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THE CHRONICLE

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Dems are 'Ready for Roy'

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

It took almost a full month past the Nov. 8 elections, but after numerous failed Republican legal challenges, and a Durham County ballot recount that essentially confirmed the final unofficial numbers, Republican Gov. Pat McCrory this week finally conceded his defeat to Democratic challenger Roy Cooper in the hotly contested gubernatorial race that captivated the nation.

**CAMPAIGN
2016**

"Despite continued questions that should be answered regarding the voting process," the governor, wearing a dark suit jacket and open shirt, said in a YouTube video concession speech Monday morning to his supporters. "... I personally believe that the majority of our citizens have spoken, and we now should do everything we can to support the 75th governor of North Carolina, Roy Cooper."

In an email response, Cooper, the state attorney general, thanked Gov. McCrory and his wife for their service to the state, and promised that under his leadership, he will strive to make North Carolina a state that "works for everyone."

Cooper beat McCrory by over 10,000 votes, thus staving off a statewide recount,



Governor-elect Cooper

or any interference from the GOP-led legislature.

Top Democrats were delighted.

"We look forward to working with Governor-Elect Cooper to support working North Carolinians, invest in our public schools, and work to build a better North Carolina," said NC

Democratic Party Chairwoman Patsy Keever in a statement.

"After four years of Republican control in the governor's office and six years of a Republican-controlled state legislature that has only turned back the clock, there's no doubt that North Carolina is Ready for Roy," said Democratic National Committee Interim Chairwoman Donna Brazile.

State Senate Minority Leader Sen. Dan Blue (D-Wake) was also pleased, but concerned about how McCrory and the Republican Party apparently tried to slash and burn the election results for political advantage.

"I've really been disappointed in the

See Cooper on A7

CHRISTMAS 2016



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

A young girl grabs a piece of candy from Santa after telling him her Christmas wish list.

Santa Claus is sighted at W.R. Anderson rec center

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

'Tis the season to be jolly. With Christmas right around the corner, children are writing out their Christmas present lists to tell Santa Claus what they want.

The W.R. Anderson Recreation Center, in conjunction with Next Level Track Club, brought Santa to the rec center so that children can let him know what they are hoping for. Director of Next Level,

Buddy Hayes, played Santa and has been doing so since 1992 at various recreation centers.

Hayes said he has known W.R. Anderson Director Bryant McCorkle for years, and when he asked him to come over to the center to play Santa, Hayes was more than welcome to do it.

The kids who came to visit Santa at the center were from the track club, recreation center and surrounding neighborhood.

The kids got the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they would like for Christmas. The kids also received candy as a treat.

Hayes added, "I enjoy talking to the kids and seeing them smile. It's a pleasure for me to be able to do something nice for the parents and kids during the holiday season. We have some great parents and some great athletes. The parents come out and support us so much, so when I

got the chance to help out the kids, it was a no brainer."

Adaniss Taylor, La'Niya Simes and Jamiya Wallace served as elves during the event. They also participate in the track club as well.

McCorkle said he was happy to see the kids have a chance to tell Santa what was on their wish lists. He hopes more and more kids come out in years to come.

Eric Ellison's brother fights to be DNC chairman

Local Democratic Party chair is helping in the effort

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, a progressive who made history as the first Muslim in Congress, is vying to become the chair of the Democratic National Committee.

The Minnesota lawmaker has a local connection in his younger brother, Eric Ellison, who is a lawyer and Forsyth County Democratic Party chair.



Eric



Keith

The national chair will be decided on the weekend of Feb. 24, 2017, by approximately 447 DNC members. North Carolina has five of them, elected by the state party, plus the state chair and vice chair. Eric said he's arranged meetings for his brother to talk with them, and believes that Keith is the frontrunner in the race.

The Ellisons are originally from Detroit. Keith converted to Islam while he was an undergraduate at Wayne State University. He became a lawyer and served in the Minnesota legislature. In 2007, he made history as the first Muslim member of Congress. He won his 2016 reelection for his sixth term with 70 percent of the vote. During the primary, he became one of the most prominent supporters of Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential bid

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January

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