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See the Opinion / Forum pages A6 & 7

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THE CHRONICLE

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VOTING RIGHTS

N.C. NAACP gears up for fight in W-S

St. Philips hosts program as it marks the anniversary of end-of-slavery announcement

BY DONNA ROGERS
THE CHRONICLE

The occasion of the 150th anniversary of the day the Emancipation Proclamation was read in the forerunner of St. Philips Moravian Church in Old Salem was used to rally people to support the N.C. NAACP-led moral justice movement, which is scheduled to be in force in Winston-Salem on July 13.

The movement will hold educational workshops and a rally as the N.C. NAACP voting rights lawsuit against North Carolina — N.C. NAACP v. McCrory — is being heard in federal court in Winston-Salem.

St. Philips celebrated the anniversary of the announcement of freedom for slaves with a program called "Ever Forward to Freedom." Thursday, May 21, was the 150th anniversary to the day when the Emancipation Proclamation was read to the local African-American communities from the pulpit of St. Philips, said the Rev. Russ May, pastor of St. Philips.

The organizers of the program contend that African-Americans and others are not yet free because of the laws that attack equal rights, such as regressive voting rights laws and laws against equal pay for women, a living wage and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The program featured speakers from the Winston-Salem area as well as the Rev. Curtis Gatewood, HKonJ People's Assembly Coalition coordinator for the N.C. NAACP.

The Forsyth County Board of Elections tackles issues with N.C.'s new voting law.
Page A 3



Photo by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle
The Rev. Curtis Gatewood, N.C. NAACP leader, delivers a message of freedom-progressive efforts in the state through the Moral Monday Movement on Thursday, May 21.

See **Fight** on A3

Third try at NAACP elections goes over without issues

Winston-Salem Chapter of NAACP holds new vote after months of questions

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

After months of waiting and uncertainty, on Tuesday, May 26, the Winston-Salem Chapter of the NAACP finally had its elections to choose new officials.

The local chapter has seen several months of uncertainty while trying to elect new officials. In November 2014, incumbent president S. Wayne Patterson called in the N.C. NAACP to oversee the election after candidates

were submitted after the nomination process was closed.

Another election was held in January of this year but results were overturned, because ballots were not printed on paper and a number of other violations.

On May 7, Patterson, a local attorney, announced that he would be withdrawing his name from the ballot. In a phone interview this week, Patterson explained that, although he will no longer be running for president, he will continue to support the chapter.

"I have a lot going on right now," Patterson said. "I am opening a new law firm in Georgia, but I will continue to support the Winston-Salem chapter in every way I can."

During the elections on May 26, state board members,

who conducted the elections, only allowed members who were eligible to vote in the original elections inside the NAACP Enrichment Center, 4130 Oak Ridge Drive.

Bernard Byrd, who is also a member of the Forsyth County Board of Elections, said during the first two elections he could see a number of violations, but was pleased with how smoothly these elections went.

"I am very pleased with how things were handled this time," Byrd said. "I believe if Ike (Isaac Howard) wins, things will be headed in the right direction."

Howard was elected president during the election held

See **NAACP elections** on A8



Veterans gain attention

Charles Hinnant, a veteran of the U.S. Army, listens on Friday, May 22, during a visit by U.S. Rep. Alma S. Adams (NC-12) to where he is staying: the Veterans Helping Veterans Heal (VHVV) Center, for homeless veterans in Winston-Salem. SEE THE STORY ON PAGE A5.

Photo by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle

See **Veterans** on A5

W-S veterans commemorate Memorial Day

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds came out to commemorate Memorial Day at the HARRY Veteran Community Outreach Services' seventh annual Commemoration and Picnic on Monday, May 25, at Bolton Park.

HARRY, a local group that offers numerous services to veterans, started honoring Memorial Day years ago with a picnic where the numerous veterans that volunteer with the group and their families would fill a shelter at a local park. It's grown over the years to become a huge community event.

This year was expected to draw 600 attendees, who formed long lines wrapping around Bolton's massive shelter, waiting to be served free food. Set up at the event where R&B and Old School Radio Station 97.1 WQMG and the Rams Know HOW (Healthcare on Wheels), which was there providing free health checks. A stage hosted performances by the Work in Progress choir and music pumped through the speakers. Various officials kicked off the festivities including an invocation by Earline Parmon, a veteran and former state senator who is Rep. Alma

GRADUATION DAY 2015

Speaker at Salem College urges graduates to dream big

BY CARLY WILLIAMS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Saturday morning, May 23, framed by the scenic beauty of Salem College's May Dell outdoor amphitheater, a standing-room-only assembly of family, friends and faculty witnessed the birthing of 236 dreamers — no longer deferred by exams, presentations, or studying — into limitless possibil-

ities of enhanced purpose.

"Have a dream so profound and compelling that you cannot rest," Dr. Freda C. Lewis-Hall, commencement keynote speaker, was told by a former president of India during her earlier travels.

Lewis-Hall, executive vice president and chief medical officer for Pfizer Inc. and familiar television personality from "The Doctors" TV show, also shared wisdom from her mother on Lewis-

Hall's college graduation in 1976: "Know yourself, take action, and believe in your dreams," she told this year's graduates. "Be more you. Surround yourself with those who see you. Take action — turn pain and disappointment into meaningful action."

Dr. Lewis-Hall, who practices centric medicine, has held leadership roles in academia, in

See **Speaker** on A2

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