



WSPA takes Lash title in impressive fashion

-See Page B10



Christmas Angel gives special gift to many

-See Page A3

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In this issue

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 40, Number 19

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 2, 2014



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garms
The Enterprise Conference & Banquet Center is located at 1922 South Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Center becomes premier social venue

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Established event and entertainment venues in the city are facing competition in East Winston.

The Enterprise Conference & Banquet Center on South Martin Luther King Jr. Drive is quickly becoming a preferred venue for churches, organizations and conferences. National Black Theatre Festival Executive Producer Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin has already hosted two events at the newly renovated facility — an appreciation breakfast for NBTF volunteer coordinators and a fundraiser banquet for her church, St. Stephen's Episcopal.



Sprinkle-Hamlin



Clements

"I've been recommending the location to a lot of other people, because it's really great," said Sprinkle-Hamlin, who also serves as director of the Forsyth County Public Library system. "Usually, it's hard to find a facility in the east side of town, so I was interested to come and tour it, and I was really impressed. They have really good customer service."

After patronizing traditional event venues downtown for years, Sprinkle-Hamlin said she is thrilled to be able to support a business in the black communi-

ty and still create the high-caliber events she is known for.

"The Marriott is nice, but just to do something in your own community and to support that organization I think is very important," she said. "...I support the community because the community has supported us over the years, so it's my way of giving back in any way I can."

The Enterprise Conference & Banquet Center, which officially opened in October, occupies space in the old Boys & Girls Club facility, which is anchored by the Simon Green Atkins Community Development Corporation. The 4,700-plus square-foot facility boasts all the comforts of an established event center, with a focus on "community hospitality" that Event Manager Patricia Degraffinreaidt says is unmatched.

"This facility offers everything that you can get at a convention center or a Marriott," she remarked. "...We have what it takes to give any company, any church anything that they would want to have here. We have the ability, the expertise, we have the professional staff."

The CDC, which is

See Center on A2

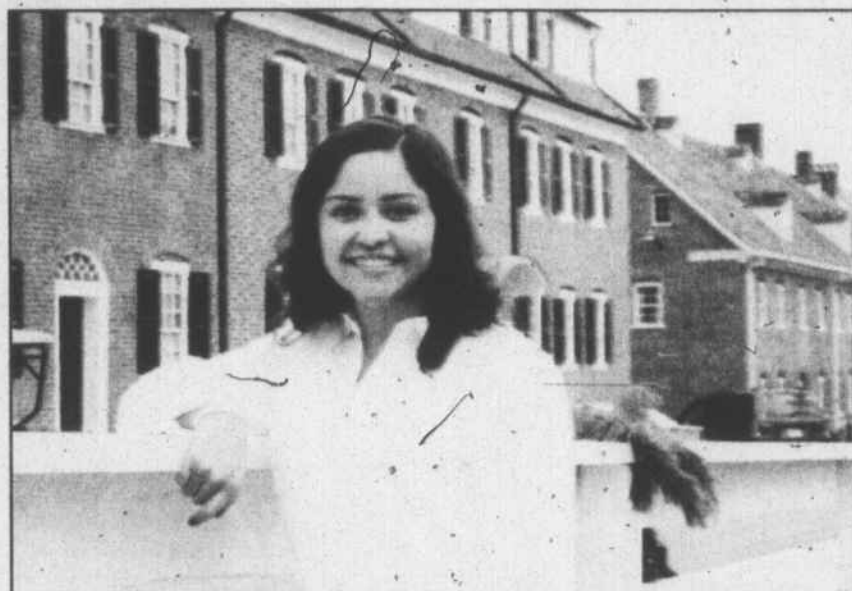
Local student becomes face of immigration campaign

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Lexington resident Valeria Sotelo has done everything right.

The 21-year-old worked hard during her time at Lexington Senior High School, maintaining the good grades and high level of on-campus involvement necessary to earn admission to Salem College, where she is studying early elementary education.

"Since I was little and people asked me, 'What do you want to do when you grow up?' 'Teacher' was always the first thing that came to mind," related Sotelo, a first generation high school graduate. "I guess I've just had so many teachers that have impacted me and changed my life, I just hoped that someday I could do



Junior Valeria Sotelo on the campus of Salem College.

Photo by Layla Garms

See Sotelo on A9

Celebrating Kwanzaa



Patricia Oliver, a Triad Cultural Arts Board member, lights a candle on the kinara at the Delta Arts Center on the second night of Kwanzaa. Read more about the Friday, Dec. 27 Kwanzaa celebration on page B1.

Photo by Todd Luck

Agency's efforts get attention from D.C.

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

The Housing Authority of Winston-Salem's innovative approach to public housing is turning heads, not only in the local community, but across the nation.

HAWS CEO Larry Woods said he was shocked to learn late last month that U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx was singing the praises of Woods and his agency on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

"Under Larry's leadership, the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem is transforming the template for North Carolina's housing programs," Foxx told her colleagues. "... Larry and his team's forward-thinking approach to public housing has changed the lives of many North Carolinians."

Woods, who has led the agency since 2006, said he was humbled by Foxx's inclination to hold HAWS up as a shining



U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx presents a plaque to Larry Woods.

Photo by Layla Garms

See HAWS on A3

Trainers offer New Year's transformation tips

Photo by Todd Luck

Trainer Alonzo Brown says that consistency and variety are keys to a successful exercise program.



BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

New Year's fitness resolutions are so common that trainers and health professionals prepare for an influx of clients every January.

Katina Rice, a licensed Zumba instructor, says that of the multitude of newbies that will flock to her classes in the next several weeks, only some will fulfill their resolutions, while others won't. The differ-



Rice

See Fitness on A8

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