



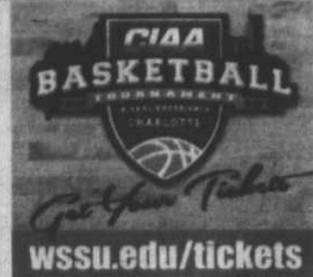
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W-S Prep strives for perfection

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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 41, Number 22

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, February 5, 2015



Photos by Todd Luck

Rev. Dr. Paul Lowe Jr. walks to the podium after his victory at Kennedy High School last Thursday.

Lowe Succeeds Parmon

Local pastor is now a state senator

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Last Thursday night, a preacher became a politician as Rev. Dr. Paul Lowe Jr. was elected by the Forsyth County Democratic Party to replace N.C. Senator Earline Parmon.

Lowe was sworn in Sunday at Shiloh Baptist Church, where he has been pastor for more than two decades. He now represents the 32nd District, which Parmon represented since 2013. Parmon, who was state representative for the 72nd district for 10 years before her election to the senate, resigned her seat last month to take a job working for newly-elected U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC).

Local Democrats held the election to pick Parmon's successor on Thursday, Jan. 29 in the gymnasium of Kennedy High School. Parmon was in attendance as Forsyth DNC Chair Susan Campbell presided over the vote.

"We know she's irreplaceable, and whoever we elect tonight will have some very big shoes to fill," Campbell said of Parmon. "She'll always be our senator."

Though a number of people had expressed possible interest in the position, only two were nominated. Joycelyn Johnson, who represented the East Ward on the City Council from 1993 to 2009 before losing a re-



Earline Parmon and Paul Lowe at Forsyth DNC Headquarters.

election bid to current City Council Member Derwin Montgomery, was also in the running. She was nominated by Beverly McFadden; City Council Member Molly Leight seconded her nomination.

Johnson handed out fliers touting her experience and ideas. She said if elected, she would work with local officials to better the community.

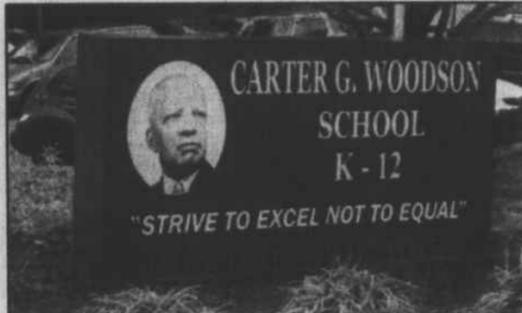
"I ask for you to stay focused, stay focused on who will bring to you strength, wisdom, work in this community," said Johnson.

Lowe was nominated by Constance Bradley and seconded by City Council Member Dan Besse.

"I am supporting Paul today because he will bring to this difficult task an especially strong and clear voice speaking for the needs for the people of Forsyth County and our state," said Besse.

Before the vote, Lowe spoke, talking about how both he and his mother were able to go to college because of the Basic Education Opportunity

See Lowe on A9



Schools work to assess their own progress

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Both private and public schools are preparing to explain to parents the strides they've taken to improve student performance as the state gets ready to release report cards for schools.

Per a recent law passed by the General Assembly, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction will be assigning each school a letter grade, A to F, based on the school's performance. Supporters of the initiative believe that the grades will make it easier for parents to understand how local schools are doing.

For elementary and middle schools, a majority of the grade is based on student proficiency on state tests in grades 3 through 8, and the rest is based on student growth. In high schools, DPI uses graduation rates, ACT performance and other indicators, along with state tests to calculate the school grade. Those grades will be released today (Feb. 5).

Carter G. Woodson school, a charter school located in southeast Winston-Salem, is formulating its own grading scale. The school has adopted the state's guidelines but has also added other factors.

"We chose to do one when we got what the state was measuring us by. We really felt that it was sterile (the guidelines) with all the practices we've had to put in," said Ruth Hopkins, executive director at Carter G. Woodson. "We don't feel that we are a failure school or that our children are failing because we honored the law and our children showed expected growth. We didn't want to send the wrong message to parents that expected growth still means you failed. Expected growth does not mean you've failed."

While the state looked at schools' performance, achievement and growth, CGW would also include factors such as economically disadvantaged students, school size and make up, and students with limited English proficien-



Emory

See Grades on A9

Go Red For Women campaign targets heart disease

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement encourages everyone to wear red tomorrow (Friday, Feb. 6) to support women's heart health, a topic Vera Jordan talks about wherever she goes.

The 59-year-old woman was named a Go Red For Women ambassador for Forsyth County in 2005 after surviving a heart attack.

"All of a sudden my chest started hurting, my backing was hurting a little bit and I was having a hard time breathing, and then I passed out," said Jordan, who was rushing to get to work at the time.

Her husband, who typically would have been out of the door to work before her, was home and called 9-1-1.

"I had a heart attack and a 90 percent blockage. They put a stent in, and now I'm still here to talk about it," she said, crediting God for the miracle.

After her heart attack and cardiac rehabilitation, Jordan was adamant about changing her lifestyle. She went on a diet and began to exercise.

"Exercise includes sweeping the floors, mopping or anything that you do that involves moving your body," she said. "You just need to do some sort of exercise 30 minutes a day."

She is eager to share any information she can to help others, both men and women, prevent a heart attack.

"I do it everyday. When I talk to someone I talk to them about limiting bad things," she said.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the nation, affecting one out every three women, according to the AHA.

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death for African-American women, killing nearly 50,000 annually, according to the AHA. The organization said that only 43 percent of African-American women know that heart disease is their greatest health risk, compared to 60 percent of Caucasian women and 44 percent of Hispanic women.

It is believed that African-American women 20 and older have an almost 49 percent chance of cardiovascular disease, while only 50 per-

See Go Red on A9



Photo by Chanel Davis
Vera Jordan

N.C.'s Sharia ban biased and harmful, says panel

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE



Photo by Todd Luck

Imam Leonard Abdullah makes a point.

A panel of local Muslims last week denounced the state's ban on a foreign law designed to bar Sharia or Islamic law.

"Folks were in this hysteria thinking that the minority Muslim Community here in North Carolina could somehow impose our laws, laws taken from the Sharia," Imam Khalid Griggs of Community Mosque said at a forum on the subject held Tuesday, Jan. 27 at the Polo Recreation Center.

The discussion took place at the monthly meeting of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. In addition to Griggs, the panel included Imam Leonard Abdullah of Masjid Al Muminun and Dr. Darlene May, an associate professor of Arabic at Wake Forest University. Fleming El-Amin, an Americans United for the Separation of Church and State board member and a member of the local Board of Elections, acted as moderator.

See Sharia on A9

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