



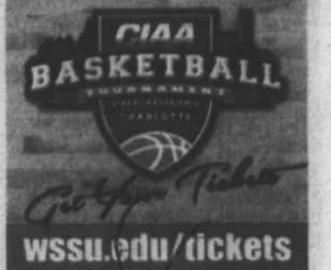
Carver Basketball looking to step up

-See Page B1



Burke hosts holiday event at La Deara

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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, January 1, 2015

Help for man's water woes

Randall Lindsay had a more than \$2,600 water bill

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

A local resident is breathing a sigh of relief after the city has decided to drop \$2,659.45 off of his water bill. Randall Lindsay was facing a \$3,259.45 water bill in November and was about to have his service disrupted.

"It felt real good to have it taken care of. I ain't never had no water like that," said Lindsay, who lives on a \$721 monthly disability check.

The Chronicle reported the problem that the New Hope Manor resident was facing in November, just days before his water service was to be terminated.

Lindsay began receiving exorbitant water bills in August. His social worker, Debborah Lindsay (no relation), jumped into action, contacting city officials and Lindsay's landlord for assistance and answers. Co-property owner Nathan Tabor said the high bills were the result of the city's faulty meters. Anthony Baker, an assistant city attorney who handles risk management for the city, said the city believed the leak was on the property side.

After the initial story, the city installed an automated meter reader, according to Baker, to record water consumption in 15-minute increments, 24 hours a day in Lindsay's apartment.

"It basically stores the data so that we can pull it and not only see how much total consumption is being used - a normal reader does that - but look at when it's being used," Baker said.

A definitive cause of the high bills has not been provided, though Baker says some toilet fixtures were replaced after an inspection found a leaky toilet.

"After that was done, the meter began to immediately read levels that we expect for an apartment that size with one bathroom," he said. "The consumption levels dropped dramatically."

He said the department read the meter three more times over the next two weeks to confirm the readings. Those readings led the city to drop the cost of the bill. Tabor told The

See Water on A7



Zen Sadler (center) helps Don Williams and Patricia Sadler light the Kwanzaa kinara.

Photos by Todd Luck

Habari Gani?

Kwanzaa kick-off echoes calls to value black life

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The recent deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police was at the forefront on the first night of Kwanzaa (Friday, Dec. 26) at the Winston-Salem Urban League.

"I know all of our hearts are heavy and we're deeply concerned about what's happening to our young African-American males and women, as well," said keynote speaker Rev. Dr. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church and a noted community activist.

"Uniting to Save Our Sons" was the night's theme, tying Umoja or Unity, the principle of the first night of Kwanzaa, into recent events.

Mendez acknowledged that blacks have made progress over the decades, but said the drugs and the laws established to punish drug offenders are crippling the community and filling prisons with young black men.

"The War on Drugs, particularly in the African-American community, makes all of us victims of police brutality and misconduct," he said.

In his remarks, Interim Urban League President Don Williams said protests proclaim-

See Kwanzaa on A2



Antwian Scriven performs.

Congressional newbie Adams sets priorities

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, the newest member of the U.S. House of Representatives, recently made her first official tour of the 12th Congressional District, making stops in Charlotte, Greensboro, Concord and other cities in the vast district. Here, in Winston-Salem, she toured Industries for the Blind and Reynolds American on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Adams said the tour will help her learn more about the businesses in the 12th and the needs of her constituents. Adams was sworn in on Nov. 12, a week after she beat Republican Vince Coakley. She was seated so quickly because the N.C. 12th Congressional seat had been vacant since December 2013, when Mel Watt left Congress to join the Obama administration. Adams said she



Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind's Stephanie Davis shows U.S. Rep. Alma Adams around IFB's facility.

WSIFB Photo

has spent her first weeks setting up offices throughout the 12th so that residents can once again feel that they have a say in the goings-on in Washington.

"It was important for us to put priority there so people understood that they do finally have representation and that we do have a number of resources

and services that we can provide," Adams said. "It is important for people to know that there is finally somebody for them to call and an office for them to go to."

Adams said residents' requests and inquiries are being reviewed and will all be addressed. She campaigned on issues like improving care for senior citizens, raising the minimum wage and alleviating student debt and plans to fight for all of them. The retired Bennett College professor thinks education and job creation can work hand-in-hand.

"We have to create new jobs. A lot of the jobs in industries that we've had here, we've lost," she said. "The community colleges are going to be the ones who will be retraining these people for the workforce."

Another issue Adams has

See Adams on A7

Leadership Winston-Salem marks 30 years

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

For 30 years, Leadership Winston-Salem (LWS) has been bringing local leaders together to learn how to better serve the community.

The nonprofit was started in May 1984, inspired by a similar leadership program local leaders had seen in Birmingham, Ala.

LWS classes open with a two-day

retreat in which a class of about 55 local leaders get to know each other. Then they reconvene for a series of monthly seminars and hands-on activities all across the city to learn about a variety of topics - including education, criminal justice, health care and social services - while hearing from local leaders in each area.

In 2006, LWS added an Action



Photos by Todd Luck

See LWS on A9 LWS alumnus Ricky Touchstone.

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