



Yellow Jackets headed to colleges

-See Page B10



High-tech firm welcomes students

-See Page B1

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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, March 6, 2014



Jay Pierce addresses Piedmont Grown attendees at the local Cooperative Extension headquarters.

Photos by Layla Garms

Stage set for election season

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

The 2014 election season promises to be an interesting one, with major shifts on the horizon for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education and a new judge joining the 21st District fold.

Four of the school board's nine members did not file for reelection by the closing of the filing period on Feb. 28. Al "Buddy" Collins, Chair Jane Goins, Marilyn Parker and Jill Tackabery, all of whom represent District 2, have decided not to seek additional terms. Incumbents Irene May and Jeannie Metcalf, both former at-large representatives, have filed as District 2 candidates, as have fellow Republicans Dana Caudill Jones, Lori Goins Clark and David Bryant Singletary. Democrats Deanna Frazier Kaplan and Laura Elliott are also throwing their hats in the ring in the district.



Buie



Dunn

The race for the decidedly more urban District 1 will be decided in the primary. Democrats Chenita Barber Johnson, Deanna Taylor and Malishai "Shai" Woodbury and incumbent Vic Johnson will vie for the District's two seats. John Davenport Jr., the other District 1 incumbent, has decided to run for an at large seat.

Barber Johnson, an advertising consultant and president of the African American Caucus, is making her third bid for the school board. If elected, she says she will work toward boosting the graduation rate, improving the quality of education offered and increasing diversity and parity districtwide.

"My whole thing is about equity with the schools. I think we'd have a better education for children in our county if we were more equitable about how we're spending our money," she said, noting that new schools have gone up in predominantly white communities in recent years, while older structures in minority communities remain underutilized. "We're still building more schools, and we're not utilizing what we have."

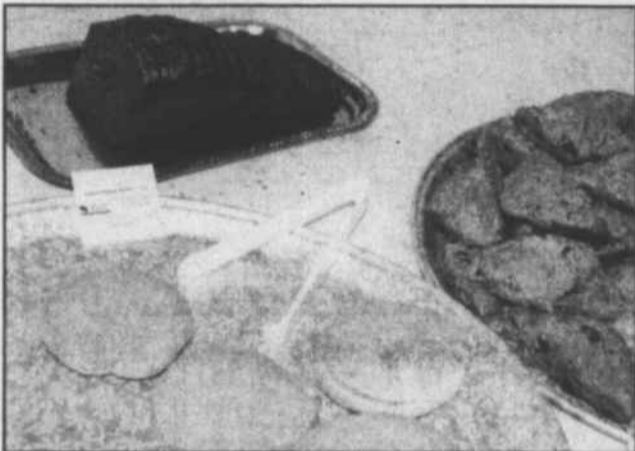
Woodbury, an instructor at her alma mater, NC A&T State University, and a Guilford County Schools employee, is also a seasoned school board candidate, having lost a bid in 2010. She says her passion and professional experience make her a strong contender for the job.

"I'm still willing and anxious to serve

See Races on A8

FRESH AND LOCAL

Nonprofit pushes farmer/chef partnerships to benefit area consumers



A "home grown" spread of foods made with products from local sources were enjoyed by attendees.

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Since taking over as executive chef at Lucky 32 Southern Kitchen in Greensboro seven years ago, Jay Pierce has increased the restaurant's local buying power and reputation as a community-minded company that supports local farmers and livestock producers.

"The company that I work for, they were supporting local farms and producers before I got here - that's part of what attracted me to the position. I felt the responsibility to take it to the next level," Pierce said. "We believe that spending our dollars in the local economy only makes us all stronger, and that's really important."

Pierce has developed relationships with Piedmont farmers and plans the restaurant's meals around what's in season and readily available, ensuring the freshest of ingredients. A chalkboard at Lucky 32 informs customers of ingredients' origins, whether it's

See Piedmont on A2

4th Circuit judge visits Wake Law

Andre Davis candidly talks race, law and more

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

As part of Wake Forest University School of Law's Jurist-in-Residence program, Andre Davis, the senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, spent Feb. 24-27 imparting pearls of wisdom gleaned from his exemplary judicial career to law students.

Davis was set to make history back in 2000 when President Clinton nominated him to the Richmond, Va.-based Fourth Circuit, which, at the time, had never had a black judge. His confirmation, however, was derailed. (President Clinton, also in 2000, controversially appointed Roger Gregory to Fourth Circuit while Congress was in recess, making him the court's first black member.) Davis was renominated to the Fourth Circuit, which hears appeals of cases from North and South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, by President Obama in June 2009, winning Senate confirmation in November



Gregory Parks chats up Judge Andre Davis (right).

Photo by Layla Garms

2009.

During his four-day stint at Wake Law, Davis led a course on Criminal Procedures, Civil Procedures and Federal Courts and candidly discussed his career, life and the law during a public discussion with Professor Gregory Parks, who once clerked for Davis, at Worrell Professional Center

on Feb. 27.

Davis addressed his "very humble beginnings" in east Baltimore in the 1950s and '60s. His first ambition was to become a writer. Law piqued his interest only after he took a constitutional law course at the University of Pennsylvania.

See Davis on A9

Teachers urged to reject conditional raises



Davenport

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education has decided to offer qualifying teachers raises in exchange for foregoing their tenure. That method is different from the one mandated in Excellent Public Schools Act of 2013, which was

pushed through the General Assembly by the Republican majority and funds the temporary raises.

The Act will bring an end to teacher tenure by 2018 and asks school districts to help facilitate the transition by picking the top 25 percent (based on at least three years of experience and

See Teachers on A7



File Photo

Ann Petitjean speaks at a pro-teachers rally last year.

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