



WSSU runners get home-track advantage

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THURSDAY, March 13, 2014

Officials nudge apartment managers to ban smoking

BY LAYLA GARMS THE CHRONICLE

Public health officials are making a push to persuade local property owners and managers to implement smoke free policies.

"As landlords and property managers, you have a huge opportunity," Forsyth County Department of Public Health Director Marlon Hunter told the contingent of housing owners and public health advocates who gathered at the Department last week for a two hour lunch and learn workshop that extolled the benefits of apartment smoking bans. "You have an opportunity to reduce costs and you also have a huge opportunity to reduce a risk to a major preventable cause of disease and that is secondhand smoke."

The U.S. Department of



County Health Director Marlon Hunter addresses attendees.

Housing and Urban Development has taken a strong stance in support of such smoke free policies, and its influence is causing other property managers to take note. Health advocates say that multi-unit housing complexes that allow smoking increase nonsmokers' exposure to secondhand smoke by way of air ducts, ventilation systems and common areas. Allowing smoking also increases the risk of fire and other

smoking-related damage, they say.

Implementing smoke free policies is a "win-win" for property managers and their tenants, because it reduces the risk of property damage and cleaning costs and improves the health of the residents, said Elizabeth Edmonds, a public health associate for the Centers for Disease Control who is overseeing the effort in Forsyth County.

"From my research, what I've seen is it's becoming very popular," the Chicago native said of the policies. "Everybody knows the effects of secondhand smoke, so we want to get as many properties as we can on board with the smoke free policy."

Although she expected some resistance in a state with such strong ties to the tobacco

See Ban on A8

Hispanic hopefuls in the running

BY LAYLA GARMS THE CHRONICLE

Dominican Republic native German Garcia is aiming to become the first Hispanic American to serve on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education.

Garcia, a Democrat, is one of eight at-large candidates in the 2014 race. Fellow Democrats Suzanne Carroll, Donald Dunn, Katherine Fansler and incumbent Elisabeth Motsinger are also vying for the three county-wide seats, as are Republicans Robert Barr, Mark Johnson and John Davenport Jr., a current board member representing District 1.

There are more than 10,000 Hispanic students in the school system, and Garcia, who retired in 2000 after two decades in the U.S. Army, says it is high-time that that demographic is reflected on the school board.

"I'm bringing a cultural diversity awareness to the board and to the whole city, too," said the father of three. "It's a matter of everybody understanding that I understand you because I know where you came from. A human being is a human being. All you've got to do is nurture that human being for them to become somebody productive."

As president of the Forsyth County Hispanic American Democrats and a teaching assistant at Petree Elementary for the past two years, Garcia says he has a unique perspective that would allow him to understand and effectively address the needs of students from all across the county, while giving special attention to those in predominantly minority or low performing schools.

"Sometimes society stereotypes people and doesn't look at them as a whole," said the Webster University alumnus. "But if you give them the opportunity, the sky is the limit, and I'm an example of that."

Susan Campbell, chair of the Forsyth County Democratic Party, said Garcia has represented the interests of the Hispanic community well.

"They've certainly thrived under



Garcia



Vasquez



WPU Photo

His & Hers

Wake Forest School of Law Dean Blake D. Morant and Experiment in Self-Reliance Executive Director Twana Wellman-Roebuck will receive the Man and Woman of the Year Awards, respectively, at The Chronicle's Saturday, March 22 Community Service Awards Gala. See who else has been selected to take home awards on page A2.



File Photo

How Sweet It Is

Furches turns love of baking into lucrative business

BY LAYLA GARMS THE CHRONICLE

Moscato. Purple velvet. Blackberry wine. When it comes to cake flavors, there are no rules, according to Will "EJ" Furches, owner of A Slice of Heaven Desserts.

"Where there's a will, there's a way, and I'm Will, so I'm going to make a way," declared the city native. "...I try to keep my customers intrigued. I just try to be creative."

A Slice of Heaven currently offers more than 40 different cake flavors, and Furches, 31, keeps a running list of flavors he has in the works. Peanut butter and jelly, Skittles and Coca-Cola are among them.

"I like my stuff to be really unique, something you can't get anywhere else, so you'll have to come to me," Furches remarked. "I like to do stuff that's different and kind of reminds you of home, too."

His fledgling operation offers an array of sweets, pound cakes, pies, puddings and everything in between. During



One of Furches' more elaborate creations.

See 'Heaven' on A2



Photos by Layla Garms

EJ Furches ices one of his mini-cakes.

See Candidates on A8

Hearts, wallets open for tribute scholarship

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

A new scholarship in honor of Brandon P. Maaney, who passed away unexpectedly last month from heart disease, has prompted an outpouring of support from the community.

Maaney, 45, was a graduate of Carver High School and Winston-Salem State University and a member of Salem Lodge #139. He passed away Feb. 16 from hypertensive heart disease. The new B. Maaney Heart Scholarship will go to male students



Brandon P. Maaney



Photo by Todd Luck

Lashun Huntley poses with his best friend's sister, Barena Maaney.

See Maaney on A2

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