



Heat is on in youth league

-See Page B8



Dropout rate is down in county

-See Page A5



Former inmates get chance to help

-See Page A3

# THE CHRONICLE

12 120712 1 \*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 27101  
N C ROOM  
FORSYTH CTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
660 W 5TH ST  
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

Vol. XXXVIII No. 25

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, February 16, 2012



Monarchs from left: Jonyvi Fogle, Jai Black, Jamaal Goodman, Sherrard Wells, Jalil Bash, Jonathan Winbush and Kendrick Hairston Jr.

## BB&T target of church boycott

Prominent local pastor stands by W-S-based bank

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem-based BB&T Corp. is the target of a boycott led by a national organization that claims to speak for thousands of African American churches.

The Washington, D.C.-based National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is calling on black churches nationwide to boycott BB&T because it says the bank doesn't support the black community - a charge that BB&T officials are vehemently denying.

According to the NBCI, it has a coalition of 34,000 churches, representing 15.7 million African-American congregants. The organization says that it is calling on all of its member-churches to boycott BB&T for the next seven years. The aim, according to a NBCI press release, is to reduce the bank's profits by 40 percent.

NBCI President Rev. Anthony Evans, who founded the coalition in 1991, said BB&T has a track-record of not working with the African American community. Evans said that after some deliberation, it was decided NBCI would initiate its first-ever boycott.

"Don't take my money and disrespect me by not investing in our community and foreclosing on our homes and our churches," said Evans, an assistant pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

BB&T was founded in the Tarheel State in 1872 and has become one of the nation's largest financial institutions, with \$174.6 billion in assets and 12,000 locations in 12 states and Washington, D.C. Most BB&T branches are located in the Southeast, which is also the area with the greatest number of NBCI churches.

Evans admits that there is some bad personal blood between NBCI and BB&T. Evans said NBCI approached BB&T with a plan to form a partnership to create

See BB&T on A6



Rev. Evans



Rev. Lartey

## The New Face of Lacrosse?

Youth league started in East Winston

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

A group of youngsters in East Winston will be trying their hand at a new sport this spring as they learn the art of playing lacrosse.

Triple P-Lax, a new organization created to provide mentorship and expand the athletic horizons of local African American youths, is behind the effort. Founder Marc Winbush says one of his main goals is to open young people's minds, allowing them to understand that sports don't begin with basketball and end with football.

"Our people fought too long for us to do better and have more for us to have that mindset," he said. "...I just wanted to make sure kids understand that the world is their oyster, don't put limits on yourself."

Winbush is a physical education teacher and director of the lacrosse program at Forsyth Country Day School. The

See Lacrosse on A11



Triple P-Lax Founder Marc Winbush (center) with assistant coaches Walter Black (left) and Dr. Perrin Black.

## Democrats encouraged to fight for November victories

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison told a group of local Democrats Saturday to embrace the things that set their party apart, while dedicating themselves to getting Democrats back in power in the North Carolina General Assembly and the U.S. Congress.



Campbell

"We as Democrats have got to stop pussy-footing around our diversity and be proud of it," said Ellison, the first Muslim American ever to be elected to Congress. "...if you turn your gaze to the other side of the aisle, it looks like a country club."

See Democrats on A9



Photo by Layla Farmer

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison (left) poses with his mother, Clida Ellison, and younger brother, Eric Ellison of Winston-Salem.

## Warnock calls on churches to fight for justice

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

The pastor of the church that was once led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told an audience at Winston-Salem State University last week that not enough churches are dedicated to fighting injustice.

"I would argue that the black church celebrates Dr. King and celebrates his movement as an extraordinary historical moment, but I'm not convinced at all that black churches, even while engaged in justice work, see justice as an essential part of their Christian identity," said Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, pastor of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King served as pastor before his ascent to national Civil Rights icon.

Warnock spoke as part of WSSU's long-running James A. Gray Lecture series, which explores religion and ethics issues. After a long pastoral career, Warnock became the youngest pastor in the history

See Warnock on A10



Photo by Todd Luck

Ebenezer Baptist Church's Dr. Raphael Warnock speaks at Winston-Salem State University last week.

## A Unified Front



Photo by Layla Farmer

A variety of local organizations and individuals gather at Salem College Monday to show their support for Race to the Ballot, a campaign against the controversial Amendment One, which would definitively ban gay marriage in the North Carolina. Read more on page A10.

**WS CHAMBER**  
A Mind For Business.

# BUY LOCAL FIRST!

Spent it here.  
Keep it here.

6-89076-32439-7