



**WSSU's Medley in running for big honor**

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**Forsyth DA faces backlash over RJA**

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**Parents, students peruse magnets**

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Community Journal

# THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXVIII No. 20

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 12, 2012

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## Two to Become One?

*Another pair of minority schools slated for possible merger*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Superintendent Don Martin and other school system officials met last week with parents, students, teachers, faculty and others to discuss the possibility of merging Hill and Philo middle schools.

Hill is a visual arts, performing arts and technology magnet school; Philo offers a magnet program focused on Mandarin Chinese, global technology and international business and world cultures. The schools' unique offerings have not attracted students. Both schools have student populations of less than 300. The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of

Education is considering combining schools as a cost-saving measure, said Martin, who addressed attendees at Hill, which is located on Sprague Street. Philo is located a fairly short distance away on Haverhill Street, off South Main Street. A meeting at Philo was slated for Jan. 9.

If approved by the Board, the two schools will become one, with Hill's students and staff joining the Philo campus in the 2012-13 school year.

The Hill facility would be closed for at least a year, and system officials are still considering how to best utilize the property, Martin said. The move would save the sys-



Hill Principal Ingrid Medlock speaks as Philo Principal Mark Hairston listens.

Photo by Laya Farmer

tem more than \$300,000 in operating costs, and while it would require some shifts in staffing, no one would lose their job as a result of the merger, Martin said.

"State resources and local resources have been limited for the past four years, and we've all been looking for ways we can be more economical," the superintendent explained. "We've been looking at economies we have in both our fiscal and

physical operations."

The Hill-Philo merger would be the second the school system has undertaken in recent years. In 2009, the School Board approved the merging of Latham and Diggs elementary schools to create Diggs-Latham. The blended school, which opened in 2010, occupies a renovated facility on

See Hill on A9



## New owners a mystery to residents

*Nationwide management company has yet to reach out to those in Rolling Hills*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Residents of the Rolling Hills Apartments community say they are uncertain about their future, following the Winston-Salem Housing Authority's recent sale of the property.

The Housing Authority, which had managed the 114-unit complex off New Walkertown Road since the city purchased it in 1996, announced late last month that it had sold Rolling Hills, which is subsidized by Housing Urban Development (HUD), to PK Management for \$1.9 million. The Greenville, S.C.-based company describes itself as a "nationwide management company that specializes in Section 8 affordable housing properties." The sale removes all financial and management interests for the Housing Authority and the city, according to local officials. Rolling Hills residents of the community received a letter notifying them of the sale on Dec. 28. The letter stated that a company called Rolling Hills Investors, LLC, is the new owner of the apartments. Rolling Hills Investors is headed by PK Management's majority owner, Gregory F. Perlman, according to information provided by HAWS.

"PK Management is a private firm with vast experience in the management of similar properties," HAWS CEO Larry Woods said in a Dec. 30 statement denoting the sale. Rolling Hill residents, who have long complained that the physical conditions at Rolling Hills are subpar, are not convinced that HAWS and the city were acting in their best interests when they unloaded the property.

Longtime community activist Ramona

Hambrick

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See Sale on A5

## Active MLK Day planned in Winston-Salem

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE



Winston-Salem residents will have their pick of activities to take part in this Martin Luther King Day.

As usual, groups across the city will honor the fallen civil rights icon with an array of programs throughout the day that pay homage to King's message of harmony, social justice and hope. On the morning of Jan. 16 at 7 a.m., The Chronicle will kick off the day with its 11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast at the Benton Convention Center.

A crowd of hundreds will hear from Rev. Donald Jenkins, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church; Rev. Nathan Scovens, pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church; and Rev. Darryl Aaron, pastor of First Baptist Church Highland Avenue. The men will preach on the topics faith, hope and love, respectively.

Mayor Allen Joines, Dr. Barbee Oakes, assistant provost for Diversity and Inclusion at Wake Forest; Mr. Winston-Salem State University Theophilus Linwood Woodley;

Sharee Fowler, director of the United Way's Empowering Effective Teachers Initiative; and Salem College Student Body President Lové Lemon will also speak. Willie Mason and Friends will provide the entertainment.

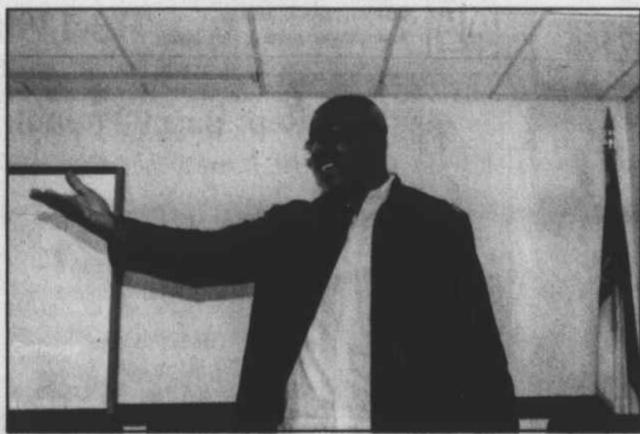
"The choir this year is outstanding. They're dynamic, they're full of the spirit, and they will shake your soul," declared Chronicle Publisher Ernie Pitt. "It's going to be a great time, a celebration of unity with a diverse audience. We have a lot to celebrate; we have a lot to reflect on; and we have a lot to be thankful for."

The Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity will host a MLK Day Youth Rally and Fellowship Breakfast at 8 a.m. The breakfast will be followed by the annual MLK Day March, which will extend from Mt. Zion Baptist Church to Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Center, where a series of workshops will be held from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

At noon, the Benton Convention Center will

See MLK on A6

### LEADING to a New Path



Media personality Manard "Busta" Brown congratulates college students at a ceremony last week held by the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem's LEAD program. Read more on page A2.

## Residents, cops work jointly for safety

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

In the last year, Rev. Dr. Chris McCoy's car has been broken into twice. The incidents, both of which occurred while the car was parked at McCoy's home in the Lasley Ridge community off Carver School Road, have contributed to a growing sense of unease that McCoy says that he and his wife now feel in their community.

"A lot of things have transpired there," he said. "I'm a sitting duck. Sometimes, we are very uncomfortable."

McCoy, who pastors Everlasting Faith United Church, says he's seen suspicious cars lurking near his property, and admits he has taken his pistol with him when delivering his garbage can to the curb on more than one occasion.



Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Charles McCoy speaks as Sgt. Mark Snow looks on.

See Watches on A9

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