

First time since 1976 Forsyth County votes Democrat

The 2008 presidential election was a historic event and one that the state of North Carolina for the first time since 1976, voted for a Democrat for the presidency of the United States.

Before Democratic President Nominee Barack Obama carried the state in November's election, Jimmy Carter was the last Democratic nominee to get the nod, eight terms ago.

According to the Forsyth County Democratic Party, the county supported Republican George W. Bush in both 2000 and 2004.

In 2008, Obama carried the state, and of the 100 counties in North Carolina, Forsyth County was one of his supporters.

Many young voters and black voters made the difference this election. Obama did not campaign at Winston-Salem State; however his wife appeared in April.

Winston-Salem State University has both black and young voters.

Senior Byron Williams was a first time voter in this election. Williams proudly admitted that he voted for Obama.

"I voted for Obama because he just made more sense to me than McCain did. Obama really talked to the people. I think the students on our campus played a big part in the results," Williams said.

"A lot of people came out and supported, especially with the early voting."

Williams was an early voter at the Albert H.

Anderson Center on campus.

The impact of these first-time voters changed the county vote tally. There were also some voters who were former supporters of the Bush Administration [in both elections], who voted for Obama.

"I just lost all faith in the Republican Party," said Dana Alston, a Winston-Salem resident.

"There are several things that changed my perspective when I went to vote this time around. If McCain gets in there, then it's going to be much of the same. I cannot afford that. I'm ready for change, and I think, no I know that Obama is going to bring about that change."

Some of the things that changed her mind were the state of the economy, healthcare concerns, and foreign policy.

"I've been a Republican voter most of my life, and the second time I voted for Bush I was on the fence," Alston said.

"I voted for him because he did a good job handling adversity after the 9/11 tragedy, and I thought that it was going to get a lot better before it got worse. But the opposite happened. I want the troops home, and I think it's terrible that so many people, regardless of their race, people period, keep losing their homes and jobs. I think Obama can stop the bleeding a lot faster than McCain can."

By LaTasha Miles
Contributing Reporter

Gas conservation needed regardless of lower prices

UWIRE- While the decrease in oil prices is not purely based on a lower demand for crude oil, it does play a part.

As demand goes down, there is a larger supply. With a larger supply, the price goes down.

With peoples' wallets stretching as \$4 per gallon seemed imminent, the drop has probably been a welcome relief.

But when the price is low, people become more comfortable falling into old habits.

Whether it's stocking up on gasoline in case the price sky-rockets or being more casual about how much one drives, people aren't as conscious of how much they purchase or use.

While it's obvious that people's driving habits have changed.

Some predict gas prices will

drop to below \$3, but hopefully that will not deter people from purchasing smaller cars, demanding more fuel efficiency and seeking alternative modes of transportation when available.

Greenhouse gases might not be an incentive to change driving habits for everyone, but money definitely is.

For the sake of the environment, people ought to continue decreasing their demand and use of gasoline.

History exists so people can learn from their mistakes, and relying on SUVs and cheap gasoline for all our needs was not the wisest decision.

Let's decide what's best for us and let the market feel the effects, rather than rely on what the market dictates to us.

By Cathy Wilson
The Post, Ohio U.

After two-game winning streak

Ram fan 'ready to binge on humble pie'

My recent op-ed, published in Nov. 4 issue, explained my reasons why the Winston-Salem State football team would not win another game. At that time the Rams were 1 and 5.

Included in my piece, I stated head coach Kermit Blount would not receive the wins necessary to have the most wins in WSSU football history.

My bad.

Immediately after my article was published, the Rams started a two-game winning streak against two very formidable opponents.

Nov. 1 the Rams defeated Hampton University 35-30.

Nov. 8 the Rams beat defending conference champions Delaware State University 27-26. Prior to their game against the Rams, Delaware was ranked in the top 30 in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA).

Both of these wins came on

the road during significant games.

We beat Hampton at their homecoming.

The Rams defeated the Delaware Hornets in their final home game of their season.

The Rams played a spoiler in each of these games and have a great chance to win their remaining two games of the season.

I'm not going to give you five reasons why the Rams will win their remaining two games, but I will point out the obvious reasons.

The Rams are on the road again against the Eagles of North Carolina Central University.

This game has become almost a blood feud in the past years with each team holding their ground in a 21 to 20 win loss record in favor of the Rams. The Rams defeated the Eagles 35 to 10 last season.

The Eagles are having a horrible season only winning two

games this season against North Carolina A&T, and little known HBCU, Edward Waters College in Florida.

Our last game is against the Spartans of Norfolk State University.

They are 4-6 on the season and have lost all but one game on the road this year with that victory coming against the Bison of Howard University.

The Rams have not lost at home against the Spartans since 1975 which was the year before coaching great William "Bill" Hayes took over for the ailing Rams.

With the Rams looking to finish the season on a high note and a 5-6 record I would feel remiss by not apologizing to my Rams.

When the final whistle blows I will be seated, napkin in lap, fork and knife in my hands ready to binge on my heaping helping of humble pie and crow.

By Sharrod Patterson
Contributing Reporter



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