



Local man takes hoop dreams abroad

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United Way more than meets its goal

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MLK Day breakfast draws big crowd



North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library, 600 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

THE CHRONICLE

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Marchers make their way to the Benton Convention Center for the Annual MLK Noon Hour Commemoration program.

Photo by Jason Pitt

NOT SLEEPING ON THE DREAM

Actor says MLK's work must be completed

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The rainbow of faces that populated Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University Monday evening would have made the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. proud. This was, of course, the point of the gathering. Since 2001, the prestigious and predominantly white institution has joined forces with the historically black Winston-Salem State University, to honor the memory of the civil rights icon as a cohesive unit.

"We gather not only to celebrate his life, but to celebrate his dream," commented WSSU Chancellor Dr. Donald Reaves. "It was Dr. King's desire that social harmony become a guid-



See Burton on A12 Actor LeVar Burton speaks in Wait Chapel on Monday night.

WFSU Photo by Nick Babaladeli

Challenges addressed at Noon Hour service

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy was honored through speech and action Monday at the 28th Annual MLK Noon Hour Commemoration.

King's historic fight for justice was demonstrated by hundreds of marchers who made the annual trek to the Benton Convention Center, where the commemoration was held, from Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Many carried signs and banners calling for the release of Calvin Michael Smith, a local black man who was convicted and imprisoned in the mid-90s for the brutal beating of Jill Marker, a white woman, at



Evans

Silk Plant Forest. Questions have been raised about Smith's guilt and how the case was handled. Local leaders like N.C. Representative Larry Womble and Darryl Hunt, himself a victim of wrongful conviction, were among the marchers demanding that the City Council appoint an outside committee to look into the matter.

"The lawyer at the Duke institute has said that there's evidence that he's innocent," said Womble, referring to Duke University's Innocence Project where law students look into wrongful conviction claims. "And what we're doing is, in the same way we did

See Noon Hour on A11

EASING THE STRUGGLE

Group working to open doors for black gays and lesbians

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE



Photo by Layla Farmer TaMeicka Clear

TaMeicka Clear knows firsthand how hard it can be to come out of the closet. "My coming out was very hard; I was 18 when I officially came out and my mother put me out of the house," she revealed.

Clear, now 25, spent nearly two years on the streets after telling her mother she was a lesbian, and like many in the same gender loving (SGL) community, she has suffered considerable criticism for her lifestyle. Yet she says she would do it all again.

"I just ... refused to go back in; once I set foot out, I

See PFLAG on A11

School honors its former leader

Logan Burke's esteemed career included 12 years as Cook principal

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Cook Elementary School welcomed an array of city officials, community leaders and former educators to its realm on the morning of Jan. 16 for a naming ceremony and reception at the school's media center.

The media center now bears the name of Logan Burke, a former principal of the school and prominent community member.

"This man has given a lot of service to this community," said School Board Member Vic Johnson, who was instrumental in getting the center named for

See Burke on A12



Photo by Layla Farmer

Logan Burke with his wife, Mayor Pro Tempore Vivan Burke, his son Judge Todd Burke and one of his grandchildren, Logan II.

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