



Star b-ball player signs with WSSU

-See Page B8



Group exhibits model behavior

-See Page A2



Students learning at the grocer

-See Page B1

75 cents
Celebrating 35 Years
North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Community Journal

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXVI No. 35

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, April 29, 2010

Miss Independent

Young-at-heart centenarian shows age is just a number

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

On April 23, 1910 – just seven years after brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright successfully guided the world's first aircraft into the skies about Wrightsville Beach, and two years before the sinking of The Titanic – Winston-Salem resident Brooksie McCullough was born the third child of a brick mason and a homemaker in rural Union County, South Carolina.

Her father owned a farm, which McCullough and her 11 siblings tended as they grew, taking turns milking the eight cows to make buttermilk to be sold at the market or harvesting the cotton, potatoes and other crops the family grew to sustain themselves.

"We had everything that you need on a farm," McCullough recalled. "We had a big farm; my daddy had three mules and a horse. We rode in a buggy – it wasn't no cars then."

There was no running water and no electricity either. McCullough and her siblings attended school in a one-room schoolhouse near the home where she grew up. McCullough made it to the ninth grade before setting her sights on other things.

She married a young man whose family lived nearby and moved with him to Winston-Salem in 1934, where she took a job at the RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company for a salary of \$0.25 an hour. Her husband was killed in a car accident shortly thereafter, but McCullough stayed on in the Twin City and eventually remarried, though she never had children of her own.

McCullough retired from RJR 35 years ago, after four decades of service and since then has lived a quiet life in the East Fifth Street house she had built nearly 60 years ago.

Despite her age, McCullough is still staunchly independent. She spends much of her time in the spring and summer tending the vegetable garden she plants each year or baking some of her signature "All Famous Sweet Potato Pies."

"I've been had one long as I've been in Winston," she said of her garden. "I used to have a big one, but I grew so

See McCullough on A9



Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke (center) poses with honorees (left to right) Carmen Russell Bonham, Nan Holbrook Griswold, Nell Britton, Mabel Robinson, Wanda Merschel, Angela Carmon, RaVonda Dalton-Rann, Sylvia Oberle and Carmen Caruth.



Mayor Allen Joines reads a proclamation last week as Volt partners Antonio Francis, Gilbert Campbell and Dr. David Branch look on.

Blessings From Above

Black-owned business cashing in on solar power

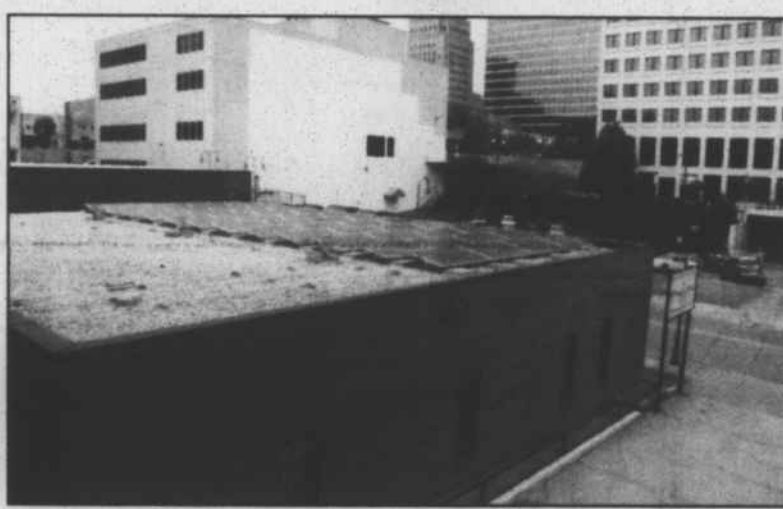
BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A burgeoning African-American-owned company has made history in downtown Winston-Salem. Volt Energy installed solar panels on the roof of the Town Run Lane office of Dr. David Branch, a well-known ophthalmologist, making the building downtown's first official solar energy project.

Branch started Volt energy with Antonio Francis and Gilbert Campbell. Branch, who opened his downtown ophthalmology office in 1977, is excited about his most recent business venture.

"This is 21st century technology, and this is

See Volt on A5



Downtown's first solar energy panels sit atop Dr. Branch's office.

Sigmas put focus on service

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Joann Loveless walks, talks, lives and breathes Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

"If you cut my arm, the blood will run blue and gold (the sorority's signature colors)," Loveless said with a big smile Sunday.

Her myriad duties as the sorority's 22nd International Grand Basileus brought Loveless and hundreds of other Sigmas to Winston-Salem over the weekend for the sorority's Northeast Region Conference. For two-and-half days, sorors from as far away as Connecticut and New York powwowed at the Twin City

See Sigmas on A11



Photo by Kevin Walker
Sigma International Grand Basileus Joann Loveless.

City's best and brightest women honored for work

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Female movers and shakers were honored with 2010 Outstanding Women Leaders Awards last Thursday at the Historic Brookstown Inn.

It was the eighth year that the event has recognized women who have proven to be outstanding in their chosen fields. Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke is one of the founders of the awards, which are sponsored by the City of Winston-



See Women on A9
DD Adams speaks.

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

BUY LOCAL



WS
CHAMBER

