

Obama takes on Guns



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The team to BEAT!

See Sports on B1



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THE CHRONICLE

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Legal issues remain after ruling

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

A motion to have a prominent Winston-Salem attorney "immediately" removed as Forsyth County estate guardian because he had allegedly committed "... felony theft by fraud ..." for taking over \$44,000 he had reportedly no legal authority over, has been denied on a technicality.

But the legal issues surrounding the serious alle-

gation remain.

In a court order dated Dec. 21, 2015, J. Mark Pegram, Clerk of Superior Court for Rockingham County, denied the motion on behalf of siblings of ward Steven W. Epperson to have estate guardian attorney Bryan C. Thompson removed and replaced because Thompson had already been discharged from Epperson's case in 2011.

"Having reviewed the file and having heard arguments of counsel, it appears

"It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the Motion to Remove Guardian of the Estate is moot and the same is therefore denied."

—Mark Pegram, Clerk of Superior Court for Rockingham County

to the Court that Bryan Thompson was discharged as Guardian of the Estate in

2011 after filing a final account which was audited and approved, that Bryan

Thompson is not currently the Guardian of the Estate, and that the relief sought in the Motion is moot," ruled Clerk Pegram, who served as presiding judge during the Dec. 16 hearing on the matter in Forsyth County Superior Court.

Because there were allegations involving the Forsyth County Clerk of Court's Office, Pegram was brought in from the neighboring county to hear and decide the case.

"It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed that

the Motion to Remove Guardian of the Estate is moot and the same is therefore denied," Pegram's order continued.

As The Chronicle first and exclusively reported in our Dec. 10, 2015 edition, the original motion, filed by Winston-Salem attorney Reginald D. Alston on behalf of Steven Epperson's siblings, Susan and Kelvin Epperson, sought a court order to "immediately" remove

See Remove on A9



Photo By Tevin Stinson

Mikalah Muhammad, Treyandrea Farid and Tyler Davis following the commemoration ceremony dedicated to the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. The high school seniors will each receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Emancipation Association later this year.

Students receive scholarships as historic event remembered

Local group commemorates Emancipation Proclamation

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

The Emancipation Association kicked off the new year by providing \$1,000 scholarships to three local high school seniors.

Each year on Jan. 1 the committee made up of community activists and retired and current educators holds a ceremony to recognize the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and celebrate local youth for their hard work in the classroom by awarding scholarship funds to deserv-

ing students in the area.

This year's recipients, Mikalah Muhammad, Tyler Davis, and Treyandrea Farid, were selected from a field of 42 applicants from various high school guidance counselors in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

According to committee representative Dr. Manderline Scales, students had to submit an application, a number of essays, and a letter of recommendation to be in the running for the scholarship. Scales mentioned it was a hard decision to make but in the end, the dedication to community outreach and volunteer work is what made the winners stand out.

"Not only are they outstanding students, all three of our scholarship recipients understand the importance of

See Students on A5

Questions about ECSU chancellor's resignation

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

As of Dec. 31, Dr. Stacey Franklin Jones was no longer the chancellor of Elizabeth City State University.

It was the position the mathematician and systems engineer proudly held at the 125-year-old HBCU in northeastern North Carolina for just 14 months, when she made history becoming the institution's first female leader.

"Together we are embarking on something just shy of phenomenal," Dr. Jones said after taking over.

But then suddenly, and inexplicably, on Dec. 21 it was reported that Jones had "informed" UNC System President Tom Ross of her decision to step down.

"It was a stunning announcement, and still is," opined the Dec. 27 editorial of The Daily Advance in Elizabeth City. "Jones, who began work at ECSU in October 2014 and was just inaugurated as the campus's 10th chief executive in September, was to all public appearances doing a good job of helping the university recover after years of poor management that had led to financial and enrollment struggles."

HBCU Digest, an online publication covering historically black colleges and universities, in a Dec. 23 article titled, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year to Destroy Elizabeth City State," stated bluntly, "Make no mistake — the resignation of Chancellor Stacey Franklin Jones was a forced dismissal."

It added that Dr. Jones "... was forced to resign due to issues with falling enrollment and its financial aid division," but a recent state audit would contradict some of that speculation.

Indeed, when she was first appointed, UNC System President Ross, who also stepped down from his post at the end of 2015, first said of Jones, "Over a career that spans three decades, she has proven herself to be a strategic thinker who is engaged, resourceful, innovative and accessible. At this pivotal point in its history, I believe she has the right mix of skills, expertise and passion needed to guide Elizabeth City State University toward future success."

Apparently something occurred that either convinced

See ECSU on A2



Analysis

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