

# 9/11 commemorated locally with JROTC public safety challenge

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem and Forsyth County commemorated the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with a competition for Junior ROTC cadets at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds Annex on Saturday.

The first annual 9/11 Public Safety Challenge was designed to encourage JROTC cadets to think about careers in public safety. It's a new way to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of first responders on September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists. When the buildings collapsed, first responders helping with the evacuation were killed, including 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City Police officers and 37 port authority police officers.

"Fourteen years ago yesterday, America was attacked by terrorists," Mayor Allen Joines told attendees on Sept. 12. "Their idea or the goal was to demoralize America, but just the opposite happened. Some people say it could've been America's finest hour."

The ceremony, which beginning at 9:11 a.m., featured many regular traditions. There was the wreath



Local officials stand for a moment of silence at the 9/11 commemoration: (L-R) Emergency Services Director Dan Ozimek, Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, Mayor Allen Joines, County Commissioner David Plyler, WS/FC Schools Chief Academic Officer Kenneth Simington, JROTC Director Willie McCoy, Assistant Police Chief Wilson Weaver, Assistant Fire Chief Harry Brown, City Council Member Dan Besse and Sheriff William Schatzman.

laying by officials from the sheriff, emergency services, police and fire departments. There was a moment of silence, the ringing of the bell by the Winston-Salem Fire Department and playing of TAPS to honor the fallen.

"We are grateful to the men and women who get up each and every morning to make us safe and sound," said Mayor Pro Temp Vivian Burke.

County Commissioner David Plyler told the JROTC cadets to consider careers in public safety.

"If you continue your service to your community you will, take my word for it, get so much in return," he said.

After the ceremony, the competition immediately began pitting 10 high schools with JROTC programs against each other. Two of the events were typical of JROTC competitions. Marksmanship judged teams of cadets on shooting 10 targets 33 feet away with a pellet rifle in prone, kneeling and standing positions. Close order drills judged squads from

each school on their ability to precisely follow a routine.

The third challenge was a raider obstacle course used to train those in public safety. One student from each school got to try their hand at it. Some of the obstacles included having to clear a fence and roll with a 100 pound bag. The final leg involved donning a fire coat and helmet to run up and down stairs while carrying a fire hose and then dragging a 150 pound dummy.

Among those compet-

ing was Jesus Garcia, a junior at Parkland High School, who said it was a challenging course. Garcia said he was proud to be in JROTC.

"It makes me feel like I'm part of something big," he said.

Jacob Simpson a junior from West Forsyth High School, came in second in the raider challenge. He said he's gained a lot from being in JROTC.

"I've become stronger, not just physically, but mentally," he said.

Simpson said the raider course gave him an even deeper appreciation of what first responders faced on 9/11.

"Now I have a better understanding of what they had to do," he said.

LTC Willie McCoy, JROTC director for Winston-Salem Forsyth County schools, said the JROTC program is growing with about 1,200 students in 10 schools. He said JROTC motivates students to be better citizens. It instills discipline and leadership qualities in youth.

"It's like no other course," he said. "You get a chance to be an instructor, you get a chance to tell other people what to do."

McCoy said few students who take JROTC go into the military. A small percentage go into public safety, which he says is a

good fit for former JROTC cadets.

"JROTC teaches you discipline and teamwork," he said. "And police departments, EMS, fire departments, it's about teamwork, discipline, working together, being motivated, being able to count on somebody."

Caroline Alvarez, who led the Mt. Tabor drill squad on Saturday, said she was honored to lead her fellow cadets in competing in an event to commemorate 9/11.

"It helps us remember what happened back then," she said. "How our country got stronger, how we still have people out there who help our country."

MSgt. Maurice Kearney is the JROTC instructor for Mt. Tabor, which took home several trophies for marksmanship Saturday. Kearney, who teaches 135 cadets in eight classes, said it was an appropriate way to mark the anniversary.

"I think it's a special day for a special moment," he said. "It gives the kids some kind of idea how everyone was involved in picking this country up."

East Forsyth High School won the Public Safety Challenge Cup for best overall school. The cup will travel from school to school as a winner is chosen each year.

## Police Department awards officers for life-saving actions

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

On Friday, Sept. 11, the Winston-Salem Police Department held the Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony for the first quarter of the year.

According to the department website, the ceremony is held each quarter to celebrate officers and sworn employees who go well beyond the scope

of their daily duties or perform in a manner that is exemplary and "above and beyond" what is expected of them.

Police Chief Barry D. Rountree said the actions of police officers sometimes go unnoticed, so it is important that they receive the recognition they deserve.

"Today we honor several employees for their service and heroic acts," said

Rountree. "Heroic acts are performed on a daily basis by police officers, but often times those acts go unnoticed."

Captain Natasha James presented the first award of the evening when she presented

Cpl. R.L. Haskins, Officer B.M. Byerly and Officer T.G. Porter with the Above and Beyond Live Saving Award.

Earlier this year, the three officers responded to call of an unresponsive citizen in his car outside the Biscuitville on 3648 Reynolda Road. Upon arrival, the officers noticed the victim's skin was discolored, indicating that he wasn't breathing.

After gaining access inside the vehicle, the officers worked to save the victim. The officers performed CPR, and other emergency protocol measures were taken until EMS arrived.

According to EMS workers, the victim regained a pulse before reaching the hospital and began breathing on his on

shortly after reaching the hospital.

"The quick thinking and actions of these three officers helped save a life," said James. "We just want to take this time to thank them for their actions."

Officers Christopher Burbank and Lauren Veal were also presented Life Saving Awards for their actions earlier this year.

The Medal of Merit was also presented during the ceremony to Cpl. K.J. Shay and Officer M.P. Moore.

The Medal of Merit is presented to officers who performed in a manner that exceeded department stan-

dards and prevented a probable loss of life or serious injury

Following the ceremony, Mayor Allen Joines thanked all the members of the police force for their dedication and hard work.

"I would like to thank the entire department for the work they do, not just the award winners but the entire department," Joines said.

"It's important that we show how much we appreciate these officers, especially on a day like this (9/11), as we remember the acts they did and the acts you perform everyday."



Photos by Tevin Stinson

WSSU students came together on Tuesday, Sept. 8, to analyze the lyrics in Kendrick Lamar's album "To Pimp a Butterfly."

### Music

from page A1

album, "To Pimp A Butterfly."

During the open discussion, a number of songs were played off the album with the lyrics showing on a screen in front of the room. Following the clip, students discussed what the lyrics meant to them and how they relate to what is happening in America today.

Professor William Boone, who has a doctorate in African-American Studies, said he came to the open discussion to really hear the students' opinions on Kendrick Lamar.

"I'm really interested in hearing what the students have to say, because there has to be a reason why he has made such a huge impact on the movement," Boone said.

"I could easily express my views and how it relates to my time and N.W.A, but I'm more interested in hearing what makes Kendrick so unique."

In a generation that judges good music off

catchy hooks, beats and the latest dance craze, Kendrick is different because he is more concerned with delivering a message that sparks listeners to think and challenge the system.

Dontia Barrett, a senior at WSSU, believes Kendrick forces the younger generation to look at things a different way.

"I feel like as young people, we aren't as conscious as we should be, so I really feel like Kendrick Lamar does a good job of meeting us where we are by delivering the message in a way that we all can relate to and understand."

One of the first songs played during the discussion was titled, "Alright." One of the more popular songs on the album, the song has been used during a number of protests held by the Black Lives Matter movement.

In the video, an unarmed Kendrick is shot

down by a police officer, a scenario that has played out multiple times in recent months.

Reggie Hines, a student at WSSU said, "Black Unity in his songs help us come together, just like slaves sung spirituals. Kendrick's lyrics do that for us now."

Other songs off the album that were discussed include "I", "Institutionalized" and "Mortal Man."

Although most of the students in attendance weren't even born when N.W.A was performing "F-- the police," many of them realize the impact they had and know that they paved the way for artists like Kendrick.

Senior Glory Bienevue said what is happening now is just a repeat of what happened in the '80s and early '90s.

"It's the same thing over and over," said Bienevue. "The same things N.W.A addressed in 'Straight Outta Compton' are happening now."

### NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 FOR THE PROPOSED ROADWAY ON NEW LOCATION EAST OF HARPER ROAD (S.R. 1101) TO LEWISVILLE-CLEMMONS ROAD (S.R. 1103) IN CLEMMONS

The N. C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting in September regarding the proposed project to construct a new roadway, east of Harper Road (S.R. 1101) to Lewisville-Clemmons Road (S.R. 3800/1103) in Clemmons, Forsyth County.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 29 at Clemmons Village Hall located at 3715 Clemmons Road in Clemmons from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the meeting hours. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and listen to comments regarding the project. Please note that no formal presentation will be made. Citizens will also have the opportunity to submit comments and questions in writing. Comments received will be taken into consideration as the project develops.

The public can view maps displaying the location and design of the project as they become available online at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings>.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Brett Abernathy, Division 9 Project Manager 375 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston Salem, 27127 by phone: (336) 747-7800 or email: [jbaberathy@ncdot.gov](mailto:jbaberathy@ncdot.gov). All comments must be received no later than Monday, October 12, 2015.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Diane Wilson via e-mail at [pdwilson1@ncdot.gov](mailto:pdwilson1@ncdot.gov) or by phone (919) 707-6073 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.