

# CHAMPS!

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• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 28 — WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — THURSDAY, March 17, 2016

## N.C. PRIMARY

# Burke holds on to seat; Clinton wins

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Tuesday primary results largely went as expected but there were some surprises in local races.

There was a surprising squeaker in the South Ward race to replace City Council Member Molly Leight, who is not running for re-election. Leight endorsed John Larson, vice president of restoration at Old Salem Museum and Gardens, as her successor.

However, he had stiff competition from Carolyn Highsmith, president of the Konnoak Hills Community Association. Highsmith pulled an upset by only four votes, according to unofficial results from Tuesday night.

"Today we'll start a process of examining the possibility of a recount," Larson said Wednesday morning.

According to Forsyth County Board of Elections Director Tim Tsujii, the board is still receiving absentee ballots and researching provisional ballots. On Tuesday, there will be a canvas to examine the votes in the primary and ensure the authenticity of the vote total. After final official results are determined during the canvas, candidates have one business day to file for a recount. The official winner will face Republican Michael Tyler in the general election.

Highsmith said she was pleased with the results and hopes that she comes out as the official winner. She said her message that she could better represent the ward resonated and her campaign has been working non-stop for months to pull out a win.



Burke



Clinton

"We thought it be sheer hard work to see if we can pull this off and we put everything into it," Highsmith said.

Another surprise was in the race for Forsyth County Register of Deeds, where challenger Lynne Johnson, a former Register of Deeds employee, had a decisive victory over current office holder Norman Holleman. She'll face Republican Challenger Steve Wood of Pfafftown in November.

Other races followed expectations and polls. Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who has served on the City Council since 1977, won her primary and, without a Republican challenger, has secured her 11th term.

"The citizens spoke," said Burke. "The Northeast Ward citizens are satisfied. They know that I have a lot of energy, wisdom."

Burke won decisively against her opponent Keith King, owner of Kingz DownTown Market.

"Obviously, I was disappointed in the turnout," he said, but added. "We're not done yet. We'll be back again."

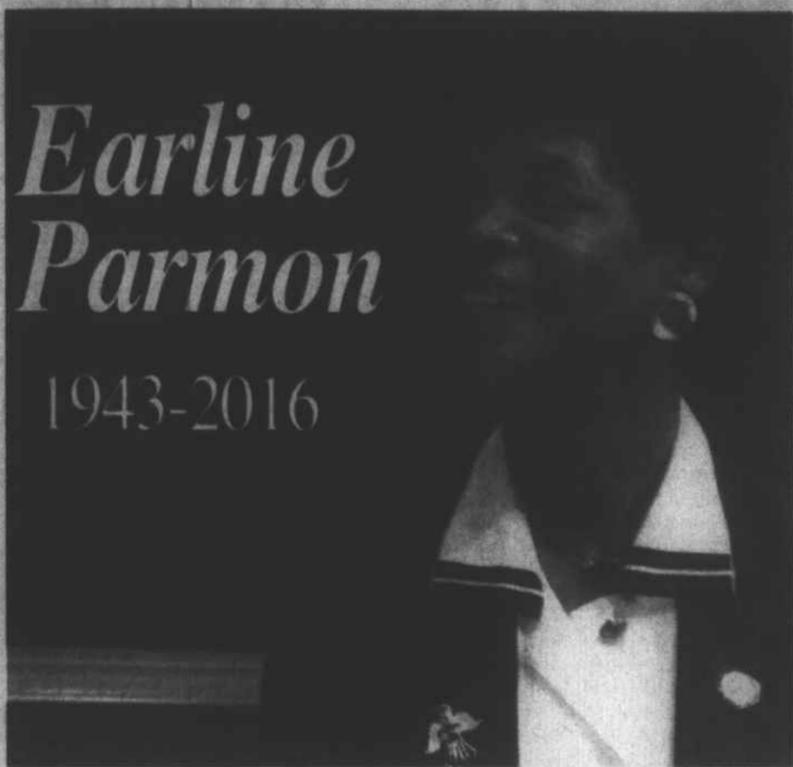
Besides Johnson, another African-American political newcomer won his primary race. Dan Blue III, son of N.C. Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue Jr., won his race for state treasurer.

Also, Linda Coleman, an African-American, again won her primary race for lieutenant governor.

See Wins on A11

# Earline Parmon

1943-2016



# Winston-Salem public servant dies at age 72

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Former N.C. lawmaker Earline Parmon died on Tuesday, March 15.

Parmon, 72, passed away from complications of a brief illness Tuesday afternoon at Novant Forsyth Medical Center. Her goddaughter and publicist Tanya Wiley said Parmon was surrounded by family and friends when she passed.

"Everyone was singing hymns and quoting Scripture," she said. "She passed on to eternal rest just the way she had talked about."

Funeral arrangements have not yet been finalized. The family began receiving guests at the home of Earline Parmon beginning Wednesday, March 16, at 10 a.m. Funeral arrangements are being han-

dled by Gilmore's Funeral Home in Winston-Salem.

Parmon was the director of outreach for U.S. Rep. Alma Adams. Before that, she had a long career as an elected official. She served for 12 years on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. She represented the 72nd District in the N.C. House of Representatives for 12 years. In 2012, she became the first African-American woman in Forsyth County elected to the N.C. Senate, representing the 32nd District. She won re-election for her seat, but then gave it up in 2015 to take the position with Adams.

A statement from Adams called Parmon one of her "closest confidants, colleagues and a true friend."

See Parmon on A2

# Darryl Hunt remembered for his humility and courage

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Less than 12 hours after reports surfaced that Darryl Hunt was found dead inside a vehicle in the 2800 block of University Parkway, nearly 200 residents came together Sunday evening, March 13, to celebrate his life.

According to public records, Dr. Larry Little contacted the Winston-Salem Police Department for assistance in locating Hunt, who was last seen nine days earlier in the Garfield Court area. Just after 12 a.m. on Sunday, officers found Hunt unresponsive inside a 1999 white Ford truck in a parking lot near the Lawrence Joel Veterans Coliseum.

Hunt appeared to have died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said Wednesday. The Criminal Investigations Division has assumed the investigation and will be releasing more information as the investigation progresses.

During Monday night's City Council meeting, City Council Member Dan Besse spoke about Hunt's passing, saying the city has lost a community leader.

See Hunt on A8



Chronicle file photo

The late Darryl Hunt, who was wrongly incarcerated for a murder he didn't commit for nearly two decades, became an advocate to help others who'd been incarcerated or wrongly convicted.

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