



Lawyer winning kudos for his fiction

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THURSDAY, July 25, 2013



Vivian Burke is looking to extend her stay.

Challengers take aim at Council incumbents

BY LAYLA GARMES THE CHRONICLE

The turnout of candidates for Winston-Salem City Council positions has created a crowded field this year.

Following the July 19 filing deadline, no member of the Council has escaped without opposition. North Ward Council Member Denise "DD" Adams will face no Primary challenger, but Republican Patricia Kleinmaier awaits her in November's general election. Southwest Ward Council Member Dan Besse also won't face a primary challenger, but Republicans Donald Shaw and Robert Bultman are vying to see which one of them will run against him in the general.

Five members of the Council, including Mayor Allen Joiner, face opposition in the Sept. 10 primary. The Northwest Ward seat held by Council Member Wanda Merschel is up for grabs after the veteran decided not to seek reelection.

Northeast Ward incumbent Vivian Burke decided to seek another

term. She had initially told The Chronicle she was "thinking and praying" about whether she would run for re-election, but when she was confronted on the eve of the filing deadline with a roomful of supporters imploring her to run again, Burke, who has served on the Council for 35 years, said she took their pleas to heart.

"I said I have to go and pray over it and pray about it and so I decided that I would go on and run," she related. "There's still some things that need to be done."

During her more than three decades of the Council, Burke said she has introduced a variety of city initiatives to serve minorities, women and youth, including the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program and the Youth Advisory Council, and established valuable relationships with stakeholders all over the city. If the voters re-elect her, Burke said she will continue to fight for women, minorities and vulnerable populations such as the city's homeless community.

"I have been able to



Bowen



Tatum

Where History Was Made



City of W.S. Photo

Locals pose around the city's newest historic marker. Commemorating Pythian Hall, the marker was unveiled Sunday at the corner of Chestnut and Seventh streets. Built in 1902, Pythian Hall housed two important African-American fraternal organizations, the Knights of Pythias and the Prince Hall Masons, that helped city newcomers find housing and jobs. The building also housed the Fraternal Funeral Home, which was started in 1928 by the Prince Hall Masons and was later acquired by Clark S. Brown, whose grandchildren Maurice Brown and Carla Brown Rumph took part in the unveiling.

New Super continues systemwide meetings

BY LAYLA GARMES THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Beverly Emory, the new superintendent of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, is wasting no time in getting to know the community she now serves.

Emory, who took office July 1, is in the midst of a series of meetings with school system employees, parents and other stakeholders to learn about the system's strengths and weaknesses and their expectations of her as its new leader. School system officials initially announced 10 meetings with small groups at area high schools, but the community's overwhelming response prompted them to add 10 more meeting times, Emory explained. Though open to the general public, attendees were required to pre-register to attend, in part to make Emory's conversations with stakeholders more intimate. The former superintendent of Pitt County Schools is expected to interface with 300 people by the conclusion of the last meeting on Aug. 22.



Emory



Photo by Layla Garmes

Alicia and Harold Cone at the meeting.

"My purpose in having these meetings with small groups was first to listen and learn," she explained. "The other part is sort of research gathering ... I want to have

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For the Love of Music

Thomas finally embracing his God-given talent

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE



Photo by Todd Luck

Russell Thomas plays his guitar.

As a child, Russell Thomas watched a live band perform and was instantly drawn to the guitar.

So when he was 13, he and a friend saw an electric guitar in a store window, and he just had to have it.

"I was baptized in the guitar at that point," he said. "Actually, the clerk let me layaway the guitar with all the money I had, and it was a penny back in 1971, but he was a smart salesman cause he knew I had a mother who would give him some money for it."

Thomas, one of seven children, said his family didn't have a lot of money, but his mother, Margie

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WSSU early voting point of contention for new BOE

Photos by Layla Garmes

Fleming El-Amin is read the oath by District Court Judge Victoria Roemer.



BY LAYLA GARMES THE CHRONICLE

Three men - two Republicans and one Democrat - took oaths last week to serve as members of the Forsyth County Board of Elections.

Fleming El-Amin, Ken Raymond and Stuart Russell each signed on to serve two year terms with the Board, which is responsible for conducting all elections held in Forsyth County and ensuring that state election laws are



Sutton

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