



UNIVERSITY DOLLAR STORE: SURVIVING THE RECESSION BY STRETCHING THE BUCK.

By Val Jones

The economy has been any thing but economical these days. However, there is one store that is making sure people get the best bang for their buck — **University Dollar Store** in the Bronco Square across from Fayetteville State University.

This July, University Dollar Store celebrates 5 successful years in business. “The recession has been hard on everyone,” says Hafeena Ali-Martinez, owner operator of UDS. “The troops being constantly deployed doesn’t help. But we offer a solution that can help us all benefit. Visit my store just one time and you may find all the every day items you need under one roof at a cost that will make you and your pocket smile. We want to thank our customers for 5 wonderful years and we appreciate the success they have brought us. Together, we make the recession easier for each of us. We look forward to providing excellent service to our customers for many years to come.”

Recently University Dollar Store has upgraded from a dollar store to dollar-plus. Even though 70% of the store items are \$1, Hafeena has now added more discounted merchandise and brand name items at closeout prices. Always looking to supplying her customers’ every need, she has also made some additional changes by adding more food items. Plus, UDS now accepts EBT and is in the process of getting WIC.

Hafeena has also added a line of pre-paid phones as well as phone accessories and calling cards. And for cigar lovers, she has stocked up on a line of cigar products for your smoking pleasure.

August means the return of students to the campus of FSU. With that in mind, University Dollar Store is expanding to include more frozen dinners and lunchables. Hafeena will add 2 large freezers full of frozen foods, including pizzas, sliced meats, hamburgers, breakfast and Hot Pockets. She will also have specialty portions of chicken and turkey from local food distributors and will carry eggs, milk, bread, juice and sodas.

Their motto:

UNIVERSITY DOLLAR STORE...WHERE \$1 GOES A LONG WAY. “We really want to help the local community and students stretch that dollar,” says Hafeena. “These are the same items you find in major outlets and stores at significantly discounted prices because they are

Plus, Hafeena’s infectious personality greets you the sec-



Hafeena Ali-Martinez, owner operator of University Dollar Store.
910-818-4668 or 910-484-2244.

ond you come into the store. With a bubbly personality and a “den-mother” persona, Hafeena makes you feel at home in her store and has literally become “surrogate mother” to the many FSU students who frequent her store.

“For many local residents and students who are away from home, it is difficult shopping on a limited budget,” says Hafeena. “So, I want them to know that they don’t have to spend all their money going across town to buy the everyday items they need. Save on time and money and patronize an upscale dollar store that is located right here in the community.”

UDS is conveniently located in the heart of the Murchison Road community, right across from Fayetteville State University. Hafeena and the other merchants in the Bronco Square are sending an open invitation to FSU’s new Chancellor as well as the faculty and staff to come and visit the store and take advantage of the tremendous savings.

New school supplies are arriving in August. So, this is the perfect place to shop for school. And we have great prices on EVERYTHING – from toiletries to party supplies to electronics to nursing and cleaning scrubs,” says Hafeena.

“We have a lot of cleaning crews, daycares, home health cares and medical offices in the area and hope they will come to us for their scrubs.”

Always looking for ways to work with area schools, church groups and other organizations, Hafeena stresses how UDS is “more than willing to work out arrangements and place special orders for our customers. We sell a lot of quality products and I can bring in bulk for schools, churches and organizations that are looking to do business with us. I buy a lot of merchandise locally and from overseas and I am able to get many items at a discount price. Thus, I’m able to pass those discounts on to my customers. Plus, we have a clean upscale store with a warm environment and friendly atmosphere where customers can feel comfortable and are proud to shop in.”

Hafeena excitingly mentions: “We also carry fashionable jewelry at closeout prices — from Liz Claiborne to Elizabeth Taylor to many others you find at some of the main department stores! You can find Jordana Cosmetics and name brand children’s items like Nickelodeon, Sponge Bob, the Children’s Place and others.”

University Dollar Store also shares space with **HNJ Art Gallery**, carrying some of the most popular African-American art in the country. You can find all types of exquisite art for all tastes and ages from some of the country’s most popular artists...all at incredible prices. And now HNJ Art Gallery has teamed up with Sandhills Framing to offer custom framing. Got a family portrait that’s been sitting around? Bring it to HNJ and they can enlarge and frame it for you to match your décor. “Whether it’s professional or personal, business or home, HNJ Art Gallery can handle your needs. We’re right here in the community and offer you a great price and a quick turnaround.”

From art to everyday items, University Dollar Store is indeed worth the visit. It is one-stop shopping at its best. “Times maybe hard, but we give you a better way to spend your dollar and make it go a long way,” say Hafeena. “That is how we have been able to survive the recession. We make your money go further. Again, our motto is: ‘University Dollar Store – Where \$1 Goes A Long Way.’”

Yes it does!

University Dollar Store is opened Monday thru Saturday from 10-6 and as late at 8pm during college season. For more information, call **910-818-4668 or 910-484-2244**. University Dollar Store and HNJ Art Gallery, located at 1047 Murchison Road, Fayetteville in the Bronco Square.

STEPHEN C. STOKES SEEKS SUPERIOR COURT JUDGESHIP

Attorney Stokes files for Superior Court Judge Jack Thompson’s vacant seat

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Attorney Stephen C. Stokes announces his intention to seek the judicial seat vacated by retiring Superior Court Judge Jack Thompson. Attorney Stokes praises the dedicated work and committed service of Judge Thompson, and is himself committed to continuing the same level of excellence and professionalism when he is elected judge. With more than 18 years of diverse legal training and experience, Attorney Stokes has the requisite qualifications to serve as Cumberland County’s next Superior Court Judge for District 12A. He has been in the private practice of law since 1999.

Before going into private practice, Attorney Stokes served honorably in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corp (JAG Corps) as a Trial Counsel, a Special Assistant United States Attorney, a Defense Attorney in the 82nd Airborne Division, and an International Law Attorney and Command Judge Advocate for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, respectively. He was also Chief of one of the Army’s largest legal assistance offices, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, XVIII Airborne Corps. Attorney Stokes spent two years as an Assistant State’s Attorney with the 2nd Judicial Circuit, Tallahassee, FL. Prior to law school, he also served in the Military Police (MP) Corps, serving as a platoon leader with the 65th MP Company, the 118th MP Company (Airborne), and the 82nd MP Company, 82nd



Airborne Division, where he was also the Executive Officer, and at one point, the Acting Commander. Following undergraduate school and before joining the Army, he worked as a deputy sheriff for two years in Tallahassee, FL.

Steve successfully completed the very difficult and challenging U.S. Army Ranger School and the Advanced Airborne School, known for its zero-tolerance regarding errors of judgment and execution. He earned the coveted Ranger Tab and Senior Jump Wings, respectively. He is a graduate of the Combined Arms and Services Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, KS; the National Security Law Summer Training Institute at the University of Virginia School of Law; the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Advanced Course, JFK Special Warfare Center and School, and the Judge Advocate General’s Basic Officer Course. Attorney Stokes obtained the rank of Major before electing

to leave the service to go into private practice.

Attorney Stokes earned his Juris Doctor degree from The Florida State University College of Law, where he was a Virgil Hawkins Fellow. He has a dual Master’s degree in Public Administration and Management from Webster University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from The Florida State University. Attorney Stokes is licensed to practice law in North Carolina and Florida, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, U.S. District for the Eastern District of North Carolina, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the United States Army Court of Military Review and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Attorney Stokes serves on the Cumberland County Education Foundation’s Board of Directors, and on the Cumberland County Bar Association’s Board of Directors. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Alpha Phi Omega’s national service fraternity. He is also a master mason.

Steve is married to Dr. Yvette Stokes, a local pediatric dentist and small business owner. He has four children, two of whom have undergraduate and MBA degrees, and two who still live at home and attend school at Village Christian Academy. They are members of First Baptist Church on Moore Street. Steve enjoys spending time with his family, attending church, playing speed chess and alto saxophone. He is also a sixth degree black belt in Shinjimasu Karate.

STOKES

for Superior Court