



WSSU basketball teams hit the court

-See Page B8



Actor returns home to tout show

-See Page A2



Cops fire in battle engage in battle

-See Page B1

North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
666 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
75 cents
Celebrating 37 Years
Community Journalism

THE CHRONICLE

15 120/11 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101
N-C ROOM
FORSYTH CTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
666 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

Vol. XXXVIII No. 8

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, October 20, 2011

Occupy Winston movement in motion

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Locals have joined the Occupy Wall Street movement, which began in New York City about a month ago.

Protestors have taken to the streets to denounce what they say is corporate greed and the growing gulf between the haves and have-nots.

Only a few weeks old, Occupy Winston-Salem held its first press conference last week and its first protest on Sunday. Locals say they joined the movement to express their growing dissatisfaction.



Photo by Todd Luck

Nathan Welling uses pasta to illustrate the concept of strength in numbers at last week's press conference.

Winston-Salem native Ashya Hammond, a mother of three who owns a small landscaping company with her husband, found out about the local movement on Facebook.

"I joined this movement because it represents a voice that's not currently being represented through our government policy and I wanted to show my kids what democracy looks like," she said.

Hammond said the group discussed "occupying" a park or other highly visible space like the Occupy Wall Street and other movements have done, but members couldn't find a way to do it legally in Winston-Salem.

The group has instead decided to conduct old fashioned demonstrations. Members said the group is working closely with the Winston-Salem Police Department to obtain permits for their protests, so they expect no problems with police like other Occupy movements have had.

Occupy Winston's first protest, which attracted about 200 people, was held Sunday in front of the Bank of America branch on South Stratford Road. Bank of America is often cited by Occupy protestors as an example of what is wrong with Corporate America. The corporation has been criticized

See Occupy on A11



Photos by Layla Farmer

Richard Watts Jr., this year's Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, sits at his desk at Winston-Salem Prep.

Below: WSPA students, faculty and staff surprise Watts with a congratulatory cake last week.

Principal with Principles

Watts still modest about successes after second top principal award

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy Principal Richard Watts Jr. has built his career one relationship at a time.

Watts, a native of Fredericksburg, Va., said he was honored last week to be named Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools' Principal of the Year for the second time in his 28-year educational career.

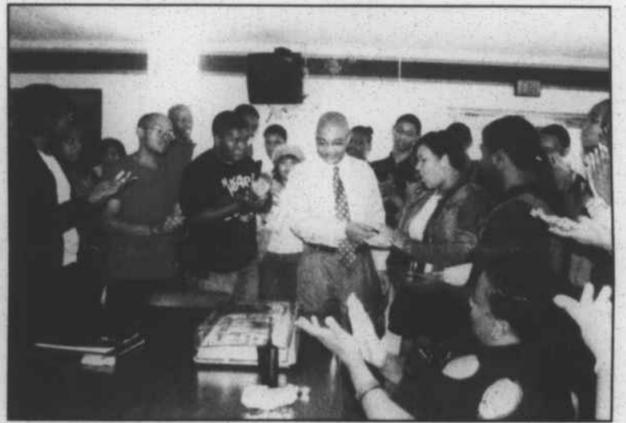
"I'm just humbled that someone recognizes what I'm trying to do for the kids," he said.

Yet, it's the bonds Watts, the oldest of five children, has formed with students along the way that mean the most to him, not the accolades.

"It's about building relationships and making the kids believe in you," said the 49 year-old. "For me, when kids call me 'daddy' ... I know I've really made a connection."

As an African American male, Watts has always been in the minor-

See Watts on A10



Budding opera star uses talent to break barriers

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE



Piedmont Opera Photo
Michael Redding as "Don Giovanni."

In the midst of a prolific career that has taken him around the globe, UNC School of the Arts alumnus Michael Redding is returning to a familiar place later this month, as the principal (lead singer) in Piedmont Opera's Don Giovanni.

Redding, a baritone, is a resident of Chicago and a 1999 alumnus of the school. He will portray Giovanni, a villainous womanizer, in the opera, which will be staged at Stevens Center on Oct. 28, Oct. 30 and Nov. 1. As an African American male, the 34 year-old, who holds a master's degree in music from Indiana University, says that he is a bit of an anomaly in the opera world.

"In the production I'm in right now, I'm the only black principal, and that's not

abnormal," Redding stated.

Yet Redding - who recently appeared in the Seattle Opera's production of "Porgy and Bess" - says he doesn't let his race hold him back.

"My professors would always prep me by saying, 'You know you're going to have to be twice as good as the rest of them,'" he related. "I quit with that chip on my shoulder. I eventually started saying, 'I just have to be better than myself,' because that's pretty high (standards)."

Redding says not everyone has been as willing to set the issue of race aside as he has.

"There's so many roles that I think I can sing, but I'm not necessarily sure that these companies would have me to sing against their prima donna female of another race," he said. "I don't think it's a racist issue, I just don't think people can see outside of their boxes right now."

Despite the obvious setbacks, Redding has enjoyed a prolific career, appearing in nearly 20 productions on stages in more than a

See Redding on A12



Redding

Unfazed

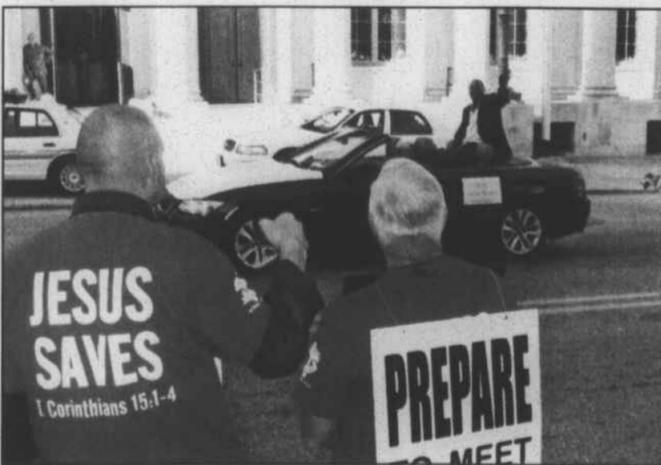


Photo by Kevin Walker

State Rep. Marcus Brandon waves to a group of silent protestors Saturday as he makes his way along the Winston-Salem PRIDE 2011 parade route. Brandon served as grand marshal of the gay pride parade, one of several events Saturday that attracted thousands to the downtown area.

Bi-lingual readers share tales

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

California-born Gabriela Lopez spent much of her life in Mexico, and since returning to the United States, the mother of two has made a point of supporting the local Hispanic community as much as possible.

Lopez, an employee of the International Center at Forsyth Technical Community College, put her bilingual skills to use Monday as a volunteer at Hall-Woodward Elementary's first-ever Hispanic Read-In.

"I think we should celebrate the differences among the communities and the cultures and just embrace the best of all cultures," she said.

The Read-In served as the culmination for the school's celebration of National Hispanic Heritage

See Readers on A9



Corley



Photos by Layla Farmer

Pastor Israel Ortiz of First Assembly Ministries addresses a class before reading his selection.

Spend it here.
Keep it here.

BUY LOCAL FIRST!



CHAMBER
A Mind For Business.

