



Former Ram lands NASCAR pit crew job

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Series of dinners to benefit agency

-See Page A8



THE CHRONICLE

Volume 40, Number 22

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 23, 2014

Moving Forward



Photo by Todd Luck

Hundreds march along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Monday – which was the federal holiday dedicated to the slain civil rights leader – to the Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State University to hear a series of speakers talk about some of the most pressing issues of our time. The march and program were sponsored by the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity. Read more in this week's special MLK tabloid.



Photos by Layla Garms

Council members unveil new plaque.

MLK plaque hung at City Hall

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

City leaders paid homage to a piece of local history Tuesday, with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in historic City Hall.

The plaque, which adorns the wall just outside Council Chambers, denotes the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen's unanimous vote on Dec. 16, 1985 to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a city holiday. Mayor Allen Joines praised the action of the Aldermen (which is what City Council members were called up until 13 years ago), calling it a "courageous vote."

"At that time, there were still states across the United States that had not made Martin Luther King Day an official holiday," Joines noted.

The city observed its first King Day on Jan. 20, 1986 in accordance with the federal holiday, which was also recognized for the first time that year. Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke said she conceived of the plaque as a means of educating citizens and visitors to the city about its storied history.

"I believe that we were one of the early cities to make this an official holiday, and I felt that we needed to have a plaque to hang up (denoting that fact)," commented Burke, who has served on the Council since 1977. "It needs to show somewhere in City Hall so when people tour City Hall, they will see that we respect the work that Dr. King did... Anything to reflect and show that diversity is important."

Approving Burke's motion to commission the plaque was among City Council member Jeff MacIntosh's first actions on the Council.

"I think it's great. I was here in Winston when it was going on and it's kind of interesting to look back on it from our perspective now," said MacIntosh, who was elected to the Northwest Ward seat in November. "... There were definitely elements of the



Womble

Submitted Photo

Forsyth County resident Arthur Hardin pauses for a photo earlier this month in the Superdome in the days leading up to the recent Sugar Bowl.



Sweet officiating gig for local man

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Football fans across the city may have recognized a familiar face when they tuned into the 2014 Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2.

Winston-Salem resident Arthur Hardin graced the small screen as a part of the 11-member crew of officials at the Sugar Bowl at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, La. this year. The game, which featured a 45-31 upset of the No. 3 Alabama Crimson Tide by the No. 11 Oklahoma Sooners, was the most watched Sugar Bowl since 2004, according to Nielsen ratings, which put the viewership at nearly 17 million. It was a pivotal moment in Hardin's career as an official.

"I was a little bit shocked that I would get a BCS game," confessed the 56-year-old, whose career spanned the better part of three decades. "... For me to even achieve

that is still a little bit unreal."

Being selected to work a bowl game is an honor reserved only for the best officials, and the prestige of the moment wasn't lost on Hardin, an academic success counselor at Winston-Salem State University for the last decade.

"This might be my Andy Warhol 15 minutes of fame," he said, "but I'm very humbled by the whole experience."

Hardin said he could never have reached the levels he has attained as an official without the guidance of his elders, folks like Vince Parker, a retired Winston-Salem/Forsyth County principal who spent 29 years as an official before retiring his stripes three years ago. Parker, a city native and WSSU alumnus, said he met Hardin on the football field over a decade ago, and

decided to take the younger official under his wing.

"He was very articulate. He was very smart. He wanted to be a part of the game," recalled the father of two. "Just like me, he loved the game and he was very motivated to learn. His love and his desire for the game just caught my interest and I said, 'Well you can tag along.'"

Hardin, a native of Beckley, W.Va., began officiating recreation league basketball in 1983, and worked his way up the ranks to junior varsity and varsity high school basketball and football games and later, collegiate football. Although he has begun encountering the grandchildren of some of his former players



Parker

See Hardin on A7

See Plaque on A8

Caldwells, Pauls help make new center a reality

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Youngsters at the Salvation Army International Corps Boys & Girls Club now have state-of-the-art technology at their fingertips, thanks to a collaborative effort led by two organizations with local ties.

Officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the facility on Jan. 21 to celebrate the opening of the Project Phoenix Learning Center at the International Corps,



Robin and Charles Paul

See Center on A7



Photos by Layla Garms

From left: Damaris Martin, Tiffany Garcia-Petatan, Gabriela Loyd try out the new computers.

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