



Rams to bat for cancer research

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Area ALE agents receive awards

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Unlikely victim of injustice speaks out

Beverly Monroe spent a decade in prison for a crime she did not commit

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Twenty years ago, Virginia resident Beverly Monroe had never even heard of a wrongful conviction. A mother and an accomplished chemist without so much as a parking ticket on her record, Monroe certainly never imagined she would be the victim of such a miscarriage of justice. But, as Monroe told those present at her lecture in Wake Forest University's Worrell Professional Center last week, it can happen to anyone.



Photo by Layla Farmer
Beverly Monroe speaks at Wake Forest on Monday.

"I never, ever, ever thought that this type of experience would define my life," said Monroe, who was convicted of murdering her companion Roger de la Burde, a wealthy art collector, in 1992. "I had no idea about wrongful convictions, and even after it happened to me, I couldn't imagine that it happened to lots of people."

said the mother of three. "It does."
The March 24 lecture, titled "Death, Lies and False Confessions: The Wrongful Conviction of Beverly Monroe," was sponsored by the WFU School of Law's Innocence and Justice Clinic. Carol Turowski, co-director of the Clinic, said she met Monroe at an Innocence Network Conference and was moved by her story. She was hopeful that it would inspire the law students present to listen to the accused and draw their own conclusions about cases.

"It was terribly powerful. It sends chills down my spine," she said of hearing Monroe tell of her ordeal. "...There's nothing like hearing from an individual who is subject to the system and all of its flaws...to really bring the situation home."

Monroe served a decade in prison for the crime, despite the fact that there was no hard evidence connecting her to the case, she said.

"The law did not protect me, the truth did not protect me, the evidence did not protect me," she declared. "Nothing could protect me."

De la Burde's death was initially ruled a suicide by the medical examiner and investigators, because of findings such as gunshot residue on his hands, Monroe said. Later, when David M. Riley, a senior

See Monroe on A9



Photo by Layla Farmer

Mara Newman (left) and Lynn Weigand show off some examples of the popular e-readers.

Library now offering popular e-Readers

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Facebook. Twitter. E-books and now, e-readers. When it comes to 21st Century literary entertainment, Forsyth County Public Libraries are doing their best to be "on the same page" with local patrons. The public library system began March 14 making e-readers, electronic handheld devices that can be loaded with digital versions of popular trade (published) books and magazines, available for check-out at Central Library and all of the system's

nine branches. The library has two brands of the devices, the Nook from Barnes & Noble booksellers and the Sony Reader. By offering the readers for check out, the library hopes to allow its patrons to try the e-reader format out before forking over the money to purchase their own.

"Libraries are always responsive to the times and the communities we serve," said Collections Development Manager Laura Weigand. "We want to, as much as possible, stay ahead of the curve of new learning and new technology that our customers will be seeking."

Since the launch of Amazon.com's Kindle in November 2007, popularity of the e-readers has steadily grown. Proponents of the gadgets say they are more user friendly than their hardcover predecessors, often offering helpful amenities such as a built in dictionary and room to store a library of e-books without taking up any extra space. But lovers of books in their traditional form say nothing can replace the smell and feel of holding a book and turning each page as the story unfolds and, trade books are more durable

See e-Readers on A2

'10 WSSU grad aims to guide young lives

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Twelve year old Najee Baker will be the first to admit that he hasn't always been a model student. But Najee, a seventh grader at Downtown Middle School, says that is beginning to change. He's pulled his grades up to all A's and B's, his behavior is improving, and he's even getting into less trouble at home.

"I see myself (going) from a low point of view to a higher prospect of being able to do the things that I wanted to do," said Najee, a city native who dreams of becoming a lawyer someday.

The third of five children, Najee says he owes his more positive outlook to the Young Men for Change, an elite student service group on the school's campus. Najee, one of the group's 12 members,



Photo by Layla Farmer

Rashad Little addresses YMC members last week.

must keep his grades high and his attitude in check in order to remain a YMC member. Those parameters have been a motivating factor for Najee, who says his membership is a great source of pride.

"Just having the privilege of being the best I can be," is one of his favorite components of being a YMC member. Najee said the group has taught him "Whatever

your performance has been, just strive forward to make your future better, to make sure you're the best you can be and you have the potential to go on and on in life, as far as you will take it."

Najee's shift in perspective is just what Rashad Little was trying to achieve when he founded the YMC with the help of fellow teacher and WSSU alum Keith Penn and two other male staffers earlier in the school year.

"(Our goal is) just getting them to believe in themselves, and their natural ability to be great," said Little, who teaches business entrepreneurship and computer skills at the charter school. "Once you plant that seed of greatness in somebody, I think it's inevitable that they will grow and prosper."

Little, a 2010 alumnus of Winston-Salem State University, says he fashioned the YMC after Black Men for Change, a successful student service organization at WSSU. As a student himself, the organization had a big impact on his life, Little said.

"I was just a freshman looking for guidance. During that time, the people

See YMC on A3

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR. LUCAS!



Photo by Kevin Walker

The Winston Lake Family YMCA celebrated the 84th birthday of community icon Moses "Mo" Lucas last week with cake and loads of praise for the birthday boy. Lucas has been affiliated with the Y branch for more than half a century. Over that time, he has held many titles but is best known as a mentor and father-figure to hundreds.

The Ghanaian Resistance

Professor says West Africans fought European slave trade.

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

An internationally-known Ghanaian scholar shed light on some little known elements of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade Monday, during Winston-Salem State University's annual Spring Assembly at the Anderson Conference Center on campus.

Dr. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, vice chancellor and professor of literature at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana became the first female vice chancellor in her native country when she took the post in 2008. A published author, Opoku-Agyemang has written extensively on the slave trade.

"I embarked on this research to find answers that I did not think all of my education had provided me. I needed to under-

See Ghana on A5



Photo by Layla Farmer

Dr. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang accepts her Doctor of Humane Letters from WSSU Chancellor Donald Reaves.

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