

Power Grab

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Saturday is a day of honor



THE CHRONICLE

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STATE CHAMPIONS

Winston-Salem Prep

58 31

Riverside Martin



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Winners celebrate sweet victory

Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy's girls' team celebrates its first state title in Class 1-A basketball on Saturday, March 14 in Chapel Hill. See story on page B1.

Advocates bracing for decision

Supreme Court to rule on Fair Housing Act

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

After striking down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court is preparing to weigh in on another key piece of Civil Rights legislation: the 1968 Fair Housing Act.



Moye

The Supreme Court heard arguments in Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project in January and is expected to rule on it this summer. The case involves a key provision of the Fair Housing Act that states even if there is no intentional racism, that housing practices cannot have "disparate impact" against a particular race, color, gender, religion, national origin, or people with disabilities.

Both local and state organizations that deal with Fair Housing cases are waiting to see what the court does, since many of their cases involve more subtle forms of discrimination.

See Housing on A6

Judge Burke assumes new position

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The Honorable Logan Todd Burke has a new position downtown.

The judge is adjusting to his new role as the 21st Judicial District of the Fifth Division senior resident superior court judge for Forsyth County.

"The job comes with more administrative responsibilities," Burke said. He is managing a staff of four that consists of trial court clerks and trial court coordinators.

"It's been good service to the state

of North Carolina and immediately to the counties that I serve," he said.

Superior Court judges are attorneys who are elected for each district in non-partisan elections for eight-year terms. Burke was re-elected in 2012.

Regular Superior Court judges must reside in the district in which they are elected, but rotate from one district to another within their division.

The senior resident superior court judge has the most seniority of the superior court judges in the district

and is responsible for carrying out various administrative duties, such as approving personnel hirings.

He has jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases.

Burke also holds court in Guilford, Stokes, Surry, Rockingham, Wilkes, Yadkin, Ashe, Alleghany, Randolph and Montgomery counties.

Even with all the work Burke puts in at his new job, he couldn't imagine it any other way.

"It's been a pleasant experience.

See Judge on A6



Photo by Erin Mizelle

The Honorable Logan Todd Burke

Commissioners renew commitment to prayer before meetings

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County Board of Commissioners is moving to resume prayer before its board meetings.

The Board voted to adopt an updated policy regarding opening invocations before the board meetings, after an injunction to prohibit the sectarian prayer before meetings was thrown out in 2014.

The vote was unanimous, with the motion to approve the updated policy made by Commissioner Gloria Whisenhunt and seconded by Commissioner Ted Kaplin. The seven-member Board of Commissioners holds

two business meetings each month, on the second and fourth Mondays. The meetings are held in the County Commissioners Meeting Room on the fifth floor of the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut St. in downtown Winston-Salem.

The updated policy states that the invocation will not be recognized as an agenda item, is not considered part of the public



Watts



Witherspoon



Beaty

business and is not mandatory. The invocations will be done voluntarily by speakers who have responded to public notices that invite those who want to speak at the meetings to contact the clerk to the board.

"We are going to go ahead and place those ads and start scheduling as early as late March or April," said County Manager J. Dudley Watts Jr. "We'll do that every year and just keep a rotation going like we did before the lawsuit."

An ad is in this week's Chronicle.

Forsyth County previously invited clergy before commissioners meetings. In 2007, the county was sued. The lawsuit, Joyner v. Forsyth County, was filed by the local branches of the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of

See Meetings on A7

To record law enforcement or not: Is it wrong?

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

In these days, in which everything is digital, it should be no surprise that a person's first instinct when witnessing something is to record it.

In these days, in which many in urban

communities distrust the police because of recent incidents in New York, Los Angeles and Ferguson, Missouri, the need to record it all is enhanced.

Those videos have become more of a checks and balances for many law enforcement officers.



"For many people,

their first viewing of a citizen recording, not a recording by a photographer or news reporter, was the Rodney King beating in 1991. This was powerful and the recording had an impact on public opinion and the trials," said Kimya N. Dennis, assistant pro-

fessor in the department of Sociology and Criminal Studies at Salem College. "Yes, citizens have the legal right to record law enforcement as long as it does not interfere with law enforcement's job or cause a distraction. This ongoing debate across the coun-

try over the years has been driven by overall distrust of law enforcement and the push for citizens to be proactive in holding law enforcement accountable."

Kami Chavis Simmons, professor of law and director of the

See Sunshine on A7

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