

Community Calendar

Pruning workshop
The Forsyth Cooperative Extension, 1450 Fairchild Road, will sponsor a Fruit Tree, Bush & Vine Pruning Workshop at Forsyth Cooperative Extension, at 1 p.m. today (Thursday, Feb. 19). Learn the proper way to prune. We will cover pruning grapes, blueberries, fig and apple trees. This will be a free demonstration with hands on participation. This event will be outside. Dress appropriately for the forecasted weather.

Scott Welborn, extension agent and Consumer Horticulture, will speak. The workshop is free, but registration is required. Space is limited. Call 336-703-2850 or send an email to: coop-ext-registration@forsyth.cc.

Class worshipping
The A. H. Anderson Class of 1969, will be worshipping at New Hope Missionary Church, 1201 New Hope Lane, on Sunday, Feb. 22 at the 11 a.m. service. We invite all members of the class to come join us for the service and fellowship. Hostess: Pat Stevenson Miller.

Brown alumni meet
The Winston Salem State University Brown Alumni Chapter will meet, Friday Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. for refreshments and fellowship followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Forsyth Technical Community College/Mazie Wodruff Campus, 4905 Lansing Drive. Final plans are being made for the Founders' Day Celebration and the Cherokee Bus Trip. For additional information contact Randon Pender at 336-575-2006.

QEA seeks students
Quality Education Academy, 5012 Lansing Drive, is currently accepting applications for the spring semester. For more information see the website www.qeschools.org or call 336-744-7138.

Effective childcare seminar
The workshop "Soaring High with Effective Lesson Plans in Child Care" will be held Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at

the Carver Road Library, 4915 Lansing Drive, Forsyth County Cooperative Extension Agent Deborah D. Womack will lead it. It is free, but pre-registration is required by Friday, Feb. 20 by calling 336-703-2910.

Republican women meet
Forsyth County Republican Women will hold a dinner with special guest Miriam P. Aikens, NCFRW chairwoman of diversity, on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Lone Star Steakhouse, 1110 Creekside Way. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. to order dinner.

QEA seeks students
Quality Education Academy, 5012 Lansing Drive, is currently accepting applications for the spring semester. For more information see our website www.qeschools.org or call 336-744-7138.

Sign Language classes
The nonprofit "The Adaptables" is offering Basic Sign Language classes every Tuesday to March 3 - April 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. at 3908 Westpoint Blvd., Suite B. Students will learn basic grammar, vocabulary, finger spelling, numbers and deaf culture. The fee is \$25, which includes printed materials. To register or for questions, contact Christina Moore at 336-767-7060 or christina.moore@theadaptables.com. Monday, Feb. 23 is the registration deadline.

Book Sale fundraiser
The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem will hold its 28th Annual Used Book Sale on Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, May 2 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Education Building at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds. Parking and admission are free.

There will be thousands of used books and other items on hand at exceptional prices. All proceeds of the sale benefit the ministry's programs and services for older adults in our community. For more

information contact the Shepherd's Center at 336-748-0217 or visit www.shepherdscenter.org.

Hall of Fame applications
Applications for 2015 W-S Forsyth County Sports Hall of Fame are now available. Applicants must complete an application and submit a portfolio and a sport resume to The Winston-Salem Sportsmen Club, Inc. Hall of Fame committee, P.O. Box 4353, Winston-Salem, NC 27115-4353. The deadline for submissions is March 17. Applications can be obtained from the athletic director of the local high schools, by visiting the Winston Lake Family Y, 901 Waterworks Road, on Tuesday nights between 7:30-8:30 p.m. or online at www.wssportsmenclub.org. For further information, contact Robert Wynn at 336-767-4656 or Chris Kirkpatrick at 336-287-1707.

Anderson Class of '66
The A.H. Anderson High School Class of 1966 will meet at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Golden Corral Restaurant at 4965 University Parkway in Winston-Salem. All members interested in working on the 50 year class reunion are encouraged to attend. The contact number is 336-767-8509 or jshaw@agapesdx.com.

Paisley Alumni Cruise
The Paisley High Alumni group is sponsoring a biennial cruise abroad on the Carnival Glory on Saturday, Sept. 19, and a deposit is due now. For more information, contact Robert Noble at 336-971-7816, Cheryl Philson at 336-724-6864 or Juliet Odom at 336-722-7710.

Sweetheart Ball
The Magnificent Seniors Social Club will host its annual Sweetheart Ball on Saturday, March 7, from 7 p.m. until midnight at The Hawthorne Inn, 420 High St. All are welcome to the dinner and the dance. The event benefits Hospice and Palliative Care of Winston-Salem. Semi-formal attire. For tickets, which are a tax-deductible donation of \$40

Wake presents three with MLK honors

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Associate librarian Hu Womack and seniors Nehemiah Rolle and Joe LeDuc have been named Wake Forest University's 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. "Building the Dream" award winners. They were recognized at an annual banquet celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held at Wake Forest on Jan. 20.

The award is traditionally presented to a student and a professor or administrator from both Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State University who exemplify King's qualities and promote diversity within the community. This year, one campus leader and two students were recognized at Wake Forest.

In addition to his work as an instructional librarian, Womack is a faculty fellow for South Hall and an academic adviser. He creates programs that are helpful and engaging to



LeDuc Rolle Womack

first year students and shares his time and energy supporting and mentoring members of Wake Forest's LGBTQ community. Womack, who earned his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest in 1990 and his MBA in 2000, has been a full-time employee in the Z. Smith Reynolds library for more than 20 years.

Rolle, a native of Atlanta who is studying politics and international affairs, is an active leader in the Roosevelt Institute at Wake Forest, a student-led, student-run organization dedicated to progressive public policy change and

idea empowerment. He is also an associate editor of the Wake Forest Journal of International Affairs and a resident adviser.

LeDuc, a native of Spokane, Wash. studying politics and international affairs, serves as a steering committee member of "Forward Together," Wake Forest's interest group of the NAACP.

He champions inclusiveness and justice for all members of the campus community.

Faculty, staff and students at Wake Forest submit "Building the Dream" award nominations for their respective universities and a committee of representatives from each school selects winners.



Patrick King is shown here at work at the Special Services Center.

Custodian tells amazing story of survival in war

BY KIM UNDERWOOD WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS

The people who work at the Special Services Center know Patrick King as the custodian who comes in each morning at 5:30 a.m. to open up the school. He spends his day taking care of his responsibilities with meticulous attention and a consistently positive attitude.

"Whatever he does, he wants to do right," said Blanche Stevens, the Exceptional Children preschool intake coordinator who serves as the building's informal manager.

"The building is always clean, and he's pleasant ... He is a good-hearted person and a hard worker...It's a nice combination," she said.

It's a job that King finds quite satisfying. "I love it," he said. "Everything is correct. I like my bosses."

The Special Services Center on Mock Street serves as home for a number of programs from the Exceptional Children's Division, which serves students with special needs. The people at the center also know King as a man who has seen and experienced much during his 68 years of life.

He was born in Jamaica and grew up in Liberia, where his father had gone to serve as the priest for an Episcopal church. King grew up to become a police officer, got caught up in the country's civil war and fled the country. After spending eight years in a refugee camp in Ghana, he came to the United States.

"He still does a lot for Liberia," Stevens said.

For instance, when textbooks in the United States are discarded as outdated, he will ship them to Liberia where they are still valued. The Special Services Center is a close-knit community, Stevens said, and King is part of that. He comes to potluck gatherings, and, on the billboard in the lobby that announces, "Our staff is full of shining stars," King has a star.

With the work that people in EC division do, Stevens said, they are accustomed to learning people's stories, and, over time, King has told people stories about his life. King's wife, Emma Yah King, works as a custodian at Glenn High School. His younger brother, Aston Stanford King, is a teacher assistant at Hanes Magnet School. They look enough alike that people have mistaken one for the other.

During the first civil war in Liberia from 1989 to 1997, more than 200,000 were killed.

"The whole country was upside down," King said.

King's brother William went to work one day and never came home. King heard

that he had been beheaded. A foster brother was also killed. King heard that he, too, was beheaded.

As a police officer in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, King was considered a threat by some factions. One day, he was captured by a group of men. It was not a day he expected to live through. When a man he had once helped saw him, he rescued King by telling the men holding him that King was his father and put him somewhere where he was able to escape.

King sees that as the hand of God. "Only God got me out of there," he said. "I got free. I fled the civil war."

Although he was unable to get help through American embassy, people from Nigeria - a country to the east of Liberia - were ready to do what they could to help.

"I got on a Nigerian warship, and I fled to Ghana," King said. "I got out with my two sons."

Earlier, he had lost his first wife to illness.

"I stayed in the refugee camp in Ghana," he said. "I lived in Ghana for eight years."

While in Ghana, he married again. His second wife later died from breast cancer. Other members of his family had also been able to get out of Liberia and eventually to the United States. With their help and the help of a program sponsored by the Lutheran church, he finally came here in 1998. In 1999, a second civil war broke out in Liberia.

After working part-time for WS/FCS and other organizations for a few years, he became a full-time employee of the school system in 2005. At the Special Services Center, King works a split shift. After coming in at 5:30 a.m. to open the building, he works until 8 a.m. and leaves. He returns at 11 a.m. and stays until it's time to close the building.

Along with adult children, King has children who are still in school and live at home. At home, he likes to putter around the house and tend his garden, where he grows sweet potatoes and other vegetables. He is always doing something. "My wife says, 'You can't rest.'"

At times, he does extra work on the side - cleaning houses or painting. Sometimes, when he is out and about, the sound of a police siren will stir memories of more turbulent times.



King

Tax preparation, FAFSA assistance available at some local high schools

AARP is offering free tax help,

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The POINT, a financial education and training mobile unit, will be onsite at local high schools to offer free tax preparation through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) assistance for families who earn less than \$53,000 annually.

On FAFSA assistance day, volunteers will be available to help students and families complete the FAFSA application.

Families who earn less than \$53,000 annually qualify for the Tax Preparation Service.

High School seniors who are interested in applying to college need to fill out the FAFSA.

Research has shown that high school seniors who fill out a FAFSA have a greater college attendance rate.

This service allows parents and high school seniors to get help filing for federal student aid.

Filing taxes, particularly this year with the Affordable Care Act subsidies, and filling out the FAFSA can be very challenging to families.

This is an important service to maximize refunds for working families, including receipt of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), in addition to helping more students find aid for college.

The service is available at:
*ATKINS HIGH SCHOOL. FAFSA - 2/26 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guidance Dept. contact number: 336-703-6759
*CARVER HIGH SCHOOL. FAFSA - 2/19 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guidance Dept. contact number: 336-727-2230
*EAST FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL.

Tax Day - 2/27 from 12 to 4 p.m. FAFSA - 2/27 from 12 to 6 p.m. Guidance Dept. contact number: 336-703-6792

MT. TABOR HIGH SCHOOL. Tax Day - 2/28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guidance Dept. contact number: 336-703-6728

PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL. FAFSA - 2/24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guidance Dept. contact number: 336-771-4711

REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL. FAFSA - 3/3 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guidance Dept. contact number: 336-703-6776

WALKERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL. FAFSA - 2/25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guidance Dept. contact number: 336-703-4152

AARP tax assistance

Also, AARP Tax Aide will be offering free tax assistance this year at the Centenary UMC Annex, 657 Fifth St., across from the main entrance of the downtown library, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Returns for all ages and income levels are prepared at no charge. You do not have to be an AARP member.

To get help with your taxes, you need to bring a picture ID, Social Security card, your W-2 and/or 1099s, Employer ID numbers or Social Security numbers of child care providers and, if possible, last year's tax returns.

If you want to file jointly electronically, you will also need to bring that information for your spouse.

If you want direct deposit of any refund, you should also bring your checking or savings account information.