

Scary
Costumes



Tough
Win



See Opinion Forum pages on A10&11

See Sports on page B1

THE CHRONICLE

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EXCLUSIVE

Where's refund, Wells Fargo?

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

If Wells Fargo says it has been refunding fees to customers who were scammed with false bank and credit card accounts they never asked for, then "Ms. Jones" is still waiting for hers.

In fact, she's waiting for much more than that.

"It's just been a mess, a big mess," exclaimed the former customer who asked that her real name not be published.

The Winston-Salem woman alleges that three years ago, the bank began charging her fees on a credit card account in her name that she knew nothing about, and when she tried to straighten it, out she got the run-around.

It was mid-2013 when Jones recalls getting a telephone call at work telling her that she needed to make a minimum payment of \$167.00, or pay the balance on the account with a \$6,000 line of credit.

Jones provided *The Chronicle* with documentation — notices from Wells Fargo Card Services to her saying "YOUR ACCOUNT IS PAST DUE" and "THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT." One of the first notices she received showed there were no payments made on a \$665.30 previous balance, in addition to \$235.90 in cash advances, \$77.50 in fees and \$14.96 interest charged, totaling

\$993.71 owed.

By June 2013 that balance had swollen to \$1,364.91, stuffed with numerous "LATE" and "OVERDRAFT PROTECTION" fees, in addition to interest on the debt at just under 24 percent.

"I was baffled because I didn't have a Wells Fargo credit card," Jones recalled. Working near High Point, Jones said she went to a Wells Fargo branch there in hopes of straightening the misunderstanding out. But she says she was told they couldn't tell her anything, except that she had to make a payment on the \$1,364.91 balance in order to keep her credit in good standing. So she reluctantly did that, hoping to eventually correct the situation.

Jones says she then went to a branch closer to where she lived, hoping to get the

assistance she needed, but no one there could tell her anything. However, she did overhear a Wells Fargo representative, on a call apparently to the parent company regarding her plight, saying, "That's going to be our problem because we don't have anything signed by her."

Jones then recalled a Winston-Salem branch near where she got her car serviced. She scheduled an appointment to meet with the branch manager. But on the day of the appointment, Jones arrived, only to be told that the manager she was scheduled to meet with was on vacation. Frustrated, "Jones" filed "a notice to the Better Business Bureau," and then went back to another High Point branch.

Still finding no assistance, Jones

See Wells Fargo on A2

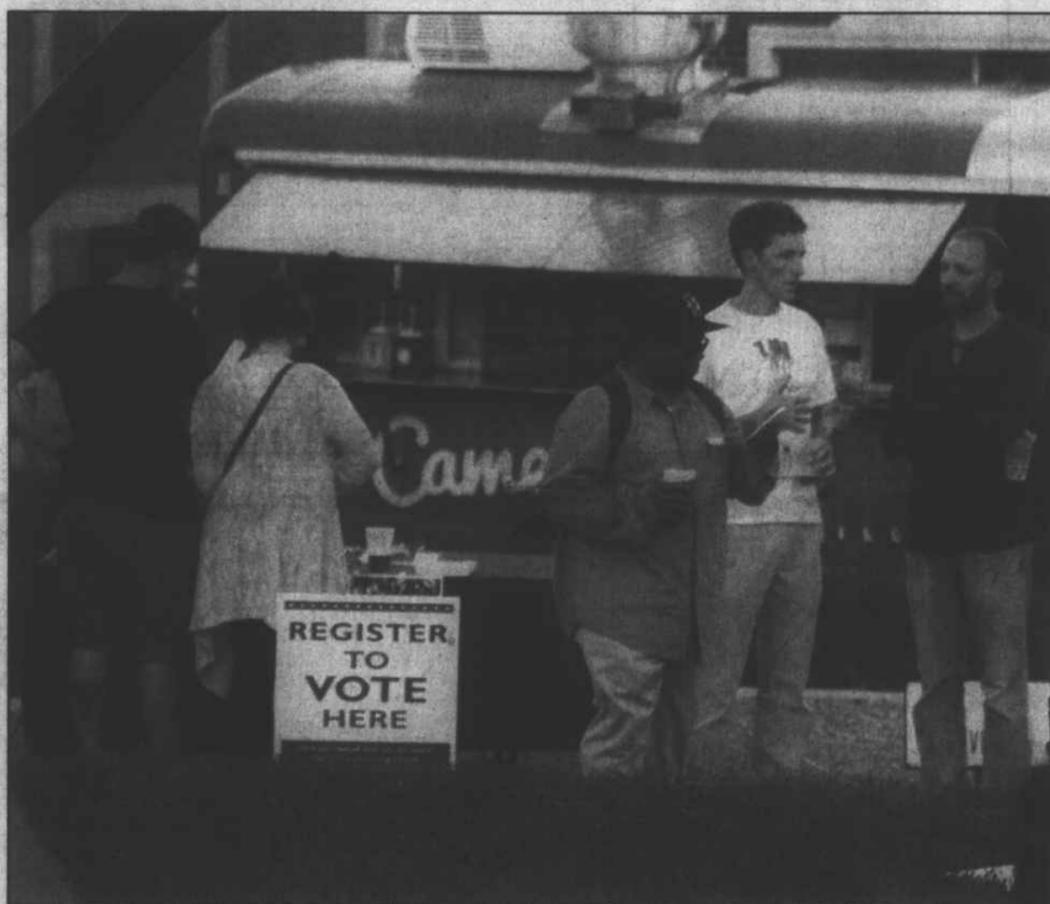


Photo by Tevin Stinson

Dozens of people attended a block party held last week designed to register voters. The New Voter Block Party was hosted by Arts Nouveau.

Arts Nouveau encourages young voters with block party

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

While every vote is important, it's no secret that voters under the age of 40 will play a major role in deciding who the next president of the United States will be.

With election day right around the corner, Arts Nouveau Winston-Salem (ANWS), a part of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, held a special block party to encourage young, creative people in the area to speak up and vote.

Along with providing an opportunity for people to

register, the party, held at Activity on the Green on North Liberty Street, also featured a performances by the Carolina Stars Drumline, a DJ, games, food trucks and locally brewed beer for those over 21.

According to the arts council director of major gifts, Devon MacKay, the organization will be hosting other events to ensure young people in the area are registered and ready to make a difference on election day.

"ANWS wants to make sure that people get out and vote," MacKay said.

EXCLUSIVE

Community activists urge Black History in W-S high schools

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

A group of community activists is urging the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public School System (WS/FCPSS) to adopt a mandatory black history course for kindergarten through 12th grade, saying that in an effort to close the achievement gap, it could provide a much-needed "knowledge of self" for African-American students especially, and a greater sense of self-esteem knowing that their people played important roles in American history.

The chief academic officer for the school system says he agrees that greater emphasis on black history is needed for those purposes, and he assures the system is seeking to do just that, but only as part of its current American history curriculum.

But the activists counter that "greater emphasis" is not the same as a mandatory stand-alone course required for graduation. And what they are pushing for isn't some pipe dream — the Philadelphia Public School System has required a high school African-American history course for graduation since 2006.

If it can be successfully done there for the past 10 years, they ask, then why not here?

Ken Rasheed is one of the members of the Education Subcommittee of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), which includes Vincent Wilkins, Ricky Johnson, Steve Brooks, Amatullah Saleem, Miranda Jones, Chris Taylor, Gwen Rasheed, and Effrainguan Muhammad. They aren't the first who have called for black history to be taught in local schools.

The LOC has been meeting with WS/FCPSS officials for months, the last being in mid-August. Thus far, Rasheed says, the response from Superintendent Beverly Emory, several board members and other school officials has been "no" to establishing a mandatory black history course in the system.

But they did, according to Rasheed, "give us some concessions that are going to be hard for anybody to meas-

See History on A12

County real estate reappraisal coming soon

Property values are expected to increase from 2009

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A public hearing will be held next week on

the standards used for next year's reappraisal of real estate property by the Forsyth County Tax Administration.

County Commissioners will hold a hearing on the reappraisal's Schedule of Values (SOV) during its Monday, Oct. 10, meeting, at 2 p.m. and will vote on the item on Oct. 24.

SOV includes appraisal standards and

explanations of the process. It's available at the Tax Administration office in the Forsyth County Government Building and on the department's website.

The reappraisals of property values, which county staff has been working on for nearly two

See Real Estate on A2

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