

# Too close for comfort



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April 9 • Join for the official Spring Football Game!

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There will be pizza, giveaways and games. Bring 2 canned goods for entry and in support of the Second Harvest Food Bank and WSSU Student Food Pantry.

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

# THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, April 7, 2016

## Lawmakers tackle dropout issue

### Fact-finding tour honoring Parmon will also address student suspensions

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

The NC Legislative Black Caucus (NCLBC) is inspecting school districts across the state to find out why there seems to be a disproportionate number of suspensions and dropouts among minority students.



Rep. Hanes

The rate for short-term suspensions is about three for every 10 black students and long-term suspensions are about 153 per every 100,000 black students.

In honor of former Sen. Earline Parmon, the NCLBC kicked off an education tour in which caucus members will meet with administrators and staff to discuss their high suspension rates and find the root cause of the problem.

Caucus members kicked off their fact-finding tour earlier this week during a joint press conference with the

Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity (MCWSV).

Chairman of the NCLBC, Rep. Garland Pierce, said education and dropout rates were very important to Parmon, which is why the caucus decided to undertake the initiative.

In the early 2000s, Parmon founded the now-defunct LIFT Academy, working with minority and at-risk youth. Many of the students who attend the high school had been shunned away by traditional schools.

"Former Senator Earline Parmon fought for schools throughout this state," Pierce said.

MCWSV Third Vice President Pastor Alvin Carlisle

See Issue on A2



## Flying high with new skate park

Wesley Linton attempts a new trick at the new skate park near the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 2. The park was dedicated Saturday. SEE STORY ON PAGE A2.

## Caldwell, Dalton-Rann gain top honors

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Because of their tremendous work in the community, Alan Caldwell, director of Corporate and Civic Engagement at Reynolds' American Inc. (RAI), and RaVonda Dalton-Rann, executive assistant to the chancellor and university secretary at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), will be honored with the highest distinction at The Chronicle's 31st annual Community Service Awards Gala on Saturday, April 23.



The community service awards event was created to recognize those individuals who benefit the overall quality of life for the community, many of whom are often unsung heroes who go about their daily lives helping to improve the conditions of the city according to Chronicle Publisher Emeritus Ernie Pitt.

"The affair is simply a way for us to thank them publicly for their concerns and efforts on behalf of our community," Pitt continued.

Dalton-Rann has worked under five chief administra-

See Honors on A2

## Hatred inspired Viola Davis, she tells W-S audience

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Award-winning actress Viola Davis makes no apologies: She said overcoming obstacles such as poverty and both racial and sexual discrimination is what makes her a true hero for women of color everywhere.

And her determination to take control of her career has propelled her to new heights.

Davis, the star of ABC's "How to Get Away with Murder," spoke on the campus of Wake Forest last weekend as part of the sixth annual Reynolda Film Festival.

Davis was raised in the rural area of Rhode Island. She grew up poor and was constantly teased by her white classmates for being different. Although she admits it was hard to

endure, she said she used the hatred from her classmates as inspiration.

"You never know what's going to inspire you," said Davis, "Inspiration

**"In the midst of this poverty, it was like the wind stopped blowing and the air stopped moving."**

-Viola Davis

comes from a lot of different places. I was determined to use all the bad things they said about me as fuel, and that's exactly what I did."

"I overcame all of that and returned with the sweet elixir. That's the journey of a true hero."

Davis is the first African-

American woman to win an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. She also won the Stage Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance in a Drama Series, and the Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series.

Davis told the more than 1,000 students in attendance that the moment she saw Cicely Tyson star in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" she wanted to become an actor. Davis mentioned what she saw from Tyson was magic.

"In the midst of this poverty, it was like the wind stopped blowing and the air stopped moving," she continued. "It was art. That's when I knew what I wanted to do."

Over the years, Davis has starred in a number of well-known films, including "Antwone Fisher," "Get Rich or Die Tryin," "Doubt."

In 2011, Davis was nominated for Best Actress at the Academy Awards

See Davis on A2

## Conference designed to teach how to secure worship centers

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

After serving more than 30 years in law enforcement and training on local, state and federal levels, Winston-Salem's own Bobby Kimbrough is looking to help the local faith-based community to develop security awareness.

Kimbrough has decided that now is the time to educate local faith communities on how to maintain safety from the parking lot to the pulpit.

In 2014, Kimbrough was appointed director of security for Global United Fellowship by presiding Bishop Neil

See Centers on A2

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