

Running out of options



Routs



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THE CHRONICLE

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Ex-W-S teacher, NCAE leader dies

Rodney Ellis' mission was to inspire young boys of color

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

Last weekend, educators and others across the state were shocked and saddened when reports surfaced that a former president of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) who had taught in Winston-Salem died Saturday morning. Rodney Ellis was 49.

Ellis, a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, began his teaching career

at Atkins Middle School (now Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy) as an eighth-grade language arts teacher in 1999. After serving as the president of the Forsyth County Association of Educators (FCAE), Ellis was elected NCAE vice president in 2010, where he served for two years before he was elected president in 2012.

A wake will be held for Ellis on Friday, Sept. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Great Commission Community Church, 3733 Ogburn Ave. in Winston-Salem. His funeral will be Saturday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. at St. Peter's World Outreach Center, 3683 Old Lexington Road in Winston-Salem. Russell Funeral Home is in charge.

Although he had left the classroom setting, Ellis' mission in life was to inspire



Ellis

children from low income households, especially African-American males, to always do their best and strive for greatness.

During an event hosted by the local Initiative for African American Males (IAAM) earlier this summer, Ellis said, "Helping improve the lives of African-American males has always been important to me.

"It takes a full commitment from the entire community," he continued. "To be successful students need the support of parents, educators, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the community as well."

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Photo by Tevin Stinson

New York native Marianela Melendez, who worked in the World Trade Center during the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, reflects on that unforgettable day and what life has been like for her since.

Community reflects on terror attacks 15 years later

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

In remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001, last week the Love Community Development Corporation (LCDC), which has a mission to enrich lives through educational programs and resources, partnered with AmeriCorps to host a special event to remember those who lost their lives, and others whose unselfish generosity to help save lives during one of the

greatest tragedies in American history.

During the event held on Friday, Sept. 9, just two days before the 15th anniversary of the terror attacks that shook the country to the core, Mayor Allen Joines said most people will never forget what they were doing when planes flew into the World Trade Center and The Pentagon.

He said he will also never forget the image of first responders running

toward the fire.

"We saw thousands of people running away from the World Trade Center, but we saw the first responders running toward the fire to try to save lives," said Joines. "Every day we thank God for our first responders because we know what they mean to our city and our community."

After thanking first responders and veterans in attendance for their service,

Joines noted, "Following the attacks, there was a huge wave of patriotism, but it seems like over the years that support has not been as strong. But, it's events like this that will help remind us that our first responders are the ones who keep us safe.

"I'm glad to see our churches and our community organizations putting this before us and not letting us forget. We have to

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BOE to decide on WSSU as a voting site

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Election Day voting at Winston-Salem State University is among the polling changes the Forsyth County Board of Elections is considering.

It was one of three polling place changes discussed during the board's Thursday, Sept. 8 meeting. The plan would be to move it to the Anderson Center at WSSU, which was a long-time early voting site before the 2014 election. After the board changed to majority Republican, the site ceased to be used for early voting.

The sole Democrat on the board, Fleming El-Amin, unsuccessfully challenged this year's early voting primary plan to the State BOE when Anderson wasn't included. Dozens



Raymond

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of residents and community leaders spoke in favor of WSSU as an early voting site in this year's BOE meetings and petitions with more than a thousand signatures for the site have been presented to the board. During the last debate on early voting sites for November, El-Amin agreed to vote for a plan that included more sites in minority communities, but not WSSU, as long as Anderson was discussed as a polling place for November.

Anderson Center was an ideal site for students at the college, since freshman cannot park on campus and don't have access to their own vehicles. The current board chair, Ken Raymond, filed a complaint against the site when he was a poll worker there in 2010, alleging that students were given extra credit for voting. The BOE of the time dismissed the claim, saying even if that had happened, nothing was given to students in exchange for voting a certain way.

Nether arguments for or against WSSU students came up in last week's meeting. Instead, Anderson's convenience to voters throughout the precinct was discussed.

Anderson Center is in Precinct 405, which has U.S. 52 cutting through the center of it. Construction on the

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Republicans figure out way around voter ID ruling

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

Last Thursday, the Republican-led state Board of Elections (BOE), met all day, and well into the night, putting the final touches on the early voting plans of 33 counties that could not come to agreement on either the number of sites or hours, or even if there would be

Sunday voting allowed.

In Wake County, for instance, the state BOE, at the urging of the Democratic minority, expanded the number of early voting sites during the first seven days from just one to nine, because of 2012 calculations of roughly 10,000 a day.

In Mecklenburg County, 10 sites will now be open during the

first seven days of early voting instead of just one because 15,000 voters a day are expected. The Republican majority on the local BOE wanted to open just one site to combat "fraud."

But neither the N.C. NAACP or other civil rights advocates who successfully knocked down parts of the 2013 voter ID law in federal

appellate court were pleased. As far as they were concerned, the July 29 U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling against voter ID and other discriminatory parts of the law was clear - The Republican-led General Assembly targeted African-American voters

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