

# Having a good year

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## Lash-Chronicle JV Tournament Preview

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Guardian accused of 'theft'

BY CASH MICHAELS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

A prominent Winston-Salem attorney who routinely serves as an estate guardian and public administrator through the Forsyth Clerk of Superior Court's office is being accused of committing "... felony theft by fraud ..." for taking over \$44,000 he allegedly had no legal



Thompson

authority to do so.

As part of its continuing series of articles about allegations of a continuing "pattern and practice" of fraud and mismanagement at the Clerk's office involving the assets and properties of elderly African-American Forsyth County residents, The Chronicle has secured and reviewed a copy of a motion filed in Forsyth County Superior Court on Nov. 24 in the

matter of the estate of Steven W. Epperson.

The motion, filed by Winston-Salem attorney

Reginald D. Alston on behalf of Epperson's siblings, Susan and Kelvin Epperson, seeks a court order to "immediately" remove attorney Bryan C. Thompson "... from acting as guardian of the Estate of Steven W. Epperson and to allow Susan Epperson to resume as Guardian of ..." her brother's estate.

According to the motion, there are no court documents on file proving

2009.

The motion not only seeks Thompson's "immediate removal" and Susan Epperson's reinstatement as guardian of the estate, as indicated before, but also, "... such other and further award as the court deems justified," meaning damages may be warranted.

Per the motion and accompanying court docu-

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*Mabel Robinson directs the cast in a climactic end to the song "Come and Go With Me to my Father's House" during a rehearsal for the musical "The Glory of Gospel" in May. Robinson was the writer, choreographer, and artistic director of the musical.*

## Mabel Robinson is dancing in new direction

N.C. Black Rep artistic director leaving full time to enjoy life

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Mabel Robinson was smiling after the beginning of the end last week. She had just directed the opening performance of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company's version of "Black Nativity." It would be her last opening performance as artistic director with the company.

In 1984, Robinson came to Winston-Salem to teach at the N.C. School of the Arts and has since retired. She found an opportunity to give back to the community and to sharpen her skills as a director/choreographer/play-

wright with the N.C. Black Rep. The award-winner will take her final bow as artistic director with the company at the end of this year. She said she felt it was time and wanted to retire while she was still young enough to enjoy life to the fullest.

"Thank you NCBRC for an opportunity to elevate and present professional black theatre to the broader community and to help develop the creative abilities of our local artists," Robinson said in a statement.

She told The Chronicle that it has not been easy to be a black professional in the performing arts.

For more than 40 years, Robinson has worked in music, dance and theatre venues while gaining over 70 awards in theatre.

Robinson said that when she first started in theatre,

### ANALYSIS

## Blacks speak out against racism of Trump

BY CASH MICHAELS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

When dozens of black ministers met with controversial tycoon and leading Republican candidate Donald Trump last week — a group the Trump campaign expected a collective endorsement from — rhetorical alarm bells went off throughout the African-American community.

Bishop Sir Walter Mack, a black minister in Winston-Salem, wrote to The Chronicle in a Letter to the Editor: "Preachers, let's look out for the people we serve and not ourselves. Trump has publicly disrespected every minority group from Latinos to those with special needs, to the Black Lives Matter movement."

"Mr. Trump routinely uses overtly and racist language on the campaign trail," an open letter published on Ebony.com by over one hundred black religious leaders and scholars opposed to the Trump meeting said. "Most recently, he admitted his supporters were justified for punching and kicking a black protester who had attended a Trump rally with the intent to remind the crowd that 'Black Lives Matter.' Trump followed this action by tweeting inaccurate statistics about crime prevalence rates in black communities — insinuating that Black people are more violent than other groups."

"Trump's racially inaccurate, insensitive and incendiary rhetoric should give those charged with the care of the spirits and souls of black people great pause," the open letter continued.

While a few conservative ministers indeed exited that meeting with Trump Nov. 30 singing his praises, there was no collective endorsement. Instead, according to published reports, the outspoken real estate mogul and reality TV star of "The Apprentice" was peppered during the meeting with questions about his harsh, and many say racist, statements about Mexicans being "rapists," most Muslims being terrorists, and protests by black college students about racism on their predominantly -white campuses being "disgusting."

"I told him, you should apologize and repent — we're called to own up to our bad behavior," Bishop Victor Couzens, one of the 40 or 50 ministers who attended, told ThinkProgress.org. "That's when his staff interrupted and said, 'Why should he,' why this, why that. He let his people answer for him. He didn't seem to mind that."

Ever the spin-meister, Trump told the press after

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## Board of Elections prepares for primaries

Eligible voters in N.C. have until Feb. 19 to register

BY TODD LUCK  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Candidates are filing and voter registration is going on for the March 15, 2016 primary for next

year's general election.

The stakes are high for next year's election as candidates for president, U.S. congress, N.C. General Assembly, county commissioners, the mayor and all city council seats are on the ballot.

So far it's been mostly incumbents who have filed. As of press time, every member of the City Council has now filed for re-election in 2016 except Molly Leight, who said she will not run for

another term, and Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who said she does plan to run for her 11th term representing the Northeast Ward.

Interim Forsyth Board of Elections (BOE) Director Lamar Joyner said he's expecting a large turnout.

"We're going to do our best to get all our elec-

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