



Library project promotes unity

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Local stylists win hair show accolades

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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 40, Number 30 — WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — THURSDAY, March 20, 2014

Martin testing political waters

Former Schools chief challenging Commissioner Mark Baker

BY LAYLA GARMS
 THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Don Martin, the former superintendent of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, is hoping to serve county residents in a new capacity this year.



Baker



Martin

Martin, who retired in 2013 after serving as superintendent for nearly 20 years, is challenging incumbent Mark Baker, a fellow Republican, for his District B Forsyth County Board of Commissioners seat.

"I've worked with the County Commissioners for a lot of years and I think I've got a few things to offer," said the Duke University alumnus, who currently serves as a professor in the newly-created Educational Leadership program in High Point University's School of Education. "...Sometimes it's a case where age and experience makes a difference, and I think I bring a lot of experience to the position."

Baker, a King native and High Point University graduate, ran two unsuccessful campaigns for a seat on the seven-member Commissioners board before being appointed to fill Debra Conrad's seat after she won election to the N.C. House. The highlights of his time on the board include helping to find a way to address the multi-million dollar shortfall caused by starkly lower property tax revaluations, supporting the renovation of the Central Library at its existing site rather than relocating it and creating a process where citizens could give feedback on the county services they utilize, Baker said.

"We worked hard to cut spending where we could and not do revenue neutral tax increase," stated the father of two, who serves as principal of middle and high schools at Salem Baptist Christian School. "...My philosophy of government has always been that government should be limited in what it does and what it does should always be

See Primary on A2

Tackling crime, punishment

Panel offers solutions to malignant problems

BY TODD LUCK
 THE CHRONICLE

Black-on-black crime's causes and solutions were explored Saturday morning during a breakfast panel discussion at the Applebee's on Griffith Road.

The candid talk, entitled "My Brother's Keeper," was held by Diggs Memorial United Holy Church and its pastor, Elder Lamonte Williams. It featured several people with intimate knowledge of the topic, including Assistant Police Chief Wilson Weaver, who shared grim local statistics showing that more than 90 percent of the time crimes against

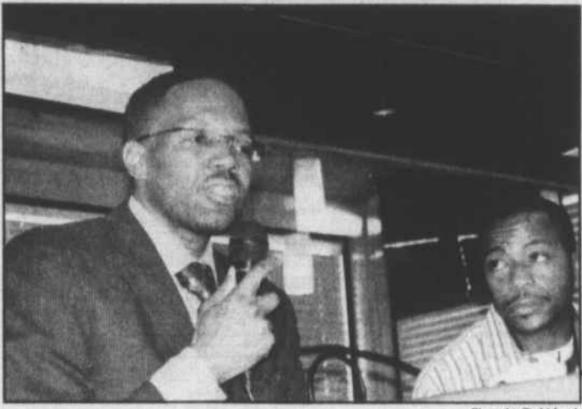


Photo by Todd Luck

Whole Man Ministries' Kenneth Holly speaks as Bishop Todd Fulton looks on.

blacks are perpetrated by other blacks.

While all races are victimized by members of the same race, he said the black-on-black crime rate is stark in comparison to the white-on-white crime rate of 46.4

percent and Hispanic-on-Hispanic rate of 39 percent.

"When it comes to black-on-black crime, our numbers are so disproportionately away from everyone else that there's obviously a problem, and there are obviously a

strong number of black victims that are out there," Weaver said.

The tragedy is compounded when perpetrators are apprehended and end up with a criminal record and possible jail time, the assistant chief added.

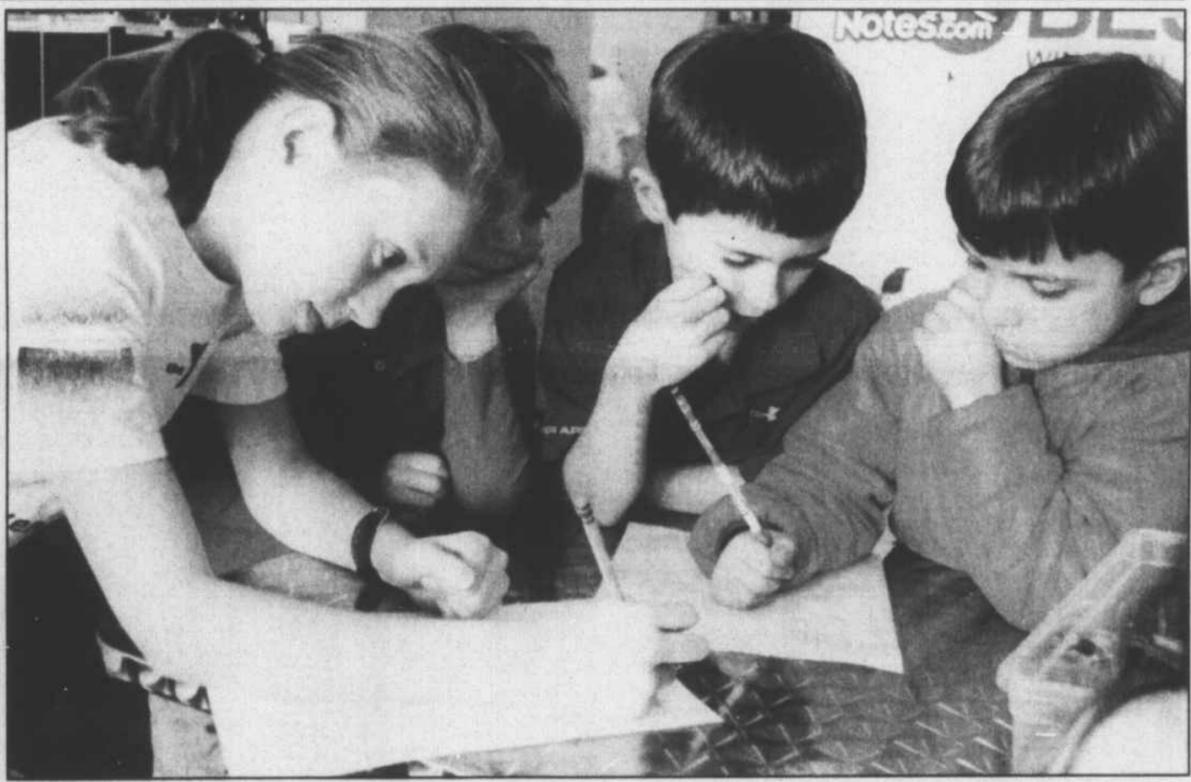
"Anything that can be done to get to our, especially black, males before they're committing offenses, we're all for it, because our part of it is more reactive than it is proactive," he said.

District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield, who moderated the discussion, decried what she sees in the court system.

"I see more African American men being habituated than anything in that courthouse, which is a travesty," said Hartsfield.

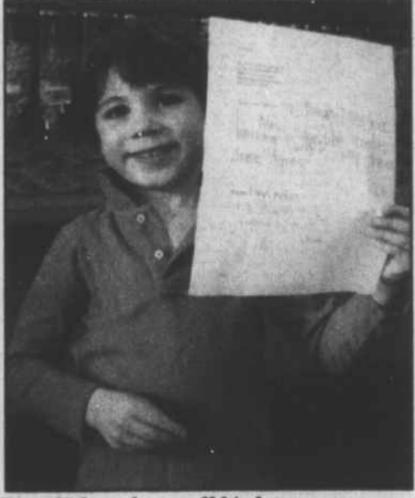
She said unequal access

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Photos by Layla Garms

Whitaker students (from left): Carolina Bumgarner, Finn Kehoe, Will Bumgarner and Thomas Smith were among those who penned letters in support of their teachers.



Finn Kehoe shows off his letter.

Penned with Love

Kids write letters of support for their teachers

BY LAYLA GARMS
 THE CHRONICLE

Students at Whitaker Elementary are taking a unique approach to expressing their admiration for their teachers.

In celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, which was observed at Whitaker March 10-14, the school's PTA organized a letter writing campaign expressing their appreciation and support of their teachers to Gov. Pat McCrory and state legislators.

"We just thought this was a great way to show the teachers how much we appreciate what they do and how much we value them," explained PTA

Advocacy Chair Elizabeth Kehoe. "...It's sort of a tangible way to show them that we care and we want to put pen to paper and let people know how much we value them and really just to let legislators know, too, how important our teachers are to us."

By the time of the campaign's culmination celebration at Brynn's Yogurt on March 12, nearly 100 students had lent their support to the effort by volunteering to write letters. Kehoe, a mother of two, said a lot is being asked of teachers these days. The former attorney said she is hopeful that students who participate in

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Joines backs Graham



Joines

BY LAYLA GARMS
 THE CHRONICLE

Congressional hopeful Sen. Malcolm Graham won the support of a local heavyweight in his bid for the 12th District seat.

Mayor Allen Joines officially announced his endorsement of Graham, a Democrat who represents Mecklenburg County in the North Carolina Senate.

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Photos by Layla Garms

Sen. Malcolm Graham speaks with supporters at his side.

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