

ID Law

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university.

Another concern was when presenting a photo ID on voting day, the person should match the picture along with the physical description that entails on the card. A lot of the people in the community spoke out about how over the years, one's physical description will appear different as it is when first taking that particular photo.

Residents also expressed about how everyone has the exercising right to vote and mention that people have fought and died for those rights.

"I hope you do your best to guarantee everybody their constitutional right to vote," said resident Robert McNeill.

There were many African-American citizens present at this hearing that voiced their opinions on the new law. Some of them have said the law promotes voter suppression by these sudden changes.

"I am against the voter ID law and all the new restrictions on voting," said resident Constance Johnson Russell. "My concern is who police the judges [people who check the voter rolls at the polls] to ensure that they're not abusing their authority."

Russell said that long lines will form at the voting polls because of the judges arguing over what photo ID is acceptable.

Citizens of Forsyth County also spoke out how they want the staff to be trained properly at the voting polls. Those who had their two minutes to speak were able to speak again if they didn't finish getting their point across. While the officials addressed the crowd that this hearing is to be formal, whispers and some applauding still broke out.

To voice an opinion about the voter ID law, submit written comments to rules@ncbse.gov or mail them to P.O. Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611 to the attention to Rule-making Coordinator George McCue. All submission



Photo by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

Tyler Swanson speaks on behalf of college students across North Carolina at the State Board of Elections public comment hearing on Tuesday, June 9, at the Forsyth County Government Center in downtown Winston-Salem. "HB589 disenfranchises college students," said Swanson, a Political Science major at N.C. A&T University and current N.C. NAACP Youth and College Division Political Action chairman. "By not allowing us to vote using our college IDs, HB589 is punishing college students for being liberal and/or voting very progressively," he affirmed.



Photo by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

Members of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company sang "The Glory of Gospel" during an information conference on the upcoming National Black Theatre Festival, held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Winston-Salem, Monday, June 8.

NBTF

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tival, officials from the North Carolina Black Repertory Company made several important announcements concerning this year's performances and visiting celebrities.

Earlier this year, it was announced that Debbi Morgan and Darnell Williams, best known for their roles in soap opera "All My Children," would be the celebrity co-chairs for this year's event. Other celebrities that will be in the area during the festival include Bill Cobbs, Nate Jacobs, Obba Babatundé, Maurice Hines, Robert Hooks and a host of others.

The festival will feature a wide range of theatrical performances, including dramas, comedies, musicals, chore-plays and multimedia. Festival goers will be able to choose from more than 130 performances of new works and black classics performed by professional black theatre companies from across the country and abroad.

With 37 different companies, from 20 different states, and two outside countries, this year's festival is guaranteed to have something for all ages to enjoy.

The year's festival will be Aug. 3-8.

Renita Brewington, president of the N.C. Black Repertory Company believes black theatre is for everyone, and more than any other year, this year's festival will reflect that as well.

"This year's festival is for everyone. We have events for all ages, from teens to seniors. We have it all," Brewington said.

The "TeenTastic" portion of the festival will be collaborating with the Winston-Salem Parks & Recreation Department to offer programs to entertain teens. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, teens will be given a place to explore the festival. Complete with musical performances from local artist, this year's "TeenTastic" will be more entertaining than years past.

Evan Raleigh, city coordinator for the festival, said it was important that the teens had their own place to enjoy the festival.

"Going into this year's festival, we wanted to make sure we had something for everyone, including teens," Raleigh said. "I think we accomplished that with 'TeenTastic.'"

During the event at Embassy Suites, it was also revealed that national recording artist K-Camp will be performing during "TeenTastic" as well.

Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, executive producer of the NBTF, has seen the evolution of the event and believes her late husband would be proud of what the festival has become.

"Every year the festival seems to get better and better," Sprinkle-Hamlin said. "This is exactly what Larry imagined when he laid out his plans for this event."

Other events that are drawing a lot of attention from this year's festival include Midnight Poetry Jam, International Vendors Market, National Youth Talent Showcase and a number of other workshops and seminars to go along with a number of productions and films that highlight the festival every year.

The National Black Theatre Festival was founded by the late Larry Leon Hamlin and is the international outreach program of the N.C. Black Repertory Company. Held biannually since 1989, the festival has been known to bring thousands of national and international patrons, professionals and scholars to Winston-Salem for a five-day showcase of African American theatre, art and music.

For more information on the festival and to see a complete list of productions, visit www.nbtf.org

WSTA

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thing," said said. "I understand adding some routes, maybe cutting routes out, but make it convenient for everybody, the elderly, the handicapped, the disabled."

Laurie Coker said she was hoping to see more bus service than is currently proposed. She's director of GreenTree Peer Center and she said many of the people who use the center's services, which focus on recovery and wellness, don't have their own transportation. She provides many rides to help get them to the center because

of how long it can take them to use the bus. She said the new proposed transfer points around the city will help, but she's hoping to lobby the City Council to increase the WSTA budget so it can expand service.

"We're going backwards as a city if we do not focus on letting people get from place to place, because if you don't have a way to get from one place to another, you feel trapped," she said.

The proposed routes can be viewed by going to wstransit.com and clicking on "Proposed Route Changes." Passengers can leave comments using "Contact Us" on the website.



Photo by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

Dejur McDean, Chanze Blacknall, Suzanne Leyva, Forrest Henderson, Annie Simeon and Miaysha Bryant, are seniors at Parkland Magnet School and have explored a different side of math thanks to Brigette Wilks and the IB Math Studies I course.

Clarification of outline

The caption with the photo above that ran on page A12 with a story about a math class at Parkland Magnet School in the June 4 edition of The Chronicle was cut off. The complete caption is above.

Editor's Note: The story about the Urban League and Older Americans Month that ran on page A4 in the June 4 issue of The Chronicle contained editing material that was confusing. The story is below without that material.

W-S Urban League celebrates seniors from 18 counties

Organization marks Older Americans Month

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

May marked the 50th anniversary of Older Americans Month. To celebrate the event, the Winston-Salem Urban League held a ceremony on Friday, May 29, to honor the participants of the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

The program operates in 18 counties across Northwest North Carolina and provides low-income residents over the age of 55 with job training. After training is complete, the program helps the seniors find jobs related to their

training. SCSEP Director Patricia Sadler has been with the Winston-Salem Urban League for over 10 years and believes the program is a great way for seniors to get training, and is grateful for the employers who have worked with the program.

"Without our employers, we wouldn't be nearly as successful," Sadler said. "SMO Supreme and D&K Fresh Start hires a lot of our seniors, and we are very grateful for everything they do for us."

During the celebration, human resource managers from D&K Fresh Start and SMO Supreme received the

Premier Employer Award for their dedication to giving seniors an opportunity to gain employment.

Laura Garduno of SMO Supreme said she wouldn't know what to do without her seniors. She said they are a joy to work with and looks forward to working with the program in the future.

"Our senior employees are amazing," Garduno said. "I don't know what we would do without them. We are grateful for everything this program does to help us."

Through a partnership with Forsyth Technical Community College, seniors can also take computer lessons to improve their chances of obtaining jobs.

The SCSEP also honored a number of college graduates during the ceremony. Carolyn Higgs and Robert Williams of Forsyth County are participants in the program, and both recently received their associate's degrees.

Higgs graduated from Forsyth Tech with a degree in Human Services Gerontology, while Williams attended ITT Tech, where he majored in Network Systems Administration.

Williams, an Army veteran, said next year he plans to move to California, where he will continue to study to become a computer engineer. Although he just graduated, Robert has been offered a number of

positions in his field. "I've had a number of job offers since I graduated, but I'm just waiting for the right one," Williams said. "I've been all around the country but I like California the most. That's why I want to move there."

A number of other employers from Forsyth County were recognized during the celebration

including, Winston-Lak Family YMCA, Mas General Store, Pepsico an RGA Behavioral Health.

Sadler believes the celebration should continue for the entire year. "We should be celebrating the entire year," Sadler said, "We truly have some amazing people within this program that should be proud of all they do."

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