

# Big 4 alumni celebrate legendary band directors



Photos by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle  
**Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Valentino Boone Sr. listen as members of the Carver High School Alumni Association speak during the Dedication of Band Rooms celebration on Saturday, April 25.**



**The Big 4 Choir performs at the Dedication of Band Rooms celebration on Saturday, April 25 at Carver High School Auditorium.**

BY TEVIN STINSON  
 FOR THE CHRONICLE

When you hear band director, most people just think of a teacher of music.

But for the former directors Rudolph V. Boone of Carver, Bernard T. Foy of Paisley, and Henry D. Wheeler of Atkins (now home of Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy), it was a lot more than just music. It was their way of giving their students lessons that would help them be successful in all aspects of life.

After a lot of lobbying from Beverly Williams and of The Big 4 Alumni Association of Forsyth County Inc., on Saturday, April 25, the three schools held a dedication program at Carver High School to rename the band rooms in honor of the legendary directors, who combined had over 90 years of service.

"They taught us to never walk in any-

one's shadow," Williams said. "They insisted on perfection."

The Big 4 — Atkins, Anderson, Carver and Paisley high schools — represent the four high schools in Winston-Salem that were for African-American students only because of segregation. Although they were rivals then, The Big 4 Alumni Association represents the graduates of these four schools and is dedicated to supporting youth through scholarship and community outreach.

As people started to fill into the auditorium, laughs and joyous chatter began to echo through the room. Renee Vaughn, co-host of the Tom Joyner morning show and Carver alumnus, was the mistress of ceremony and was delighted to host the event.

"It feels great to be at my alma mater," she said. "It was a long time ago since I walked these halls, but coming here today

brought back so many memories."

The program began with a slide show of pictures from the directors' tenures. A number of people in the audience even saw themselves in pictures, some even said aloud the names of classmates they saw in pictures who weren't in attendance.

A number of former students of the legendary directors reminisced about their experiences and how they impacted their lives. George Johnson of Winston-Salem had the pleasure of being taught by both Boone and Wheeler and was quick to remind the crowd of it.

"Not many people can say they were taught by more than one of these legends, so I guess I have a little more bragging rights than everybody else," Johnson said.

The program included performances by The New South Brass, directed by Gary Hasting; The Healing Force; Keith Boyd

and Friends Jazz Ensemble; and The Big 4 Choir, directed by Eddie Bines. Nell Davis Britton and Gary Hasting also had special solo performances.

Tickets were sold at the door for \$25, with proceeds (after all expenses are paid) to benefit scholarships and other community projects of The Big 4 Alumni Association of Forsyth County Inc., which sponsored the event.

Dr. Beverly Emory, superintendent of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, also attended.

She said she believes that we need more educators to adapt the morals as Boone, Foy and Wheeler.

"This is more than some names on a building," Emory said. "These men were more than teachers; they were difference-makers."

## Routes

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or the city.

WSTA has already used its automatic passenger counter information and a survey of passenger's origin and destinations to draw up new proposed routes. Barnes said changes in travel patterns will be taken into account for things like more direct routes to popular destinations. There will also be changes in the amount of routes at certain times of day. For instance, Saturday would see less daytime routes but more nighttime routes. There will be changes to bus stops using federal funds to update and add stops.

The new route proposal will be presented by the WSTA staff at meetings from May 6 to June 8, where the public will be able to comment.

"We need to know from our constituents what their needs are that we haven't covered already," Barnes said.

After that, changes may be made to the proposed routes. Then they'll be submitted for approval by the WSTA Board of Directors in June, and then to City Council.

City Council Member Dan Besse, who chairs the Public Works Committee that

oversees transportation, said WSTA has reached out to City Council members to get input on the routes in their wards. He said he's relayed several requests from his constituents on route changes, including getting service to apartment complexes near Academy Street that didn't previously have it. He hopes the public comes out to the comment meetings.

"We need the opportunity for direct public feedback through these public meetings to back-stop our estimates to make sure we're getting it right," he said.

Besse said like other cities across the nation, Winston-Salem is attempting to improve its bus service with limited funds after cuts in federal funding for public transportation. He said the city has made important strides, like Next Bus, which lets passengers use their computers or smart phones to know when their buses will get to the bus stops. He hopes improvements will help WSTA attract new passengers.

Barnes said when the route changes take place, there will be an "incredible" marketing campaign to let passengers know when the changes go into effect and what they'll be.

**For a full list of public hearings on route changes, see the WSTA ad on page A4.**



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Loretta Lynch, a North Carolina native, was sworn in Monday, April 27, as the 83rd attorney general, becoming the first African-American woman to serve as the top U.S. law enforcement official.

She said her confirmation as attorney general showed that "we can do anything" and pledged to deal with cyberattacks and other threats facing the country.

"We can restore trust and faith both in our laws and those who enforce them," Lynch said, an apparent reference to ongoing efforts to repair relations between police departments and minority communities. She was born in Greensboro and raised in Durham.

Vice President Joe Biden administered the oath of office to Lynch at a Justice Department ceremony. Her father, Lorenzo Lynch, who is from Durham, N.C., and her husband, Stephen Hargrove, helped. Lynch replaces Eric Holder, who left the job Friday, April 24, after six years as head of the department.

The 55-year-old Lynch was confirmed by the Senate on Thursday, April 23, following a months-long delay in which her nomination became caught up in a dispute over human trafficking legislation.

"It's about time," Biden said to applause.

She was previously the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, which encompasses much of New York City, and is expected to serve as the top federal law enforcement official for the remaining 20 months of the Obama administration.



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