



Carver runner preparing for races

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UNCSA students headed to Haiti

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Photos by Layla Garms
Elasya Jessup shows off some of her most popular merchandise at Elasya B's Candy Tree, a new downtown store on Fourth Street.



A Sweet Dream Come True

Girl, 9, opens downtown store

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Nine year-old Elasya "Bird" Jessup is downtown Winston-Salem's newest entrepreneur.

Elasya, a third grader at Kirkman Park Elementary in High Point, has parlayed her notorious sweet tooth into a successful business venture, first at a kiosk at Hanes Mall, and now, with Elasya B's Candy Tree, a Fourth Street sweets shop that opened its doors last week.

It all started with a doll. "I wanted to get an American Girl doll," Elasya explained. "It cost \$100 and they (her parents) didn't want to pay for it."

So Elasya took matters into her own hands. Inspired by the treats she had enjoyed at the Dixie Classic Fair not long before, she began to go door to door in her neighborhood, selling candy apples to raise money for the doll. Her older sister, Aria, was student-teaching at Whitaker Elementary at the time, and Elasya set up a booth at the school's fall festival. The apples were so popular that Elasya and her parents, Shannon and Shannon Jessup, began taking orders and delivering them to the school each Friday. The family opened the kiosk at Hanes Mall on November 26, 2012. Business there took off immediately.

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Rev. William Barber (right) stands by Rob Stephens. Dr. John Mendez (far left) is also pictured.

Arrest strengthens Mendez's resolve

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, became one of the first local pastors to take a stand against what many are calling regressive legislation that is being handed down by the Republican-controlled North Carolina Legislature.

"Dr. Barber and I are good friends and we knew from day one once this Republican General Assembly came together that their top intention would be to take us back and introduce legislation based on prejudices and conservative ideology, and that's what's happened," Mendez said. "I'm as good a follower as I am a leader. I'm in it for the long run because we have a very powerful leader in the person of Dr. Barber and he can't do it by himself. He needs our support, he needs our help."



Parmon

Mendez was among 17 men and women who were arrested and detained last week, following a staged protest at the North Carolina General Assembly led by the North Carolina NAACP. The group gathered outside the General Assembly chambers on April 29 to sing and pray for legislators, who have garnered attention across the state and the nation for what the NAACP has dubbed "an avalanche of extremist policies" that the organization says threaten healthcare and voting rights, especially for the poor, African Americans, Latinos, women, seniors and students. The protest was led by clergy but supported by a broad cross-section of the North Carolinians, according to Rob Stephens, field secretary for the NC NAACP.

"That was definitely a goal to highlight the moral center of the movement, the moral high ground," said Stephens, a city native. "It was very effective; it was a very powerful thing."

"When you add it all up, it really pricked my conscience. Based on all of the public policies that have been passed in recent months, there was no way in the world I could sit back and not say anything or do anything. We had to bring attention to this because I think a lot of North Carolinians are not aware of

See Mendez on A8



LOOKING BACK

Residents point to significant local black history events over the last 100 years

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

The city's four-day Centennial Celebration, which began today (Thursday, May 9) has been cause for much reflection, as members of the Twin City look back on the events that brought two very different towns together as one in 1913.

For history buffs in the African American community, the centennial offers a golden opportunity to look back on the contributions of local African Americans, and the impact of their presence on the shaping of this city. Cheryl Harry, director of African American Programming at Old Salem Museums and Gardens, said Winston-Salem was once home to a thriving community of black professionals. Plentiful job opportunities at tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds drew African Americans to the community, and with the tobacco workers came a growing need for professional goods and services, said Harry, who recently authored a book, "Winston-Salem's African American Legacy."

Digital Forsyth Image

The city's first black alderman, Kenneth R. Williams, is pictured in 1949 with other members.

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ALL YOU NEED IS HUGS



Photo by Kevin Walker

The adage states that the best things in life are free. Judi Steelman and Liza Castro agree. The pair offered up free hugs at last week's First Friday Gallery Hop because, as they say, "the world needs more hugs." The women were inspired by Australian Juan Mann, whose singular free hugs initiative has spread around the world over the past nine years.

Johnson: Social capital could change fortunes of the poor



Johnson

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Building social capital – or community connections and friendships across lines of race, class and neighborhood boundaries – is especially essential for those who are economically marginalized.

Dr. James Johnson, the William R. Kenan Jr.

Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the UNC Chapel Hill Kenan-Flager Business School and head of the Urban Investment Strategies Center, drove that point home May 1 during the keynote address he delivered at the Winston-Salem Foundation's annual

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Photo by Layla Garms

ECHO Award Winners Marcus Hill and Salem Huff.

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