

Gun Smoke

See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7



Lash-Chronicle JV Tournament Preview

See Sports on B1



SAVE THE DATE



1.16.16

SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR MEN'S SPORTS



1.23.16

SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR WOMEN'S SPORTS

Mrs. Peppers retires

See page A4

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 13 WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. THURSDAY, December 3, 2015

N.C. NAACP leads 80-day voter engagement

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

Calling it "the first part of our fight at the ballot box for 2016," the NCNAACP, in coalition with the nonpartisan Democracy NC and leaders of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths statewide, announced the "It's Our Vote, It's Our Time," a mass voter registration campaign over the next 80 days to register as many North Carolinians as possible in time for the March 15, 2016 primaries.

"We have determined to fight three ways to preserve the right to vote," Rev. William Barber, president of the NCNAACP, surrounded by supporters, told reporters Tuesday at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh.

"We will fight in the legislative halls; we will fight in

CAMPAIGN



Local candidates file to run on first day of filing. Page A3

the courts; and we will fight at the ballot box," Barber vowed.

It was no accident that Rev. Barber made the announcement on the 60th anniversary of civil rights activist Rosa Parks' historic refusal to give her seat to a white man aboard a Montgomery, Ala. segregated city bus on Dec. 1, 1955.

Mrs. Parks' courageous act helped to spark a citywide

bus boycott by black citizens for over 381 days, and introduced the world to a little-known local preacher named Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who would go on to lead the subsequent 60's civil rights movement.

"There comes a time when people get tired," Rev. Barber said, adding, "And when they get tired, they don't quit. They fight back."

"Rosa sat down so that we can stand up. Too many sacrifices have gone on for us not to fight for and exercise the right to vote," Rev. Barber declared.

With more than 600,000 unregistered white voters in North Carolina, along with over 250,000 unregistered black voters and 100,000 unregistered Latino voters in North Carolina, Rev. Barber vowed that after going to the streets, jail and to court together, "We will go to the ballot

See Voters on A8

Customers shop local on Small Business Saturday

"We need to support small business because small business makes up a huge portion of the economy."

—Mr. Shannon Jessup

Photo by Todd Luck

Winston-Salem Black Chamber President Randon Pender led the tour of black-owned businesses on Saturday.



BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Downtown businesses enjoyed an influx of shoppers over the weekend for Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010 as a way to draw shoppers to small businesses the day after Black Friday. The Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce distributed

materials to help shops promote the day and businesses could also request materials directly from American Express.

Body and Soul, a cultural gift store on Trade Street, was decked out in blue signs and pennants for the occasion. Those manning the register wore "Shop Small" buttons and tote bags with the slogan were given to some customers. Store co-owner Dana Suggs warmly greeted customers, many of whom made a

special trip just to support the store that day.

"This weekend generates a lot of energy and sales, definitely," said Suggs. "It surely does kick off the holiday season for us."

Suggs had a steady stream of customers buying things like scented oils, handbags and jewelry. Then a bus came with more than a dozen shoppers taking the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce's tour

See Saturday on A2

Parents, others question 'low-performing' schools label

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

Educators in Forsyth County are not happy about the plan of action laid out by the Board of Education to improve the school performance grade and school growth score of the low performing schools in the area.

According to the State Board of Education's designation, 29 schools in the area are considered "low-performing." As a result, the WS/FCS Board of Education is required to create an improvement plan for those schools.

During a scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 25, the public was allowed to voice their opinions on the plan. A number of parents say they were shocked when they received the news.

"I couldn't believe it when I read the letter stating Kimberley Park was considered low-performing," said Karlton Jones. "If you just walk through the halls you can see and hear that the children are learning, retaining the information and making progress."

Jones has a daughter in the third grade at Kimberley Park and believes teachers and administrators already go beyond the call of duty to make sure students are learning.

"My daughter is excited to come to school everyday," he said. "Those are the types of things that doesn't show on the state's grading scale."

A number of educators mentioned the board's plan will create more issues for teachers and administrators who are already overworked and under paid.

"I'm interested to see how this will affect me," said Ivy Davis, a teacher assistant at Ashley Elementary. "I think all the hard work that is going on in these schools should be taken into consideration. Families need to be involved too; teachers can't do this alone."

Davis mentioned the improvement plan will cause current teachers grief and force future teachers like her to question whether they want to become teachers.

"I've spent all these years going to school and here I am about to graduate. Now I'm wondering if I even want to go any further if I know I'll have to go through this process," Davis said.

"I'm just speaking from the heart. I feel for the teachers and I think there should be more digging to come up

See Schools on A2



Emory



Gordon

Top cop in Chicago fired after protests

Illinois attorney general seeks U.S. inquiry

FROM CHRONICLE WIRE REPORTS

NBCNews.com is reporting that Illinois' top prosecutor on Tuesday asked the U.S. Department of Justice

to investigate whether Chicago police practices violate federal law.

The request by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan comes on the same day that Chicago's police chief was fired following the release of dash-cam video that showed an officer fatally shoot 17-year-old Laquan McDonald last year.

"The shocking death of Laquan

McDonald is the latest tragedy in our city that highlights serious questions about the use of unlawful and excessive force by Chicago police officers and the lack of accountability for such abuse," Madigan said in a statement. "Trust in the Chicago Police Department is broken."

The letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch asks the

Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to review police use of deadly force and police investigations into the use of deadly force, as well as police training and whether a pattern of discrimination exists.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said he asked police Superintendent

See Protest on A2

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