

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

One more year to go

See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7



Updates on Lash-Chronicle JV teams

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

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, December 31, 2015

Guardian answers lawsuit

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

A Winston-Salem attorney who has served as estate guardian on several controversial cases associated with the Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court's office has filed a 32-page answer and counterclaim to a lawsuit that

alleges he engaged in "... a pattern and practice of fraudulent acts ..." that resulted in the loss of over \$1.4 million of a deceased African-American woman's assets.

In his answer filed by attorney Molly Whitlatch of Greensboro on Dec. 16 in Forsyth Superior Court and obtained by The



Thompson

Chronicle, attorney Bryan C. Thompson claims no

wrongdoing, calling the allegations "... frivolous and baseless," and seeks to have the lawsuit thrown out on various technicalities.

Thompson also wants the court to sanction his accusers.

Last October, The Chronicle first and exclusively reported on the lawsuit filed in Forsyth County

Superior Court by plaintiff's attorney Reginald D. Alston of Winston-Salem on behalf of the estate of the late Mary Ellen Brannon Thompson - administered by her brother, Calvin Brannon prior to his recent death - against the Forsyth Clerk's office, two insurance companies, and several local attorneys,

including attorney Bryan Thompson, who was, according to the lawsuit, "fraudulently" appointed estate guardian and allegedly squandered Ms. Thompson's assets.

The suit alleges that attorney Thompson (no relation to Mary Thompson) had someone

See Lawsuit on A8



Members of The Othesha Creative Arts Ensemble perform during the opening celebration of Kwanzaa on Saturday, Dec. 26 at the Winston-Salem Urban League.

'Uplifting the African-American Community' New Urban League leader touts Kwanzaa celebration

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

All week long African-Americans are reconnecting and celebrating their African roots.

Last Saturday marked the opening night of Kwanzaa, a seven day holiday that was designed to tout African-American values that have helped to sustain African-Americans during their most turbulent times.

Over 150 citizens attended a kickoff event held at the Winston-Salem Urban League (WSUL) which was filled with Kwanzaa traditions such as African instruments and dance performances.

According to newly appointed president and chief executive James Perry, the event gives the community a chance to experience their heritage.

"Most importantly, this event is about uplifting the African-American community and coming together as

one," said Perry. "I think this event is less about teaching and more about the experience."

The African American and Pan-African holiday was founded by California State University professor Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966.

Each day is dedicated to a principle: unity, self-determination, responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. A candle representing each principle is lit during the celebration. Umoja or unity was the theme of the opening night.

During the Winston-Salem celebration, attorney Hazel Mack and Ruth Hopkins were presented with awards for their hard work and dedication to the community. Mack, the founder of Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge, said, "Our African ancestors prayed for us to have a day like this. That's why we have to honor ourselves. We shouldn't wait for others to do that."

After receiving her award, Hopkins, who currently serves as the director of Carter G. Woodson, said, "The African-American community cannot let racism and hate stop our fight for equal rights."

Keynote speaker Dr. Nkrumah D. Lewis discussed a number of social issues including racism, mass incarceration, global hunger, poverty and others. Lewis currently serves on the Institutional Research Boards at UNC Greensboro and Wake Forest University.

During his speech, Lewis said that the African-American community must work together to overcome all social injustices they face every day. Lewis used a number of examples and people from history who came together when times were tough.

Lewis said events like slavery, the Civil Rights Movements and more recently, the deaths of Trayvon

See Kwanzaa on A3

YEAR IN REVIEW

From protests to milestones, 2015 proved to be dynamic

BY DONNA ROGERS THE CHRONICLE

2015 began with a question for Winston-Salem: Is racism America's Berlin Wall?

Chronicle Publisher Ernie Pitt asked that question at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast Forum. It appears that question is still relevant because of the racism in its various forms that has affected Winston-Salem and North Carolina.

However, other events also shaped 2015 for Winston-Salem.

Voting rights

The movie "Selma" debuted at the end of 2014, but the main event it captured - the 1965 voting rights march to Selma to Montgomery, Alabama - was remembered in 2015 as thousands of people marched in the streets of Winston-Salem in July. The battle cry was "This is Our Selma!"

See 2015 on A2

People on The Street

Question: What is your New Year's resolution?

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE



Arlene Grayson, Winston-Salem
"I stopped making resolutions because I never keep them."

See People on A8

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Happy **NEW Year** 2016
from WSSU Athletics

2016 CIAA BASKETBALL GAMES

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

JAN 4	Lincoln (Pa.)	5:30 pm
JAN 13	Bowie State	5:30 pm
JAN 16	St. Augustine's	2 pm
JAN 23	Fayetteville State (LJVM Coliseum Game)	2 pm
JAN 27	Johnson C. Smith	5:30 pm

MEN'S BASKETBALL

JAN 4	Lincoln (Pa.)	7:30 pm
JAN 13	Bowie State	7:30 pm
JAN 16	St. Augustine's	4 pm
JAN 23	Fayetteville State (LJVM Coliseum Game)	4 pm
JAN 27	Johnson C. Smith	7:30 p.m.