



**CIAA crystal ball likes the Rams**

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**UL programs attract jobseekers**

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# THE CHRONICLE

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(Top) New king and queen Keenan Easter and Vanity Oakes.  
(Above) Little Mister and Miss WSSU Semaj Reid and Medina Shareef.

## Ram Royalty

Homecoming week begins with coronation

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University crowned its new king and queen Monday night during an ornate ceremony at the K.R. Williams Auditorium.

Royals from universities across the state were on hand to Keenan Easter and Vanity Oakes, Mister and Miss Winston-Salem State University 2013-14. Thirty-six on campus organizations also sent their kings and queens to share in the momentous occasion, which adopted the theme "The Year of the Ram: An International Global Affair."

"The crowning ceremony is a time honored tradition," noted Student Government Association President Bryant Bell. "Tonight we are honored to share in this tradition."

Mister and Miss WSSU 2012-13, Corey McCoy and Ashley Mozingo, greeted the audience one final time before passing the torch to the new king

See Royals on A9

## Local homes get energy makeovers

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem residents may be able to save a little hard earned cash on utility bills this winter, courtesy of a new Duke Energy Carolinas program.

The company, which is expected to raise its rates across the state following the North Carolina Utilities Commission's approval of a proposed rate hike last month, is offering home energy assessments and installation of up to 16 energy-saving improvements to low-income residents through its Residential Neighborhood Program. Roughly 1,200 residents in Blum Park, Kimberly Park and surrounding

areas are eligible to participate in the program, which is offered free of charge to qualified participants.

"It's a new program but we're really excited about it because we're getting into the communities and we're really getting a great response from our customers about the new program," said Kristina Hill, a communications specialist for the Charlotte-based utility company. "We're helping the customers who need it the most take control of their energy costs by bringing energy efficiency right to their doorstep."

More than 1,400 eligible customers across the company's footprint have taken advantage of the



Davis



Pamela McIlwain stands outside her Cherry Street home.



## The Gospel

Photo by Kevin Walker

Anthony Douglas didn't hold back his excitement Sunday as he closed the first 2013 Gospel Fest concert with an electrifying performance. The Chronicle is sponsoring another concert event this coming Sunday at the Dixie Classic Fair. A fresh slate of talented artists will perform from 3-6 p.m. at the Fair's Clock Tower stage. See more from last Sunday's concert on B1.

## 'Twin Poets' use rhyme to change lives

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Words have power. Twins Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Albert "Al" Mills have carved their lives - and their careers - out of this simple belief. The brothers, otherwise known as the "Twin Poets" have traveled the world performing their spoken word poems, spreading messages of hope, healing and help for those whom society has cast aside.

The twins visited RJ Reynolds Magnet High School last week to share their insight and verbal prowess with budding art students.

Their visit was accompanied by the screening of "Twin Poets: Why I Write," a documentary film about the brothers' poetry and work within their community in Wilmington, Del.

Screened during the 2012 RiverRun Festival, the gritty, hard hitting documentary took viewers into the world that the twins call home, a town fraught with violence and crime, during the time when Chukwuocha served as associate director of the Kingswood Community Center. "Why I Write" captured the highs and lows the two men faced in their daily struggles to rescue the youth from the streets of Wilmington. The twins continue to battle the enormous pressure that threatens to lure Wilmington youth into a life of crime through Art for Life, a nonprofit they founded to "use the power of the arts to save and transform lives by empowering individuals and communities to create, utilize and support life giving art." Chukwuocha is executive director of the project.

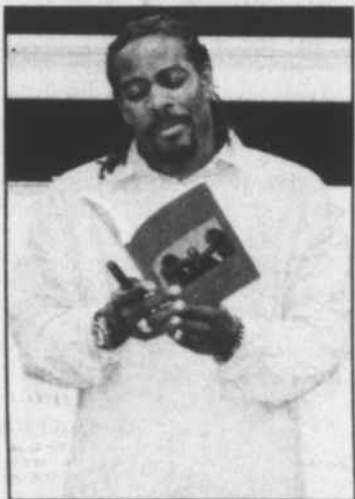
"These kids are beautiful and they have these wonderful gardens in them, but society has a way of putting bricks on top of their flowers," remarked Mills, who serves as associate executive director and as county director for MST (Multi-systemic Therapy) Juvenile Services. "...Every day, we're removing bricks."

Following in the footsteps of their late father, William "Hicks" Anderson, a well known community activist, the twins have dedicated their lives - and their poetry - to showing the young people in their community the path to a better life.

"We love this," Mills told students in an English class the twins visited after the screening on Oct. 2. "This is what our lives are about - sharing our work and working with children."

The twins' appearance, sponsored by RiverRun's Films with Class program, was part of a slate of Reynolds activities that included a school-wide poetry slam and performances by local poetry troupe Authoring Action. Chukwuocha, Mills and "Why I Write" Filmmaker Sharon Baker led master classes for English, journalism, creative writing, performing arts and documentary film-making students.

"Ninety eight percent of our writing is geared toward



Al Mills



Nnamdi Chukwuocha

See Twins on A2

## 'Happyness,' Inc.

Author/businessman gives inspiring speech

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

"The Pursuit of Happyness," both the book and movie adaption, has been called the ultimate rags to riches story, but the book's author, Chris Gardner, calls it something else: a love story between a father and son.

Gardner told this to an audience of hundreds Sunday afternoon at the Arts Council Theatre in the speech he delivered to culminate Forsyth County Library's 2013 On the Same Page community-read program. Over the past several weeks, county residents were

See Gardner on A2 Chris Gardner speaks Sunday.



Photo by Todd Luck

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