



Black businesses unite for expo

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Shaw tenders CDC resignation

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THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, August 28, 2014

Former teacher says WS/FCS failed him

Sexual impropriety charges dismissed by judge

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

A former Carver High School teacher pulled from the classroom because of allegations of sexual misconduct says he is looking to put his life back together after a judge dismissed all charges against him last week.

Samuel E. McClain, 38, had faced two counts of misdemeanor assault after two male students had accused him of touching them on their buttocks. One student alleged he was touched in late December; the other had claimed he was touched in mid January.

McClain was suspended with pay for 90 days (the maximum amount of time the state allows for teacher suspensions) in January. He returned to the classroom after the 90 days, but was suspended for another 90 days when prosecutors charged him in May. He has not set foot in a classroom since.

McClain, who called the charges false and scurrilous from the beginning, said he has endured months of grief, stress and agony and deserves an apology from the school system.

"I was hurt that Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools did not have my back. I felt that they took the words of these kids over that of an employee who has not had any type of misconduct prior to coming to the school system," said McClain, who was new to Carver but is a more than 15-year teaching veteran. "There was no communication with me after this happened, and I still have not gotten an apology from anybody in the school system since the judge has handed down this verdict. They threw me under the bus and made it look like it was sexual misconduct in how they told the parents. I felt that they assumed that I was guilty, and I had to prove my innocence."

WS/FC Schools Marketing and Communications Director Theo Helm said the school system followed protocol.

"If the allegations are criminal, we immediately turn it over to law enforcement, and we don't do any investigating of our own until law enforcement finishes," Helm said.

District Court Judge Chester Davis granted McClain's attorney's request for dismissal after prosecutors called several witnesses to the stand during a hearing last week. The judge agreed that there was insignificant evidence to convict McClain.

McClain said the judge's decision caused him to burst into tears.

"I was relieved that this situation was over and that I could move forward with my life. I

See McClain on A3

Liberians honor Angelou and pray for homeland

West African nation caught in Ebola's net

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Saturday was a night of festiveness and tribute, as the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont (LOP) celebrated Liberian Flag and Independence Day at the Old Fellows Club House.

The West African nation's Declaration of Independence was adopted the same day as its constitution – July 26, 1847 – by the former American slaves who settled the country. Flag Day is Aug. 24 and is celebrated with grand parades in Liberia. A shadow was cast on this year's celebrations, though.

Liberia is one of the West African nations in the gripes of an Ebola outbreak. Of the reportedly

See LOP on A8



Photo by Todd Luck
Sylvia Haith watches as Liberian Organization of the Piedmont President James Hunder lights a candle in honor of Maya Angelou.



The kids prepare to ride their new bikes.

Photos by Chanel Davis

Christmas in August

For 25th anniversary, company surprises kids with new bikes

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Eight children from The Salvation Army's Boys and Girls International Club on New Walkertown Road received brand new bicycles (and helmets) last week – gifts from a company that is celebrating its silver anniversary with benevolence.

PhoneTree, which provides automated messaging services to businesses, faith organizations and nonprofits, presented the bikes to the jubilant kids on Aug. 19 at its downtown headquarters. CEO A.J. DiBianca said the company would dedicate the entire week to service. Plans were announced for employees to raise money and trek in the American Heart Association's Heart Walk and collect supplies for the Forsyth Humane Society and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

PhoneTree was birthed in a living room. Today, it has 50 employees and an office perched high up in the Winston Tower. DiBianca said his employees have much to do with the company's success and longevity.

See Bikes on A9



A smiling Noe Cebrero gets ready to ride.

Photos by Todd Luck

Alacyia Young (center) with siblings (from left) Alora, Alayna, Allen Jr. and parents Monette and Allen.



Baby Deacs take first steps

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University welcomed 1,200 first-year students last Thursday.

A steady stream of vehicles made their way down Gully Drive, where freshman dorms sit, as students and their families used the dozens of parallel parking spaces to unload belongings.

Alacyia "Lacy" Young, 17, of Nashville, Tenn. had a seven hour drive and an overnight hotel stay before arriving



Menon

See Freshmen on A8

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