



### Rough patch for North Forsyth

-See Page B10



### Weight loss challenge underway at YMCA

-See Page B1

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# THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, February 6, 2014

## Residents assured new cell towers are safe

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Monday evening, the City Council voted to amend the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), allowing cell phone towers to be erected in residential communities. (They had previously only been allowed in business zones). The Council will still need to approve sites and plans for individual towers before they go up.

At the Enterprise Center last Thursday evening, days before the unanimous vote, residents – mainly those who live in the East and Southeast wards – learned more about the change.

"We wanted to have this particular opportunity for people to come out and



Photo by Todd Luck  
City Council members Derwin Montgomery (left) and James Taylor address constituents at last week's meeting.

to hear firsthand your thoughts on this UDO change," said East Ward Council member Derwin Montgomery, who hosted Thursday's information and feedback session with colleague James Taylor,

who represents the Southeast Ward. "We don't vote on anything without meeting with our constituents first," Taylor said. "Something of this magni-

See Towers on A7



Photos by Layla Garms  
Montinique Cager poses with his wife, Pam at the recent mixer.

## Black Chamber's second wind

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

After a season of inactivity, The Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce wants to write new chapters.

Once a strong networking avenue for local professionals, the Black Chamber's vitality had waned in recent years, explained Chamber President

Randon Pender, but a core group of leaders is working to restore the organization to its former glory.

"I'm committed – I believe in it," Pender said of the Black Chamber, which she helped to launch more than a decade ago. "I know that there is a need for it. I just can't let it rest."

Last fall, Pender and a handful of newly-appointed board members began hosting mixers in hopes of attract-

ing businessowners and professionals to the organization. The most recent mixer took place last Thursday evening at Carolina's Vineyards & Hops, which is owned by Black Chamber member Christopher Megginson.

"This has been an eye opener for me, because I did not realize how many small businesses there are in this area that don't even know that we exist," said Chamber Secretary Telissa Ward, owner of the DST Boutique in High Point. "We are here, and we're trying to reach out and get them to come in."

For the duration of the month of February, the Chamber is offering yearlong memberships at an introductory price of \$50. Dues-paying members will be highlighted on the Chamber's Web site and included in its business directory, but the support the Chamber provides is arguably its most valuable asset, said Ward, who has operated her business since 2009.

"I think a lot of times, funding is a big thing, especially for African

See Chamber on A8



Malone



Pender



Ward



## THE BRONZE LADY

Photo by Todd Luck

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke has been a presence at City Hall since 1977, and now, she'll be a presence for eternity. A bronze bust of Burke was unveiled before Monday evening's City Council meeting. It is a unique and dignified honor for the longest-serving Council member in the city's history. The unveiling was preceded by a series of kind remarks by Burke's Council colleagues and friends. Burke, who represents the Northeast Ward, was reelected to her ninth term last November.

## NEW PROGRAM AIMS TO PUT VETS TO WORK

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

City native Christopher Rose wouldn't trade his seven years in the Navy for the world.

"I had honestly what I would consider to be a great time in the military," he said. "...I loved it."

However, since leaving the military in 1998, things haven't been so easy for the father of two. Despite the training and experience he received, Rose quickly discovered that finding employment as a civilian was easier said than done.

"It was difficult to find the type of job that I wanted to do," noted the 40-year-old. "I was a communications electrician, and the biggest problem that I had was that they were looking for people with



Photo by Layla Garms

Veterans Sherod James (left) and Christopher Rose.

experience in the civilian sectors, and the only experience I had was in the military."

Over the last 15 years, Rose has held a wide variety of jobs, from an associate in a

video game arcade, to a forklift operator for Sam's Club. By last fall, he had made it back to his first love and was working as an electrician technician, but he was forced

to give up his job to care for his wife, who was ill. Rose took what he hopes will be his first step back into the working world last week, at the Goodwill on University Parkway, where Ability Services Program Manager Eddie Moser welcomed the first local participants in Operation: GoodJobs. The new program offers veterans help to find – and keep – sustainable jobs with livable wages.

"We want to help you guys," Moser told Rose and two others who braved snowy conditions to attend an open house event for the program on Jan. 29. "You have done a great service for us. We appreciate what you've done, and we want to say thank-you with more than words; we want to help you find jobs."

See GoodJobs on A7

## Black History Month?

Some say annual celebration has become trite

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

The black history flood gates opened on Feb. 1 and closes shut again March 1. That is a major gripe among many Black History Months critics.

"Rather than being treated as a separate and limited discipline,

divorced by the pigmentation of its subjects from 'mainstream' American history, the teaching of black history should hew to the principle of integration. Black Americans are not visitors putting on a cultural show, nor are they legally separated," Charles C. W.

See BHM on A2



Baker



Photo by Layla Garms

Yolanda Bolden at the East Winston Heritage Center.

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