

On trial



Gut-wrenching loss

MEET THE RAMS

SPRING EDITION

JAN. 28

7-8:30PM

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Meet the members of the Rams Spring Sports Team, including football, women's tennis and women's track and field.

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• See Sports on page B1 •

# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 21

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 28, 2016

## Is W-S Urban League targeted?

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

It was December 13, 2015 when local published reports shocked the community with news that starting July 2016, the Forsyth County United Way was cutting its annual grant to the Winston-Salem Urban League's workforce development programming from \$427,344 for the 2016-17 fiscal year, to what was later revealed to be just \$100,000.

The news was stunning, given the fact that it came days before the United Way board had even met to make it official. And it seemed contrary to Mayor Allen Joiner's stated goal of using every resource in the city to effectively fight poverty.

"... [T]he county's poverty rate continues to rise,



Analysis

food insecurity is a growing concern, and health issues continue to escalate," Forsyth United Way Board Chair Sallye Liner said in a Jan. 4 statement. "United Way believes these challenges demand that we evolve from operating simply as a fundraiser and distributor of grants to specific partners, to focusing on developing and executing integrated and long-term solutions that address the root causes of our community's challenges."

At the time, Urban League Chairwoman Evelyn Acree did not share Liner's optimism. "The cuts will be very severe for us," she told The

Chronicle then, referring to the many job training and placement programs the Urban League currently offers. "This will definitely be a major setback."

In a December 17 editorial expressing the community's outrage, The Chronicle stated, "The United Way should take another look at the Urban League's mission to help fight poverty through job opportunities, and change its plans for huge cuts in its grants for the organization."

There are several in the community, however, who firmly believe that drastically and inexplicably cutting the Urban League's funding is part of a larger strategy by some in the city's power structure and outside developers to so cripple the black-owned and operated anti-poverty agency, and deem it as no longer important, that it would be forced to close, and either move from its prominent

See Targeted? on A8

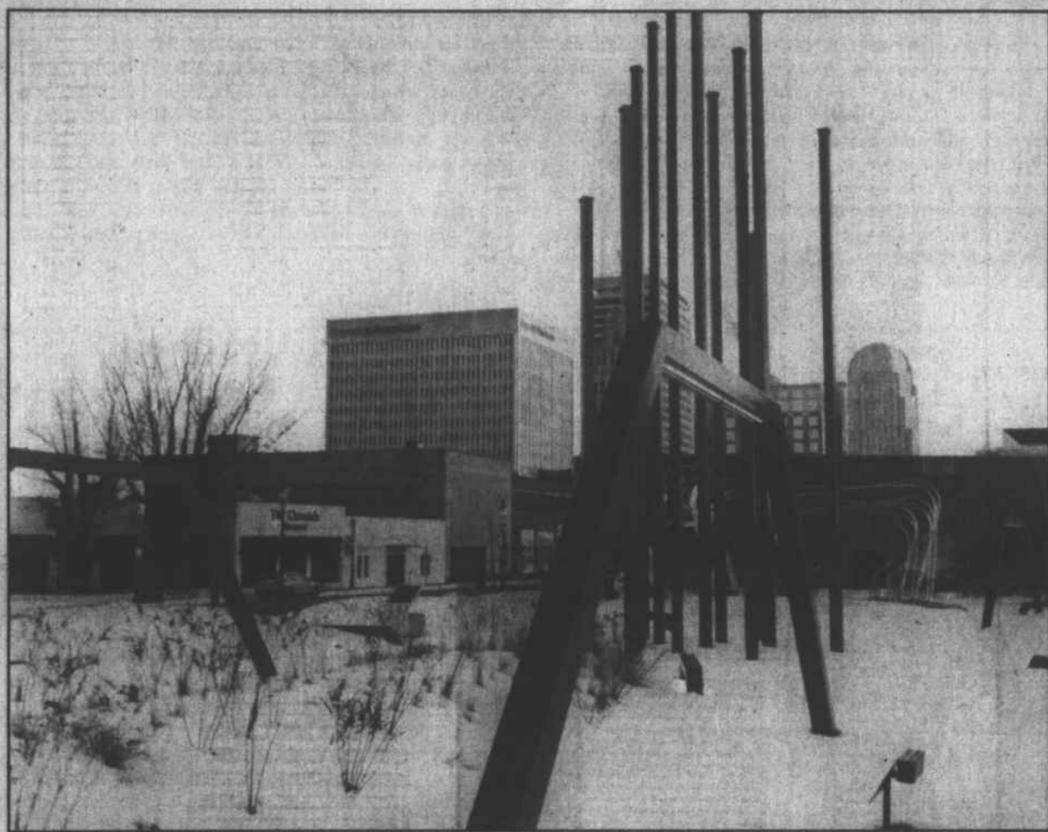


Photo by Todd Luck

## Life on hold

Most life in Winston-Salem, Forsyth County and the entire Triad area crawled to a halt after a severe winter storm of snow, ice and wind walloped the area late last week. There was no "tivity" at Artivity on the Green, above, for instance. It took Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools days to reopen schools. The district operated on a two-hour delay on Wednesday, Jan. 27. **SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE A4.**

### People on the street

Question: How did you handle the winter weather?

By Tevin Stinson for the Chronicle

**Marcus Williams (Winston-Salem)**

"It was good. I just stayed in the house and played NBA 2K and spent time with my family."



See People n A5

## Top plaintiff heard in trial on Voter ID

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Both sides of the N.C. NAACP vs. McCrory trial returned to Winston-Salem on Monday as arguments began over North Carolina's controversial new photo ID requirement for voters.

For three weeks last July, U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder heard the case in a trial that focused on other aspects of the state's controversial voting reform law, including the elimination of same-day registration, out-of-precinct voting, and pre-registration for teens. The main argument of the plaintiffs against a new photo ID requirement that will go into effect for the first time this year, was delayed after the General Assembly altered the law to allow for exemptions for voters who have a "reasonable impediment" to getting a photo ID.

Even with the change in the law, attorneys for the NAACP and the U.S. Justice Department returned to the courtroom to argue that a photo ID requirement intentionally places a discriminatory burden on minorities. Attorney Michael Glick said the lawmakers knew that African-Americans and Latinos were less likely to have photo IDs when they passed the legislation.

"It means the ID requirement falls unequally on a protected class of citizens," said Glick during opening arguments.

He said that changes to voting laws in recent years have been playing a "game of whack-a-mole" with a fundamental right without any valid interest to do so. He said there's been no proof of in-person voter fraud and that makes the ID requirement a "solution in search of a problem."

Attorney Tom Farr, who represents the state, disputed the amount of minorities who don't have photo IDs, saying that it was a "very, very small group" in his opening argument. He said that the process to meet voter eligibility is no worse than the process to qualify for things like Social Security benefits.

Videotaped testimony of the NAACP's lead plaintiff, Rosanell Eaton, spoke to the difficulties some have in getting a photo ID. The 94-year-old Franklin County resident talked about long drives and long waits, including an hour-and-43-minute wait at a Social Security office to get her driver's license. Eaton had to change her name on her birth certificate and Social Security card before she could get a driver's license, which required 10 trips over a 27-day span in January 2015.

"It's a lot of headache, a lot of expensive trouble," said Eaton, who's been voting for 70 years.

Expert witnesses were also called by the plaintiffs. Barry Burden a political science professor at University of

See Voter ID on A2

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