

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Monday, January 4, 2010
www.journalnow.com 75 cents



Wake Forest beats Xavier 96-92 in double overtime **B1**

Carolina Panthers finish their season with a 23-10 win against the New Orleans Saints **A11**

Cold wind blows into northwest part of state

Plumbers, mechanics prepare for increased need for services

By Mary Giunca
JOURNAL REPORTER

Mike Coe hurried back from a vacation yesterday to get ready for what could be a deluge of calls for his plumbing company this week, as temperatures stay bitterly cold.

Coe, who owns Coe Electric and Plumbing, said his staff had been calling and texting to make sure he would be on hand when the calls about broken water pipes start coming in.

"We're prepared," he said. "We've got trucks ready to run 24/7."

The cold front that moved into the state on Friday originated in western Canada, said Mike Strickler, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Raleigh.

Yesterday's low of about 14 degrees in Winston-Salem and 15 degrees in Greensboro did not set any records, but it was nearly 20 degrees below average for this time of year, NWS records showed. Yesterday's afternoon high was 29 in Winston-Salem and 31 in Greensboro.

The Jan. 3 record low of seven degrees for the Triad was set in 1979 and today's record low of 10 degrees was set in 1981, he said.

Today's early morning lows were expected in the mid-teens, with highs this afternoon of about 30 degrees, Strickler said. It's colder in the northwestern mountains.

Temperatures dipped as low as 9 degrees yesterday morning in Boone before rising to afternoon highs of about 18 degrees, said Anita Silverman, a weather-service meteorologist in Blacksburg, Va.

See Weather, Page A2

U.S., British embassies shut down

Offices in Yemen threatened by al-Qaida attack, U.S. says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN'A, Yemen
The U.S. and Britain locked up their embassies in Yemen yesterday after fresh threats from al-Qaida, and the White House expressed alarm at the terror group's expanded reach in the poor Arab nation where an offshoot apparently ordered the Christmas Day plot against a U.S. airliner.

President Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan, cited "indications al-Qaida is planning to carry out an attack against a target" in the capital, pos-

JOHN BRENNAN

See Yemen, Page A3

INTERNAL PANEL: POLICE CHIEF FORMS REVIEW GROUP

What's Next?



JOURNAL PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD BOYD II

The attack at the Silk Plant Forest store and its investigation are a subject of controversy.

Authorities review Silk reports

By Les Gura
JOURNAL REPORTER

With the work of a citizens committee that studied how police investigated the 1995 Silk Plant Forest assault case complete — many documents have been released the past two weeks — one lingering question is what happens next.

Kalvin Michael Smith, the man convicted of brutally beating Jill Marker, a manager at the store, has been in prison since January 1997. He maintains he had nothing to do with the crime; he is serving a sentence of 22 to 29 years in prison.

In its final report in August, the Silk Plant Forest Citizens Review Committee said it had no faith in the police investigation of the crime. Separately, its members voted 7-2 on a statement that said there is no credible evidence today that Smith was at the scene of the crime on Dec. 9, 1995.

Though the committee's work hasn't changed Smith's status, people coming from different vantage points say

the review committee was significant for several reasons — everything from what it could mean to Smith overtime to the potential for more reforms in the police department to the progressive nature of committee's existence as a response to an accusation of poor police work.

Mayor Allen Joines, who supported forming the Silk Plant committee, said more could and would be done now that the committee's work is done.

"Absolutely," he said last week. "What we are doing is the council will at some point make a decision as to whether or not to call for a full reinvestigation of the case."

Internal review

Police Chief Scott Cunningham said he's formed a five-person internal team, including himself, to review the investigation and the work of the citizens committee.

None of the members of the internal team have had any contact with the case itself, he said. A previous in-

ternal investigation in 2007 — done before Cunningham was hired and before the citizens committee was appointed in 2008 — had to be scrapped after it turned out the person in charge had supervised the lead detective during the time the case was being investigated.

Cunningham indicated in an e-mail this week that the new review will be in-depth and extensive.

"We are reviewing everything to ascertain if there are sufficient and appropriate reasons to reopen the case," Cunningham said. "It is anticipated that we will make a decision regarding reopening the investigation and report that to council as a recommendation in the report."

Because there is so much material, he said, it would likely be several months before the internal committee has a report, which it will give to City Manager Lee Garrity. Cunningham said he expects

See Silk, Page A5



A large gift

Group to help pay for celebrations marking Parkway's 75th anniversary **A6**

Budget crunch

'10 promises to be rough on states **A10**

go to journalnow.com for sports blogs

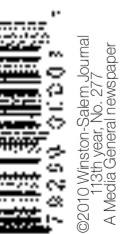
'Son of the Stimulus'

Republicans criticize Democrat's jobs plan **A10**



High 34, Low 21
Complete Forecast **A8**

Bridge	B9
Classified	B10-B11
Comics	B6, B7
Editorials	A14
Horoscopes	B9
Miss Manners	B9
Movies	A4
Obituaries	A12
SAM	A2
Sudoku	B8
Television	B8



Happy New Yields!

All accounts FDIC insured to \$250,000.

15-Month CD
2.25%^{APY}

12-Month CD
2.00%^{APY}

Bank of Granite
SERVICE AS SOLID AS OUR NAME

www.bankofgranite.com

*APY means annual percentage yield. Minimum balance required to obtain advertised APY is \$5,000. Early withdrawal penalty could occur. Rate subject to change. Fees could reduce earnings. APYs valid for a limited period of time. Member FDIC