

SPORTSWEEK

Reynolds picks up third Lash title

...
Lash tournament wrap-up



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See B1



See A5



See C1

COMMUNITY

Hundreds gather for 'Umoja'

...
Nigerian artist visits city

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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THE CHRONICLE

1974 - Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1999

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Most ringing in the new year quietly

Terrorist threats, Y2K bug mean evening at home

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

This weekend, Dwayne Cherry does not know what he is going to do to celebrate the coming new year. He is wary about heading to a party.

"There are a lot of crazy people out there," Cherry said.

Cherry has heard the rumors about terrorist attacks and a possible race war at the stroke of midnight. Those rumors were enough to make him consider spending the first night of the

year 2000 inside of his house, "chilling."

"I've not decided what I am going to do yet," Cherry said.

This New Year's Eve thousands of people have decided to head to parties in many cities around the country. Mingled in with the partygoers and travelers will be FBI agents and other law enforcement agents.

The FBI is on the lookout for terrorists, both foreign and

domestic, who may use the coming new year to bring havoc to millions. Five people suspected of having ties with terrorists were arrested crossing the U.S. border from Canada within a two-week span.

One man, Ahmed Ressam, an Algerian national, was arrested on Dec. 14. Border Patrol found nitroglycerin and other explosives along with timing devices in the trunk of Ressam's rental

car. Last fall, the FBI produced the Project Megiddo report, named for an ancient city in Israel that is the root of the word Armageddon.

It warns that when calendars turn to the year 2000, extremist groups and individuals that place some special significance on the new millennium may "present challenges to law

See Y2K on A11



Duane Glover, left, NYCE Data Center technician, works with NYCE Y2K specialists Monica Schwartzbach, center, and Mike Feingold on Year 2000 readiness in the company's Secaucus, N.J., facility. NYCE clients include 45 million ATM cardholders who rely on the company's Network will continue to have access to their funds.

A tale of four businesses



Tamitha Bell plays with some of the toys that will be featured at her La Cafe Kids. The club will be a hang out for kids.

Black leaders rally for LIFT Academy

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

LIFT Academy is claiming victory after a court proceeding to determine the charter school's fate was delayed until mid-January.

School officials are hoping that the victory will not be short-lived.

"I'm hoping that (the school) will remain open (after January)," said Earline Parmon, the school's executive director. "We just want to be able to focus on educating our students. Many of our students can't make it in traditional classrooms."

Parmon was in court fighting to enforce a restraining order that LIFT obtained last week to keep the state from revoking its charter. The state tried to get Superior Court Judge William Wood Jr. to revoke the order, claiming that the financial problems that led to the school losing its charter in the first place still were not rectified.

The school countered by calling witnesses that testified that it was getting its financial house in order. LIFT is charging that it was denied due process in the revocation of its charter.

LIFT has been dogged by questions over its finances for the entire year. The State Board of Education voted to revoke the school's charter on Dec. 3, citing the school's debt and its inability to eliminate it over the months.

Without its charter, the school will lose more than \$700,000 a year in state funds, making its existence virtually impossible.

LIFT's most recent semester, which ended in early December, was to be its last with a charter.

But the restraining order will remain in place at least until Jan. 17, meaning that LIFT students will be able to return to school for at least part of the upcoming semester.

See LIFT on A9

New guide showcases black Winston-Salem

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

When African Americans visit Winston-Salem, they will now have a map to the heart of African American history and culture.

The Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau and Alderwoman/Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke have produced an African American Historical and Culture Guide.

Burke and the CVB enlisted the help of local citizens with an interest in the history and culture of African Americans in Win-

ston-Salem to produce the guide.

Burke's vision and dedication were the driving force behind the guide, which is the first of its kind in Winston-Salem's history. The guide was designed to be used as a marketing tool to increase minority tourism in the city and county.

The guide begins with the history of Salem and Winston. It chronicles the settling of the city by German Moravians and then moves on to the strength of the African American church.

The guide is filled with black and white pictures of historical events in the history of Winston-

See Guide on A4



James Robert Miller III works on a project at his computer. His Miller's Printing Co. has been a fixture on Trade Street for the past 27 years.

Entrepreneurs find success downtown

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

From behind the desk of her spacious office, Tanya Wiley sits atop a gold mine — a mine made of bricks and mortar, one that has made her rich in more ways than one might expect.

Wiley is landlord to more than 15 tenants at WC Publishing Business Center on Trade and Sixth streets, the mammoth, three-story office building she leased, with an option to buy, in 1997.

The goal to find a place where she could offer up-and-coming business people reasonable rent and an active voice led Wiley to lease the building, which was formerly F.I.R.S.T, a drug-rehabilitation center.

"This place seemed to be ideal for that," Wiley said.

Wiley knows the perils that can come along with starting a business. She made that jump before venturing into property management. Starting in her home, Wiley started WC Publishing Co. Inc. with a modest list of clients and a staff consisting of herself and her husband, Dorrel Brown.

Today, the headquarters of WC Publishing is located at the top of the building bearing its name. Her clients include heavy-hitters like Dudley Products, LaFace Records and Black Entertainment Television.

Her tenants call her a "superwoman" — a woman only 30 years old with a deep faith in God, strong business savvy and Hollywood good looks.

Wiley is also a warrior in a growing army of people fighting to save and uplift downtown.

"This has been the best kept secret in

town," Wiley said about her downtown digs. "We don't want it to be that anymore. We want to be viewed as a one-stop shop. We have a great vision for this place."

That vision has already been, partly realized. Businesses are continuing to pop up in Wiley's building, as well as other places along Trade Street and throughout downtown.

Currently, professional firms, retail shops, a recording studio, hair salon and a limousine service call Wiley's building home. Forsyth County also rents space from Wiley to house a section of the Department of Social Services.

Mounted on a poster board in her office is the blueprint for a Caribbean restaurant that she hopes to open in the building next year. The restaurant will be a

See Downtown on A8

Queen of the Cola War

Black woman takes helm at state's largest Pepsi plant

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Running Pepsi Cola bottling plants is a job traditionally reserved for white men.

But that was before Lisa Brown.

Less than a month ago, Brown became the first African American female to manage a Pepsi Cola bottling plant, after

taking the helm at Winston-Salem Pepsi Cola Bottling Ventures, the state's largest Pepsi bottling plant.

Brown is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the plant and ensures the product is packed and shipped in a timely manner and that shipments meet all health and safety codes.

She's also responsible for the plant's 350 employees.

Brown doesn't mind the raised eyebrows and questioning looks she receives from some people once they realize she is not a receptionist but the woman in charge of the largest

See Brown on A11