

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## HO! HO! HO!

See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7



### Lash-Chronicle JV Tournament Coverage

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

*She's Got It Covered*

# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 16 — WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — THURSDAY, December 24, 2015

## Police investigate guardian case

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

A police report has been filed against a prominent Winston-Salem attorney alleging that he committed "fraud" after receiving the "large sum" estate of a ward "... 6 months prior to [the attorney] being appointed guardian." The Winston-Salem Police

Department is now reportedly investigating.

As The Chronicle exclusively reported two weeks ago, attorney Bryan Thompson was accused of "felony theft by fraud ..." in a Nov. 24, 2015 motion filed in Forsyth County Superior Court for allegedly taking over \$44,000 left to Steven Epperson prior to being appointed

Epperson's estate guardian. The motion primarily sought to have Thompson removed as guardian.

That motion, which was heard in a Dec. 16 hearing in Superior Court, was filed by Winston-Salem attorney Reginald D. Alston on behalf of Epperson's siblings, Susan and Kelvin Epperson. They alleged that the

money in question came from the estate of their deceased father, John W. Epperson, and was due to be paid to Steven. A "Final Receipt" from the Forsyth Clerk's office dated Nov. 15, 2009 for "cash" in the value of \$44,180.68, listed as the "personal representative/trustee" for John W. Epperson's estate responsible for distributing the

funds as "Bryan C. Thompson."

And the "undersigned beneficiary" receiving that money, according to the signed and witnessed receipt, was also "Bryan C. Thompson," who was also listed as "Guardian of Steven W. Epperson." Thompson signed the document.

But it is not until April

15, 2010, court documents show, that attorney Bryan Thompson was allegedly appointed by assistant clerk Paula Todd as "Successor Guardian of the Estate" for Steven Epperson, allegedly replacing Susan, the sister.

The Epperson siblings' motion alleged that attorney Thompson "... com-

See Estate on A2

### CHRISTMAS 2015



Photo by Tevin Stinson

### Making spirits bright

The Winston-Salem Professional Fire Fighters Association (WSPFFA) partnered with Family Services to provide warm coats to 41 preschoolers on Saturday, Dec. 19 at the Sarah Y. Austin Head Start Center. See story on page A11.

## Nine black candidates running for N.C. offices

BY TODD LUCK FOR THE CHRONICLE

Voters will have a variety of African-American candidates running for statewide office to choose from in 2016.

According to the campaign of gubernatorial candidate Ken Spaulding, there is a record number of African-Americans who filed for statewide office as of last week. Spaulding, a lawyer and former state representative, said that they're strong candidates who he hopes can shift the balance of power in the state, which now has two Republican U.S. senators and Republicans in the positions of governor and lieutenant governor, as well as majorities in both houses

See Black on A2



### People On The Street

#### Question: How do you plan to spend Christmas Day?



Chauncey Hill & David Hill Jr. Winston-Salem

Chauncey Hill: "I plan to spend Christmas with my family."

David Hill Jr.: "I will be going to my grandmother's house and spending time with family."

See People on A9

## North Carolina High Court rulings set stage for fiery 2016

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

Those in the social activist movement got a one-two punch to their cause Dec. 18 when the North Carolina Supreme Court announced two devastating decisions that effectively further rolled back gains achieved prior to the Republican-led takeover of state government five years ago.

First, the state high court decided 4-3 along party lines to ignore instructions from the U.S. Supreme Court and upheld for a second time the 2011 redistricting maps by the GOP majority legislature, which critics said unconsti-

tutionally "stacked and packed" black voters statewide into a limited number of "majority-minority" voting districts. By doing so, critics charged, African-Americans weren't able to exert influence in majority-white districts, and thus were limited in voting for representatives of their choice.

"That was not a surprise, though it was a disappointment," said attorney Irving Joyner, chair of the NC NAACP's Law and Redress Committee, and one of the litigators for the plaintiffs who filed suit against the GOP redistricting plans.

See Rulings on A2

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from WSSU Athletics

