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## Band fuses musical genres

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## Residents send their love to Womble

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, December 29, 2011



Police Chief Scott Cunningham discusses the crime rate in the East Ward.

## Checkpoints above reproach, Cunningham tells East Ward

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Crime was the main topic at a Dec. 22 town hall meeting led by East Ward City Council Member Derwin Montgomery.

Police Chief Scott Cunningham was on hand at the meeting, held at the Rupert Bell Community Center, vowing to those in attendance that his department will partner with residents to reduce the ward's crime rate.

Cunningham displayed a map showing East Ward locations where cops have been called to respond to a variety of crimes. Contrary to what many believe, Montgomery pointed out that his ward is not the city's most crime-plagued.

"Looking at this, the East Ward is not the highest ward with the highest crime," said Montgomery as he pointed to the map. "We do not have the highest crime ... we're somewhere in the middle of the city when it comes to crime, but I have an issue with (the crime rate)."

No crime is the goal. "This is just absolutely unacceptable, it really is," Cunningham said of the Ward's crime rate. "And we're going to continue to work with the council member and all of you as far as finding ways to do it."

The NAACP's Stephen Hairston, a former police officer, was among those in audience. He urged Cunningham to encourage his officers to get to know the people that they are charged with protecting and serving. Bonds between cops and citizens, Hairston said, is a way to build bridges and reduce

See Ward on A5

## Hunt vows to continue helping

Organization that aids 'homecomers' forced to scale back

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

On Dec. 24, eight years after his release from prison, city native Darryl Hunt found himself again at a crossroads.

Hunt, who spent nearly two decades in prison for a crime he did not commit, founded The Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice in February 2005. The organization is now undergoing a restructuring effort to enable it to remain afloat.

"It was a lack of grants. We just got caught in the financial crunch like most nonprofits, with the economy being what it is," Hunt said. "Really, we've been struggling for about a year, and we were just trying to make ends meet, being able to do some of the things that we wanted to do and

See Hunt on A10



Linwood Skinner stands with Darryl Hunt (right) outside of the new homebase of The Darryl Hunt Project.

## Solemn Stance

Photo by Todd Luck

Sgt. Jeff Stutts, a member of the Winston-Salem Police Department Honor Guard, stands guard in front of the Police Memorial at the Public Safety Center on Monday, Dec. 26 to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Sgt. Leland G. Teague, who was killed in the line of duty on Dec. 26, 1927. Seventeen members of the city's police force have been killed in the line of duty. The anniversary of the death of each fallen officer is remembered with a wreath-laying ceremony and day-long standing vigil by a members of the Honor Guard.



## Novant has big goals for new diversity chief

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Novant Health has deepened its commitment to diversity, hiring its first-ever chief diversity officer.

Deborah Ashton, Ph.D. relocated to Winston-Salem from Chicago late last month to assume the position, which Novant created to focus on diversity hiring, training and leadership and identify disparities in health care delivery within the local community and ways the organization can effectively address them.

Ashton, an alumna of Harvard University, will rely on her two decades of work in diversity and inclusion to serve the entire Novant Health network, an integrated

system of 13 hospitals and 354 clinic locations that serves patients in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina.

"Diversity has long been one of Novant's core values," Chief Clinical Officer Sallye Linder said in a statement announcing Ashton's hiring. "But what I find exciting about this new position is that we can expand diversity well beyond the traditional human resource function. Deborah will work with our leaders to better understand the healthcare disparities that exist in our patient populations and develop strategies to help Novant address these disparities in the communities we serve."

Ashton, who has served as diversity director for Harley Davidson, Inc., Darden's

See Ashton on A10



City Council Member Derwin Montgomery addresses residents.



Deborah Ashton

## Super Girls Live Up to Their Name



Back row (from left): Samantha Sims, Sabrina Sims, Caryn Fletcher, Brianna Odom, Aliyah Alford and Adrianna Odom; second row (from left): Chloe Fletcher, Taniya Greer, Reyana Bentley and Amya Turner; front (from left): Christa Fletcher, Riana Murden and Jada Carson.

## Preteens lead fundraising effort for hospital

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

A group of young girls are taking community service into their own hands this holiday season. Members of the Super Girls Club of Winston-Salem lent their support to patients at Brenner Children's Hospital last week by soliciting books, art supplies and monetary donations for the hospital and its patrons.

Super Girls partnered with GAP stores at Hanes



Super Girl Samantha Sims mans the crafts table.

Mall last Thursday to host the "Pink and Purple Event for Brenner Children's Hospital," their first large scale community service project. The event, which the group plans to stage annually, included fun activities such as face painting.

See Super Girls on A9

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