



WSSU ballers earn weekly honors

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'Alpha' writer gives his take

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Taylor to run for N.C. Senate

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THURSDAY, February 9, 2012



Judges Sam Ervin IV, Wanda Bryant and Linda McGee stand outside Forsyth County Democratic Headquarters.

Campaign trail leads state judges to Winston-Salem

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina voters got to know some of their appellate court judges last Friday during a lunchtime meet and greet at the Forsyth County Democratic Party Headquarters.

There are three N.C. Court of Appeals judges up for re-election this year. Two of them, Linda McGee and Wanda Bryant, attended. The third judge, Cressie Thigpen, who was appointed to the Court in 2010, was scheduled to appear but his plans changed. N.C. Court of Appeals Judge Sam Ervin IV, who is running for the N.C. Supreme Court, was also on hand.

The judges greeted attendees, including local judges and politicians, chatted and answered questions. Forsyth Clerk of Court Susan Frye, who arranged the event, said that she tried to get the word out to everyone, not just Democrats, to come meet the judges, who are all Democrats running in nonpartisan races. Frye said events like the meet and greet are especially relevant to candidates who will appear on ballots statewide.

"It's very important for them to go county to county and be introduced to as many people as

possible," said Frye.

Judicial candidates tend to have limited campaign funds and have to rely more on personal appearances and less on advertising. They also tend to stay clear of political issues and discussing specific issues, since they will likely have to make rulings on hot-button issues.



Susan Frye

"I used to tell people you don't want me to tell you what my position on an issue is, then I won't be able to sit on your case," said McGee.

McGee is the longest serving female judge in N.C. Court of Appeals history with 17 years on the bench. When she first came to the bench, she was the only woman. Now, seven of the 15 N.C. Court of Appeals judges are female.

McGee, who prior to becoming a judge was a lawyer in Boone for 17 years, said she hopes voters will keep her experience in mind.

"I think experience matters, particularly for judges," said McGee. "...I've been at it for a period of time. I believe I bring a sense of fairness ... I try to be thorough. I am willing to listen to different view points and try to come out with a sensible, reasonable decision."

Bryant, who has served on

See Judges on A10



Carla Matthews (center) leads the class through a lively routine at the Metropolis Center.

Just Dancin'

Local, regional acts to take part in line dancing showcase

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE



Co-Instructor Tyke Matthews dances alongside his mother.

It's more than a hobby. For city native Carla Matthews, soul line dancing is a way of life.

"I can officially say I'm a line dancing addict," she declared. "It's just an awesome stress reliever. I feel so much better (after dancing). My soul is so lifted. It has given me something that I can look forward to, that I have a passion for."

Matthews is hoping to spread the joy and excitement she's found in soul line dancing - which is similar to its country Western predecessor but is set to hip hop or R&B music.

Line dancing, where everyone of the dance floor performs exact moves that are sometimes dictated by the songs being played - has gained some popularity in recent years with popular songs/line dances like the "Cupid Shuffle" and the "Cha Cha Slide." Matthews hopes to

See Dancing on A6

Matters of the Heart

Women urged to pay attention to their bodies

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Mary Roscana has two birthdays: the day she was born, and the day she was given a second chance at life.



Mary Roscana

The experience has left its mark. Roscana said

See Go Red on A10

Roscana, the volunteer coordinator for the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home, suffered a massive heart attack on March 15, 2011. She underwent open heart surgery, and with the help of health care professionals at Forsyth Medical Center, recovered and was well enough to return to work in July.



Dr. Glenda Newell addresses the audience.

Photos by Layla Farmer

Groups threaten legal action against cops



NAACP President S. Wayne Patterson speaks to the group as the ACLU's Raul Pinto looks on.

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

An ongoing battle over the placement and legality of stationary license checkpoints in Winston-Salem could end up in the courts if the North Carolina American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the NAACP and the Winston-Salem Police Department can't come to an understanding, leaders from the two civil rights organizations said last week.

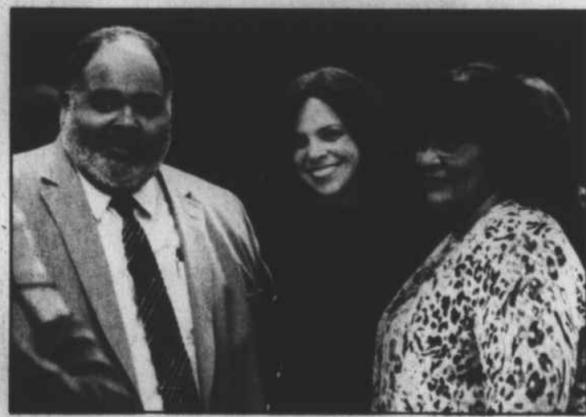
The ACLU's Raul Pinto spoke about the issue last Thursday at the headquarters of the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP.

"The checkpoints have become sort of a routine part of Winston-Salem life, and that is a problem for us," said Pinto, who has been investigating the police department's tactics and procedures with regard to the checkpoints since last year.

Pinto, who has called the 244-check-

See ACLU on A2

Meet & Greet



CNN Anchor Soledad O'Brien (center) poses with Emery Rann III and Dr. Velma Watts on Jan. 23 during a Martin Luther King Jr. celebratory luncheon on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Later that day, O'Brien gave the keynote address at Wake Forest University for the annual MLK Day event that WSSU and WFU sponsors jointly.

WSSU Photo by Garrett Garris



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