



Prep track team in it to win it

-See Page B8



Dozens gather for vigil of prayer

-See Page A2



Early College students graduate

-See Page B1

Celebrating 50th Anniversary North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

THE CHRONICLE

15 120712 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101 N.C. ROOM FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY 660 W 5TH ST WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

Vol. XXXVIII No. 38

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, May 17, 2012

President's stance gets local support



Photo by Layla Garms Roderick McIver addresses the students as GIDE-YEA Board Chair Ward Miller looks on.

Attorney fights bullying

BY LAYLA GARMS THE CHRONICLE

Roderick Todd McIver says that his nine year-old son Kofi has always been an avid learner and a standout in the classroom, so when Kofi's grades began to slip last year, McIver said he and Kofi's mother, Mshairi Evans, knew something was wrong.

"At the end of his second-grade year, he started not wanting to go to school," explained McIver, who has been practicing law since 1993. "He started having nightmares. That's when we realized something was going on." It wasn't long before Kofi's parents discovered the root of their son's angst. He was being bullied.

Though afraid, Kofi kept quiet about his problems at

See Bullying on A2



Aaron



Jenkins

BY LAYLA GARMS THE CHRONICLE

One day after North Carolina voters passed Amendment One, essentially banning same-sex unions in the Tarheel State, President Barack Obama surprised many when he publicly voiced his support for gay marriage for the first time.

Pundits have been busy theorizing what, if any, effect the president's stance will have on his reelection chances. Many locals, even those who don't fully agree with President Obama on the issue of same-sex unions, are finding common ground.

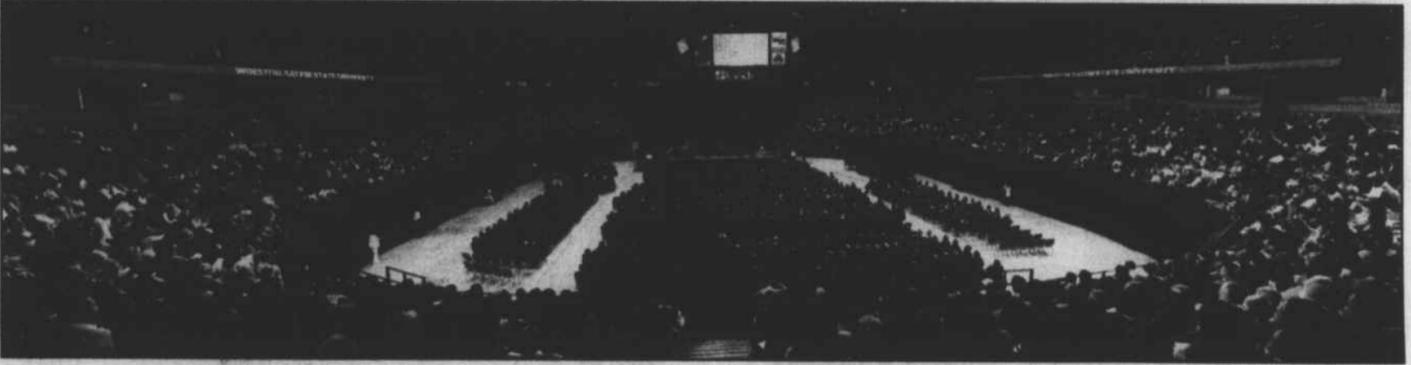
"(President Obama) has his views on how he believes and he's not going to condemn to hell those who have different beliefs," said Rev. Donald Jenkins, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church. "I think his spirit in how he came to his belief ought to be admired."

Jenkins doesn't support same-sex marriage, but he

See Marriage on A5



White House Photo President Obama announces his support for gay marriage to ABC's Robin Roberts last week at the White House.



Thousands attend Saturday's ceremony.

WSSU Photo by Garrett Garms

Graduates persevered and survived

BY LAYLA GARMS THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University conferred 1,200 degrees on Saturday at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, during one of its largest commencement exercises to date.

The students - who danced, cried and strolled across the stage to accept their degrees - attracted a crowd of nearly 14,000 well wishers, according to WSSU officials.

Making it to graduation day was no small feat for Durham resident Johnathan Davis, who was diagnosed with spinal cancer earlier this year. She endured 22 rounds of radiation that ended only two months before she triumphantly crossed the stage in



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garms Dr. Dyson addresses the massive crowd.

her wheelchair Saturday. "It has just been a heartwarming experience," confessed Davis, a nursing major who spent 16 years in the field prior to her diagnosis. The 43 year-old said the pressure of her illness was so great that there were times when she feared she'd never be

able to complete her degree.

"I stayed in the hospital a lot because I couldn't eat," she related. "...It was days when I would just cry and say, 'I can't go no further. I can't do this no more.'"

Davis credits two close friends and her 14 year-old daughter Kalyn, who accompanied her at the ceremony, with keeping her encouraged throughout the ordeal and helping her to realize her dream of getting a college degree.

Though he learned a lot at WSSU, marketing major Desmond Barnes said the semester he spent studying abroad at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand was hands down the most formative experience of his college career. Barnes, a Thurgood Marshall College Fund ambassador and first generation college grad, spent the Spring 2012 semester in Thailand along with 99 other students from across the globe. The Hampton, Va.-native also visited Sri Lanka, India and Cambodia during



Photo by Layla Garms Alumna Johnathan Davis with her daughter, Kalyn Davis Wilder.

See WSSU on A9

A Phenomenal Vision



Photo by Layla Garms Dr. Maya Angelou speaks during an announcement at Forsyth Medical Center on Tuesday. Also pictured are Dr. Chere Gregory, director of neurosciences (right) and Kirsten Royster, head of the Sara Lee Center for Women's Health.

Workers exemplify can-do spirit

Local residents overcome physical, mental setbacks to become gainfully employed

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Monarch's Community Employment Program celebrated the accomplishments of more than 80 individuals who overcame great obstacles to find work. The workers were lauded during a ceremony last Thursday at the Behavioral Health Plaza on Highland Avenue.

Monarch, formally Arc Services, is a statewide non-profit that assists clients with developmental and intellectual disabilities, mental illness or substance abuse issues. The local Community Employment Program - based at its Forsyth Industrial Systems location - provides



Photos by Todd Luck Nakisha Beasley receives her award from Chris Richardson and Ann Webster (center).

vocational services such as training and job coaches to residents in Forsyth, Davie, Stokes and Guilford counties. Clients are trained in custodial work, food services and con-

tract packaging and work for local companies like Texas Pete before getting jobs of their own.

More than 60 alumni of the program were recognized for finding and keeping jobs within the last 12 months and more than a dozen more were recognized for having stayed at their jobs for 5-20 years. The alumni's employers vary greatly and include Lowes Foods,



Hiatt

See Alumni on A3



BUY LOCAL FIRST!

