the youth involved are members of the



NL Athlete Marki McRae.

Center's ongoing summer camp, which also has a strong academic focus, McCorkle explained.

"We try to do more than sports; everybody don't like sports," said the WSSU alumnus, whose 13 year-old son is a former Next Level athlete. "It's good to have basketball camps, but you've got to have that education component to help the kids get ready for

See Tutoring on A2



## TRUE GIANT

Former Winston-Salem Pond Giants player and owner Nathan Revel, holds the ball he threw for the ceremonial first pitch at Saturday night's Winston-Salem Dash game at BB&T Stadium. The Pond Giants, a local semi-professional team that played from 1914-1998, was honored at the game. To read more, see B1.

Photo by Todd Luck

## Biggs returns home to screen her film

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Actress Jahmela Biggs has appeared on "CSI: Miami" and in the film "The Green Hornet," but for Biggs, a city native, one of the most rewarding moments of her career was coming back home last week to screen one of her latest film projects.

"I see so many faces, people that I love, people that I consider my family. It means the world to me that y'all are here," Biggs said, addressing the crowd gathered in the A/perture theater on Fourth Street to watch "Cocoa Love." "It (the film) has been on BET but I must say this is the most special."

Biggs, the daughter of former District and Appellate Court Judge Loretta Biggs and Realtor Larry Biggs, made the trek from Los Angeles, where she now resides, for the special screening.



Homegrown starlet Jahmela Biggs chats with a supporter last week after her film screening.

See Biggs on A9

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