

# OPINION

## THE CHRONICLE

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Celebrating  
41 Years  
Community Journalism

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## Our Mission

*The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.*

## Support Hunger Action Month by spreading food for thought

Many people might not think about it, but hunger is a devastating condition. Without food, human bodies, including our brains, deteriorate and eventually die. It's such an important issue that nonprofit and religious organizations as well as governments spend a lot of money working to alleviate it.

For instance, programs help children in school get food when they might not be able to. Yet those who don't have enough food to eat many times are stigmatized by society.

September is Hunger Action Month. Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest N.C. is enlisting local businesses and others to help raise awareness of hunger during the month and to show support for the organization's work and local food assistance agencies across the region.

"So many people that we speak with are shocked to learn how significant a problem hunger is right here in our community," said Jenny Moore, marketing and PR manager for Second Harvest Food Bank. "What we've witnessed over and over again is that once people know, they find ways to help. Awareness is key. That's why we're asking everyone we know to pledge to tell someone about hunger."

Throughout Hunger Action Month, Second Harvest Food Bank will be holding a number of special events to provide an opportunity for interested people and groups to connect with others who are invested in supporting and creating solutions to address hunger plaguing our communities.

The Chronicle participated in one event the food bank organized with Wake Forest University and others that drew 160 people. The event, called Feeding Change: an Interactive Community Conversation on Hunger, was held on Thursday, Sept. 10, at the Innovation Quarter.

The event featured conversations that centered on three questions:

1. How might we enhance access to healthy food and nutrition education for needy children and adults in the Triad?

2. How best to engage neighborhood residents — across the Triad — to address food insecurity, both in their own neighborhood (as appropriate) and in the larger community?

3. How might we reduce the perceived stigma associated with dependence on food stamps, emergency pantries and similar sources of food assistance?

Wake Forest University Provost Rogan Kersh served as the emcee for the evening. People moved from table to table to discuss one question at a time. Media representatives served as moderators at each table.

The experience was eye-opening. As different people traveled to each table, different experiences and ideas were revealed.

At one table, it was revealed that a student gave a meal to a student in his class.

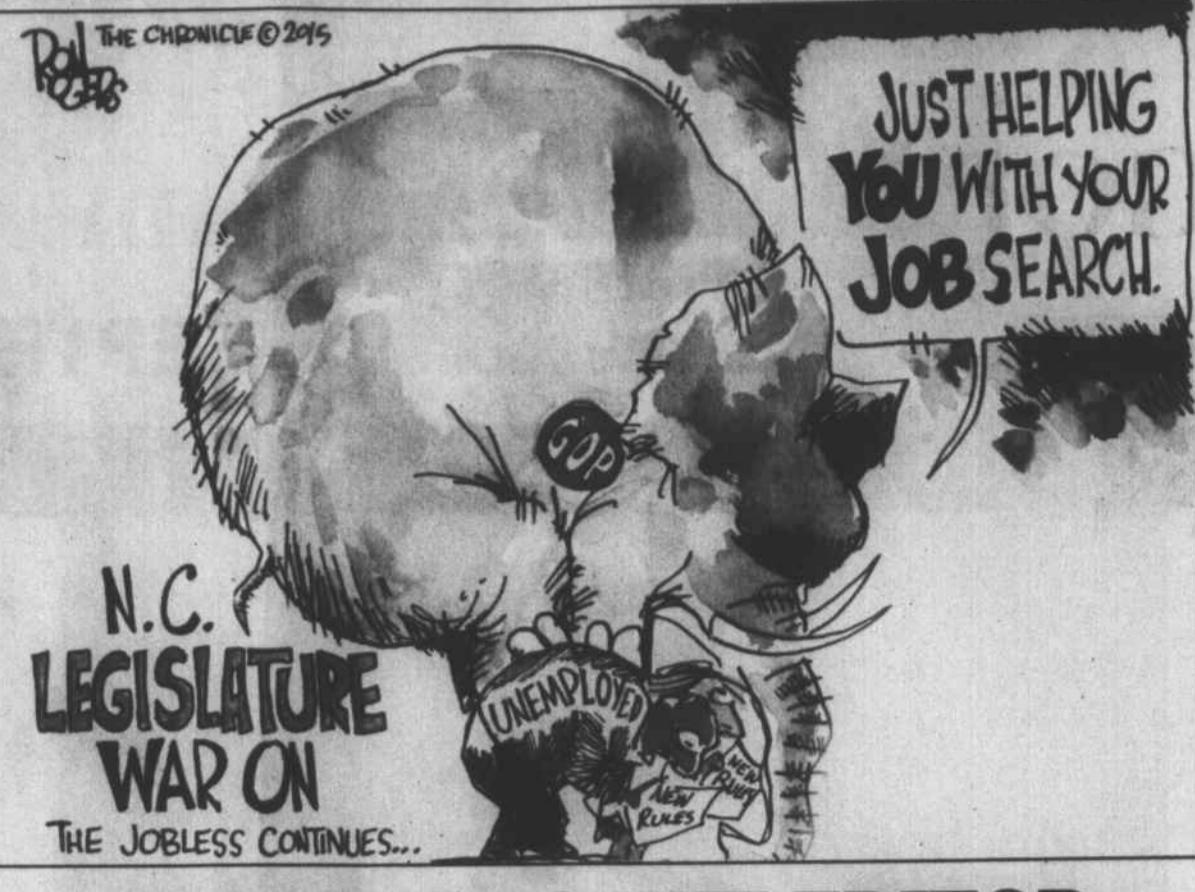
At another table, which had Question 3, about the stigma of efforts to reverse hunger, a point was made: Many more people are using food stamps, emergency pantries and similar sources of food assistance because of the lagging economy since 2008. So, the stigma of using those assistance vehicles might not be as bad as before then.

Still, another surprise was when people at the tables admitted they had needed some sort of food assistance at some point in their lives.

Kersh said that suggestions to fight hunger would be compiled from the discussions at the tables and combined into a document. He said the project is a year-long one.

Some solutions suggested as the groups reported to the body as a whole involved conducting social experiments in which people go hungry for a while to understand how it feels, forming talent banks in which people are paid for their work in food, bringing food trucks to communities and educating people who serve the hungry and those in the community to restore the dignity of those who need help.

Hunger is a serious matter that affects a great deal of people. Take action during Hunger Action Month and beyond to make sure it is minimized in your life-time.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Jesse Jackson's mother dies; CBC offers condolences

#### To the Editor

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Chairman G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) released the following statement on the passing of Mrs. Helen Burns Jackson:

The members of the Congressional Black Caucus are saddened by the passing of Mrs. Helen Burns Jackson, the mother of Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson.

Mrs. Helen Jackson was a kind and compassionate woman who stood beside her family as they championed equality and justice for all Americans. We offer our heartfelt sympathies and prayers to the Jackson and Burns families during this time of bereavement.

U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield  
North Carolina District 1  
Washington, D.C.

### Congratulations, W-S Chronicle for 41 years in community

#### To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate Ernest H. Pitt for publishing The Chronicle for the past 41 years, which is longer than the life span of most residents. In the past 41 years, several African-American newspapers have come and gone. The Chronicle has stood the test of time.

Many of us, including Mr. Pitt, probably will not be around the next 41 years. We pray that the Chronicle will be around in one form or another.

As an historian, I appreciate Publisher Pitt giving a history of the origins and transformation of The Chronicle, because it is important for readers to know the evolution

The Chronicle went through to get where it is today. Once again, Happy 41st Birthday to The Chronicle.

Dr. Lenwood G. Davis

### Local organization mobilizes for the Million Man March's 20th anniversary

#### To the Editor

The Winston-Salem Local Organizing Committee (W.S.L.O.C.) has established a committee of cross community, local, civic, national, political and faith-based organizations to plan and attend the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Million Man March, "Justice or Else," on Oct. 10, in Washington, D.C.

The 20th anniversary of the Million Man March, "Justice or Else," is a national movement for justice. All are invited to this momentous event.

The W.S.L.O.C.'s purpose is to plan and implement community activities and participate in events leading up to and beyond the March with the ultimate goal of creating a local agenda to address concerns related to economics, education, health, criminal justice and policy.

For bus information visit [www.wsjoe.com](http://www.wsjoe.com) or contact Akil Razzak at 336-817-3958 or Dana Muhammad at 336-354-8278.

You may also purchase tickets at Nation's Discount Store, 805 Akron Drive, Winston-Salem Monday through Friday, 4-6 p.m.

Winston-Salem Local Organizing Committee

### As march ends, voting rights still on mind of N.C. NAACP

#### To the Editor:

Marchers, led by the national NAACP, were scheduled to conclude a historic journey from Selma, Alabama, to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 16. They were scheduled to

convene on Capitol Hill to advocate for a multi-pronged racial justice agenda, including passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. The Advancement Project worked closely with local grassroots partners — including New Florida Majority, the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP and New Virginia Majority — to ensure the Voting Rights Advancement Act included key fixes to the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The Advancement Project released the following in response to the organized advocacy efforts:

Despite the passage of the monster voter suppression law in North Carolina, the race-driven gerrymandering of voting districts and continued attacks against the poor and those who can't afford to buy off Congress, North Carolinians are going to send a resounding message that our lives, our votes, our jobs and our public schools matter more than partisan politics and money.

North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP  
President Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II,  
convener of the Forward Together Moral Movement

We support all who advocate for the swift passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act. This bipartisan measure is the only bill that will fully protect voters of color in states where there is an ongoing history of discrimination in voting: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

The Advancement Act also includes essential protections in all states, by requiring federal review of voting practices that are known to be discriminatory, before they are tested in elections, and does not exclude strict voter ID laws. The tenants of a just democracy require that all eligible voters have free and fair access to the ballot box. The Advancement Act provides direly-needed protection for the most sacred of our rights: the right to vote. We applaud the efforts communities around the country are making to support this legislation, and we support organizers as they march on to Capitol Hill.

Katherine Culliton-González, Advancement Project Director of Voter Protection

Advancement Project is a multi-racial civil rights organization. (For more information about the

Million Man March go to [www.justiceorelse.com](http://www.justiceorelse.com))

## We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com) before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com).

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

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