

Anticipation, pride for Justice-elect Morgan's swearing-in next week



Morgan

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Thanks to a statement from outgoing Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, it is now known that GOP legislative leaders were indeed planning to add two more seats to the North Carolina Supreme Court so that McCrory could appoint two more Republicans to offset Superior Court Judge Mike Morgan's stunning 350,000-vote election win, giving Democrats the 4-3 majority.

On January 4th the investiture of N.C. Associate Justice Michael Rivers Morgan will take place at 2 p.m. in the Law and Justice Building Courtroom at 2 East Morgan Street in Downtown Raleigh.

"I feel tremendously wonderful about it," the new justice-elect, 60, said days after his triumph. "The voters of North Carolina have given me a resounding victory and are allowing me to serve the state at the highest level of the North Carolina Supreme Court. So I'm very

pleased, very proud and very humbled at this opportunity."

Justice Morgan will become the fifth African-American to serve on the state's High Court in its history, following Chief Justice Henry Frye, and associate justices G. K. Butterfield, Patricia Timmons-Goodson, James Wynn Jr., and Cheri Beasley.

"We have been friends since my appointment [to the bench] in March of 2005," Orange County Superior Court Judge Carl Fox said of his colleague. "Mike is an experienced trial judge who has previously served on both the district and superior trial court benches for [over]25 years."

"He is a fair, hard working and a conscientious judge with a wealth of experience. Mike has held court around our state. [and] he has also taught other judges through the N.C. Conference of Superior Court Judges and The National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada," Judge Fox added.

State Rep. Evelyn Terry [D-Forsyth] expressed the boundless pride that many in the African-American community have in Judge Morgan's Supreme Court election, and tremendous faith in his ability to serve in the interest of all North Carolinians.

"It's difficult for me to express verbally that it just means such a great deal to me, and certainly, I hope to the people I represent in District 71 ... whose interests in equal justice are very keen."

"So I'm just hopeful because of Judge Morgan's qualifications, his character, his ability, his humanness... all of those things that characterize a fine legal mind," Rep. Terry added.

"He'll bring a breath of fresh air." A native of Cherry Point, N.C., Mike Morgan is the oldest of five children. He graduated from New Bern public schools. Morgan received his B.A. in both History and Sociology from Duke University in 1976. He earned his Juris Doctor degree with honors from North Carolina Central

University in 1979. From 1983 to 1989, Morgan was an assistant state Attorney General in the N.C. Dept of Justice. From 1989 to 1994, he served as a NC administrative law judge; from 1994 to 2004 a district court judge; and from 2005 to the present a Wake County superior court judge.

Senate Minority Leader Sen. Dan Blue [D-Wake] said, "I am very encouraged to see Judge Mike Morgan join our state's Supreme Court."

"His dedication to impartiality and respect for the law is unparalleled. It is crucial for us to have diversity on the bench, and Judge Morgan's win is an important step to broader representation in the court that more accurately reflects North Carolinians."

Sen. Blue concluded, "I have no doubt that he will bring the kind of balance that is needed to ensure that the judicial system is operating in accordance with the democratic process."

Community Briefs

Old Salem's Incoming president begins his tenure in the Historic Tavern Museum

Frank Vagnone named the new president of Old Salem Museums & Gardens on Nov. 18, will start full-time on March 1. Vagnone is working with current Old Salem president Ragan Folan and Old Salem Chief Operating Officer Anthony Slater during a transition period. One of Vagnone's signature projects is a series of events he calls, "One-night Stand." He spends overnights in historic house museums and heritage sites, using them as they were originally intended, and then writes about how these fragile places can have meaning in current 21st-century lives. He brought his One Night Stand experience to Old Salem on Dec. 1 in the historic Tavern Museum. Vagnone is an internationally renowned thinker, writer and consultant in the fields of historic preservation and museums.

New Wall Street Journal ranks WSSU as No. 8 HBCU in nation

Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) is the No. 8 Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the nation, and the top in North Carolina, according to rankings released this week by The Wall Street Journal. WSSU also is the second highest ranked public HBCU. The top 10 list, pulled from The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College's inaugural college rankings, analyzes institutions based on four areas: Resources (student-teacher ratio, finance per student, research papers per faculty); Engagement (accredited programs, student engagement, student recommendations, interaction with students and teachers); Outcomes (graduation rate, graduate salary, academic reputation); Environment (student, faculty and staff diversity, student inclusion). The rankings are based on federal higher education data and surveys of 100,000 college students. The full list can be viewed at <http://www.wsj.com/articles/top-historically-black-colleges-and-universities-1479747552>.

Applications being accepted for City of Winston-Salem University

The city is accepting applications for the next class of "City of Winston-Salem University," to be held for 12 weeks starting Feb. 2, 2017. City of Winston-Salem University gives citizens a better understanding of city government, including the responsibilities of various city departments and the city's role in the community. Classes meet Thursday evenings for three hours. Topics will include city governance and finance, sanitation, utilities operations, streets and transportation, public safety, planning and economic development, housing and recreation. Class size is limited to 20 participants. Applications will be evaluated based on the reason for participating, leadership potential, diversity and residency (city residents receive first priority, then Forsyth County residents). City of Winston-Salem University is free; however, participants have the option of earning continuing education credit through Winston-Salem State University for a nominal fee of \$25. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Dec. 30 and are available at the Marketing & Communications Department in City Hall, 101 N. Main St. Suite 336, or by calling CityLink 311. The application is also posted online at www.CityofWS.org/CWSU and can be printed and mailed in, or filled out and submitted online. For more information, call CityLink 311.

NC AgVentures offers grant opportunity to support family farms

NC AgVentures, a NC Cooperative Extension program provides grants to NC farmers for new and innovative agricultural project ideas that will increase farm profits. The program will award an average of \$5,000 to \$10,000. The program, which is supported by the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, will award a minimum of 20 grants to agriculturally dependent farm families in the following counties: Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Rockingham, Yadkin, Guilford, Martin, Wilson, Pitt, Edgecombe, Nash, Sampson, Lenoir, Duplin, Wayne, Harnett, Greene, Johnston counties. The application deadline is Jan. 5, 2017. An application workshop for producers interested in learning more about the grant award and application process is scheduled for Forsyth County at the Forsyth Cooperative Extension Offices, 1450 Fairchild Road. The workshop will be held on Dec. 5 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. For additional information, or to obtain an application contact your local Cooperative Extension office. Applications can also be downloaded to your computer from www.ncagventures.org.

Community Calendar

Every day - Volunteers needed for Reading Parties

The Augustine Literacy Project, Read.Write.Spell (READWS) is looking for volunteers for its Reading Parties. The program needs youthful, energetic people who are willing to lead students in party games created for maximum learning and enjoyment. Reading Party is a free parent-oriented seminar that will teach simple and effective multisensory strategies to parents and their children in a fun, laid-back atmosphere. After a short training, volunteers will help 2-8 hours per month, mostly nights and weekends. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Tonya Nealon at 336-723-4391 ext. 1507 or Tonya@readws.org.

Dec. 29 - Kwanzaa Ujamaa Celebration

The Winston-Salem Urban League will present the annual city-wide Kwanzaa celebration on Thursday, Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. The celebration will be held at Carl Russell Recreation Center, 3521 Carver Road. The celebration will focus on Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) focusing on one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The Ujamaa day is sponsored by Carl Russell Recreation Center. The program is family oriented including African drumming, music, service recognitions, inspirational messages, food and fellowship. Dawn's Travel and More is the honoree. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 336-727-2580.

Dec. 29 - 22nd Kwanzaa Celebration

CARY - The Ujima Group, Inc., will host the 22nd Kwanzaa Celebration at the Cary Arts Center, 101 Dry Avenue, downtown Cary, NC on Thursday, Dec. 29 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The theme for the celebration is "It's a New Dawn; It's a New Day." There will be a performance by The Elegba from the Yoruba cosmology. The celebration will display the tradition of a procession of the elders and the Harambee Circle. The celebration will have fun and activities for young and old. Information about directions can be retrieved from The Cary Arts Center at 919-469-4069. For more information, contact Lester Thomas at 919-380-7020 or email lesterthomas845@yahoo.com.

Dec. 29 - "Peter and the Wolf"

Peppercorn Theatre's "Peter and the Wolf" will be Dec. 29, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the James A. Gray Jr. Auditorium, Old Salem Visitor Center. This classic story is retold through music and dance in a collaboration between Music Carolina (Carolina Chamber Symphony Players), Helen Simoneau Danse and Peppercorn Theatre. Appropriate for all ages. Tickets: \$8 - Child, \$12 - Adult, \$35 - Family Pack

Dec. 30 - Kwanzaa Nia Celebration

The Winston-Salem Urban League will present the annual city-wide Kwanzaa celebration on Friday, Dec. 30 at 6 p.m. The celebration will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church, 3901 Carver School Road. The celebration will focus on Nia (Purpose) focusing on one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The Nia day is sponsored by Grace Presbyterian Church. The program is family oriented including African drumming,

music, service recognitions, inspirational messages, food and fellowship. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 336-722-4399 or 767-7530.

Dec. 31 - Kwanzaa Kuumba Celebration

The Winston-Salem Urban League will present the annual city-wide Kwanzaa celebration on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. The celebration will be held at Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive. The celebration will focus on Kuumba (Creativity) focusing on one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The Kuumba day is sponsored by NC Black Repertory Theatre Company and Forsyth County Public Library. The program is family oriented including African drumming, music, service recognitions, inspirational messages, food and fellowship. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 336-703-2953.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Concert

Winston-Salem Symphony will hold a New Year's Eve concert with singer, violinist and banjo player Rhiannon Giddens performing a night of bluegrass, folk and jazz on Saturday, Dec. 31. The concert will be held at Reynolds Auditorium, 301 N. Hawthorne Road, at 8 p.m. The concert will include songs from Shuffle Along such as "Waterboy," "La Vie en Rose," "Maple Leaf Rag" under the baton of Maestro Robert Moody. Tickets range from \$20 - \$67, and are available in advance by calling the Symphony Box Office at 336-464-0145 or at WSsymphony.org.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve celebration

The Winston-Salem Fairgrounds and Bowl Northside have teamed up for the second consecutive year for a New Year's Eve celebration on Saturday, Dec. 31. For \$20 people can skate at the Fairgrounds Annex from 8-10 p.m. and then head on over to Bowl Northside for Laser Bowl from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. Party Favors (hats, beads, noisemakers) are included in the Bowling Laser Party. Tickets for the combined event can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com (search Winston-Salem Fairgrounds) or at the Fairgrounds Annex Box Office at 414 Deacon Blvd. in Winston-Salem. Tickets may be purchased the night of the events but they are subject to availability. All guests must present ticket at Bowling Lanes, otherwise pricing is regular price for both venues. Northside Lanes is the only smoke free and alcohol free bowling center in Forsyth County.

Dec. 31 - Noon Year's Eve

The Children's Museum will have a Noon Years Eve Celebration, Dec. 31, 10 a.m. It's a Kids' Countdown to Noon Year's Eve. Families can create sound shakers in the Art Studio beginning at 10 a.m.. At 11:40 a.m., the group will gather together for fun songs, silly activities and a storytime, ending with a countdown to the noon year!

Dec. 31, March 24 & 25 - Hops Conference

The South Atlantic Hops Conference, Crowne Plaza Resort One Resort Drive, Asheville NC, will be held on March 24 and 25. Registration can be completed by

Saturday, Dec. 31. Registration for Friday and Saturday can be purchased separately. The cost for both days is \$127.59, with prices increasing to \$50 after registration deadline. The conference organized by N.C. State University, Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, four regional hop growers and a malt maker will focus on educating, enlightening and engaging growers, brewers and other interested parties about the South Atlantic hops industry. The topics discussed will focus on hop cone chemistry, brewers' opinions of local hops, regional research results, up and coming varieties and experiences with hop harvesters. There will be a tradeshow and poster session; lunch will be included. For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-south-atlantic-hops-conference-tickets-26084925715>.

Jan. 1 - Kwanzaa Imani Celebration

The Winston-Salem Urban League will present the annual city-wide Kwanzaa celebration on Sunday, Jan. 1 at 2 p.m. The celebration will be held at Old Salem Museums & Gardens, 900 Old Salem Road. The celebration will focus on Imani (Faith) focusing on one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The Imani day is sponsored by Greater Vision Dance Company and St. Philips Heritage Center. The program is family oriented including African drumming, music, service recognitions, inspirational messages, food and fellowship. Warren and Georjean Moore, Owners of Irie Rhythms Restaurant is the honoree. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 336-703-2953.

Now - Jan. 1 - Festival of Lights

Tanglewood Park, 4061 Clemmons Rd, Clemmons NC, will celebrate the 25th anniversary Festival of Lights now - Sunday, Jan. 1 nightly from 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. The park will have brand new light displays along with the return of S'moresville at the Gift Village closing each night at 10 p.m. The gift village will also have concessions, Mr. and Mrs. Claus and performers. For more information, about tickets, events and staying at Tanglewood visit <http://www.forsyth.cc/Parks/Tanglewood/fof> or call 336-703-6481.

Jan. 2 - Emancipation Association Program

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Leach, pastor of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, will address the annual Emancipation Association Program on Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, at 11 a.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1075 Shalimar Drive in Winston-Salem. The Rev. Dr. John Mendez is host pastor. Jannette Piggott will preside. This program marks the 154th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Jan. 5 - "In Pursuit Of Justice" screening

Winston-Salem filmmakers Gregg Jamback and Jamie Huss of Swiftwater Media invite the public to a special evening that includes a work-in-progress screening of their film, "In Pursuit Of Justice," 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 5, at HanesBrands Theatre in downtown Winston-Salem. Admission is free. For years